



## What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is a tax local authorities charge to raise money to pay for their services.

Almost every household has to pay Council Tax, whether your home is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat, and whether you own or rent it.

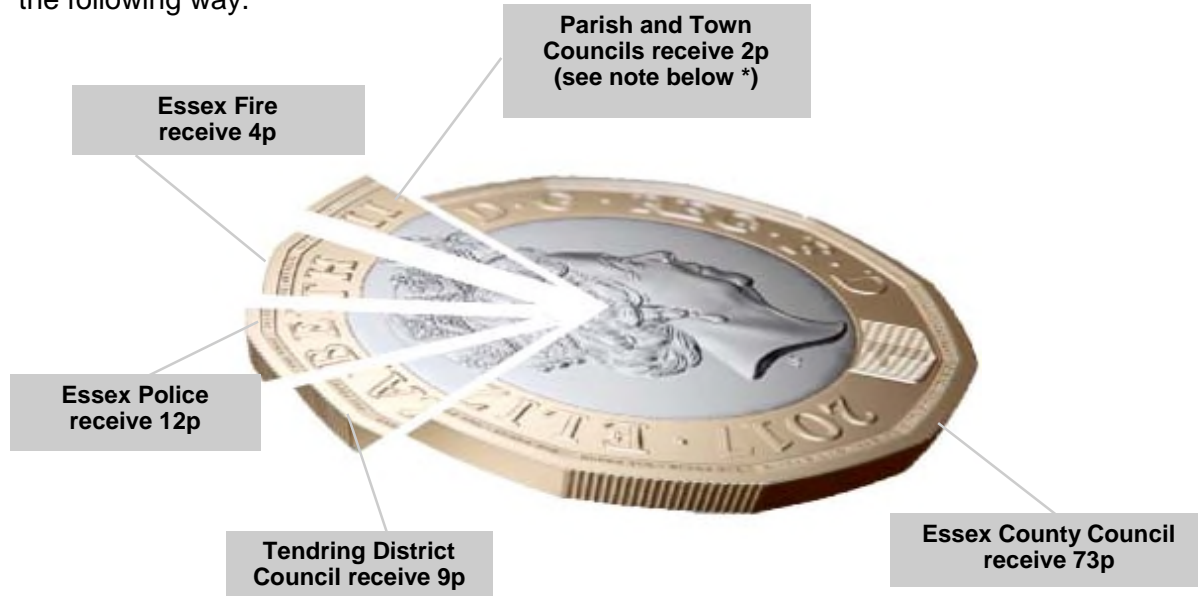
Each property is put into one of eight bands, depending on how much it was worth on 1 April 1991.

Your Council Tax bill shows the band your home is in.

We (Tendring District Council) collect your Council Tax and put it into a separate fund called the collection fund. We share this fund with Essex County Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire and the Parish and Town Councils.

Valuation band	Value of property on 1 April 1991
Band A	£40,000 or less
Band B	£40,001 to £52,000
Band C	£52,001 to £68,000
Band D	£68,001 to £88,000
Band E	£88,001 to £120,000
Band F	£120,001 to £160,000
Band G	£160,001 to £320,000
Band H	More than £320,000

This year we need to collect £109 million in Council Tax. Every £1 of Council Tax is shared in the following way.



- Essex County Council use Council Tax to pay for services such as social services, highways and libraries.
- We use Council Tax to help pay for services such as collecting rubbish, planning, leisure services and improving facilities for our community.

\* These are averages across all the Parish and Town Councils.

## Who has to pay Council Tax?

Council Tax is charged for every domestic dwelling in the country.

In most cases the person (or people) aged 18 or over nearest the top of the following list will be responsible for paying Council Tax:

- Owner-occupiers
- Leaseholders
- Tenants
- People who have a licence to occupy
- Residents with no legal interest in the property
- People who own the property but don't live in it.

People such as joint tenants and couples are jointly and severally liable for all the Council Tax for their dwelling.

## Adult Social Care

In relation to the year beginning in 2020 and any subsequent year, the following statement-

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

## How to pay

Information on various payment methods and your options for instalment plans is available on the back of your bill and on our website.

[www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/paying-your-council-tax-bill-2](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/paying-your-council-tax-bill-2)

## People with Disabilities

The Disabled Band Reduction scheme makes sure disabled people don't pay more Council Tax if they need a bigger property, or have adapted their home because of their disability.

You may qualify if your property has

- A room which is mainly used by a disabled resident and is essential, or of major importance to their welfare; or
- An extra bathroom or extra kitchen which is necessary to meet the needs of the disabled resident; or
- Enough floor space to use a wheelchair. The disabled resident must need to use their wheelchair indoors.

## Empty Properties/Second Homes

There is usually a full charge for unoccupied properties, whether they are furnished or unfurnished. Some unoccupied properties can receive an exemption. Details about exemptions can be found later in this leaflet.

## Long Term Empty Premium

### Why

From 1st April 2019 the Local Government Finance Act 2012 gave local authorities the power to increase the Council Tax by way of a premium to encourage owners to bring empty properties back into use.

Empty homes are not just a problem in Tendring, but nationally and are a wasted resource. Given the acute need for housing, it is vital that every effort is made to bring such properties back into use at the earliest opportunity.

However, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 the additional 100% premium charge will now apply to all properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for a continuous period of 1 year up to 5 years, after which it falls into the next category 5-10 years (additional 200% charge).

Premium Rate	Properties effected
100% (on top of what you normally pay)	Properties empty for 1 - 5 years
200% (on top of what you normally pay)	Properties empty for 5 - 10 years
300% (on top of what you normally pay)	Properties empty for 10 years and over

The Empty Homes Premium will be added to any property which has remained empty and unfurnished for longer than one year; regardless of how long the current owner has had the property. Change of ownership or liability does not affect the premium charged and no account shall be taken for any one or more periods of less than 6 weeks during which the property is not empty. The Empty homes premium will not apply if:

- The property is the main residence of a member of the armed forces absent as a result of such service
- The property forms part of a single property (i.e. an annexe) which is being treated as a part of the main dwelling by a resident of that property
- The property is on the market for sale or rent.

If your bill shows a long-term empty premium and you think that your property is in one of these categories please contact us straight away.

How do I to end the premium charge?

- To end the premium charge, you must bring the property back into use.

To notify the Council that you have done this please complete the online enquiry form on the link below:

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/contact-council-tax>

## If Your Circumstances Change

If you claim a Council Tax discount, exemption or Local Council Tax Support, you must inform us immediately about any change in your circumstances which may affect your entitlement.

**A £70 penalty notice will be issued to anyone who either fails to inform the Council within 21 days of any relevant change in circumstances or provides false information to obtain any Council Tax discount or exemption.**

## Discounts

A full Council Tax bill is based on at least two adults living in your home. You will get 25% off the bill for your main home if you live alone, or are the only person living in the property who is counted for Council Tax purposes.

These people are not counted for Council Tax:

- Children under 18
- People on some apprentice schemes
- 18 and 19 year olds in full-time education
- Full-time college and university students
- Young people under 25 who get funding from the Skills Funding Agency or Young Peoples Learning Agency
- Student nurses
- Foreign language assistants registered with the British Council
- People with a severe mental disability
- Live-in carers who look after someone who isn't their partner, spouse or child
- Diplomats
- Members of International Headquarters and Defence Organisations
- Members of religious communities
- People in prison or detained under the Mental Health Act.

## Repairs or Alterations

A property may receive a 100% discount for up to 12 months if it requires or is undergoing structural alterations.

In case of repairs, a further 6 month discount can be granted after the works are completed, as long as the total duration of both discounts does not exceed 12 months and the property remains unfurnished and unoccupied.

Further details are available on our website:

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/repairs-or-alterations>

## Reductions for Annexes

A 50% reduction in Council Tax applies for people living in annexes provided they are related to the person liable to pay Council Tax on the main dwelling.

The reduction also applies for people living in dwellings with annexes which are unoccupied provided they are using the annexe as part of their main residence.

## Exemptions for Unoccupied Properties

- B. Unoccupied dwellings owned by charities - up to 6 months only
- D. Unoccupied because the taxpayer is in prison or detained under The Mental Health Act
- E. Unoccupied because the taxpayer has moved to a care home or hospital
- F. Unoccupied when the owner has died and the property has to be sold to clear the debts of the estate or the deceased did not leave a will. The exemption can only apply for up to 6 months after probate or letters of administration have been granted
- G. Occupation is prohibited by law
- H. Empty dwelling being held for a Minister of Religion
- I. Unoccupied by a person receiving care
- J. Unoccupied by a person providing care elsewhere
- K. Unoccupied by students
- L. Repossessed properties
- Q. Property left empty by a bankrupt
- R. Unoccupied caravan pitches and boat moorings
- T. Is part of a property that also includes another home and cannot be let separately due to planning restrictions.

## Exemptions for Occupied Properties

- M. College/university halls of residence
- N. Property solely occupied by full time students
- O. Armed forces accommodation
- P. Visiting forces accommodation
- S. All occupants are aged under 18
- U. Property occupied solely by those who are severely mentally impaired
- V. Diplomats property
- W. Annex occupied by a dependant relative.

## Local Council Tax Support (LCTS)

Local Council Tax Support is a reduction of your council tax bill based on:

- Your income
- The size of your family
- Other adults living with you
- The amount of Council Tax you have to pay

In general, the lower your income the more the bill can be reduced by Local Council Tax Support. Everyone of working age will have to pay at least 20% of their bill.

Other adults (non-dependants) who live with you may be expected to help you pay the Council tax. This means you may get less help from Local Council Tax Support.

The rules for Local Council Tax Support are different depending on whether you are:

- Working age
- Pension age

For more information about Local Council Tax Support, and to find out whether you are eligible please visit [www.tendringdc.gov.uk](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk)

Your Local Authority may prosecute or impose a sanction if you give false information when applying for a Council Tax Reduction, or if you don't tell the Local Authority about a change in your circumstances which affects your award within 21 days of the change taking place.

In some cases the Local Authority may not prosecute you but may impose a sanction which could include asking you to pay a penalty.

The £70 fixed penalty is in addition to repaying any Council Tax Reduction you shouldn't have received.

# Fraud

## Not Every Person is Honest

Do you know of anyone who is currently trying to abuse the system by falsely claiming a Council Tax discount (including Local Council Tax Support) or an exemption?

Funding has been cut for the Council, but help us to prevent further cuts to **your** Council services by stopping those individuals who are not fully paying their way.

If you do have any suspicions contact us anonymously

Telephone on 0800 1697 004  
E-mail [fraud.hotline@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:fraud.hotline@tendringdc.gov.uk)  
complete an online referral by visiting the Council's website on  
<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/fraud>

All the information you provide us with will be treated in the strictest confidence, and can be anonymous.

***Tendring District Council is dedicated to tackling any form of Fraud.***

## **WARNING — FRAUD**

*You will have to pay back any overpayment in all circumstances. If the Council feels a serious offence has been committed in relation to Local Council Tax Support you can be interviewed under caution. This could result in the Council prosecuting you or you being offered a caution or an Administrative Penalty (fined up to 50% of the original total overpayment).*



**HELP US STAMP OUT  
COUNCIL TAX  
DISCOUNT FRAUD  
AND  
EXEMPTION  
ABUSE**

## How do I appeal?

### Valuation appeals

If you think your home should be in a different valuation band, please contact the **Valuation Office Agency** (not us).

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) values domestic properties for Council Tax. This valuation is used to set your council tax band. You might need to contact the VOA if you think your council tax band is wrong.

You can find out more about when you can challenge your band and what you need to do at <https://www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band> If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay council tax at your current band until your appeal is decided.

You can contact the VOA at <https://www.gov.uk/contact-voa>. If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on 03000 501 501 [English authorities]/03000 505 505 [Welsh authorities].

### Other appeals

You can appeal to us if:

- you feel the property should be exempt from Council Tax
- you believe we have made a mistake working out your bill
- we have not given you a discount, or
- we have not reduced your bill because you or someone you live with has a disability.

If you think the decision is wrong you can:

1. Make an appeal in writing to Tendring District Council telling us why you think the decision is wrong. Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of Council Tax.
2. If the Council cannot resolve your appeal or you do not get a reply within 2 months you may appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. You must do this within 2 months of the date of when the Council notified you of its decision or, if you have received no reply from us, within four months from the date of your initial appeal. You will need to fill in an appeal form. You can do this online at [www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk](http://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk).

If you appeal, you must continue to pay your Council Tax until your appeal is decided. If your appeal succeeds, we will give you back any Council Tax you have overpaid.



## Privacy Notice

**Privacy Notice** - Tendring District Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. In order to meet this requirement, this will include sharing information internally and externally to prevent and detect fraud, improve the way it delivers services and for the purpose of performing its statutory obligations and enforcement duties. All personal information will be processed in accordance with current data protection legislation

## Is your bill correct?

Please tell us about any changes in your circumstances, or if your billing details are wrong.

**DO NOT IGNORE YOUR BILL** - If you do not pay it and do not agree any other arrangement, we may take action against you which could increase the amount you have to pay.

## Penalties

A £70 penalty notice will be issued to anyone who fails to inform the Council within 21 days of any relevant change of circumstances which affects entitlement to a discount, (including Local Council Tax Support) or exemption, or fails to reply to a request for information in relation to an entitlement to a discount (including Local Council Tax Support), or provides false information to obtain any Council Tax discount or exemption.

## How we work out your Council Tax

	Last Year (2023/24)	This Year (2024/25)	
	£000	£000	
General Council Costs	3,833	2,980	
Coastal Protection	2,867	2,913	
Collecting Local Taxes & Paying Council Tax Benefit	2,422	2,471	
Community Safety	386	767	
Environmental and Public Health	5,272	5,498	
Highways, Roads & Transport	871	1,098	
Housing	57,879	56,606	
Leisure & Tourism	10,358	9,381	
Planning, Community, Partnership & Renewal	6,980	6,658	
Waste Collection & Recycling	5,697	6,173	
Other Services	(3,891)	(948)	
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>92,674</b>	<b>93,597</b>	
Parish/Town Council Precepts	2,378	2,541	
<b>Less Income From:</b>			
Grants & Contributions	(50,129)	(48,725)	
Rents/fees/charges/interest	(26,922)	(29,329)	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>18,001</b>	<b>18,084</b>	
Transfer from/to Reserves	(1,481)	(420)	
Parish/Town Council Precepts	(2,378)	(2,541)	
	<b>14,142</b>	<b>15,123</b>	
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates	(3,755)	(4,124)	
Income from Collection Fund	(784)	(951)	
<b>Council Tax Requirement *</b>	<b>9,603</b>	<b>10,048</b>	
Average Council Tax for a property in band D* in Tendring District Council and the percentage change comparing last year and this year.	£188.11	£193.73	2.99%

\* Excluding parish and town councils

## Facing cost changes

The table below shows why our spending has changed. Government policies and the state of the national economy affect our spending in general, and also affect some particular services.

	£000
Money needed for 2023/24	14,142
Changes in spending on services	923
Changes in grants, fees and other charges	(1,003)
Changes to how we use savings and reserves	1,061
<b>The amount we need to raise in 2024/25</b>	<b>15,123</b>

## How much do you have to pay?

We work out how much Council Tax we must collect by adding together the money each of the authorities need. The amount for Tendring District Council is split between General and Special Expenses. General Expenses are applied across the whole district and Special Expenses vary from area to area.

We work out how much Council Tax the properties in each valuation band should pay in line with the amount homes in band D will pay.

So, if your home is in band D, your Council Tax for this year will be £2,032.74 plus an amount you have to pay to your local Parish/Town Council for their precept and to Tendring District Council for Special Expenses (if applicable). The table below shows the Council Tax for a property in band D.

	Amount Needed £000	Council Tax for each property in Band D £
Tendring District Council - General Expenses	9,396	181.17
Essex County Council	78,968	1,522.53
Essex Fire	4,285	82.62
Essex Police	12,781	246.42
<b>Total (excluding Parish/Town Councils and Special Expenses)</b>	<b>105,430</b>	<b>2,032.74</b>

## Council Tax amounts for each area in the district

This chart shows how much Council Tax you have to pay, depending on where you live and which valuation band your home is in.

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Unparished Area:								
Clacton	1,370.26	1,598.64	1,827.01	2,055.39	2,512.14	2,968.90	3,425.65	4,110.78
Parishes of:								
Alresford	1,416.05	1,652.05	1,888.06	2,124.07	2,596.09	3,068.10	3,540.12	4,248.14
Ardleigh	1,401.91	1,635.57	1,869.22	2,102.87	2,570.17	3,037.48	3,504.78	4,205.74
Beaumont-cum-Moze	1,377.37	1,606.93	1,836.49	2,066.05	2,525.17	2,984.29	3,443.42	4,132.10
Great Bentley	1,447.46	1,688.70	1,929.95	2,171.19	2,653.68	3,136.16	3,618.65	4,342.38
Little Bentley	1,374.34	1,603.40	1,832.45	2,061.51	2,519.62	2,977.74	3,435.85	4,123.02
Bradfield	1,450.71	1,692.49	1,934.28	2,176.06	2,659.63	3,143.20	3,626.77	4,352.12
Brightlingsea	1,405.87	1,640.19	1,874.50	2,108.81	2,577.43	3,046.06	3,514.68	4,217.62
Great Bromley	1,403.69	1,637.63	1,871.58	2,105.53	2,573.43	3,041.32	3,509.22	4,211.06
Little Bromley	1,365.87	1,593.52	1,821.16	2,048.81	2,504.10	2,959.39	3,414.68	4,097.62
Little Clacton	1,410.35	1,645.41	1,880.47	2,115.53	2,585.65	3,055.77	3,525.88	4,231.06
Elmstead	1,401.82	1,635.46	1,869.09	2,102.73	2,570.00	3,037.28	3,504.55	4,205.46
Frating	1,391.77	1,623.73	1,855.69	2,087.65	2,551.57	3,015.49	3,479.42	4,175.30
Frinton and Walton	1,420.42	1,657.16	1,893.89	2,130.63	2,604.10	3,077.58	3,551.05	4,261.26
Harwich	1,392.05	1,624.06	1,856.07	2,088.08	2,552.10	3,016.12	3,480.13	4,176.16
Lawford	1,427.89	1,665.88	1,903.86	2,141.84	2,617.80	3,093.77	3,569.73	4,283.68
Manningtree	1,406.25	1,640.63	1,875.00	2,109.38	2,578.13	3,046.88	3,515.63	4,218.76
Mistley	1,410.55	1,645.64	1,880.73	2,115.82	2,586.00	3,056.18	3,526.37	4,231.64
Great Oakley	1,405.14	1,639.33	1,873.52	2,107.71	2,576.09	3,044.47	3,512.85	4,215.42
Little Oakley	1,394.61	1,627.05	1,859.48	2,091.92	2,556.79	3,021.66	3,486.53	4,183.84
Ramsey and Parkeston	1,419.73	1,656.35	1,892.97	2,129.59	2,602.83	3,076.07	3,549.32	4,259.18
St Osyth	1,413.45	1,649.03	1,884.60	2,120.18	2,591.33	3,062.48	3,533.63	4,240.36
Tendring	1,391.74	1,623.70	1,855.65	2,087.61	2,551.52	3,015.44	3,479.35	4,175.22
Thorpe-le-Soken	1,404.27	1,638.31	1,872.36	2,106.40	2,574.49	3,042.58	3,510.67	4,212.80
Thorrington	1,390.69	1,622.48	1,854.26	2,086.04	2,549.60	3,013.17	3,476.73	4,172.08
Weeley	1,389.15	1,620.67	1,852.20	2,083.72	2,546.77	3,009.82	3,472.87	4,167.44
Wix	1,407.56	1,642.15	1,876.75	2,111.34	2,580.53	3,049.71	3,518.90	4,222.68
Wrabness	1,375.96	1,605.29	1,834.61	2,063.94	2,522.59	2,981.25	3,439.90	4,127.88

## Parish and Town Council spending and special expenses

**Parish/Town Council precepts:** These are the extra amounts of money that these councils need to pay for things like footpaths and community centres. The Council pays the precepts requested to the Parish and Town Councils and recovers the cost by collecting an extra amount in the area. These are shown in the table below.

**Special expenses:** The cost of the Council's services throughout the whole district is spread across all Council Tax payers. However, some specific functions are also carried out by Parish/Town Councils in their own areas. These functions include maintaining recreation grounds, open spaces and children's play areas. The Council calculates how much it spends in each area on those functions, reduces the general Council Tax by this amount and then charges it directly to the area where the service has been provided.

The table below shows Parish and Town Councils that spend more than £140,000 per annum.

	Last Year (2023/24) £000	This Year (2024/25) £000		Last Year (2023/24) £000	This Year (2024/25) £000
<b>Brightlingsea Town Council</b>			<b>Frinton and Walton Town Council</b>		
Recreation and Tourism	282	264	Recreation and Tourism	171	211
Waterside Activities	19	1	Police Community Support Officers	140	140
Special Projects and Improvements	19	7	Other Services	198	244
Establishment	80	77	Establishment	264	269
Use of Reserves	-	25	Use of Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(199)	(143)	Less Income	(120)	(184)
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>680</b>
<b>Great Bentley Parish Council</b>			<b>Harwich Town Council</b>		
Recreation and Tourism	27	32	Recreation and Tourism	63	64
Police Community Support Officers	20	20	Police Community Support Officers	21	23
Other	29	33	Economic Development	13	14
Establishment	62	64	Establishment	192	160
Use of Reserves	-	2	Use of Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(5)	(5)	Less Income	(77)	(48)
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Lawford Parish Council</b>			<b>St Osyth Parish Council</b>		
Public Realm	116	148	Recreation and Tourism	46	33
Operation Quasar	6	5	Cemetery and War Memorial	30	32
Grants	7	10	Community Grants	15	15
Establishment	47	30	Establishment	127	135
Use of Reserves	-	-	Use of Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(3)	(5)	Less Income	(56)	(41)
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>174</b>

## Parish and Town Council spending and special expenses

	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2023/24 £	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2024/25 £	Parish part of the Council Tax for a Band D property 2024/25 £	Special Expenses at Band D 2024/25 £
Clacton (Unparished)				22.65
Parishes of:				
Alresford	88,230	92,230	91.33	
Ardleigh	73,170	81,077	70.13	
Beaumont-cum-Moze	4,400	4,400	33.31	
Great Bentley	133,000	146,300	138.45	
Little Bentley	3,345	3,360	28.77	
Bradfield	70,800	70,700	143.32	
Brightlingsea	201,327	231,526	76.07	
Great Bromley	25,250	32,000	72.79	
Little Bromley	1,700	1,700	16.07	
Little Clacton	85,000	88,615	82.79	
Elmstead	54,807	63,750	69.99	
Frating	11,400	15,220	54.91	
Frinton and Walton	653,533	680,000	80.25	17.64
Harwich	212,406	212,629	37.79	17.55
Lawford	172,550	187,654	105.77	3.33
Manningtree	27,764	32,452	95.81	(19.17)
Mistley	95,615	103,400	83.08	
Great Oakley	27,460	29,590	74.97	
Little Oakley	20,125	22,820	59.18	
Ramsey and Parkeston	74,168	74,196	96.85	
St Osyth	162,602	173,800	87.44	
Tendring	15,000	17,250	54.87	
Thorpe-le-Soken	61,250	67,250	73.66	
Thorrington	27,000	30,000	53.30	
Weeley	45,170	45,170	50.98	
Wix	24,992	27,000	78.60	
Wrabness	6,082	6,561	31.20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,378,146</b>	<b>2,540,650</b>		

# COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2024/25



# THIS IS HOW MUCH WE SPEND PER DAY ON SOME OF THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

## Adult Social Care



**£2,218,389**  
per day

(2023/24 **£2,028,830**)

## Schools



**£1,551,296**  
per day

(2023/24 **£1,478,413**)

## Children's Services



**£521,012**  
per day

(2023/24 **£447,264**)

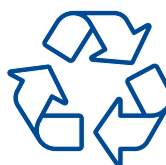
## Early Years & Child Care



**£455,600**  
per day

(2023/24 **£301,105**)

## Environment & Waste



**£253,538**  
per day

(2023/24 **£250,156**)

## Public Health



**£196,574**  
per day

(2023/24 **£189,750**)

## Home to School Transport



**£139,485**  
per day

(2023/24 **£98,504**)

## Infrastructure



**£107,951**  
per day

(2023/24 **£107,329**)

## Concessionary Fares



**£44,623**  
per day

(2023/24 **£44,075**)

## Library Services



**£43,504**  
per day

(2023/24 **£40,165**)

## Economic Development



**£18,276**  
per day

(2023/24 **£17,562**)

## Coroner's Services



**£16,636**  
per day

(2023/24 **£13,232**)

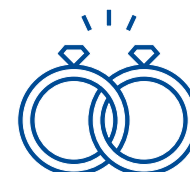
## Country Parks



**£10,296**  
per day

(2023/24 **£9,533**)

## Registrar Services



**£9,347**  
per day

(2023/24 **£8,606**)

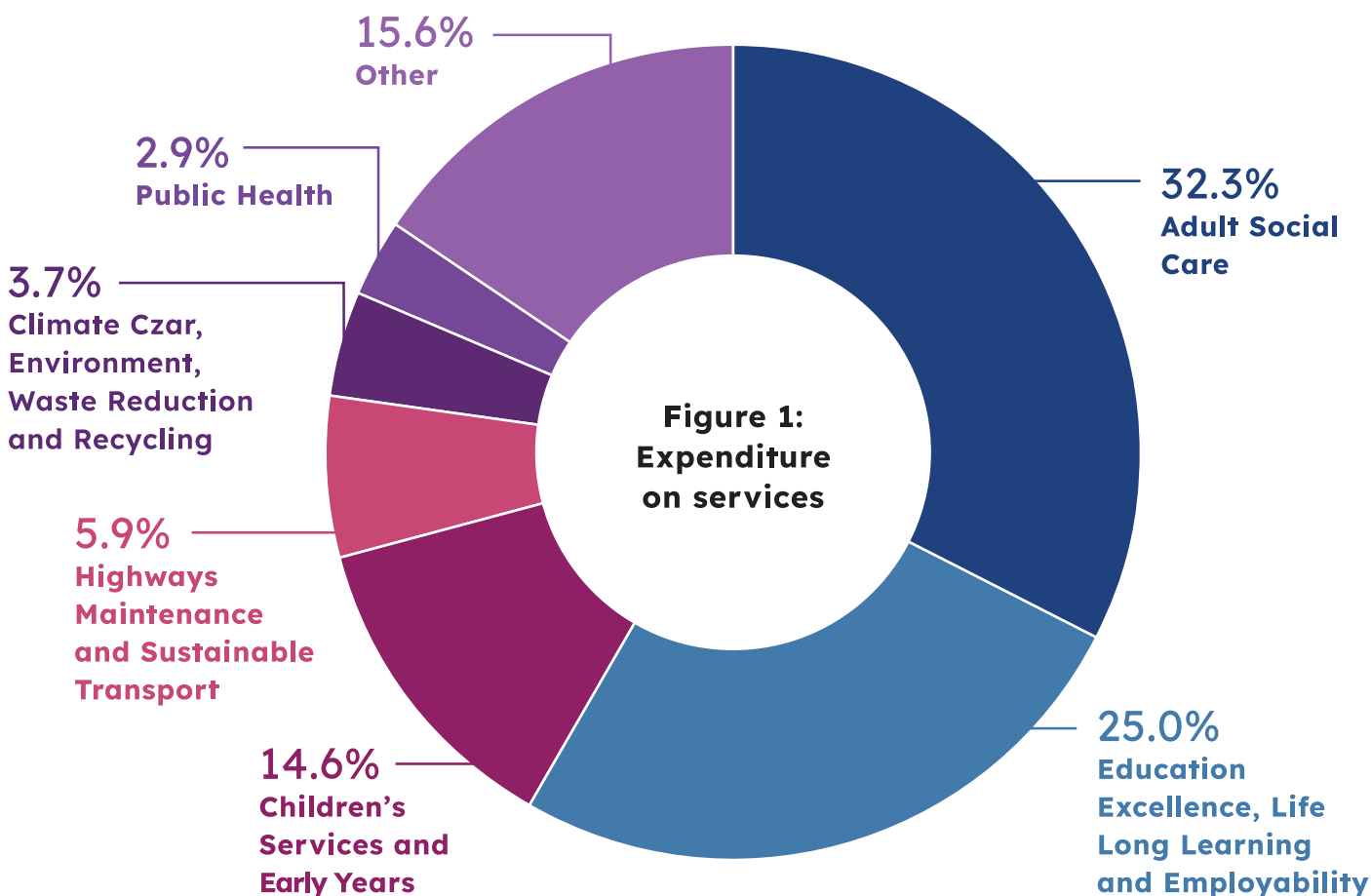


### Expenditure on services

The Council has committed to spending:

- £810 million on services supporting vulnerable adults
- £626 million on Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability
- £367 million on services supporting Children’s Services and Early Years

Expenditure on Services	£m
Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration	809.7
Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability	625.7
Children’s Services and Early Years	367.1
Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	149.0
Climate Czar, Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	94.0
Public Health	71.7
Other, which includes services such as Libraries, Coroners, Registrars and Country Parks	390.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,507.6</b>



# SUPPORTING PEOPLE TODAY, BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW

We are entering the new financial year against a backdrop of some of the most challenging times that local government has ever faced.

New pressures caused by the need to support the recovery from Covid, the war in Ukraine, high energy costs, and unprecedented inflation levels have all come on top of existing challenges to reform our services and respond to huge increases in demand from those who need our help most.

It would be easy under these circumstances to think that simply balancing our budget is good enough. But we will never leave hope and aspiration for tomorrow. That is not the Essex way.

Firstly, we care. We are on the side of Essex residents – young and old, rich and poor, we are here to support those who need us.

Secondly, we are as proud of Essex as you are. This is a wonderful county and this Council will continue to promote Essex as a location for inward investment, tourism and the arts.

Finally, financial competence. The foundation for everything we do is running the Council efficiently. We have saved more than a billion pounds over the past 15 years.

But we are also investing for the long term: From a new railway station at Beaulieu Park, the first on the Great Eastern Main Line for 100 years, to the planting of 125,000 trees in the county over the coming year, our budget and Annual Plan contains more than 100 commitments that we will deliver over the next year.

Not only supporting people today, but laying the foundations for a stronger tomorrow. That is the Essex way.



**Councillor  
Kevin Bentley**  
Leader, Essex County Council

## Listening to you

During November 2023, we carried out a budget consultation and you told us that:

- National Health Service/ Healthcare was the most important issues facing Essex today, followed by Crime/ Community Safety and pressures on social care provision
- Priorities for immediate action include Developing Essex infrastructure; Supporting those who care for the sick or vulnerable children; Securing high standards in education.

## Investing

On your list of priorities was supporting those who care for the sick or vulnerable people. We are investing an additional £86m combined in Adults and Children's social care in 2024/25, supporting over 16,000 adults in long term care every day, as well as impacting the lives of many other people on a short-term or regular basis, and 2,700 children in care or in need.

Alongside our revenue budget, we need to ensure effective services not just for today, but for the future. We have ambitious plans for our capital investment - a capital programme of £320 million for 2024/25. This includes investments such as Beaulieu

station and Chelmsford North-East bypass, and the A127 / A130 Fairglens Interchange.

We will continue the aspiration to achieve net zero through developing and investing in multiple schemes and innovative solutions, as part of our £250m Climate action plan.

## Saving

Recent years have seen significant increases in our costs driven by demand and high inflation, outstripping growth in local authority grants. In 2024/25 alone we are anticipating new pressures of £100m across the Council, while government funding is increasing by only £43m. Therefore, we have had to cut our cloth accordingly, so over the past four years, we have saved £175 million.

In 2024/25, we will deliver a further £32 million of savings by continuation of existing programmes within Adult Social Care, making more efficient use of our buildings and make better use of technology and digitisation across the Council.

**OVER THE PAST  
FOUR YEARS,  
WE HAVE  
SAVED £175  
MILLION**



# SPENDING AND CHARGES EXPLAINED

**There is always a balance between investing in and protecting services and asking people to pay a little more.**

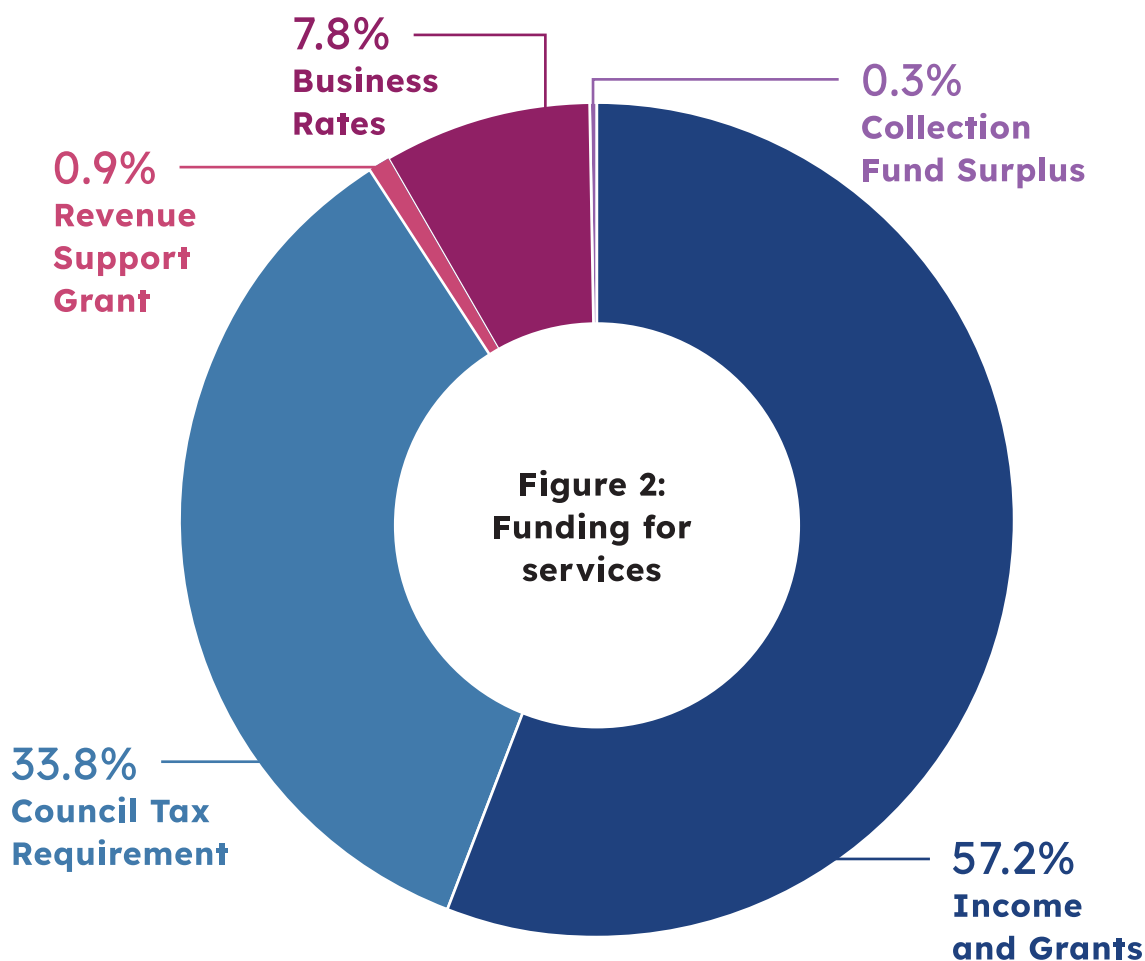
This year we are increasing council tax by a total of 4.99%. This is made up of a 2.99% general council tax precept and a 2% adult social care precept, as set out by Government for 2024/25. This will result in an increase in council tax for a band D property of £1.39 per household per week, taking the Band D charge to **£1,522.53**.

The following table shows the Council tax charge by band.

Band	Council tax charge £000
A	1,015.02
B	1,184.19
C	1,353.36
D	1,522.53
E	1,860.87
F	2,199.21
G	2,537.55
H	3,045.06

The 2024/25 budget sets out the financial resources that the Council has available to deliver the Annual Plan.

<b>Financial Overview</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>	<b>Change £m</b>
Total expenditure	2,293.9	2,507.6	213.7
Income and grants	(1,282.7)	(1,434.4)	(151.7)
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>1,011.2</b>	<b>1,073.2</b>	<b>62.0</b>
<b>This is paid for by:</b>			
Collection fund (surplus)/deficit	(5.4)	(7.2)	(1.8)
Business Rates	(185.5)	(195.0)	(9.5)
Revenue Support Grant	(21.3)	(22.7)	(1.4)
<b>Council tax requirement</b>	<b>(799.0)</b>	<b>(848.3)</b>	<b>(49.3)</b>
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>(1,011.2)</b>	<b>(1,073.2)</b>	<b>(62.0)</b>



This information is issued by:  
Essex County Council  
Corporate Services

Contact us:  
[financial.analysts@essex.gov.uk](mailto:financial.analysts@essex.gov.uk)  
[www.essex.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.essex.gov.uk/counciltax)  
0345 743 0430

Essex County Council  
Council Tax  
Freepost CL3636  
Chelmsford CM1 1LX

[www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

 [essexcountycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/essexcountycouncil)

 [essex\\_cc](https://www.instagram.com/essex_cc)

 [Essex County Council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/essex-county-council)

 [essex\\_cc](https://twitter.com/essex_cc)

 [Essex County Council](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8t1w1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1p)

Stay up to date with the Your Essex e-newsletter.  
For a monthly snapshot of news, events and  
activities across the county, sign up at:

[www.essex.gov.uk/youressex](http://www.essex.gov.uk/youressex)

The information contained in this document  
can be translated and/or made available in  
alternative formats, on request.

# Creating safe and secure communities

Essex Police and Essex County Fire  
& Rescue Service

Precepts 2024/2025

**PFCC**  
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX



Our investment programme in Essex Police is working. Since 2016 anti-social behaviour is down 71% and burglary is down 43%.



Essex County  
Fire & Rescue Service

Improving the training provided to firefighters, investing in protection services and preventing harm.



**Essex Police is now the biggest and strongest it has ever been in its 184-year history. This year's precept increase will maintain this record strength and support targeted investment to improve the service and help officers be more visible.**

The precept will also allow Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to drive forward its improvement programme which includes more protection and prevention services and excellent firefighter training.

Our investment programme in Essex Police is working. Since 2016 anti-social behaviour (ASB) is down 71% and burglary is down 43%. In the last year, crime in total is down 6%. We know you want to see crime continue to fall and to see more visible policing.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has also made strong progress improving firefighter training, investing in protection services and preventing harm.

We know the current financial situation is difficult and it is important that both services offer value for money.

Both also face increases in costs due to inflation and have worked hard to deliver their services more efficiently identifying combined savings of £12.1 million in the year 2024/25 without having to reduce the service they offer.

These savings are not enough to sustain Essex Police at its record strength and the provision offered by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. To achieve this, it is necessary to increase the Police Precept and Fire and Rescue Precept. This means that a Band D Council Taxpayer will pay an extra £12.96 per year (5.55%) for policing and an extra £2.34 a year (2.91%) for fire and rescue services – a combined increase of less than 30p a week.

You can read more about how the investment will help make our communities safer by preventing crime, supporting victims and protecting the vulnerable at [www.essex.pfcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk)

**Roger Hirst – Your Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner**





---

# Essex Police

---

## The investment will be focused on:

Maintaining the force's record strength and size, meeting inflationary costs, including increasing pay.

Enhancing the capacity and capability of the force. We will invest in the training of the large number of officers recently recruited as part of the expansion programme.

Better support for victims of crime and extra investment in safer streets and dealing with crime hotspots.



Investment in the force control room and 101 to improve public accessibility.

Improving effectiveness through targeted investment in; the Serious Violence Unit and Op Raptor Teams to target drug gangs, digital forensics and automation and streamlining of systems.

---

# Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

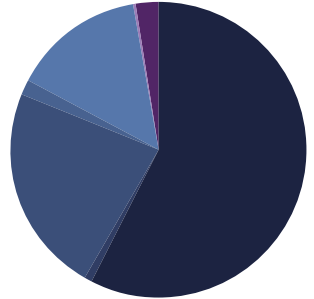
---

## The investment will be focused on:

- Further improving fire protection to make sure the Service can manage risks in communities and take enforcement action when required.
- Continuing to grow the amount of prevention the Service undertakes, specifically the number of home safety checks of the most vulnerable undertaken by operational crews.
- Improving resilience to periods of sustained demand.
- Recruiting firefighters to maintain the skills and important specialist expertise.
- Investment in our buildings, specifically in new live fire training facilities and a new joint fleet workshop with Essex Police.
- Continuing to invest in the Service's digital and data strategy.

## Police & Crime Budget 2024/25 (£000s)

	2023/24	2024/25
Police officer pay & allowances	226,792	253,256
PCSO pay & allowances	3,687	3,567
Police staff pay & allowances	97,156	101,186
Other employee expenses	6,629	6,768
Premises, transport, supplies & services	60,478	63,376
PFCC services	1,867	1,977
Commissioning grants	9,585	10,029
<b>Gross Police &amp; Crime Expenditure</b>	<b>406,194</b>	<b>440,159</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>(31,001)</b>	<b>(34,765)</b>
<b>Contribution to/ (from) reserves</b>	<b>(2,433)</b>	<b>2,147</b>
<b>Total Police &amp; Crime Expenditure*</b>	<b>372,760</b>	<b>407,541</b>
<b>Home Office Specific Grants</b>	<b>(9,073)</b>	<b>(22,003)</b>
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>363,687</b>	<b>385,538</b>



\*from total funding and Home Office specific grants

## Fire & Rescue Budget 2024/25 (£000s)

	2023/24	2024/25
Firefighter pay	46,570	48,678
Control & support staff	20,227	21,728
Enabling resources	1,924	2,134
Premises & equipment	11,834	12,352
Capital financing charges	5,597	5,609
Other costs	5,478	6,474
<b>Gross Fire &amp; Rescue Expenditure</b>	<b>91,630</b>	<b>96,975</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>(1,602)</b>	<b>(2,059)</b>
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>90,028</b>	<b>94,916</b>

