

## Council Tax Information for 2026/27

### 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.

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

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.

This year we need to collect £124 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.

## 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)

## What is Council Tax?

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).

<b>Premium Rate</b>	<b>Properties effected</b>
100% (on top of what you normally pay)	Properties empty for 1 to 5 years
200% (on top of what you normally pay)	Properties empty for 5 to 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.

#### **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>

### **Dwellings Occupied Periodically (Second Homes)**

A dwelling occupied periodically (commonly referred to as a Second Home) is a dwelling that is owned or rented in addition to your main home and it is substantially furnished but it is not occupied as a main residence.

Section 80 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 allowed local authorities to charge a premium on second homes of 100% from 1 April 2025

## Exceptions to Long Term Empty Dwellings Occupied Periodically (Second Homes) Premium Charge

However, there are exceptions to the premium being charged as defined by government which are:

Class of Dwellings	Applies to	Definitions
Class E	Long term empty homes and second homes	A dwelling which is or would be someone's sole or main residence if they were not residing in a job-related armed forces accommodation
Class F	Long term empty homes and second homes	Annexes forming part of, or being treated as part of, the main dwelling
Class G	Long term empty homes and second homes	Dwellings being actively marketed for sale (12 month limit)
Class H	Long term empty homes and second homes	Dwellings being actively marketed for sale (12 month limit)
Class I	Long term empty homes and second homes	Unoccupied Dwellings which fell within exempt Class F and where probate has recently been granted (12 months from grant of probate/letters of administration)
Class J	Second Homes only	Job-related Dwellings
Class K	Second Homes only	Occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings
Class L	Second Homes only	Seasonal homes where year-round, permanent occupation is prohibited, specified for use as holiday accommodation or planning condition preventing occupancy for more than 28 days continuously
Class M	Long term empty homes only	Empty Dwellings requiring or undergoing major repairs or structural alterations (12 months limit)

If your Demand Notice shows a long term empty or second home premium and you think that your dwelling is in one of these Classes please contact us straight away.

### 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
- C. Unoccupied because the taxpayer is in prison or detained under The Mental Health Act
- D. Unoccupied because the taxpayer has moved to a care home or hospital
- E. 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
- F. Occupation is prohibited by law
- G. 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
- S. 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
- Q. All occupants are aged under 18
- R. Property occupied solely by those who are severely mentally impaired
- S. Diplomats property
- T. 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

## Net 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

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) values homes for Council Tax. Homes are given a band on their value on a fixed date, which is set in law.

Local Councils use Council Tax bands to work out your Council Tax bill. They are responsible for Council Tax payments, discounts, exemptions and rebates.

Council Tax bands are based on the open market value of a property—the price a home could have been sold for—at a fixed point in time.

This is known as the antecedent valuation date (AVD). The date used is set in law, and its different in England and Wales. In England, the AVD is 1 April 1991.

***(for online material):*** To learn more about what this means, read the VOA's guidance on [Removing a property from the Council Tax list](#).

***(for hard copy material):*** To learn more about what this means, go to GOV.UK and search 'Removing a property from the Council Tax List'.

### Council Tax band challenges

If you think your Council Tax band is wrong, you may be able to challenge it. There are two types of challenge, and different rules apply for each.

A proposal is a formal challenge. You can only make a proposal in certain circumstances, such as if you've been paying Council Tax on your property for less than six months. When you make a proposal, by law the VOA must review your band.

A band review is an informal challenge. Anyone who has been paying Council Tax on their property for more than six months can request a band review, but the same legal rights don't apply. The VOA will only look at your case if you provide strong evidence which suggests your band is wrong.

***(for online material):*** To find out more, read of the VOA's guidance on [Challenging your Council Tax band](#).

***(for hard copy material):*** To learn more about challenges, go to GOV.UK and search 'Challenge your Council Tax band'.

### 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 (2025/26) £000	This Year (2026/27) £000	
General Council Costs	3,245	3,151	
Coastal Protection	611	681	
Collecting Local Taxes & Paying Council Tax Benefit	2,562	2,700	
Community Safety	479	424	
Environmental and Public Health	5,539	3,524	
Highways, Roads & Transport	1,138	1,195	
Housing	60,433	58,776	
Leisure & Tourism	9,212	10,629	
Planning, Community, Partnership & Renewal	6,651	5,476	
Waste Collection, Recycling and Street Sweeping *	6,179	12,039	
Other Services	2,740	2,592	
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>98,789</b>	<b>101,187</b>	
Parish/Town Council Precepts	2,750	2,975	
<b>Less Income From:</b>			
Grants & Contributions	(50,337)	(39,502)	
Rents/fees/charges/interest	(30,519)	(31,886)	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>20,683</b>	<b>32,774</b>	
Transfer from/to Reserves	(273)	(3,947)	
Parish/Town Council Precepts	(2,750)	(2,975)	
	<b>17,660</b>	<b>25,852</b>	
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates	(5,637)	(14,311)	
Income from Collection Fund	(1,349)	(297)	
<b>Council Tax Requirement **</b>	<b>10,674</b>	<b>11,244</b>	
Average Council Tax for a property for band D** in Tendring District Council and the percentage change comparing last year and this year.	£199.52	£205.48	2.99%

\* This now includes functions that, in previous years, were included within the Environmental and Public Health line.

\*\* 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 affect some particular services.

	£000
Money needed for 2025/26	17,660
Changes in spending on services	2,398
Changes in grants, fees and other charges	9,468
Changes to how we use savings and reserves	(3,674)
<b>The amount we need to raise/fund in 2026/27 *</b>	<b>25,852</b>

\* This figure has increased by £8.192 million primarily due to changes to the way the Government provides funding following a Business Rates reset and Local Government Settlement changes. This therefore largely reflects accounting treatment rather than representing an overall net increase in the Council's financial position.

## 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 £2,202.21 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	10,529	192.42
Essex County Council	89,847	1,641.96
Essex Fire	5,063	92.52
Essex Police	15,065	275.31
<b>Total (excluding Parish/Town Councils and Special Expenses)</b>	<b>120,504</b>	<b>2,202.21</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	1,483.98	1,731.31	1,978.64	2,225.97	2,720.63	3,215.29	3,709.95	4,451.94
Parishes of:								
Alesford	1,538.60	1,795.03	2,051.47	2,307.90	2,820.77	3,333.63	3,846.50	4,615.80
Ardleigh	1,524.17	1,778.20	2,032.23	2,286.26	2,794.32	3,302.38	3,810.43	4,572.52
Beaumont-cum-Moze	1,490.21	1,738.58	1,986.95	2,235.32	2,732.06	3,228.80	3,725.53	4,470.64
Great Bentley	1,562.40	1,822.80	2,083.20	2,343.60	2,864.40	3,385.20	3,906.00	4,687.20
Little Bentley	1,495.83	1,745.13	1,994.44	2,243.74	2,742.35	3,240.96	3,739.57	4,487.48
Bradfield	1,564.06	1,824.74	2,085.41	2,346.09	2,867.44	3,388.80	3,910.15	4,692.18
Brightlingsea	1,523.61	1,777.55	2,031.48	2,285.42	2,793.29	3,301.16	3,809.03	4,570.84
Great Bromley	1,525.80	1,780.10	2,034.40	2,288.70	2,797.30	3,305.90	3,814.50	4,577.40
Little Bromley	1,494.74	1,743.86	1,992.99	2,242.11	2,740.36	3,238.60	3,736.85	4,484.22
Little Clacton	1,524.77	1,778.90	2,033.03	2,287.16	2,795.42	3,303.68	3,811.93	4,574.32
Elmstead	1,525.55	1,779.81	2,034.07	2,288.33	2,796.85	3,305.37	3,813.88	4,576.66
Frating	1,507.67	1,758.95	2,010.23	2,261.51	2,764.07	3,266.63	3,769.18	4,523.02
Frinton and Walton	1,544.39	1,801.78	2,059.18	2,316.58	2,831.38	3,346.17	3,860.97	4,633.16
Harwich	1,506.83	1,757.97	2,009.11	2,260.25	2,762.53	3,264.81	3,767.08	4,520.50
Lawford	1,532.61	1,788.04	2,043.48	2,298.91	2,809.78	3,320.65	3,831.52	4,597.82
Manningtree	1,535.13	1,790.99	2,046.84	2,302.70	2,814.41	3,326.12	3,837.83	4,605.40
Mistley	1,512.24	1,764.28	2,016.32	2,268.36	2,772.44	3,276.52	3,780.60	4,536.72
Great Oakley	1,523.11	1,776.96	2,030.81	2,284.66	2,792.36	3,300.06	3,807.77	4,569.32
Little Oakley	1,508.80	1,760.27	2,011.73	2,263.20	2,766.13	3,269.07	3,772.00	4,526.40
Ramsey and Parkeston	1,530.03	1,785.04	2,040.04	2,295.05	2,805.06	3,315.07	3,825.08	4,590.10
St Osyth	1,532.85	1,788.33	2,043.80	2,299.28	2,810.23	3,321.18	3,832.13	4,598.56
Tendring	1,505.12	1,755.97	2,006.83	2,257.68	2,759.39	3,261.09	3,762.80	4,515.36
Thorpe-le-Soken	1,518.57	1,771.67	2,024.76	2,277.86	2,784.05	3,290.24	3,796.43	4,555.72
Thorrington	1,545.56	1,803.15	2,060.75	2,318.34	2,833.53	3,348.71	3,863.90	4,636.68
Weeley	1,500.53	1,750.62	2,000.71	2,250.80	2,750.98	3,251.16	3,751.33	4,501.60
Wix	1,523.88	1,777.86	2,031.84	2,285.82	2,793.78	3,301.74	3,809.70	4,571.64
Wrabness	1,491.55	1,740.14	1,988.73	2,237.32	2,734.50	3,231.68	3,728.87	4,474.64

## 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 (2025/26) £000	This Year (2026/27) £000		Last Year (2025/26) £000	This Year (2026/27) £000
<b>Brightlingsea Town Council</b>			<b>Frinton and Walton Town Council</b>		
Payroll and Allowances	237	249	Recreation and Tourism	154	177
Administration and Establishment	99	101	Police Community Support Officers	140	161
Maintenance and Improvements	66	66	Other Services	198	214
Recreation and Sales	6	8	Establishment	272	271
Movement in Reserves	19	5	Movement in Reserves	119	231
Less Income	(180)	(170)	Less Income	(128)	(170)
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>884</b>
<b>Great Bentley Parish Council</b>			<b>Harwich Town Council</b>		
Recreation and Tourism	36	54	Recreation and Tourism	66	64
Police Community Support Officers	22	-	Police Community Support Officers	27	28
Other	33	29	Economic Development	15	14
Establishment	81	103	Establishment	168	177
Movement in Reserves	(1)	-	Movement in Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(6)	(9)	Less Income	(59)	(50)
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>Lawford Parish Council</b>			<b>St Osyth Parish Council</b>		
Public Realm	139	120	Recreation and Tourism	44	50
Operation Quasar	6	12	Cemetery and War Memorial	33	34
Grants	10	23	Community Grants	17	17
Establishment	32	32	Establishment	146	155
Movement in Reserves	-	-	Movement in Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(2)	(12)	Less Income	(50)	(56)
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>200</b>

## Parish and Town Council spending and special expenses

	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2025/26 £	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2026/27 £	Parish part of the Council Tax for a Band D property 2026/27 £	Special Expenses at Band D 2026/27 £
Clacton (Unparished)				23.76
Parishes of:				
Alresford	106,218	110,048	105.69	
Ardleigh	97,309	105,975	84.05	
Beaumont-cum-Moze	4,400	4,400	33.11	
Great Bentley	165,000	176,908	141.39	
Little Bentley	5,000	5,000	41.53	
Bradfield	71,500	72,600	143.88	
Brightlingsea	247,500	259,875	83.21	
Great Bromley	33,725	38,150	86.49	
Little Bromley	1,800	4,253	39.90	
Little Clacton	90,700	94,567	84.95	
Elmstead	78,250	87,805	86.12	
Frating	15,774	16,326	59.30	
Frinton and Walton	754,958	884,474	96.46	17.91
Harwich	217,258	233,589	39.68	18.36
Lawford	185,360	174,784	93.28	3.42
Manningtree	36,000	42,000	118.85	(18.36)
Mistley	104,945	93,500	66.15	
Great Oakley	31,485	32,990	82.45	
Little Oakley	23,405	23,895	60.99	
Ramsey and Parkeston	74,600	74,573	92.84	
St Osyth	190,000	200,000	97.07	
Tendring	17,250	17,700	55.47	
Thorpe-le-Soken	71,350	75,000	75.65	
Thorrington	45,000	64,000	116.13	
Weeley	45,170	45,170	48.59	
Wix	28,832	29,532	83.61	
Wrabness	7,400	7,625	35.11	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,750,189</b>	<b>2,974,739</b>		

# COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2026/27



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

## Adult Social Care



**£2,583,398**  
per day

(2025/26 **£2,456,606**)

## Schools



**£1,636,696**  
per day

(2025/26 **£1,564,594**)

## Early Years and Child Care



**£775,691**  
per day

(2025/26 **£664,499**)

## Children's Services



**£727,651**  
per day

(2025/26 **£668,914**)

## Public Health



**£264,043**  
per day

(2025/26 **£207,175**)

## Environment and Waste



**£250,499**  
per day

(2025/26 **£249,520**)

## Home to School Transport



**£190,821**  
per day

(2025/26 **£150,767**)

## Highways and Infrastructure



**£144,185**  
per day

(2025/26 **£135,153**)

## Library Services



**£46,369**  
per day

(2025/26 **£44,558**)

## Concessionary Fares



**£44,039**  
per day

(2025/26 **£42,431**)

## Street Lighting



**£21,906**  
per day

(2025/26 **£18,425**)

## Coroner's Services



**£17,182**  
per day

(2025/26 **£17,044**)

## Country Parks



**£11,096**  
per day

(2025/26 **£10,617**)

## Registrar Services



**£10,536**  
per day

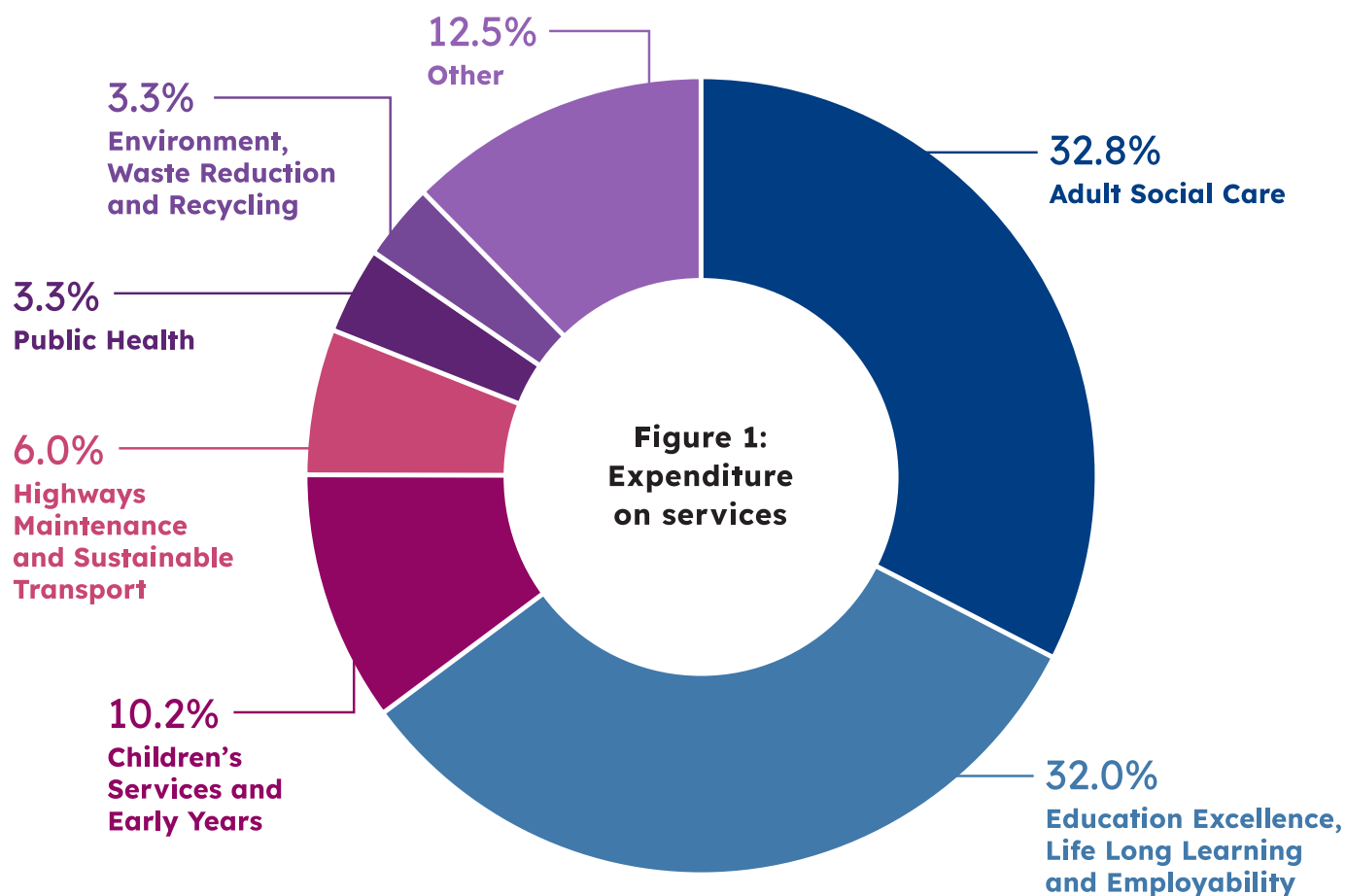
(2025/26 **£10,543**)

### Expenditure on services

The Council has committed to spending:

- £943 million on services supporting vulnerable adults
- £920 million on Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability
- £292 million on services supporting Children’s Services and Early Years

Expenditure on Services	£m
Adult Social Care and Health	942.9
Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability	919.6
Children’s Services and Early Years	292.5
Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	174.1
Public Health	96.4
Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	93.8
Other, which includes services such as Libraries, Coroners, Registrars and Country Parks	358.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,877.6</b>





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

# A BUDGET THAT IS ON YOUR SIDE

**This year, we are proud to set out a responsible, ambitious and forward-looking budget — one that protects the essential services you rely on, supports the most vulnerable in our communities and invests in the long-term future of our county.**

I have always been clear that our aim with any budget is to keep pounds in residents' pockets. This budget does exactly that, with your priorities at its heart.

Through our budget consultation, you told us that improving the condition of our roads and pavements, supporting vulnerable people, strengthening our infrastructure and creating good jobs matter most.

These priorities are reflected throughout our proposals for 2026/27, including an additional £82 million of investment across key services next year.

We have also worked hard to keep council tax as low as possible, limiting the increase to just 3.95% — one of the lowest proposed by any county council in the country.

However, it is no secret that this budget has been set against a challenging national backdrop.

High inflation, rising living costs and increasing demand for services continue to place pressure on local government finances across

the country. Government policies, such as the introduction last year of an increase to employers' National Insurance, also add to the cost of delivering essential services.

This makes our duty to deliver a responsible, balanced budget more important than ever. Despite these pressures, Essex County Council remains in a strong position.

Thanks to many years of careful financial management, efficiency and productivity, we can once again protect frontline services while continuing to invest in the Essex of tomorrow.

Our capital programme will support major infrastructure projects, new schools and long-term growth that benefits every part of the county.

We never forget the responsibility we hold. We will not take a penny more from taxpayers than is necessary, and we will continue to focus relentlessly on value for money.

Alongside our investment plans, we will deliver £41 million of savings in 2026/27, ensuring we remain financially resilient in the years ahead.

Essex is a county of opportunity, ambition and community spirit. This budget builds on that strength and is firmly on the side of the people and businesses of Essex. It protects what matters today while preparing us for the future - a future where Essex continues to be a great place to live, work and do business.

## Listening to you

During November and December 2025, we carried out a budget consultation and you told us that:

- The strain on National Health Service/Healthcare was the most important issue facing Essex today, concerns about immigration have risen over the past year, becoming the second most important issue, followed by the condition of the roads and pavements.
- Priorities for immediate action include Developing Essex infrastructure; Supporting those who care for the sick or vulnerable children; Attracting new investment for business; 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 £81m combined in Adults and Children's social care in 2026/27, supporting over 16,500 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 5,750 children in care or in need. We are also continuing to invest in the maintenance of our 5,000 miles of roads, 4,000 miles of footways and 1,600 structures.

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 £273 million for 2026/27. This includes investments such as Chelmsford North-East bypass, the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package, and the A133-A120 Link Road in Colchester.

## Saving

Recent years have seen significant increases in our costs driven by demand and high inflation, outstripping growth in local authority grants. In 2026/27 alone we are anticipating new pressures of nearly £100m across the Council, while government grant funding has decreased. Therefore, we have had to cut our cloth accordingly, so over the past four years, we have saved £146 million.

In 2026/27, we will deliver a further £41 million savings by continuation of existing programmes within Adult Social Care and Children's Services, 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 **£146**  
MILLION



# SPENDING AND CHARGES EXPLAINED

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

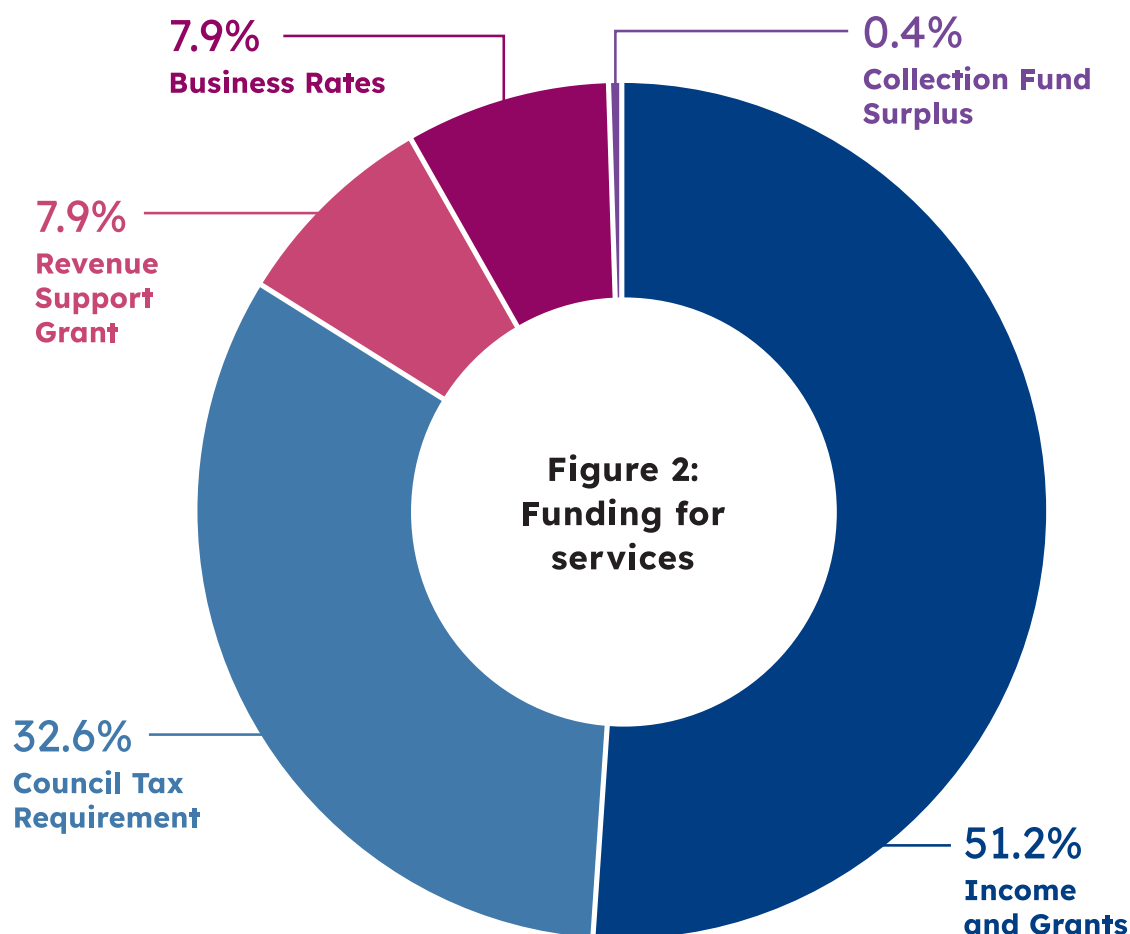
This year we are increasing council tax by a total of 3.95%. This is made up of a 1.95% general council tax precept and a 2% adult social care precept, as set out by Government for 2026/27. This will result in an increase in council tax for a band D property of £1.20 per household per week, taking the Band D charge to **£1,641.96**.

The following table shows the Council tax charge by band.

Band	Council tax charge £000
A	1,094.64
B	1,277.08
C	1,459.52
D	1,641.96
E	2,006.84
F	2,371.72
G	2,736.60
H	3,283.92

The 2026/27 budget sets out the financial resources that the Council has available to deliver the Annual Plan.


<b>Financial overview</b>	<b>2025/26 £m</b>	<b>2026/27 £m</b>	<b>Change £m</b>
Total expenditure	2,718.2	2,877.6	159.4
Income and grants	(1,431.6)	(1,474.1)	(42.5)
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>1,286.6</b>	<b>1,403.5</b>	<b>116.9</b>
<b>This is paid for by:</b>			
Collection fund surplus	(2.1)	(11.6)	(9.5)
Business rates	(198.6)	(227.3)	(28.7)
Revenue support grant	(194.3)	(227.8)	(33.5)
<b>Council tax requirement</b>	<b>(891.6)</b>	<b>(936.8)</b>	<b>(45.2)</b>
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>(1,286.6)</b>	<b>(1,403.5)</b>	<b>(116.9)</b>






The PFCC Police and Fire & Rescue precepts are the parts of your Council Tax that helps fund local policing and fire and rescue services in Essex. They ensure officers, firefighters and specialist teams have the resources they need to keep communities safe, respond to emergencies and prevent crime and harm.

# Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service 2026/27 PRECEPTS

 ESSEX POLICE Protecting and serving Essex	2025\26 (£000s)	2026\27 (£000s)
Police Officer Pay and Allowances	272,752	289,061
PCSO Pay and Allowances	3,847	3,847
Police Staff Pay and Allowances	105,888	108,830
Other employee expenses	9,426	7,281
Premises, Transport, Supplies & Services	68,583	73,007
PFCC services	2,089	2,183
Commissioning Grants	10,302	10,038
<b>Gross Police &amp; Crime Expenditure</b>	<b>472,887</b>	<b>494,247</b>
Income	(37,024)	(37,625)
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(684)	738
<b>Total Police &amp; Crime Expenditure*</b>	<b>435,179</b>	<b>457,360</b>

\*from total funding and Home Office specific grants

 Essex County Fire & Rescue Service	2025\26 (£000s)	2026\27 (£000s)
Firefighters Pay	54,460	56,695
Control & Support Staff	22,859	25,116
Enabling Resources	2,104	2,414
Premises & Equipment	12,490	11,862
Capital Financing Charges	5,291	5,445

Find out more:



## Building a Safer, Stronger Essex Together

Keeping our county safe is a responsibility I take deeply seriously. Over the past decade, Essex has made enormous progress: crime is falling, anti-social behaviour is at its lowest levels in years, and our emergency services are working more closely together than ever. Increasing investment in both services is needed given the current context. Inflationary pressures, rising operational costs and the need to meet increasing pay are just some of the factors that have been considered. The careful judgements made will ensure there is a renewed focus on protecting the vulnerable, the strategic shift towards prevention continues and more is done to reduce the impact of fire in the built environment.

This year, I am setting budgets for Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service that protect operational capability and invest to continue to drive down crime and anti-social behaviour and reduce harm to vulnerable people.



## Investing in Policing: Protecting Communities and Reducing Crime

Essex Police continues to be one of the leanest and most efficient forces in the country. But with unavoidable cost pressures rising by more than £22m this year, the increase in government funding of £9.2m is not enough to sustain the level of service the public expects. The police precept for a Band D property will therefore increase by **£14.94** a year (29p a week), bringing the total police precept to **£275.31**.

This investment will ensure that Essex Police can:

- **Keep officer numbers high**, including delivering **39 additional Neighbourhood Policing Officers**, allowing more officers to be on patrol in our communities, driving down ASB and reducing crime toward historic lows.
- **Deliver the Affordable Futures programme, strengthening domestic abuse investigations and protecting vulnerable people**, improving the force's approach to young people and youth offending, improving management of offenders to prevent crime, and running safer, more efficient custody suites.
- **Modernise policing through investment in AI, robotic process automation and enhanced video response**, to allow officers to make faster and better decisions, prioritise risk more effectively, and spend more time in communities.
- **Invest in a much needed new firearms training facility and a new police station in Dovercourt** on a shared site with the Fire & Rescue Service.

Essex Police has already delivered more than £70m in cashable savings and £22m in productivity gains since 2016 and continues to drive further efficiencies every year. The investments planned for 2026/27 will reduce crime, protect victims and increase public confidence.

## Investing in Fire & Rescue: Saving Lives and Reducing Harm

Our Fire and Rescue Service is adapting to changing risks, responding to new legislation, and supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. Rising costs and a significant reduction in government funding mean we need an additional **£4.95** a year for fire and rescue—less than 10p a week—bringing the Band D fire precept to **£92.52**.

This essential investment will enable Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to:

- Deliver its **Community Risk Management Plan**, the strategy that ensures resources are placed where risk is highest.
- Recruit **10 new wholetime firefighters** this year, with more to follow, improving daytime appliance availability and strengthening resilience.
- Invest in a brand new **live fire training facility** at Service Headquarters, a £13m project that will secure high quality firefighter training for decades to come.
- Expand fire protection and inspection work, including enforcing on the remediation of high-rise residential blocks.
- Enhance prevention activity through more home fire safety visits especially for the most vulnerable, and targeted support for at-risk households.
- Continue modernising digital tools and data systems to improve response times and operational planning.
- Further investment to improve professional standards.

Since 2021 the service has saved **£18 million** through efficiencies, alongside a further **£20 million** generated through joint working with Essex Police and other emergency services.

## Your Support Makes Essex Safer

For a combined total of **£19.89 a year**—around **38p a week**—for a Band D household your support will help fund stronger neighbourhood policing, highly trained officers and firefighters, important investment to protect the most vulnerable, and prevention work to drive down crime and ASB and reduce harm.

Every pound is spent carefully and with one purpose: to **build safe, secure and resilient communities where people can live, work and prosper.**



**Roger Hirst MBE**  
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

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

