



## 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.

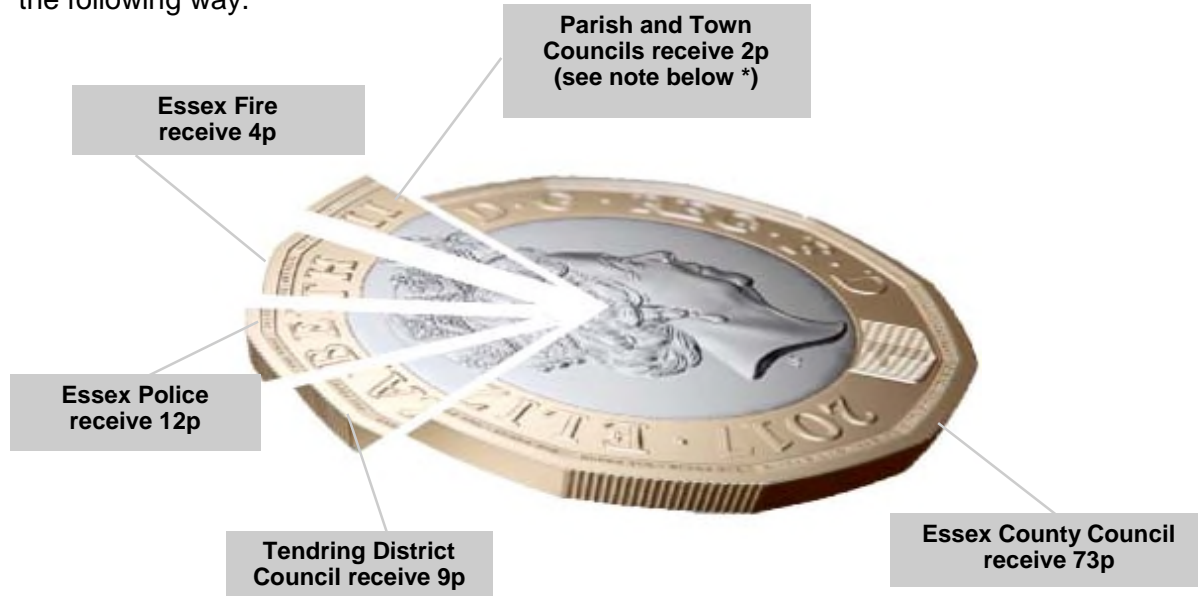
Each property is put into one of eight bands, depending on how much it was worth on 1 April 1991.

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 £117 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)

## 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.

### 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 marked for let (12 months 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
- 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

## Exemptions for Unoccupied Properties (Continued)

- 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

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

	<b>Last Year (2024/25)</b>	<b>This Year (2025/26)</b>	
	£000	£000	
General Council Costs	2,980	3,245	
Coastal Protection	2,913	611	
Collecting Local Taxes & Paying Council Tax Benefit	2,471	2,562	
Community Safety	767	479	
Environmental and Public Health	5,498	5,539	
Highways, Roads & Transport	1,098	1,138	
Housing	56,606	60,433	
Leisure & Tourism	9,381	9,212	
Planning, Community, Partnership & Renewal	6,658	6,651	
Waste Collection & Recycling	6,173	6,179	
Other Services	(948)	2,740	
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>93,597</b>	<b>98,789</b>	
Parish/Town Council Precepts	2,541	2,750	
<b>Less Income From:</b>			
Grants & Contributions	(48,725)	(50,337)	
Rents/fees/charges/interest	(29,329)	(30,519)	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>18,084</b>	<b>20,683</b>	
Transfer from/to Reserves	(420)	(273)	
Parish/Town Council Precepts	(2,541)	(2,750)	
	<b>15,123</b>	<b>17,660</b>	
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates	(4,124)	(5,637)	
Income from Collection Fund	(951)	(1,349)	
<b>Council Tax Requirement *</b>	<b>10,048</b>	<b>10,674</b>	
Average Council Tax for a property for band D* in Tendring District Council and the percentage change comparing last year and this year.	£193.73	£199.52	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 2024/25	15,123
Changes in spending on services	5,192
Changes in grants, fees and other charges	(2,802)
Changes to how we use savings and reserves	147
<b>The amount we need to raise/fund in 2025/26</b>	<b>17,660</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 £2,114.28 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	9,991	186.75
Essex County Council	84,503	1,579.59
Essex Fire	4,685	87.57
Essex Police	13,929	260.37
<b>Total (excluding Parish/Town Councils and Special Expenses)</b>	<b>113,108</b>	<b>2,114.28</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	1,424.94	1,662.43	1,899.92	2,137.41	2,612.39	3,087.37	3,562.35	4,274.82
Parishes of:								
Alresford	1,477.91	1,724.23	1,970.55	2,216.87	2,709.51	3,202.15	3,694.78	4,433.74
Ardleigh	1,463.14	1,707.00	1,950.85	2,194.71	2,682.42	3,170.14	3,657.85	4,389.42
Beaumont-cum-Moze	1,431.95	1,670.60	1,909.26	2,147.92	2,625.24	3,102.55	3,579.87	4,295.84
Great Bentley	1,506.85	1,758.00	2,009.14	2,260.28	2,762.56	3,264.85	3,767.13	4,520.56
Little Bentley	1,436.98	1,676.48	1,915.97	2,155.47	2,634.46	3,113.46	3,592.45	4,310.94
Bradfield	1,505.47	1,756.38	2,007.29	2,258.20	2,760.02	3,261.84	3,763.67	4,516.40
Brightlingsea	1,462.79	1,706.59	1,950.39	2,194.19	2,681.79	3,169.39	3,656.98	4,388.38
Great Bromley	1,460.47	1,703.88	1,947.29	2,190.70	2,677.52	3,164.34	3,651.17	4,381.40
Little Bromley	1,421.08	1,657.93	1,894.77	2,131.62	2,605.31	3,079.01	3,552.70	4,263.24
Little Clacton	1,464.71	1,708.82	1,952.94	2,197.06	2,685.30	3,173.53	3,661.77	4,394.12
Elmstead	1,463.18	1,707.04	1,950.91	2,194.77	2,682.50	3,170.22	3,657.95	4,389.54
Frating	1,447.23	1,688.43	1,929.64	2,170.84	2,653.25	3,135.66	3,618.07	4,341.68
Frinton and Walton	1,477.89	1,724.21	1,970.52	2,216.84	2,709.47	3,202.10	3,694.73	4,433.68
Harwich	1,446.65	1,687.76	1,928.87	2,169.98	2,652.20	3,134.42	3,616.63	4,339.96
Lawford	1,479.55	1,726.15	1,972.74	2,219.33	2,712.51	3,205.70	3,698.88	4,438.66
Manningtree	1,465.91	1,710.22	1,954.54	2,198.86	2,687.50	3,176.13	3,664.77	4,397.72
Mistley	1,462.15	1,705.85	1,949.54	2,193.23	2,680.61	3,168.00	3,655.38	4,386.46
Great Oakley	1,462.61	1,706.37	1,950.14	2,193.91	2,681.45	3,168.98	3,656.52	4,387.82
Little Oakley	1,449.39	1,690.95	1,932.52	2,174.08	2,657.21	3,140.34	3,623.47	4,348.16
Ramsey and Parkeston	1,472.68	1,718.13	1,963.57	2,209.02	2,699.91	3,190.81	3,681.70	4,418.04
St Osyth	1,471.37	1,716.59	1,961.82	2,207.05	2,697.51	3,187.96	3,678.42	4,414.10
Tendring	1,446.50	1,687.58	1,928.67	2,169.75	2,651.92	3,134.08	3,616.25	4,339.50
Thorpe-le-Soken	1,458.63	1,701.74	1,944.84	2,187.95	2,674.16	3,160.37	3,646.58	4,375.90
Thorrington	1,463.30	1,707.18	1,951.07	2,194.95	2,682.72	3,170.48	3,658.25	4,389.90
Weeley	1,443.01	1,683.52	1,924.02	2,164.52	2,645.52	3,126.53	3,607.53	4,329.04
Wix	1,465.27	1,709.48	1,953.69	2,197.90	2,686.32	3,174.74	3,663.17	4,395.80
Wrabness	1,430.84	1,669.31	1,907.79	2,146.26	2,623.21	3,100.15	3,577.10	4,292.52

## 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 (2024/25) £000	This Year (2025/26) £000		Last Year (2024/25) £000	This Year (2025/26) £000
<b>Brightlingsea Town Council</b>			<b>Frinton and Walton Town Council</b>		
Recreation and Tourism	264	285	Recreation and Tourism	211	154
Waterside Activities	1	-	Police Community Support Officers	140	140
Special Projects and Improvements	7	7	Other Services	244	198
Establishment	77	115	Establishment	269	272
Use of Reserves	25	23	Use of Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(143)	(183)	Less Income	(184)	(9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>755</b>
<b>Great Bentley Parish Council</b>			<b>Harwich Town Council</b>		
Recreation and Tourism	32	36	Recreation and Tourism	64	66
Police Community Support Officers	20	22	Police Community Support Officers	23	27
Other	33	33	Economic Development	14	15
Establishment	64	81	Establishment	160	168
Use of Reserves	2	(1)	Use of Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(5)	(6)	Less Income	(48)	(59)
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Lawford Parish Council</b>			<b>St Osyth Parish Council</b>		
Public Realm	148	139	Recreation and Tourism	33	44
Operation Quasar	5	6	Cemetery and War Memorial	32	33
Grants	10	10	Community Grants	15	17
Establishment	30	32	Establishment	135	146
Use of Reserves	-	-	Use of Reserves	-	-
Less Income	(5)	(2)	Less Income	(41)	(50)
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>190</b>

## Parish and Town Council spending and special expenses

	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2024/25 £	Amount each parish needs to raise in 2025/26 £	Parish part of the Council Tax for a Band D property 2025/26 £	Special Expenses at Band D 2025/26 £
Clacton (Unparished)				23.13
Parishes of:				
Alresford	92,230	106,218	102.59	
Ardleigh	81,077	97,309	80.43	
Beaumont-cum-Moze	4,400	4,400	33.64	
Great Bentley	146,300	165,000	146.00	
Little Bentley	3,360	5,000	41.19	
Bradfield	70,700	71,500	143.92	
Brightlingsea	231,526	247,500	79.91	
Great Bromley	32,000	33,725	76.42	
Little Bromley	1,700	1,800	17.34	
Little Clacton	88,615	90,700	82.78	
Elmstead	63,750	78,250	80.49	
Frating	15,220	15,774	56.56	
Frinton and Walton	680,000	754,958	84.92	17.64
Harwich	212,629	217,258	37.79	17.91
Lawford	187,654	185,360	101.63	3.42
Manningtree	32,452	36,000	103.12	(18.54)
Mistley	103,400	104,945	78.95	
Great Oakley	29,590	31,485	79.63	
Little Oakley	22,820	23,405	59.80	
Ramsey and Parkeston	74,196	74,600	94.74	
St Osyth	173,800	190,000	92.77	
Tendring	17,250	17,250	55.47	
Thorpe-le-Soken	67,250	71,350	73.67	
Thorrington	30,000	45,000	80.67	
Weeley	45,170	45,170	50.24	
Wix	27,000	28,832	83.62	
Wrabness	6,561	7,400	31.98	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,540,650</b>	<b>2,750,189</b>		



# COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2025/26





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

## Adult Social Care



**£2,456,606**  
per day

(2024/25 **£2,218,389**)

## Schools



**£1,564,594**  
per day

(2024/25 **£1,551,296**)

## Children's Services



**£668,914**  
per day

(2024/25 **£521,012**)

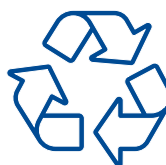
## Early Years & Child Care



**£664,499**  
per day

(2024/25 **£455,600**)

## Environment & Waste



**£249,520**  
per day

(2024/25 **£253,538**)

## Public Health



**£207,175**  
per day

(2024/25 **£196,574**)

## Home to School Transport



**£150,767**  
per day

(2024/25 **£139,485**)

## Highways and Infrastructure



**£135,153**  
per day

(2024/25 **£107,951**)

## Library Services



**£44,558**  
per day

(2024/25 **£43,504**)

## Concessionary Fares



**£42,431**  
per day

(2024/25 **£44,623**)

## Economic Development



**£25,384**  
per day

(2024/25 **£18,276**)

## Coroner's Services



**£17,044**  
per day

(2024/25 **£16,636**)

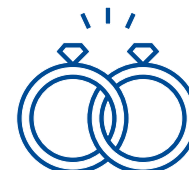
## Country Parks



**£10,617**  
per day

(2024/25 **£10,296**)

## Registrar Services



**£10,543**  
per day

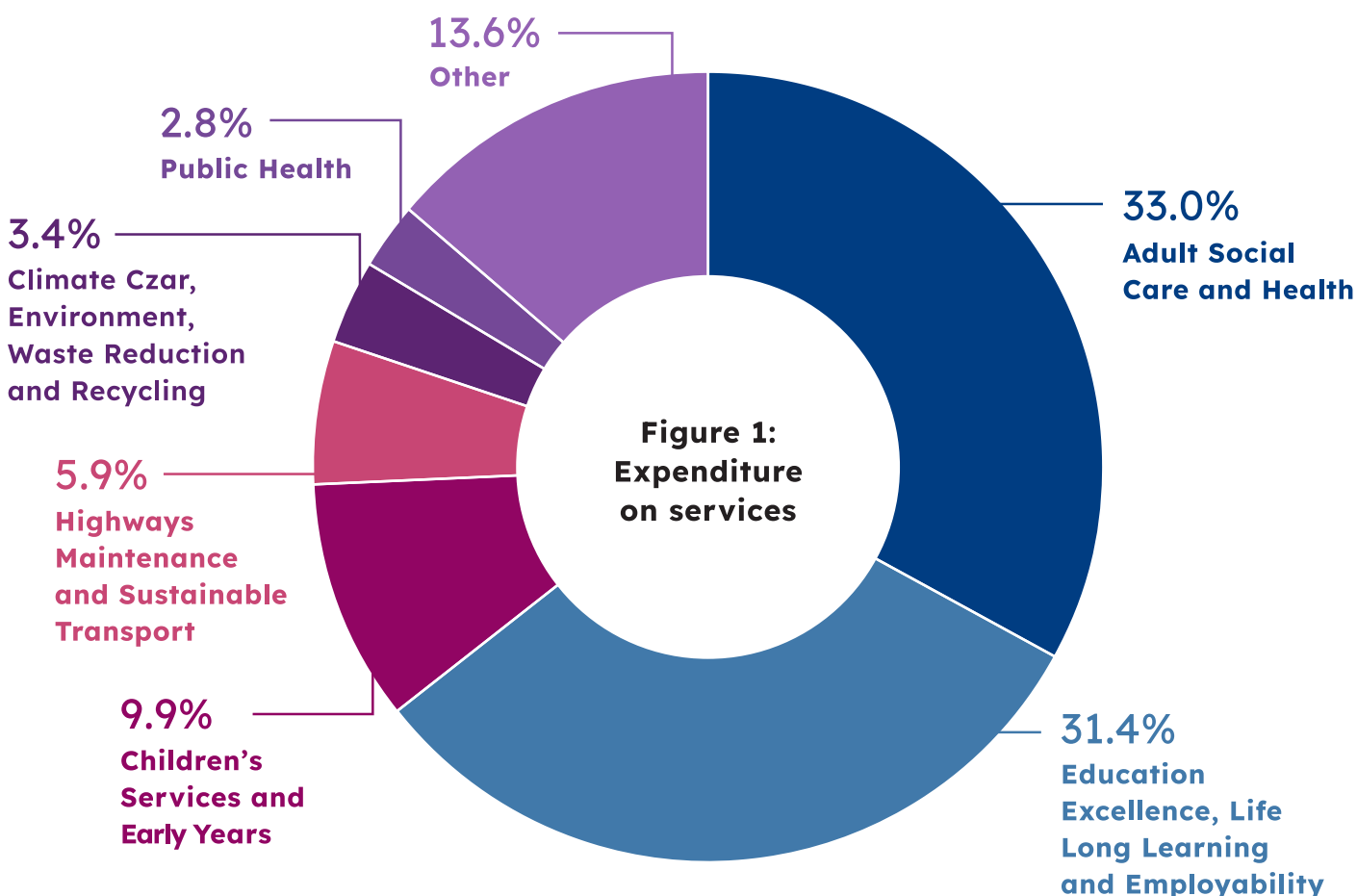
(2024/25 **£9,347**)

### Expenditure on services

The Council has committed to spending:

- £897 million on services supporting vulnerable adults
- £853 million on Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability
- £269 million on services supporting Children’s Services and Early Years

Expenditure on Services	£m
Adult Social Care and Health	896.7
Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability	853.3
Children’s Services and Early Years	268.5
Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	160.6
Climate Czar, Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	93.0
Public Health	75.6
Other, which includes services such as Libraries, Coroners, Registrars and Country Parks	370.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,718.2</b>





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

# PROTECTING SERVICES NOW AND INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

**This year we have set one of the most ambitious budgets Essex has seen.**

We have put people and businesses at its heart, protected essential services and committed to investing in the Essex of tomorrow.

It is an exciting time for our county and we will continue to work hard to improve people's lives and make sure the county remains a great place to live and work.

We will do this by continuing to listen to what is important to you.

Our budget for the new financial year has been set against a national backdrop of challenges, including persistent inflation and the increasing costs of providing essential services.

This means our responsibility to set a budget for Essex which will enable us to continue to meet those challenges while investing in the county – now and in the future – has never been more important.

Equally, we will only take from taxpayers what we absolutely need – which is why this year, we have limited the county council's Council Tax increase to 3.75%. This is among the lowest of any county council.

Our annual plan sets out the commitments we have made to you over the next financial year. Key infrastructure such as Beaulieu Park station and the Chelmsford north-east bypass, as well as investments in our ambitious capital programme and commitment to building new schools, will enable us to future-proof the county and unlock its full potential.

We are an experienced council with a strong track record of delivery. We never forget the responsibility we hold and the importance of living up to the expectations of the people we serve. Residents can trust us to deliver as we have shown them time and again that we can. Our experience has already seen us save over £1 billion in the last 15 years – money we re-invest in the county.

This experience will be vital to enabling us to seize opportunities now and in the future. As we look ahead to the benefits that devolution and local government reorganisation will bring, I know will be best placed to meet these challenges. Our priority remains the people and businesses of Essex, now and in the future.

## Listening to you

During November and December 2024, 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, followed by the condition of the roads and pavements, the pressure on social care provision, and Crime/Community Safety
- 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 £85m combined in Adults and Children's social care in 2025/26, 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 5,500 children in care or in need.

We are also continuing to invest in the maintenance of our 5,100 miles of roads, 4,000 miles of footways and 1,600 structures, with an additional £8m of revenue funding.

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 £367 million for 2025/26. This includes investments such as Beaulieu station and Chelmsford North-East bypass, the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package and the A127 / A130 Fairglen Interchange.

## Saving

Recent years have seen significant increases in our costs driven by demand and high inflation, outstripping growth in local authority grants. In 2025/26 alone we are anticipating new pressures of £135m across the Council, while government funding is increasing by only £58m. Therefore, we have had to cut our cloth accordingly, so over the past four years, we have saved £150 million.

In 2025/26, we will deliver a further £43 million 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 £150  
MILLION**



# SPENDING AND CHARGES EXPLAINED

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

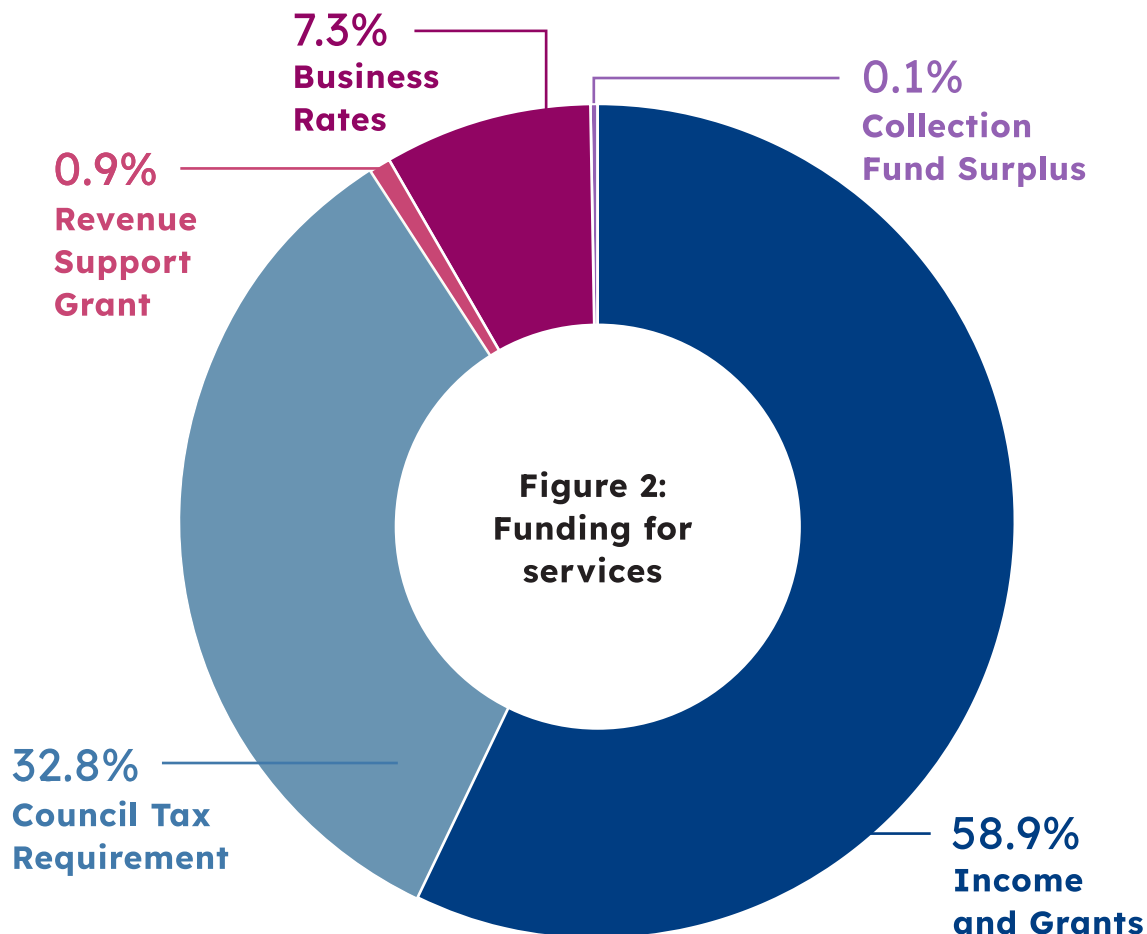
This year we are increasing council tax by a total of 3.75%. This is made up of a 1.75% general council tax precept and a 2% adult social care precept, as set out by Government for 2025/26. This will result in an increase in council tax for a band D property of £1.09 per household per week, taking the Band D charge to **£1,579.59**.

The following table shows the Council tax charge by band.

Band	Council tax charge £000
A	1,053.06
B	1,228.57
C	1,404.08
D	1,579.59
E	1,930.61
F	2,281.63
G	2,632.65
H	3,159.18

The 2025/26 budget sets out the financial resources that the Council has available to deliver the Annual Plan.

<b>Financial overview</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>	<b>2025/26 £m</b>	<b>Change £m</b>
Total expenditure	2,507.6	2,718.2	210.6
Income and grants	(1,434.4)	(1,600.9)	(166.5)
<b>Budget requirement</b>	<b>1,073.2</b>	<b>1,117.3</b>	<b>44.1</b>
<b>This is paid for by:</b>			
Collection fund surplus	(7.2)	(2.1)	5.1
Business rates	(195.0)	(198.6)	(3.6)
Revenue support grant	(22.7)	(24.9)	(2.2)
<b>Council tax requirement</b>	<b>(848.3)</b>	<b>(891.6)</b>	<b>(43.3)</b>
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>(1,073.2)</b>	<b>(1,117.3)</b>	<b>(44.1)</b>



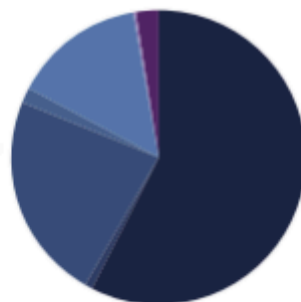




## Police & Crime Budget 2025/26 (£000s)

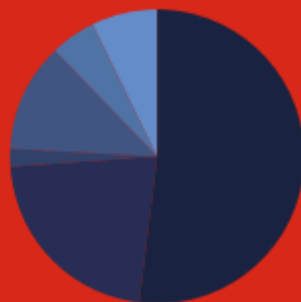
	2024/25	2025/26
Police officer pay & allowances	253,256	272,752
PCSO pay & allowances	3,567	3,847
Police staff pay & allowances	101,186	105,888
Other employee expenses	6,768	9,426
Premises, transport, supplies & services	63,376	68,583
PFCC services	1,977	2,089
Commissioning grants	10,029	10,302
<b>Gross Police &amp; Crime Expenditure</b>	<b>440,159</b>	<b>472,887</b>
Income	(34,765)	(37,024)
Contribution to/ (from) reserves	2,147	(684)
<b>Total Police &amp; Crime Expenditure*</b>	<b>407,541</b>	<b>435,179</b>
Home Office Specific Grants	(22,003)	(24,907)
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>385,538</b>	<b>410,272</b>

\*from total funding and Home Office specific grants



## Fire & Rescue Budget 2025/26 (£000s)

	2024/25	2025/26
Firefighters pay	48,678	54,460
Control & support staff	21,728	22,859
Enabling resources	2,134	2,104
Premises & equipment	12,352	12,490
Capital financing charges	5,609	5,290
Other costs	6,474	7,260
<b>Gross Fire &amp; Rescue Expenditure</b>	<b>96,975</b>	<b>104,463</b>
Operational grants & income	(2,059)	(2,300)
<b>Net Cost of Service</b>	<b>94,916</b>	<b>102,163</b>



## Building safe and secure communities

**Essex Police and Essex County Fire  
& Rescue Service**

Precepts 2025/2026

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

“

We are substantially increasing the number of home fire safety visits to keep vulnerable people safe and reduce the number of fires in the home.

“

We are successfully fighting back against crime in our communities. Crime in Essex is falling and our aspiration is to reduce it by 40% from its peak.



**Since 2016, we have grown Essex Police by 905 police officers. This has led to a 72% reduction in anti-social behaviour (ASB) and we have halved homicide and burglary since I first took office.**

This year has been the most challenging budget round I have yet experienced. The proposed Government policing settlement fell short, and we fought for and secured an additional £2.3m in national funding. While this has gone some way to bridge Essex Police's £5.3m budget shortfall, we have had to make the tough decision to reduce police staff, police officer allowances and halt all non-essential building and technology projects.

Although we have made over £8m in efficiency savings in Essex Police, the shortfall in funding has meant an increase in the Essex Police Precept by 5.7% equivalent to £13.95 a year (27p a week) for a band D property. This will allow us to maintain officer and PCSO strength, to continue getting crime down and creating more visible neighbourhood policing.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is continuing to grow the prevention and protection activity it carries out, including the number of home safety checks for vulnerable people.

Tough choices have also been made for the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service precept following the loss of the Services Grant and Funding Guarantee for 2025/26.

For the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, the precept will increase by 6% , equivalent to £4.95 a year (9p a week) for a band D property.

We are committed to delivering the safe and secure communities which are the bedrock for economic growth.

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 police officer and PCSO strength, keeping Essex Police the strongest it has ever been
- Fighting back against crime, reducing it from its peak by 40%
- Increasing neighbourhood policing, creating an even more visible policing presence on the streets of Essex
- Policing in known hotspots to solve problems causing crime and anti social behaviour

## Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

**The investment will be focused on:**



- Delivering the Community Risk Management Plan in line with the PFCC Fire and Rescue Plan Priorities 2024/2028
- Increasing the amount of prevention and protection activity, specifically home safety checks to the most vulnerable
- Partnership activities such as the Community Wellbeing Officers scheme
- Embedding the investment made in fire protection to ensure it has sufficient resources to support business and take proportionate interventions or enforcement action where required
- Technology to improve the efficiency of resources deployed across the county