

Hampshire County Council's council tax is one of the lowest of any county council in England.

The services we provide include:

- Adult social care
- Children's social care
- Concessionary bus travel
- Economic development
- Libraries
- Public health
- Road maintenance
- Schools
- Trading standards
- Waste disposal

£1,609.83

Our 2025/26 Band D council tax

£3.1bn

The Council's total budget for 2025/26

Council tax helps to fund a wide range of public services in Hampshire. A selection of the services provided by Hampshire County Council is listed above. Many of these are available to be used by all, such as libraries, or by all in particular age groups, such as schools. Other services are focused on the most vulnerable, such as social care.

Several services which form a large proportion of our budget are under severe financial pressure, especially social care for adults and children, home to school transport and services for children with special educational needs and disabilities. This is due to very high demand and inflation levels affecting these services being well above the household average. These issues are affecting councils across the country. Councils in shire areas are particularly badly affected though because they receive such low levels of Government funding compared to many other areas.

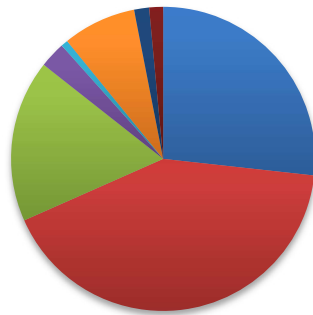
We fully appreciate the cost of living pressures affecting households. However, the level of service we provide is already close to the statutory minimum, due to the reductions which have been made in over a decade and a half of austerity since the global financial crisis of 2008. The ability to find further savings is thus limited. To help fund essential services, Hampshire County Council's council tax will consequently need to increase this year by just under 5%, but it will still remain one of the lowest of any county council in England.

The Council has approached the Government for support but none has been forthcoming so far. The situation has actually worsened, due to issues such as councils not being fully compensated for the increase to employer National Insurance costs. We will continue to make it clear to the Government that action is

urgently needed (such as reforming the social care system) as the local government finance system is not currently financially sustainable. We will always remain committed to continuing to provide as good a level of service as possible to the people of Hampshire within the resources available to us.

You may notice that Hampshire County Council's council tax is now just shown on one line on council tax bills, whereas previously it was split up into two separate lines on bills. This is due to a change in the Government legislation which specifies how council tax must be shown on bills. Further information about this change is provided at the end of this document.

What the 2025/26 budget will be spent on



- Adults' Health and Care = £837.6m
- Schools = £1,302.8m
- Children's Services (excluding schools) = £540.7m
- Corporate Services = £86.2m
- Hampshire 2050 = £23.3m
- Universal Services = £244.4m
- Capital Financing (including funding from revenue) = £49.8m
- Other Corporate Items = £45.9m

Budget chart notes

- Universal Services – This department provides a range of services available to everyone in Hampshire, including highways, waste disposal and recreation.
- Hampshire 2050 – This department provides services focused on improving Hampshire for the future, such as skills and economic development.

| How the budget is funded | 2024/25 | 2025/26 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Gross expenditure | £2,857.8m | £3,130.7m |
| Funded by: | | |
| Departmental income | £378.1m | £442.9m |
| Contribution from reserves | £64.6m | £60.9m |
| Interest receivable | £25.5m | £21.4m |
| Dedicated Schools Grant | £1,059.6m | £1,176.5m |
| Other Specific Government grants | £244.4m | £257.9m |
| General Government grants | £204.1m | £230.4m |
| Business rates | £47.8m | £56.2m |
| Surplus on collection funds | £7.3m | £8.1m |
| Council tax requirement | £826.4m | £876.4m |
| Results in: | | |
| Hampshire County Council's Band D Council Tax | £1,533.24 | £1,609.83 |

About this summary

This information is about the Hampshire County Council part of council tax. Your council tax bill will also include amounts for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority, the district council and, in many areas, a parish or town council.

How council tax is calculated

Hampshire County Council's council tax is now just shown on one line on council tax bills, whereas in previous years it was split up into two separate lines on bills. This is due to a change in the Government legislation which specifies how council tax must be shown on bills.

The legislation previously required Hampshire County Council's total council tax to be split up into two separate lines on council tax bills.

- Most was shown on the main "Hampshire County Council" line.
- Council tax which was dedicated to funding adult social care pressures was shown on a separate line, called the "Adult social care precept".

These two items have now been added together, with everything included in the main "Hampshire County Council" line.

The new format is welcome as it makes bills clearer. Hampshire County Council had been asking the Government to permit us to make this change for many years.

The change in format may result in some queries this year about how bills are calculated. The worked example below sets out how this year's council tax increase was calculated. The amounts used in the example are for a Band D property.

Hampshire County Council's total 2024/25 council tax = £1,533.24

- £1,533.24 is the sum of the main County Council line (£1,312.32) plus the adult social care precept line (£220.92).

Plus: Council tax increase = £76.59 ($£1,533.24 \times 4.995\%$)

Equals: Hampshire County Council's total 2025/26 council tax = £1,609.83

The percentage increase is stated on council tax bills to one decimal place, so the 4.995% is shown on them as 5.0%. The actual cash amounts on bills are calculated more precisely. The example above gives the percentage increase in more detail to 4.995%, in order to help explain why the precise cash increase is not exactly 5.0%.

Your council tax bill will also show the amounts charged by other local authorities, such as the district council. No changes have been made to how council tax is shown on bills for these other authorities. This is because the previous requirement to break council tax up into two lines only applied to councils which are responsible for providing adult social care, which only the County Council does in Hampshire.