

Hertfordshire County Council – Council Tax and budget information 2023/24

Council Tax bills

Over the coming year, we will spend more than £1 billion delivering over 500 council services. To enable this investment across Hertfordshire, councillors have agreed the council's budget for 2023/24, which includes an increase of 2% for the adult social care precept and an additional 2.99% for general Council Tax. This works out at an extra £1.47 a week for average Band D households.

Council Tax is billed and collected by each district council on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council. The table below shows the county's charge per band. The total amount of Council Tax you pay can be found on your bill.

Band	2022/23 Council Tax	General expenditure 2.99% increase	Adult Social Care precept 2.00% increase	2023/24 Council Tax
A	£1,019.54	£30.48	£20.40	£1,070.42
B	£1,189.46	£35.57	£23.79	£1,248.82
C	£1,359.38	£40.65	£27.20	£1,427.23
D	£1,529.31	£45.73	£30.59	£1,605.63
E	£1,869.16	£55.89	£37.39	£1,962.44
F	£2,209.00	£66.06	£44.19	£2,319.25
G	£2,548.85	£76.21	£50.99	£2,676.05
H	£3,058.62	£91.46	£61.18	£3,211.26

Medium term financial position

While there is a balanced budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25, the council is still facing significant financial challenges. These include continued inflationary pressures and uncertainty of future government funding, along with increasing demands for services for children, adults, and the elderly. As such, the medium-term outlook is extremely challenging.

The council will need to deliver savings rising from £27.4 million in 2023/24 to £78.4 million in 2026/27. These savings are in addition to those found already, which amounts to nearly £3.1 billion since 2010.

Our budget

The table below shows the budgeted spend for each service area, the income used to fund this, and how it has changed since last year.

2022/23 £m		2023/24 £m
2,268.2	Gross Budget	2,395.5
	Less:	
(1,158.8)	Ring-fenced grants (including schools)	(1,178.3)
(123.8)	Sales, fees & charges	(130.1)
(31.2)	Partner contributions	(30.0)
954.4	Revenue Budget	1,057.1
(6.9)	Use of reserves	(18.8)
947.5	Net Budget	1,038.3
(140.1)	Business rates retention scheme	(156.2)
(51.3)	Ring-fenced funding	(52.4)
(53.2)	Non-ringfenced grants	(77.6)
(1.8)	Collection fund	(6.0)
701.1	Council Tax requirement	746.0

How spending has changed

In total we expect to spend a gross amount of £2,395.5m on all services compared with £2,268.2m in 2022/23. Towards this, we expect to receive £130.1m in sales, fees and charges for services and £1,178.3m in grants, of which £1,112.2m relates to the grants for schools. Allowing for this, the net budget will be £1,038.3m. This is an increase more than 10% from last year and reflects additional service demand, exceptional inflationary pressures, and new investment opportunities.

The Council Tax requirement has changed from £701.1m to £746.0m reflecting the 4.99% increase in the amount charged and a 1.3% increase in the taxbase.

2022/23 £m	Net budget by service	2023/24 £m
400.9	Caring for Adults	442.7
205.3	Supporting children and young people	224.5
72.9	Keeping Hertfordshire moving	83.6
53.7	A cleaner and greener county	58.3
41.2	Protecting our communities	43.1
51.3	A healthy Hertfordshire	52.4
73.4	Community services for every stage of life	89.5
55.7	Running Frontline Services	63.0
954.4	Revenue Budget	1,057.1

Enquiries

Enquiries about payments, rebates or benefits should be made to your **district or borough council**:

District / Borough	Telephone	Email
Broxbourne Borough Council	01992 785577	counciltax@broxbourne.gov.uk
Dacorum Borough Council	01442 228000	council.tax@dacorum.gov.uk
East Hertfordshire District Council	01279 655261	revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk
Hertsmere Borough Council	0208 207 2277	revenues@hertsmere.gov.uk
North Hertfordshire District Council	01462 474000	service@north-herts.gov.uk
St Albans District Council	01727 866100	counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk
Stevenage Borough Council	01438 242875	revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk
Three Rivers District Council	01923 776611	counciltax@threerivers.gov.uk
Watford Borough Council	01923 278466	counciltax@watford.gov.uk
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	01707 357000	c.tax@welhat.gov.uk

If you have an enquiry about **Hertfordshire County Council's** budget or if you would like the information in this leaflet in large print, on tape or in another language, please either:

Visit our website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax

Email: budget@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call: 0300 123 4040

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 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.