

# Hertfordshire County Council - Council Tax and Budget Information 2025/26

## Council Tax Bills

Over the coming year, we will spend more than £1.1 billion delivering over 500 council services. To enable this investment across the Hertfordshire, councillors have agreed the council's budget for 2025/26, which includes an increase of 4.99%, of which 2% is attributable to the adult social care (ASC) precept and an additional 2.99% for general council tax. This works out at an extra £1.62 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	2024/25 Council tax	4.99% Increase (incl. ASC Precept)	2025/26 Council tax
A	£1,123.83	£56.08	£1,179.91
B	£1,311.14	£65.42	£1,376.56
C	£1,498.45	£74.77	£1,573.22
D	£1,685.75	£84.12	£1,769.87
E	£2,060.36	£102.82	£2,163.18
F	£2,434.97	£121.51	£2,556.48
G	£2,809.58	£140.20	£2,949.78
H	£3,371.50	£168.24	£3,539.74

## Medium term financial position

While there is a balanced budget for 2025/26, 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 £42 million in 2025/26 to £95 million in 2028/29. These savings are in addition to those found already, which amounts to £3.9 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.

2024/25 £m		2025/26 £m
2,687.5	<b>Gross Budget</b>	2,950.4
	<b>Less:</b>	
(1,407.3)	Ring-fenced Grants (including Schools)	(1,574.3)
(141.3)	Sales, Fees & Charges	(156.3)
(30.8)	Partner Contributions	(36.0)
1,108.0	<b>Net Budget</b>	1,183.7
(167.2)	Business Rates Retention Scheme	(167.6)
(53.7)	Ring-fenced Funding	(55.7)
(99.3)	Non-ringfenced Grants	(128.2)
(0.4)	Collection Fund	(1.7)
787.4	<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>	830.5

## How spending has changed

In total we expect to spend a gross amount of £2,950.4m on all services compared with £2,687.5m in 2024/25. Towards this, we expect to receive £156.3m in sales, fees and charges for services; £36.0m in partner contributions and £1,574.3m in grants, of which £1,504.5m relates to the grants for schools. Allowing for this, the net budget will be £1,183.7m. This is an increase of 6.84% from last year and reflects additional service demand, exceptional inflationary pressures and new investment opportunities.

The council tax requirement has changed from £787.4m to £830.5m reflecting the 4.99% increase in the amount charged and a 0.46% increase in the net taxbase.

2024/25 £m	Net budget by service	2025/26 £m
478.2	Caring for Adults	527.3
256.8	Supporting children and young people	289.2
80.0	Keeping Hertfordshire moving	77.2
59.3	A cleaner and greener county	60.5
45.6	Protecting our communities	45.1
53.7	Keeping residents Healthy	55.7
21.0	Community services for every stage of life	21.9
71.4	Supporting Frontline Services	55.5
43.0	Capital Financing and Treasury	51.3
1,108.0	<b>Revenue Budget</b>	1,183.7

## 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	<a href="mailto:counciltax@broxbourne.gov.uk">counciltax@broxbourne.gov.uk</a>
Dacorum Borough Council	01442 228000	<a href="mailto:council.tax@dacorum.gov.uk">council.tax@dacorum.gov.uk</a>
East Herts District Council	01279 655261	<a href="mailto:revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk">revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk</a>
Hertsmere Borough Council	0208 207 2277	<a href="mailto:revenues@hertsmere.gov.uk">revenues@hertsmere.gov.uk</a>
North Herts Council	01462 474000	<a href="mailto:service@north-herts.gov.uk">service@north-herts.gov.uk</a>
St Albans District Council	01727 866100	<a href="mailto:counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk">counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk</a>
Stevenage Borough Council	01438 242875	<a href="mailto:revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk">revenues@hertspartnership-ala.gov.uk</a>
Three Rivers District Council	01923 776611	<a href="mailto:counciltax@threerivers.gov.uk">counciltax@threerivers.gov.uk</a>
Watford Borough Council	01923 278466	<a href="mailto:counciltax@watford.gov.uk">counciltax@watford.gov.uk</a>
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	01707 357000	<a href="mailto:c.tax@welhat.gov.uk">c.tax@welhat.gov.uk</a>

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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax)

**Email:** [budget@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.*