

# Where your money goes 2025-26

## Where your money goes 2025-26

### Introduction

This information outlines how council tax and business rates are used to deliver services in South Gloucestershire for the benefit of all residents and businesses.

In the 2025/26 financial year, we will spend more than £316 million to run day-to-day services such as adult social care, waste and recycling collections and libraries. In addition, we will invest more than £182 million on capital projects and infrastructure schemes like building new schools and maintaining our roads.

Balancing the budget continues to be a challenge with inflation, the cost-of-living crisis and the level of funding from central government. Ever-increasing costs mean we must pay more for services whilst demand continues to grow.

In this budget, we have once again managed to balance the books for this financial year and planned for the next year. However, this continues to be a challenge with rising costs, and we will continue to make savings where possible following community conversations with you to deliver the best possible service whilst delivering a balanced budget.

### Council tax and your bill

Council tax helps pay for local services such as police and fire, schools, roads, care for older people, libraries, waste and recycling collection.

The amount of council tax you pay is based on the valuation band of your property and any discounts or exemptions that you may be entitled to.

Our part of the council tax bill has increased by 4.99%. This is the same rise as in 2024/25.

This is primarily due to the increasing demand for services, particularly for adult and children's social care.

The South Gloucestershire Council element of the council tax for an average band D property for 2025/26 is £1,931.33, an increase of £91.79

How every £100 of council tax is broken down to pay towards the services we provide

Caring for and supporting older people

£47.60

Supporting vulnerable children

£17.90

Education and skills – council funded

£5.10

Maintaining roads, parks and the environment

£6.50

Waste and recycling

£7.50

Libraries and building safe communities

£1.60

Towards more than 500 other services and costs

£13.80

With precepts added from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon Fire Authority and all 50 parishes, the average 2025/26 total council tax for a band D property is £2,427.90.



## Council Tax Average Band D 2025-26




Your Band D charge may be different depending on the level of your parish precept and any special expenses (these are charges for specific services in your area).

# Your council tax bill explained

## Your Council Tax bill explained

- 1 The unique billing number for your account at this property to be used when making payment
- 2 Date the bill was issued
- 3 Name of liable person / Billing address
- 4 1 The general charge by the council
- 5 2 Charges for specific services
- 6 3 Total for South Gloucestershire Council is an overall 5.0% increase
- 7 4 Charge set by the parish/town council
- 8 5 Charge set by Avon Fire Authority
- 9 6 Charge set by Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner

- 1 This is the amount which the council needs to raise from Council Tax in order to provide its main services.
- 2 The council provides some services which benefit only certain areas and are provided elsewhere by parish or town councils. The costs of providing such services, called special expenses, are added to the amounts to be raised from the areas benefiting from these services. This includes the cost of allotments, open spaces, playing fields, closed churchyards, public conveniences and the cost of servicing play areas.
- 3 This is the amount of increase in South Gloucestershire Council's total Council Tax.
- 4 If you live in a parish or town area, your parish or town council may issue a charge to finance its expenditure which South Gloucestershire collects on its behalf.
- 5 The council is required to collect the charge set by the Avon Fire Authority.
- 6 The council is required to collect the charge set by the Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner.



**Council Tax Annual Bill 2025/26**

**Billing Number: 40000000**

**Date of Issue 03-MAR-2025**

**A N OTHER**  
1 HOBBS LANE  
KINGSWOOD  
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
BS15 4NH


Department for Resources and Business Change  
Revenue Services  
P O Box 1953  
BRISTOL, BS37 0DB

Tel: (01454) 868003 - Council Tax  
Tel: (01454) 868002 - Benefit Enquiries  
Email: counciltax@southglos.gov.uk

Address of property  
1 HOBBS LANE  
KINGSWOOD  
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
BS15 4NH

Reference Key: xxxt11fvvv45  
Used for online access only

Property Band D



98261211020004229382696

Annual Charge	Amount (£)	% Change (from 2024/25)
South Gloucestershire Council-Basic C.T	£1,204.51	5.0
South Gloucestershire-Special Expenses	£30.42	5.0
<b>Total for South Gloucestershire Council</b>	<b>£1,234.93</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Average Parish Council	£12.84	5.0
Avon Fire Authority	95.43	5.0
Avon & Somerset Police & C.C.	202.50	5.0
<b>Gross amount for year 2025/26</b>	<b>2,427.90</b>	<b>5.0</b>

\*From 2025/26 the separate charge for Adult Social Care is now included within South Gloucestershire Council-Basic C.T line above.  
Details of the calculation of the charge can be found by clicking on the Council Tax pages via the following link: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/counciltax>

Description	From	To	Amount
Charge For Period	01-APR-2025	31-MAR-2026	£ 2,427.90
25% Reduction For Single Occupancy	01-APR-2025	31-MAR-2026	£ -406.98

**Total Amount Due £1,820.92**

Reason for Bill: Annual

Payment Instructions Instalments to be paid by: Cash monthly							
01-APR-2025	xxxx.xx	01-MAY-2025	xxxx.xx	01-JUN-2025	xxxx.xx	01-JUL-2025	xxxx.xx
01-AUG-2025	xxxx.xx	01-SEP-2025	xxxx.xx	01-OCT-2025	xxxx.xx	01-NOV-2025	xxxx.xx
01-DEC-2025	xxxx.xx	01-JAN-2026	xxxx.xx	01-FEB-2026	xxxx.xx	01-MAR-2026	xxxx.xx

**Information**

Memorandum note

- Your instalments for 2025/26 do not include your 2024/25 account balance.
- As at 26/02/2025 your 2024/25 Council tax balance is £xxx.xx

Address of property if different to billing address

Reference Key  
To be used with your billing number to access your account details online.

Your council tax bill states which band applies to your property.

Bar code to be used for making payment.

Total due for the year  
The adjustment is made as a result of any exemptions or discounts.

Total amount payable.

Method of payment, i.e. cash monthly.

Number of instalments, amounts due and dates of instalments.  
This shows any arrears from previous years. Please contact the council if no arrangement has been made to clear the balance or if you require clarification.

## Paying your council tax

There are several ways you can pay your council tax, find out more on our [pay your council tax](#) page.

Contact us as soon as possible to [get help if you are struggling to pay](#).

## Council tax reduction and housing benefit enquiries

[Council tax reduction](#) is a scheme to help those on a low income to get help to pay their council tax.

If you need help with council tax reduction or housing benefit you can call [01454 868002](tel:01454868002) or visit one of our [One Stop Shops](#).

# Discounts and exemptions

In some circumstances you may be entitled to a discount or exemption. Find out more on our [discounts and exemptions](#) page.

## Viewing your details online and electronic billing

You will need your reference key and billing number from your latest bill to view your details online. These can be found on the front of your bill.

You will be able to view account details (including payments made), set up or amend direct debits, ask for an e-bill rather than a printed copy and update your contact details.

To set this up visit the [manage your council tax online](#) page.

## Reporting changes in your circumstances

**Important** - It is your responsibility to tell us immediately about any changes that may affect the amount of housing benefit, council tax exemption, discount, or reduction you get.

You are committing an offence if you deliberately fail to tell us about a change in your circumstances.

### Appeals

There are two areas for appeal.

#### **Against the valuation band (area 1)**

These appeals should be made to the Valuation Office using the following link [check your council tax band – GOV.UK](#)

#### **Against your council tax charge (area 2)**

These appeals should be made in writing to the [council tax section, at South Gloucestershire Council](#).

You can appeal if you think you are not liable to pay council tax because:

- you are not the owner or the resident
- your property is exempt
- you think there has been a mistake in the way your bill has been calculated

You still need to pay your council tax whilst waiting for the appeal decision.

### **Precepts (payment for essential services)**

Your council tax bill also collects precepts for the police, fire services, town and parish councils, and special expenses.

### **Emergency services**

In 2025/26 Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner charges have increased by 5.01% (or £14.00 on an average band D property).

Avon Fire Authority charges have increased by 5.85% (or £5 on an average band D property).

You can read more about these charges:

- Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner council tax leaflet
- Avon Fire Authority council tax leaflet

## Town and parish councils

Town and parish councils set their budgets independently, and while the average increase for 2025/26 is 6.83%, the charges range from -21.2% to +40.9%

For information on town and parish councils spending more than £140,000 you can download a spreadsheet as a csv file.

## Special expenses

The cost of the council's services is spread mainly uniformly over the authority's area.

In some areas, the town or parish council may provide services which are the responsibility of South Gloucestershire Council in others. These are called special expenses.

Special expenses are only charged to the areas which directly benefit from them. They vary across the 50 parished areas.

## Business rates (or non-domestic rates)

Business rates (or non-domestic rates) are taxes paid on non domestic properties to help towards the cost of local council services.

Business rates retention arrangements allow authorities to keep a proportion of the local business rates. This helps pay for the services provided by the local authority in your area.

For more information about business rates visit our [business rates](#) section and the [about business rates or non-domestic rates](#) page on our website.

GOV.UK also has information about the [business rates system](#).

## The council's budget

For 2025/26, the council is increasing its share of the general council tax by 4.99%, in line with government limits.

The 2025/26 budget also includes updated details of the council's savings programmes. It assumes that the existing £40m in savings programmes will be delivered, by end of 2028/29.

The council will obtain it's funding for 2025/26 from the following sources:

- 37.4% government schools funding
- 22% sales, fees, charges and reserves
- 21.5% council tax
- 9.7% other government grants
- 9.4% business rates

### **Contact us**

If you need any further advice or you are unable to print this document and require a hard copy you can:

- call [01454 868003](tel:01454868003)
- email [counciltax@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@southglos.gov.uk)