

## Where your money goes 2024-25

### 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 2024/25 financial year, we will spend more than £305 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 £678 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 managed to balance the books over the coming three years, assuming the current savings and income generation targets are achieved. In addition to delivering statutory services, including support for adults in need of care and for schools, we want to ensure that those in the greatest need can receive help with the cost of living, for example, with energy efficient measures to help reduce bills. The budget includes extra investment in children's services and recognises the need for immediate action to help alleviate and to respond to the climate and nature emergencies.

### 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%, including a 2% increase for adult social care. This is the same rise as in 2023/24.

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 2023/24 is £1,839.54, an increase of £87.43.

How your £1,839.54 is broken down to pay for the services we provide:

Supporting vulnerable adults

£878.44

Supporting vulnerable children

£335.29

Education and skills – council funded

£92.27

Roads, parks, transport and the environment

£117.74

Waste and recycling

£136.75

Libraries and safe communities

£36.18

Other services, support services and levies

£242.87

With precepts added from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon Fire Authority and all 50 parishes, the average 2024/25 total council tax for a band D property is £2,309.89.



## Council Tax Average Band D 2024-25



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).

Figure 1. Average 2024/25 total council tax for a band D property with precepts added from Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon Fire Authority and all 50 parishes

# Your council tax bill explained

### Your council tax bill explained

- The unique billing number for your account at this property to be used when making payment**
- Date the bill was issued**
- Name of liable person / Billing address**
- 1 The general charge by the council**
- 2 Additional Adult Social Care Council Tax**
- 3 Charges for specific services**
- 4 Total for South Gloucestershire Council is an overall 4.99% increase**
- 5 Charge set by the parish/town council**
- 6 Charge set by Avon Fire Authority**
- 7 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 Council Tax ring fenced for Adult Social Care only.
- 3 This is the amount which the council needs to raise from council tax in order to provide its main services.
- 4 This is the amount of increase in South Gloucestershire Council's total Council Tax.
- 5 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.
- 6 The council is required to collect the charge set by the Avon Fire Authority.
- 7 The council is required to collect the charge set by the Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner.

**South Gloucestershire Council**

**Delivering for you**

**Council Tax Annual Bill 2024/25**

Billing Number: 49000000  
Date of issue: 01-MAR-2024

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

Department for Resources & Business Change  
Revenue Services  
PO Box 1963  
BRISTOL BS37 0DB

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

Address of property  
1 HOBBS LANE  
KINGSWOOD  
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
BS15

Reference Key: xxx111vv45  
Use for online access only

Property Band: **D**

98261211020004223382896

Actual Charge	Amount (2023/24)	% Change (2024/25)
South Gloucestershire Council Basic CT	1,949.22	2.9
Avon Fire Authority	209.80	2.0
South Gloucestershire Special Expenses	25.17	2.1
Total for South Gloucestershire Council	1,824.19	4.9
Avon Fire Authority	159.72	17.4
Avon & Somerset Police & C.C.	203.88	2.9
Devis amount for year 2024/25	2,108.89	5.4

The council tax attributable to South Gloucestershire Council includes a precept to fund Adult Social Care.

Details of the calculation of the charge can be found by clicking on the Council Tax pages via the following link: <http://www.southgloucs.gov.uk/counciltax>

Description	Band	From	To	Amount
Charge For Period	Band D	01-APR-2024	31-MAR-2025	£2,303.89
25% Reduction For Single Occupancy		01-APR-2024	31-MAR-2025	£677.47

**Total Amount Due: £1,732.42**

**Reason for Bill: Annual**

01-APR-2024	xxxx.xx	01-MAY-2024	xxxx.xx	01-JUN-2024	xxxx.xx	01-JUL-2024	xxxx.xx
01-AUG-2024	xxxx.xx	01-SEP-2024	xxxx.xx	01-OCT-2024	xxxx.xx	01-NOV-2024	xxxx.xx
01-DEC-2024	xxxx.xx	01-JAN-2025	xxxx.xx	01-FEB-2025	xxxx.xx	01-MAR-2025	xxxx.xx

**Information**  
Metcandem note  
Your instalments for 2024/25 do not include your 2023/24 account balance.  
As at 29/03/2024 your 2023/24 Council Tax account 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.

Figure 2. An example council tax bill explained.

[Download the above bill example \(pdf\)](#)

## 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](#) 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 adult social care, the police, fire services, town and parish councils, and special expenses.

### **Adult social care precept**

The adult social care precept allows councils who provide social care to adults to charge an additional amount for council tax.

The precept is not linked to whether or not taxpayers receive social care services. If you already pay for care services, the precept does not replace these charges.

It is a government requirement that this charge is shown as a separate line on the bill.

### **Emergency services**

In 2024/25 Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner charges have increased by 4.9% (or £10.00 on an average band D property).

Avon Fire Authority charges have increased by 3% (or £2.48 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 2024/25 is 17.41%, the charges range from -20.1% to +559.6%

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 2024/25, the council is increasing its share of the general council tax by 2.99% and 2% for adult social care, in line with government limits.

The 2024/25 budget also includes updated details of the council's savings programmes.

The current savings programme is planned to deliver £101m by 2026/27, leaving a relatively small budget shortfall in 2027/28.

The council will obtain its funding for 2024/25 from the following sources:

- 45% from government funding and grants
- 22% will come from council taxpayers (including the 2.99% council tax increase ring fenced for adult social care)
- 23.5% from sales, fees and charges and reserves
- 9.5% from business rate payers

## Contact us

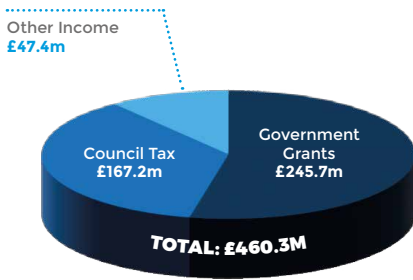
If you need any further advice or are unable to print this document and require a hard copy you can:

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

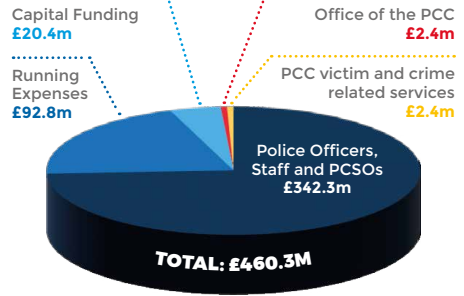
# LOCAL POLICE TAX 2024

## HOW WILL WE SPEND IT?

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



Council Tax Band	Monthly Increase to Your Bill	Yearly	Council Tax Band	Monthly Increase to Your Bill	Yearly
A	0.73	8.67	E	1.33	15.89
B	0.85	10.11	F	1.56	18.78
C	0.97	11.56	G	1.80	21.67
D	1.08	13.00	H	2.16	26.00

**TAKE OUR SURVEY AND TELL US YOUR POLICING PRIORITIES:**



### OUR VALUES



OPENNESS



PARTNERSHIP



COMPASSION



COURAGE

# LOCAL POLICE TAX 2024 HOW WILL WE SPEND IT?

## POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES



Preventing  
and fighting crime



Engaging, supporting and  
working with communities,  
victims and partner  
organisations



Leading the police  
to be efficient  
and effective



Increasing the legitimacy  
of, and public confidence  
in, the police and criminal  
justice system

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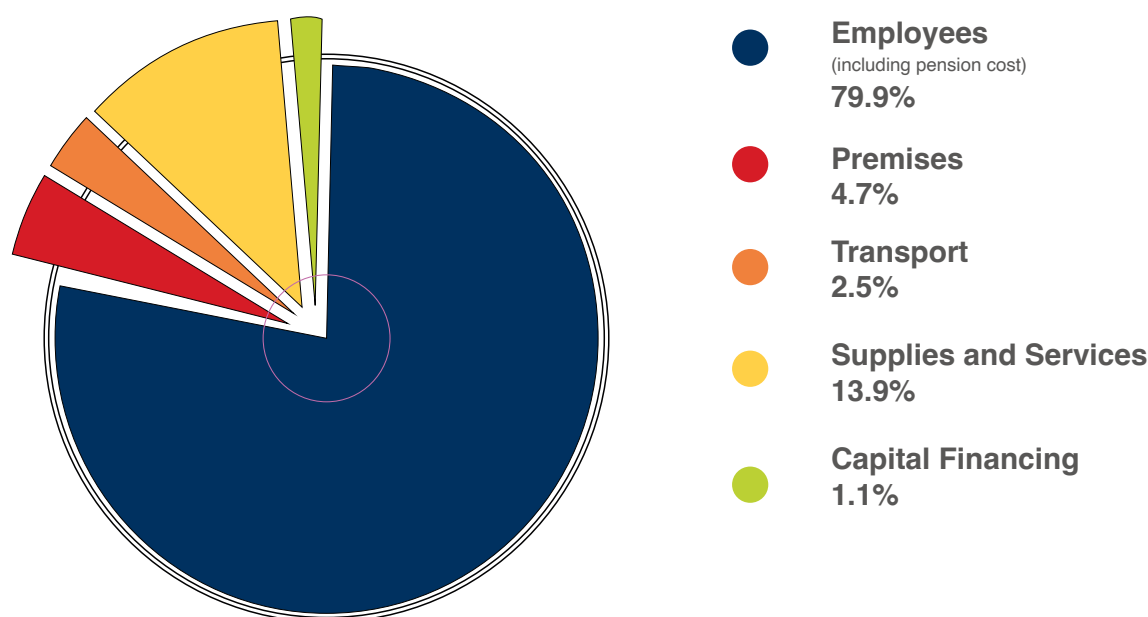
## Your fire and rescue service

Avon Fire & Rescue Service (AF&RS) protects the communities of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

For 2024/25, this service will cost Band D council tax payers £85.43 which is an increase of 2.99%.

We continue to provide this vital service to keep you and your family safe, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at cost of around 10p a day for each of the 1.1 million people who live in our area.

## Where does each pound go?



## Annual budget

Avon Fire Authority has set its net budget for 2024/25 at £51.963 million. This represents a Council Tax level of £85.43 a year for a Band D property, an increase of 2.99%.

The Government's funding assessment for Avon Fire Authority has been increased by £3.335m (19.4%) to £20.489m for 2024/25, however this includes the previous pension grant of £2.407 million so in real terms the increase is £0.928 million (5.4%). The impact of this is that the funding provided by Central Government is increased by £2.799m (23.2%) to £14.835m, excluding the pension grant £0.392 million (3.2%).



## Spending plans

	2023/24 (£m)	2024/25 (£m)
Total fire expenditure	56.222	61.534
Income	-7.182	-8.899
<b>Net budget before use of reserves</b>	49.040	52.635
Use of reserves	-0.600	-0.672
<b>Net budget</b>	48.440	51.963
<b>Funding:</b>		
<b>Central Government</b>		
Revenue Support Grant	5.839	8.637
Business rate - Top-up	6.197	6.198
<b>Local funding</b>		
Locally retained business rates	4.802	4.684
Council tax	31.602	32.444
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.440</b>	<b>51.963</b>

The main changes in spending from 2022/23 to 2023/24 are shown below.

Main changes in net expenditure	(£m)
<b>2023/24 Budget</b>	<b>48.440</b>
Pay and non-pay inflation	2.535
Other spending pressures	1.655
<b>Transformation and change savings</b>	<b>-0.667</b>
<b>2023/24 Budget</b>	<b>51.963</b>

For more information visit [www.avonfire.gov.uk](http://www.avonfire.gov.uk)



@AvonFireRescue

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