

Warwickshire County Council

**Council tax
and spending
explained
2026/2027**



A message from Cllr George Finch

Leader, Warwickshire County Council



Dear resident

Welcome to this overview of Warwickshire County Council's spending and use of Council Tax for 2026/27.

The Council's 2026/27 budget sets out its commitment to protecting essential services, supporting council taxpayers with cost-of-living pressures and investing in key Council priorities against the backdrop of ongoing economic challenges.

As Leader of Warwickshire County Council, I want to be clear that we have listened carefully to the people of Warwickshire. We understand what our residents expect from their county council and where their priorities lie. This budget has been shaped around those priorities as we work to deliver the greatest possible impact with the resources available to us.

The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures.

Decisions to increase Council Tax are never taken lightly. We must strike the right balance between protecting the vital services that support our most vulnerable residents and recognising the financial pressures facing households, particularly during a period of rising living costs. That is why we continue to focus on efficiencies within the council first, before asking our residents to contribute more.

We have worked tremendously hard to maintain a strong and stable financial position. While many councils across the country are facing severe financial strain, we have managed our resources carefully and responsibly.

To ensure the budget remains sustainable, the Council has committed to £27.6 million in budget reductions for 2026/27, growing to £99.9 million by 2030/31. These savings will be achieved through improved procurement, better efficiency, increased income, and delivering reductions in demand.

We know that how we spend Council money and making sure that every penny counts is important to our residents. Funding constraints and rising demand make it more important than ever to maintain the Council's strong financial management and long-term planning.

It's crucial that we maintain our services and support those in need, making sound and informed decisions to keep the Council financially stable and strong. With our unrelenting focus on value for money, we feel this budget gives local people the best deal we can.

Cllr George Finch

Leader of Warwickshire County Council

Where the money comes from

In 2026/27, our total day-to-day spending on services funded from corporate income is £702.3 million. We are spending £51.3 million more than last year.

The table below shows our total corporate funding in 2026/27.

	2026/27 £m
Corporate government grants (excluding dedicated schools grant)	170.8
Business rates	91.4
Council tax	435.9
Extra(+)/Deficit(-) Council tax collected from previous years	-1.4
Use of reserves	5.5
Total corporate funding	702.3

How our spending has changed

Planned
spending for
2025/26
£651.0m

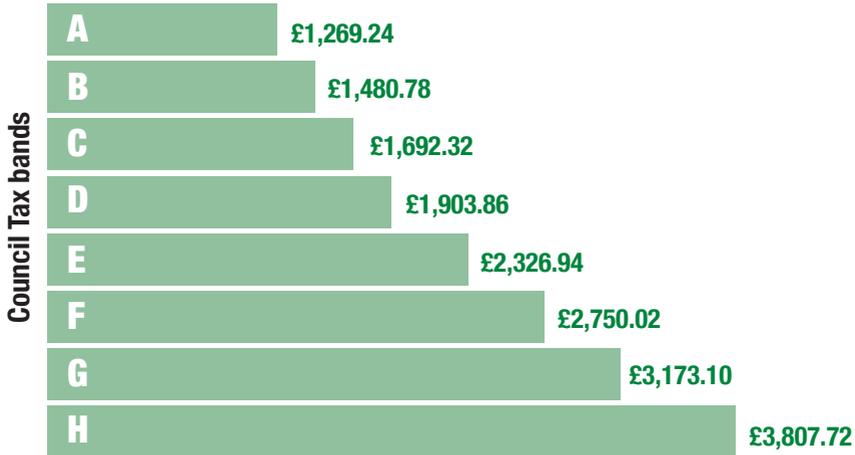
Planned
spending for
2026/27
£702.3m

Net Increase in Expenditure £ millions



Council Tax 2026/27

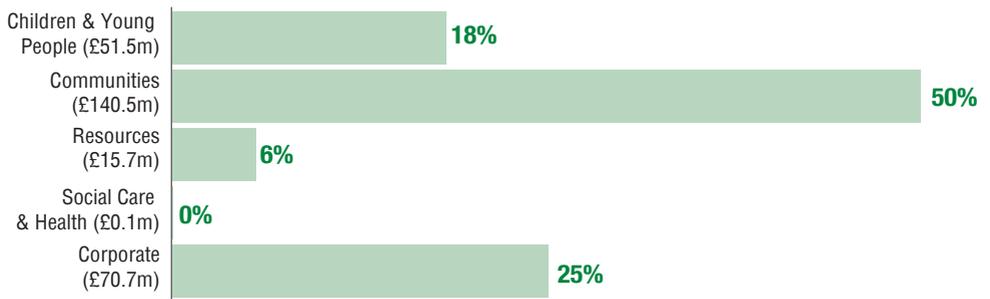
The chart below shows our Council Tax for properties in each valuation band.



Capital spending

Apart from our day-to-day costs, we also spend money on land, buildings, new roads, major maintenance work and vehicles.

The chart below shows our planned capital spending of £278.5 million in 2026/27.



How the money is spent

	2025/26 Spending after income £ m	2026/27 Spending before income £ m	2026/27 Income £ m	2026/27 Spending after income £ m
Children and Young People Directorate				
Children & Families	114.7	155.7	-23.8	131.9
Education Services	11.8	17.9	-5.2	12.7
Communities Directorate				
Transport & Economy	61.4	106.1	-31.0	75.1
Fire & Rescue	26.9	28.0	-0.3	27.8
Highways	19.6	25.5	-7.7	17.8
Infrastructure, Planning & Environment	24.4	36.2	-11.6	24.6
Social Care and Health Directorate				
Social Care & Support	250.2	354.9	-81.3	273.7
Social Care & Health Commissioning	7.9	11.5	-3.5	8.0
Public Health	25.3	33.2	-4.4	28.8
Resources Directorate				
Enabling Services	28.9	36.7	-7.1	29.7
Finance	9.1	13.8	-4.1	9.7
Strategy, Planning & Governance	6.3	8.7	-2.2	6.5
Workforce & Local Services	11.1	15.6	-3.8	11.8
Corporate Services (Including provision for pay inflation)				
Corporate Services	53.5	52.6	-8.3	44.2
Net Revenue Budget	651.0	896.4	-194.1	702.3
Corporate Funding				
Corporate Government Grants	-135.4	-6.7	-164.2	-170.8
Business Rates	-94.7			-91.4
Extra(-)/Deficit(+) Council tax collected from previous years	-1.6			1.4
Money taken from (-) or put into our reserves	-5.8			-5.5
Amount we will raise from the council tax	413.3			435.9
Tax base	226,720.4			228,970.4
Band - D council tax (£)	1,822.95			1,903.86

2026-27 Cost per a typical Band D household

Children & Young People Directorate

- Children & Families
- Education



£392

Communities Directorate

- Transport & Economy
- Fire & Rescue
- Highways
- Infrastructure, Planning & Environment



£394

Social Care & Health Directorate

- Social Care & Support
- Public Health
- Social Care & Health Commissioning



£842

Resources Directorate

- Finance
- Strategy, Planning & Governance
- Enabling Services
- Workforce & Local Services



£156

Corporate Services

£120

Total £1,904

Notes:

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

The council passes on funds received from the Department for Education to schools as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant. These figures have been excluded as they do not directly affect the council's resources.

'Corporate services' includes banking and borrowing costs, insurance costs, audit fees, corporate management costs and provisions.

Useful telephone numbers and websites

We provide a wide range of services on our website. For example, you can renew library books, check bus timetables, apply to be a foster parent and apply for copies of birth, marriage or death certificates.

For more information, go to **www.warwickshire.gov.uk**

Your local borough or district council collects your Council Tax. They will be able to help you if you have any questions about your bill or about whether you are entitled to Council Tax Support.

If you have any complaints, comments or suggestions about Warwickshire County Council services, or would like information in another language or format, please contact our customer service centre on **01926 410410**.

Warwickshire County Council Contact: Director of Finance, 01926 742035

This leaflet contains important information.

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