

# Council tax and spending explained 2024/2025

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# A message from Cllr Izzi Seccombe

Leader, Warwickshire County Council



Dear resident

I am pleased once again to introduce Warwickshire County Council's Council Tax leaflet for 2024/25.

Here we set out the details of how the County Council spends the money we have available to us as we work to deliver on our ambition to make Warwickshire the very best it can be for everyone.

We know that local government faces unprecedented financial challenges but through the effective long-term management of our own finances we are in a strong position to deliver on our priorities for the County while building in resilience and flexibility for the future. We know our communities continue to feel the bite of cost-of-living pressures; and the demand for our services is rising as a result of a growing population of older people and increasing numbers of children and families needing support, so our financial planning must respond to this.

For the medium-term we have a robust, ambitious, and sustainable financial strategy to guide us through the next five years. It will enable us to deal with the pressures we face, while investing to support the most vulnerable in our communities and deliver continued economic growth across the county. We have set out £55 million of investment to support the delivery of our priorities. This includes over £28 million to meet the growing numbers and cost of supporting our elderly residents and vulnerable adults who need our help. We are investing more than £8 million in our children's social care services; and almost £9 million in home to school transport to ensure we continue to provide services to all pupils in line with our policy, whilst being able to respond to the increasing demand and cost of this service.

To deliver value for money for the taxpayers of Warwickshire and meet the changing needs of our communities, we will additionally deliver £16.2 million of budget reductions in 2024/25, increasing to £64 million by 2029. This will be done through better procurement, improvements in efficiency, increased income and delivering reductions in demand. This builds on the £122 million savings made over the last 10 years.

In February 2024, Warwickshire County Council agreed a total increase of 4.99% in Council Tax. This is made up of 2% ringfenced for adult social care and a further 2.99% for all services. The decision to increase Council Tax is a difficult one, which we do not make lightly. With demand, complexity and cost pressures in social care, education and home to school transport far exceeding the resources we can generate, it left us with little option but to take the maximum increase. This increase is equivalent to an increase of £1.59p per week for a Band D dwelling.

It is vital that we protect service delivery, meet our statutory obligations and look after the vulnerable, taking responsible decisions to keep the Council on a sustainable and resilient financial footing.

And we will continue to work together with our residents, communities and businesses to make Warwickshire the best place to grow up, to work, to prosper and to grow older - building a happy, healthy and sustainable future for all.

As an organisation we will continue to step forward to meet the challenges we face, while at the same time creating opportunity to ensure we make our brilliant county the best it can be.

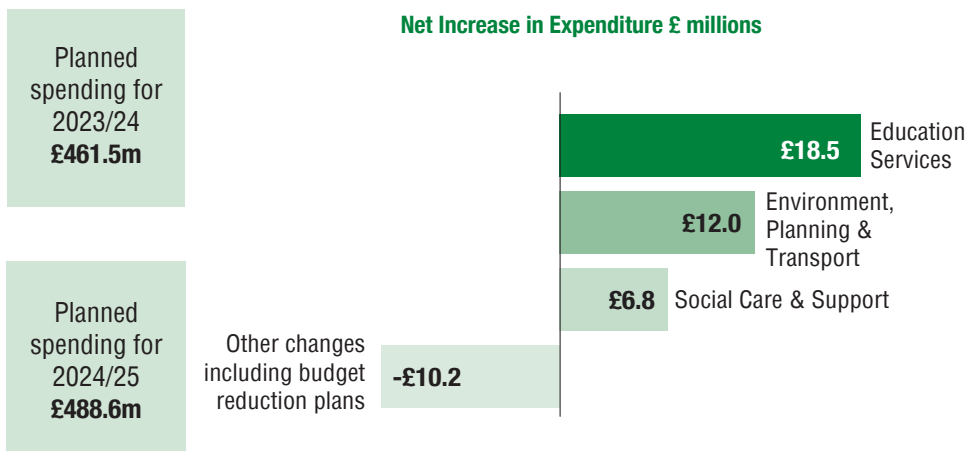
## Where the money comes from

In 2024/25, our total day-to-day spending on services (before we receive any income) is £929.5 million. We are spending £110.5 million more than last year, when we budgeted to spend £819.0 million.

The money we spend comes from central government and local income. The table below shows our current funding.

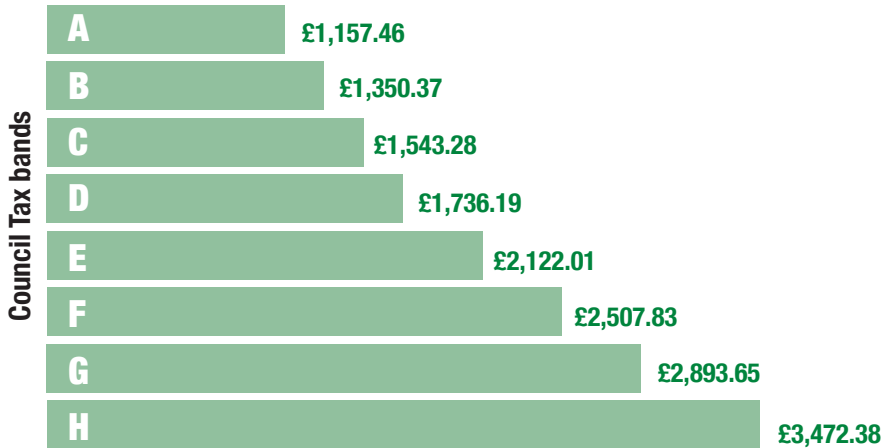
	2024/25 £m	Change £m	2023/24 £m
<b>Central government</b>			
Specific government grants	290.6	59.8	230.8
Business rates	90.7	9.9	80.8
<b>Local income</b>			
Council tax	387.0	24.4	362.6
Extra(+)/Deficit(-) Council tax collected from previous years	-0.4	-0.6	0.2
Other Contributions, fees and charges	150.3	23.6	126.7
Use of reserves	11.3	-6.6	17.9
<b>Total service costs</b>	<b>929.5</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>819.0</b>

## How our spending has changed



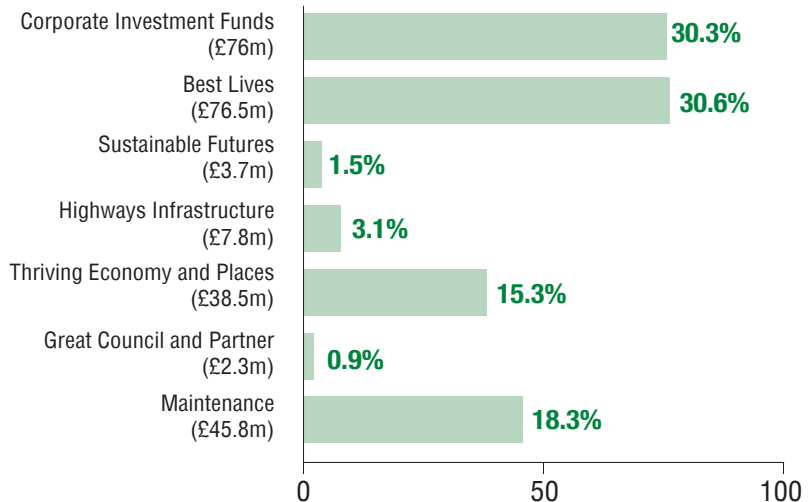
## Council Tax 2024/25

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, which is known as capital expenditure. The chart below shows our planned capital spending of £250.6 million in 2024/25.



## How the money is spent

	2023/24 Spending after income £ millions	2024/25 Spending before income £ millions	2024/25 Income £ millions	2024/25 Spending after income £ millions	Change in Spending after income £ millions
<b>Children and Young People Directorate</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>292.0</b>	<b>-181.3</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>20.2</b>
Children & Families	81.7	112.4	-29.1	83.3	1.7
Education Services	8.9	179.6	-152.2	27.4	18.5
<b>Communities Directorate</b>	<b>107.3</b>	<b>163.8</b>	<b>-43.0</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>13.5</b>
Environment, Planning & Transport	60.4	89.7	-17.3	72.4	12.0
Fire & Rescue	23.0	25.9	-2.0	23.9	0.9
Economy & Place	22.9	46.3	-23.3	23.0	0.1
Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Change	1.0	1.9	-0.4	1.5	0.5
<b>Social Care and Health Directorate</b>	<b>160.4</b>	<b>345.1</b>	<b>-179.4</b>	<b>165.7</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Social Care & Support	148.9	299.5	-143.8	155.7	6.8
People Strategy & Commissioning	11.5	45.6	-35.6	10.0	-1.6
<b>Resources Directorate</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>-16.0</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Enabling Services	26.9	33.3	-5.4	27.9	1.0
Finance	15.7	20.3	-4.4	15.9	0.2
Strategy, Planning & Governance	5.5	8.4	-2.3	6.1	0.7
Workforce & Local Services	9.8	14.7	-3.9	10.8	1.0
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>-21.2</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>-14.7</b>
Corporate Services (Including provision for pay inflation)	45.4	51.9	-21.2	30.7	-14.7
<b>Service costs</b>	<b>461.5</b>	<b>929.5</b>	<b>-440.9</b>	<b>488.6</b>	<b>27.1</b>
Money taken from (-) or put into our reserves	-17.9			-11.3	
<b>Our budget</b>	<b>443.7</b>	<b>929.5</b>	<b>-440.9</b>	<b>477.3</b>	
<b>Less money from the Government</b>					
Business rates	-80.8			-90.7	
Extra (-) / Deficit (+) Council Tax collection from previous years	-0.2			0.4	
<b>Amount we will raise from the Council Tax (£m)</b>	<b>362.6</b>			<b>387.0</b>	
<b>Tax base</b>	<b>219,304.2</b>			<b>222,915.7</b>	
<b>Band - D council tax (£)</b>	<b>£1,653.57</b>			<b>£1,736.19</b>	

## 2024/25 cost per Warwickshire resident

### Children & Young People Directorate

- Children & Families
- Education



£182

23%

### Communities Directorate

- Warwickshire Fire & Rescue
- Environment, Planning & Transport
- Economy & Place
- Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Change



£198

25%

### Social Care & Health Directorate

- Social Care & Support
- People Strategy and Commissioning



£273

34%

### Resources Directorate

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



£100

12%

Corporate Services (Including provision for pay inflation)

6%

£51

**Total £804**

#### 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 affect the council's resources.

There have been a number of material changes in reporting structure during 2023/24. Therefore the 2023/24 figures that are shown for comparison have been retrospectively adjusted to remove the variance resulting from these changes. This change in methodology does not impact on the net expenditure of the Council.

'Corporate services' includes financing, banking and managing money and insurance costs.

The Office for National Statistics estimates that in 2024/25, 607,604 people will be living in Warwickshire, this is an increase of 8,451 people from 2023/24.

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.

The Council has decided to levy an additional 2.0% Council Tax to contribute to the funding of the additional costs facing adult social care, as allowed by the government.

The additional 2% Adult Social Care levy in 2024/25 including the amount raised by the levy since 2016/17, will raise £48.163 million in 2024/25.

These funds will be used to help the Service with much needed flexibility to manage its resources in the most effective way. The service will focus on the transformation of adult social care pathways, the way we deploy social workers and the enhancement of information and advice to enable people to shape their own solutions.

## Useful telephone numbers and websites

If you have any complaints, comments or suggestions about our services please contact our customer service centre on **01926 410410**.

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](http://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.

Warwickshire County Contact: **Director of Finance**

Telephone: **01926 412239**

## This leaflet contains important information.

If you would like information in another language or format please call **01926 410410**