

Council tax and spending explained 2025/2026





A message from Cllr Izzi Seccombe

Leader, Warwickshire County Council



Dear resident

I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce this overview of Warwickshire County Council's spending and use of Council Tax for 2025/26.

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.

The world of local government finance is incredibly challenging at the moment, 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.

As a local authority we have not shied away from making tough decisions, but we have done so with a focus on maintaining our financial sustainability over the medium-term.

Our approach is to avoid short-term fixes that could undermine our long-term goals while ensuring that we have clear savings plans in place. At the same time, we recognise the need for flexibility, as we continue to navigate an increasingly complex financial environment.

Through our capital programme we will invest over the next five years making sure Warwickshire has a thriving economy, along with the right jobs, training and skills. Additionally, we will invest each year to maintain the county's infrastructure, including on road maintenance.

We have made the use of capital wherever we can to reduce demand or to improve income opportunities to assist the revenue budget.

In February 2025 Council agreed a total increase of 4.99% in Council Tax for 2025/26. This includes 2% ringfenced for adult social care and a further 2.99% for all other services. This is equivalent to an increase of £1.67p per week for a Band D dwelling. There is no doubt that this is a difficult decision to make, but it is one that is necessary to protect the vital services our communities depend on. Our priority remains continuing to protect and support the most vulnerable people in our communities, and this increase, though challenging, is essential for us to do so.

To ensure the budget remains sustainable, the Council has committed to £21.8 million in budget reductions for 2025/26, growing to £79.6 million by 2030. These savings will be achieved through improved procurement, better efficiency, increased income, and delivering reductions in demand.

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. We will continue to work with our residents, communities, and businesses to make Warwickshire the best place to grow up, work, thrive and prosper - building a happy, healthy, and sustainable future for everyone.

As an organisation, we'll continue to rise to the challenges ahead, while also creating opportunities to ensure Warwickshire reaches its full potential.

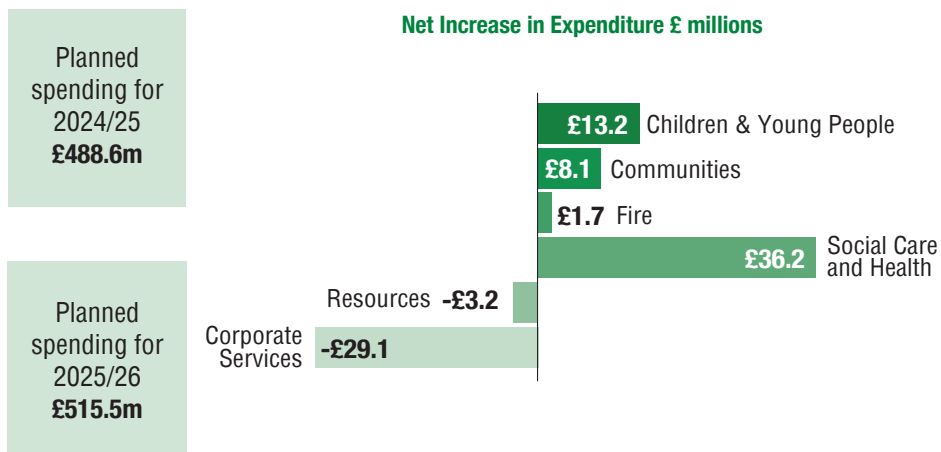
Where the money comes from

In 2025/26, our total day-to-day spending on services (before we receive any income) is £858.7 million.

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

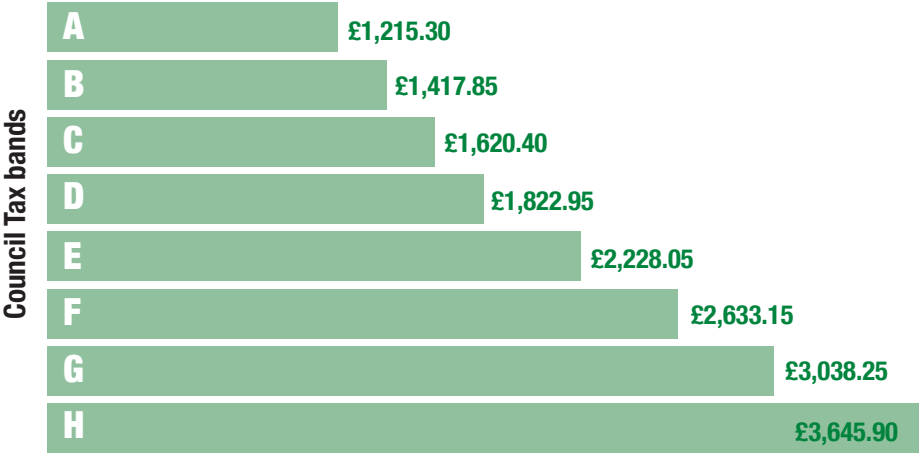
	2025/26 £m
Central government	
Specific government grants (excluding DSG)	169.8
Business rates	94.7
Local income	
Council tax	413.3
Extra(+)/Deficit(-) Council tax collected from previous years	1.6
Other Contributions, fees and charges	173.5
Use of reserves	5.8
Total service costs	858.7

How our spending has changed



Council Tax 2025/26

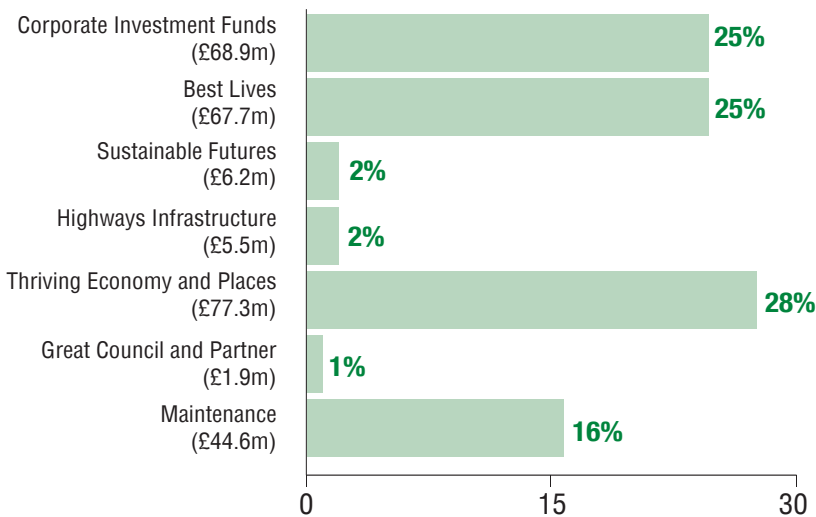
The chart below shows our Council Tax for properties in each valuation band.



Capital spending

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

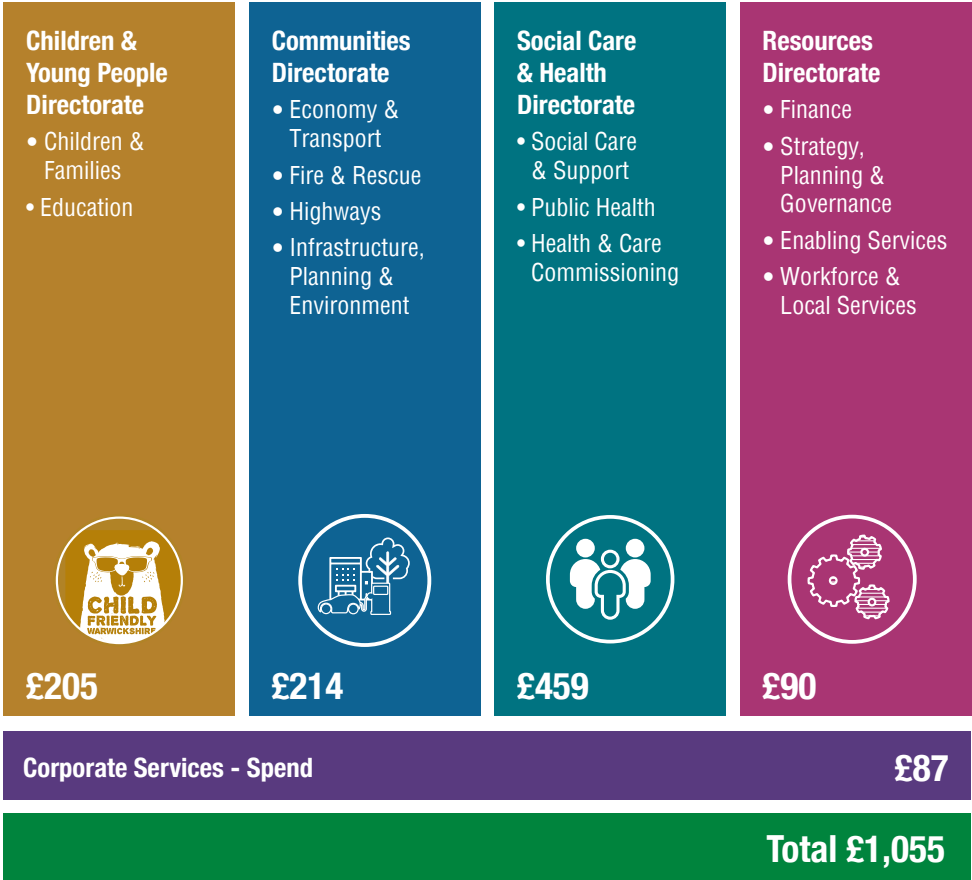
The chart below shows our planned capital spending of £272.1 million in 2025/26.



How the money is spent

	2024/25 Spending after income £ m	2025/26 Spending before income £ m	2025/26 Income £ m	2025/26 Spending after income £ m
Children and Young People Directorate				
Children & Families	103.8	145.0	-30.3	114.7
Education Services (excluding DSG)	9.4	20.7	-8.9	11.8
Communities Directorate				
Economy & Transport	54.1	89.6	-28.2	61.4
Fire & Rescue	25.2	27.5	-0.6	26.9
Highways	19.8	26.4	-6.8	19.6
Infrastructure, Planning & Environment	23.4	36.2	-11.7	24.4
Social Care and Health Directorate				
Social Care & Support	210.7	333.4	-83.2	250.2
Health & Care Commissioning	11.8	13.9	-6.0	7.9
Public Health	24.7	31.7	-6.4	25.3
Resources Directorate				
Enabling Services	27.9	35.5	-6.6	28.9
Finance	13.7	13.4	-4.3	9.1
Strategy, Planning & Governance	6.1	8.2	-1.9	6.3
Workforce & Local Services	10.8	14.9	-3.8	11.1
Corporate Services				
Corporate Services Spend	65.8	62.3	-8.8	53.5
Corporate Services Funding	-118.5	0.0	-135.4	-135.4
Service costs	488.6	858.7	-343.1	515.5
Money taken from (-) or put into our reserves	-11.3			-5.8
Our budget	477.3	858.7	-343.1	509.7
Funding from Business Rates and Council Tax				
Business rates	-90.7			-94.7
Extra (-) / Deficit (+) Council Tax collection from previous years	0.4			-1.6
Amount we will raise from the Council Tax (£m)	387.0			413.3
Tax base	222,915.7			226,700.4
Band - D council tax (£)	£1,736.19			£1,822.95

2025-26 spend per Warwickshire resident



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 some changes in reporting structure during 2024/25. Therefore the 2024/25 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 2025/26, 617,823 people will be living in Warwickshire, this is an increase of 10,219 people from 2024/25.

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**

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 742035**



This leaflet contains important information.

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