



IMPROVING LOCAL
DEMOCRACY

CREATING A
PROSPEROUS EAST
STAFFORDSHIRE

DEVELOPING A
GREEN NEW DEAL
FOR EAST
STAFFORDSHIRE

PROTECTING OUR
HERITAGE

STANDING UP FOR
OUR COMMUNITIES

COUNCIL TAX 2024/25



2023/24 has been a busy year for East Staffordshire Borough Council, with the elections in May introducing many new councillors and a change in political control.

We are committed to improving local democracy, creating a prosperous East Staffordshire, developing a 'Green New Deal' for the borough, protecting our heritage and standing up for our communities.

This booklet outlines what happens to the Council Tax we collect, how East Staffordshire Borough Council plans to spend its portion of the money raised this year, how Council Tax is calculated and what discounts are available. Please take a few minutes to read through this information.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Mick Fitzpatrick



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Achievements for 2023/24

Support with the cost of living

We have commissioned a 'Cost of Living Advisor Service' from Citizens Advice Mid Mercia to provide budgeting support and advice to struggling households and help connect people to other existing community services. We have also provided grant funding to support the provision of warm spaces at community venues throughout East Staffordshire during the winter period and introduced a food aid fund to support free food providers to continue to provide essential provisions to people in need.



Ward Enhancement Grants

Using the UK Shared Prosperity Fund we have created a Ward Enhancement Programme to help deliver local regeneration initiatives across the Borough. Local communities and groups can apply for capital grants from £10,000 to £50,000.



New Brewery Heritage Centre

Following the closure of the Brewery museum, we have been supporting the National Brewery Heritage Trust to protect and preserve Burton's brewing past, and have opened a Brewery Heritage Centre in Station Street where a significant part of the town's brewery archive is being temporarily stored. The archive is made up of over a million paper records, documents, photographs and videos. The current plan is for the archive and museum artefacts to be relocated to Old Bass House on High Street as part of an overall concept to reuse the building and surrounding area.

Developing Tourism

We are working to increase the prosperity of the borough through tourism and launched a Tourism Development Fund to support new projects, events, services or marketing campaigns to help attract more visitors to the area. We have created a new 'Discover East Staffordshire' website and ran digital campaigns over the summer to raise awareness of local events, places to visit and affordable activities for families.

Tackling Envirocrime

We have strengthened our approach to Envirocrime, increasing the use of mobile CCTV cameras to assist in gathering evidence of fly-tipping perpetrators. We have also undertaken a series of tackle the tippers campaigns, targeting problem areas within the Borough.

In Bloom

The In Bloom programme of floral displays have continued to ensure our borough looks at its best. The main competition entries in Burton, Uttoxeter and Winshill all received Gold awards. Uttoxeter also won the best floral entry for a small town in the West Midlands, whilst Burton won a special award for its innovative and creative floral designs which incorporate traditional annual bedding schemes combined with perennial planting and insect friendly wildflowers.

...And plans for 2024/25

Regeneration in Uttoxeter

We have purchased the former Co-op building in Uttoxeter and are in the process of purchasing the remainder of the Maltings Precinct to enable us to begin to regenerate the area. This year we will be conducting an 8 week public consultation exercise on concepts for the Maltings Precinct to identify a preferred scheme and submit a planning application for the site. We will also be refurbishing the public toilets on Bradley Street and improving the disabled facilities.

Reimagined Brewing Centre

Following the closure of the National Brewery Centre, we have been working with leisure, hospitality, heritage and brewing experts to create a new and unique concept for the Burton High Street project, centred around using the vacant Bass House building to create a national attraction in the heart of the town. During 2024/25 we will finalise concept plans for a Reimagined Brewing Centre, setting out an outline scheme for a National Brewery Experience, a new vibrant Beer Hall and an educationally led Brewing Enterprise Centre.

Regeneration Hub in Burton

As well as currently housing the brewery archive, the Council is also using the Station Street centre to keep residents and visitors informed about regeneration plans for the town. The centre is currently open to the public 3 days a week; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 09:00 to 13:00 hrs.

Burton Market Hall

We will be undertaking work to the Market Hall roof and supporting structure to ensure the longevity of the building. We will also be conducting a consultation to seek the public's views on the future model of delivery for Market Hall based services.

Climate Change

We continue to consider climate change across our services, including our waste management operations, the management of our parks and open spaces and energy use in council buildings. We have considered locations for Electric Vehicle off-street charging points around the Borough and have also identified a prime location to implement a solar electric vehicle charging hub. This year we will begin further work to support residents and local organisations to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Improving local democracy

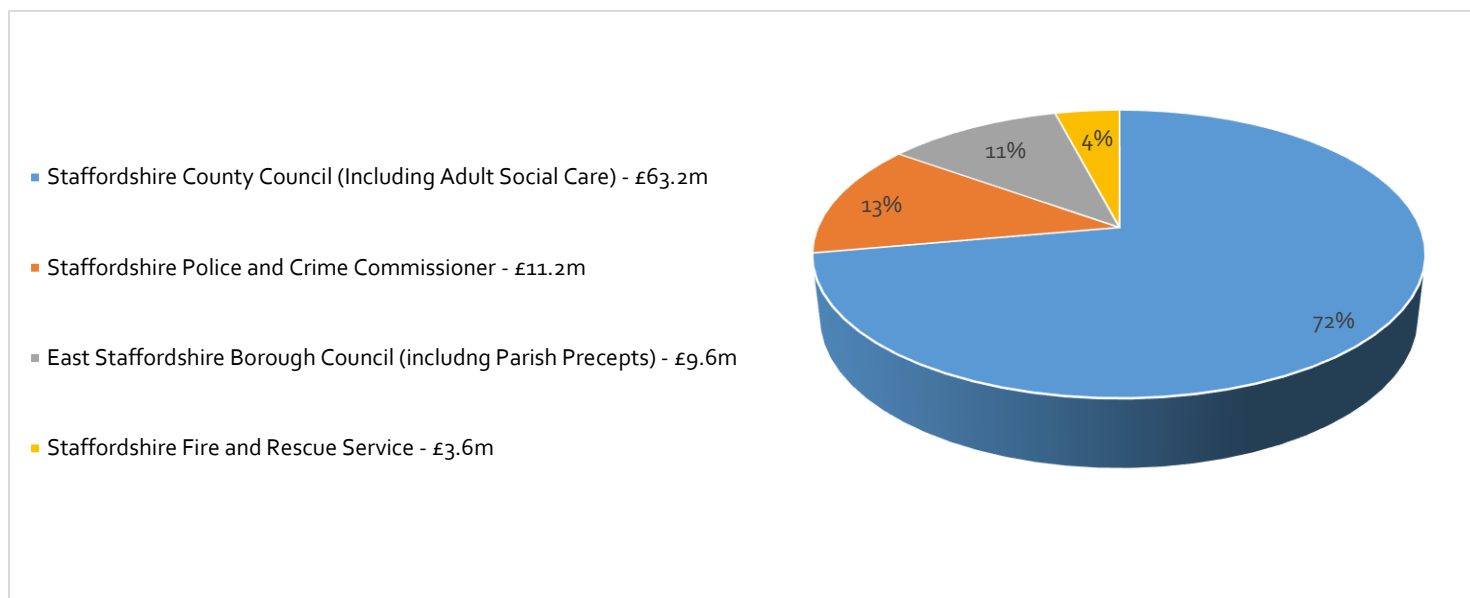
Following successful trials we will be livestreaming more public council meetings to enable more residents to view decisions as they happen and increase accountability. Details of council meeting agendas, minutes and recordings are available on our website.



About your Council Tax Bill

Each authority's share of Council Tax

Your Council Tax provides funding for East Staffordshire Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Your bill is divided by each authority as follows:



How much extra Council Tax you will pay to East Staffordshire Borough Council

East Staffordshire Borough Council has increased its share of Council Tax by 2.98% for 2024/25.

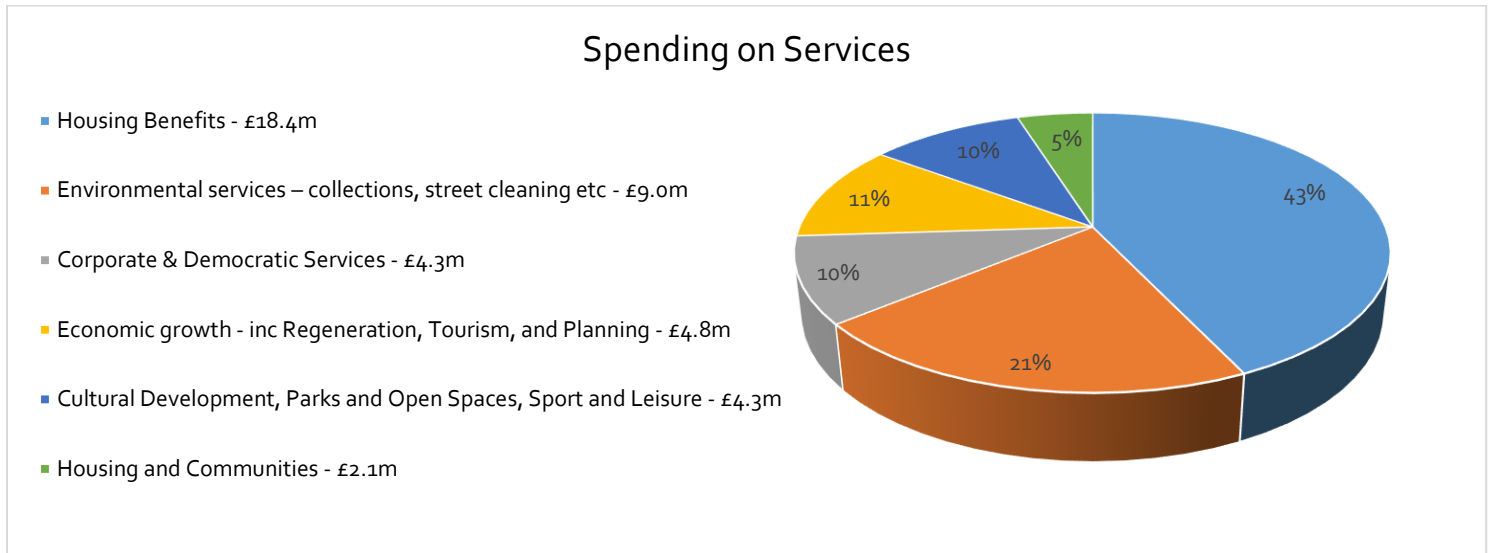
The table below shows how much a household will pay towards this annually, based on their property band.

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£3.83	£4.47	£5.11	£5.75	£7.03	£8.30	£9.58	£11.50

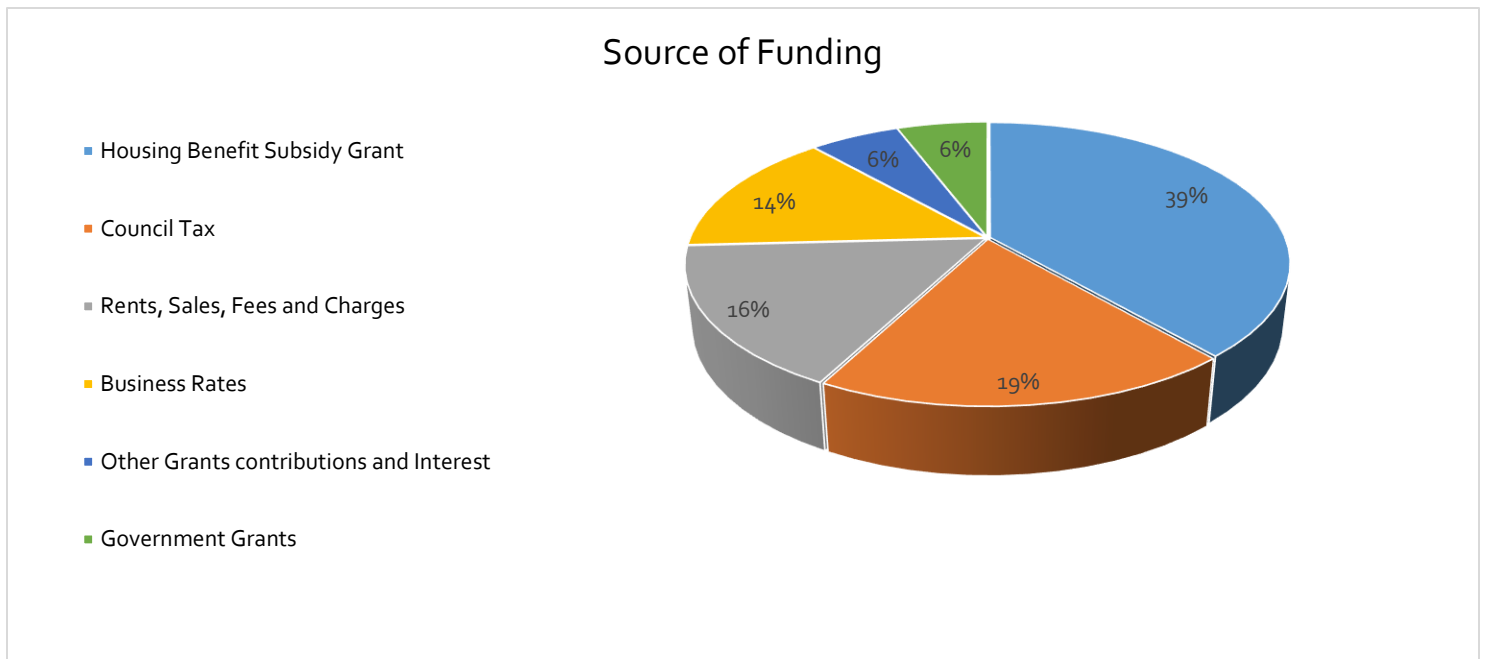
About your Council Tax Bill

What your Council Tax is spent on (East Staffordshire Borough Council share only)

The Council's total budgeted expenditure for 2024/25 amounts to £42.9m compared to £41.9m in 2023/24. This is divided amongst the main services of the Council as follows:



Where the money comes from to pay for services: (East Staffordshire Borough Council share only)



About your Council Tax Bill

	2024/25 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Gross Expenditure (analysed above)	42,893	41,890
Service Income	(25,666)	(24,019)
Reversal of accounting transactions included above (to ensure no impact on council tax charge)	(433)	(2,231)
Budget Requirement	16,794	15,640
<i>Less</i>		
Central Government support	(2,096)	(1,934)
Council Tax surplus from previous year	(59)	(214)
Retained Business Rates	(6,461)	(5,302)
Special Expenses	(451)	(445)
Transfers to (and from) Reserves/Balances	404	(18)
To be raised from Council Tax	8,131	7,727
<i>Divided by</i>		
Tax Base	40,935	40,060
<i>To give</i>		
Tax Rate for a Band D Property	£198.63	£192.88
Tax Rate for a Band D per week	£3.82	£3.71

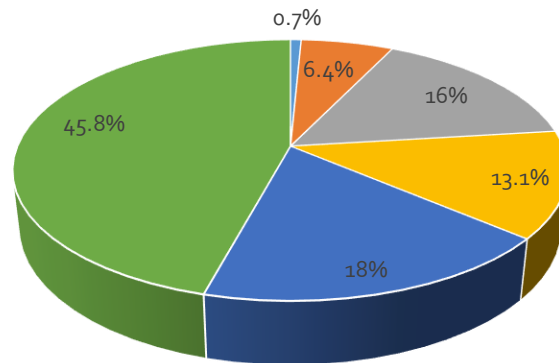
About your Council Tax Bill

Capital Investment

In addition to day to day spending on services (outlined above) East Staffordshire Borough Council has an extensive programme of capital investment amounting to £47.3m during the period up to 2027/28. This is largely financed through Capital reserves, Government grants, and Section 106 grant contributions.

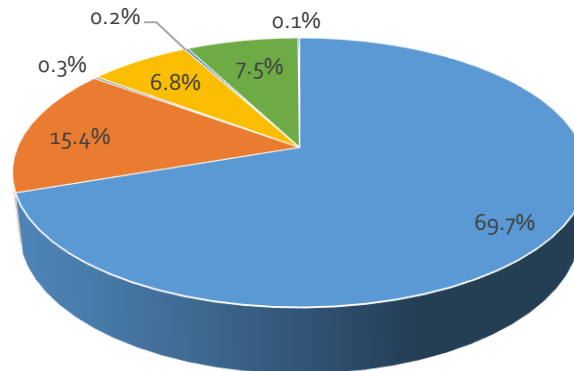
Total Capital Investment £47.3m up to 2027/28

- Leader of the council - £0.4m
- Tourism & Cultural Development - £3.0m
- Community & Regulatory Services - £7.5m
- Environment & Climate Change - £6.2m
- Regeneration & Development - £8.5m
- Towns Fund - £21.7m



Capital Investment Financing to 2027/28

- Government Grants - £32.95m
- Capital Reserves - £7.3m
- Capital Receipts - £0.1m
- Section 106 - £3.2m
- External Contributions - £0.1m
- Borrowing - £3.6m
- Direct Revenue Financing - £0.05m



Why Council Tax has been increased this year

Despite the current economic circumstances, East Staffordshire Borough Council has continued to work hard to invest in our priorities within the Borough, whilst at the same time identifying savings and new ways of working to ensure value for money for our residents and to protect frontline services.

Our most recent consultation with residents showed that people want and value key local services even if this meant an increase in council tax. Set against this backdrop the Borough Council's share of the overall bill in 2024/25 will increase by £5.75 or 2.98%, the equivalent of 11p per week for a Band D Property or 7p per week for a Band A Property.

Notwithstanding the financial challenges that the Council faces the increase in council tax, along with the savings and income opportunities that have been identified, has allowed the Council to respond positively with the budget for 2024/25 both supporting the inflationary pressures on existing services that the Council has seen and allowing for significant investment in the Borough with a capital programme totalling £47.3m and revenue investment into the Council's priorities of £1.3m.

Further information in relation to the Council's finances can be found on our website at:

www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/budgets-and-spending

About your Council Tax Bill

Parish and Town Councils

Parish and Town Councils tell the Borough Council how much income they need from Council Tax (their "Precept"). This is paid for from the Borough Council's General Fund and is recovered by setting a Parish Tax for each Parish / Town Council. A summary of the spending plans for those Parish Council's with a Precept of £140,000 or higher is set out below:

Stretton Parish Council

	2024/25 Expenditure		2023/24 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	0	0	0	0
Planning & Economic Development	500	500	500	500
Recreation & Tourism	155,000	80,000	157,118	80,275
Environmental Health	25,000	25,000	23,000	23,000
Corporate and other Income	168,700	97,504	167,000	98,344
Amount of Precept		203,004		202,119

Uttoxeter Parish Council

	2024/25 Expenditure		2023/24 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	11,331	11,331	11,157	11,157
Planning & Economic Development	20,362	14,118	24,240	13,776
Recreation & Tourism	144,101	112,376	139,715	105,518
Environmental Health	114,092	64,888	120,606	72,945
Corporate Management	124,954	97,222	109,541	84,408
Amount of Precept		299,935		287,804

Your Council Tax

How is Council Tax Calculated?

You'll usually have to pay Council Tax if you're 18 or over and own or rent a home.

A full Council Tax bill is based on at least 2 adults living in a home. Spouses and partners who live together are jointly responsible for paying the bill.

Properties which are left empty for 24 months or more may be subject to **150% premium charge** to cover the additional costs to services such as policing these properties create.

You'll get **25% discount** from your bill if you count as an adult for Council Tax and either:

- you live on your own
- no-one else in your home counts as an adult

You'll usually get a 50% discount if all people living at the property receive a **disregard**.

You can receive 100% discount if an **exemption** applies.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Council Tax Reduction is a decrease in your Council Tax bill based on:

- your income
- the size of your family
- other adults who live with you
- the amount of Council Tax you have to pay
- if you are working age or pensionable age

You can apply to get money off your Council Tax bill if you're on a low income or claiming benefits. You can apply for Council Tax Reduction whether you own your home, rent, are unemployed or working.

What You'll Get

You can get up to 100% reduction, depending on:

- where you live
- your circumstances (e.g. income, number of children)
- your household income - this includes things like savings, pension, your partner's income
- if your children live with you
- if other adults live with you

Are You Eligible for a Discount, Disregard or Exemption?

Your eligibility for a discount depends on a variety of factors including the number of adults in your house and their circumstances.

Go to www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/council-tax for details and application forms.

Keep up to Date

Social Media

Be the first to hear about what's happening across the Borough by following East Staffordshire Borough Council on social media.

X (Twitter) – www.twitter.com/eaststaffsbc

Facebook – www.facebook.com/eaststaffsbc



Council E-Newsletters

If you'd like to keep up to date with what's happening across East Staffordshire, you can sign up for East Staffordshire Borough Council's monthly e-newsletter for residents. We also offer a separate e-newsletter for businesses.

Sign up using the QR code.

Forthcoming elections – are you ready to vote?

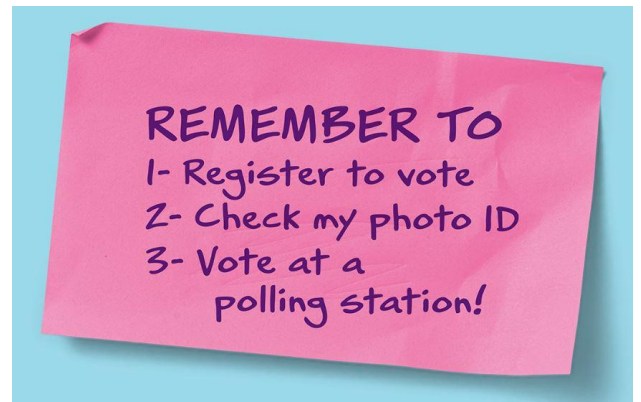
The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) election is scheduled to take place on Thursday 2nd May 2024 and the next General Election must take place by no later than 28th January 2025.

Recently moved house? Or just turned 18? Register to vote online: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Don't have photo ID? Apply for free voter ID by Wednesday 24 April at 5pm for the PFCC election: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

Want to Vote by Post? You can now apply online: www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote

Want to vote by Proxy? You can now apply online: www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote



For further information or help contact the Elections Team on 01283 508376.

Discover East Staffordshire

**DISCOVER
EAST
STAFFORDSHIRE**

Take a look at the Discover East Staffordshire website and social media accounts to see what's on and find out more about what there is to do in our local area. You'll find details of attractions to visit, local walk suggestions and places to eat: www.discovereaststaffordshire.com