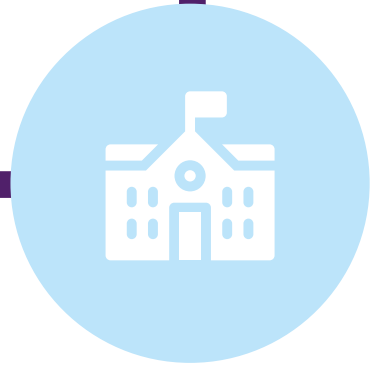




Your guide

to the budget and Council Tax
2024 – 2025



Barnsley – the
place of possibilities



 [BarnsleyCouncil](#)

 barnsley.gov.uk/Budget

 barnsley.gov.uk/Council-Tax



This guide looks at...

- **your Council Tax and how it's calculated**
- **where the funding for the budget comes from**
- **how we'll spend and invest in Barnsley**
- **support for you and your family**
- **answers to your frequently asked questions.**

Our focus in Barnsley is to deliver excellent services while investing in the borough. We do this because we want Barnsley to thrive and to give people ambition and a sense of pride in where they live.



Creating an ambitious future

Barnsley must move forward, and we're committed to making this happen. Our one-off capital investment projects are what set us apart from other councils. We use funding from the government, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority or other funding bodies to create these opportunities. Over the next four years, we're investing £64 million, including an additional £2 million of our funds for roads and highway maintenance, as well as external funding in major infrastructure improvements, including council housing, schools and transformational projects.

Planning for the future

We're always one step ahead with our planning. We're updating our Council Plan, which sits alongside our three-year financial plan, taking us up to 2026-2027. This forward-thinking approach helps us balance our budgets and has contributed to us winning two Council of the Year Awards in 2023. No council has ever achieved this feat.

Funding our day-to-day services

Our financial position is well-managed, but things are difficult. We've had to make tough decisions, but we can keep delivering the services people need for this year. The bulk of our revenue budget, which supports our day-to-day services, comes from Council Tax, government grants, fees, charges and business rates. Still, this total has not kept up with service demands and the cost of living. The council's element of Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, with most households paying no more than an extra £1.50 per week.

We very much recognise the financial pressure on you and your families. It's an incredibly hard decision, which hasn't been taken lightly, but without this extra income, we would have to stop delivering some of our services, impacting everyone.

The council's element of the Council Tax will increase by 4.99%*. This is broken down by 2% to support Adult Social Care and 2.99% to fund other vital services. This includes support for people that need it the most, schools and education services, maintaining open spaces, bin collections, roads, highways and street lighting maintenance.



*This does not include the amount you pay towards police and fire authorities.

We know money is tight and we have not taken this decision lightly. We've explored a number of options and done everything we can to minimise the impact of this increase on you and your family. Page 7 provides more information about support for you and your family.

Annual increase 4.99%

What will the increase mean to me?

The financial impact of this increase will depend on the house band you live in. The table below provides the weekly and annual increase based on your home's band.

| Band | Barnsley Council | South Yorkshire Fire | South Yorkshire Police | Total 2024-25 Council Tax | Weekly Cost | Monthly Cost over 12 months |
|------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| A- | £994.82 | £47.25 | £139.47 | £1,181.54 | £22.72 | £98.46 |
| A | £1,193.79 | £56.70 | £167.36 | £1,417.85 | £27.27 | £118.15 |
| B | £1,392.75 | £66.15 | £195.25 | £1,654.15 | £31.81 | £137.85 |
| C | £1,591.71 | £75.60 | £223.15 | £1,890.46 | £36.36 | £157.54 |
| D | £1,790.68 | £85.05 | £251.04 | £2,126.77 | £40.90 | £177.23 |
| E | £2,188.61 | £103.95 | £306.83 | £2,599.39 | £49.99 | £216.62 |
| F | £2,586.54 | £122.85 | £362.61 | £3,072 | £59.08 | £256 |
| G | £2,984.47 | £141.75 | £418.40 | £3,544.62 | £68.17 | £295.39 |
| H | £3,581.36 | £170.10 | £502.08 | £4,253.54 | £81.80 | £354.46 |

If you live in an area that has a Parish Council, you may also have to pay an additional amount set by the Parish Council which we also collect on their behalf. This amount can be found on our website: [barnsley.gov.uk/Council-Tax](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/Council-Tax)

Where does our budget come from?

The budget comes from a number of different sources.

Revenue budget

The revenue budget is spent on our day-to-day running costs such as employees' pay, schools, social care, planning, public health, bin collections and road maintenance. It's funded from a combination of government grants, fees and charges, business rates and Council Tax.

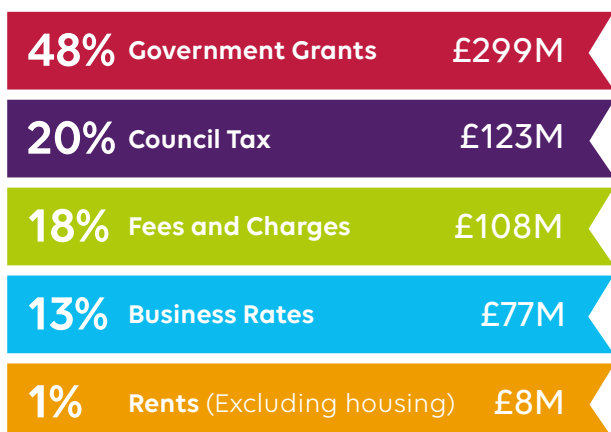


Capital budget

We also have a separate capital budget which is used to pay for one-off investments and projects. Capital funding comes from selling off our land and buildings, borrowing, and specific grants and contributions. Council Tax is not used to directly fund capital investments and we cannot use this funding to pay for the cost of running day-to-day services.



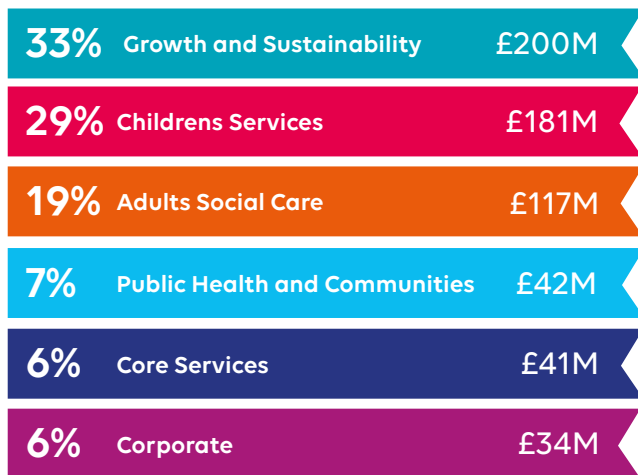
Council Tax will only contribute 20% towards the total amount we need in 2024-25 to deliver the services you and your family need - now and in the future.



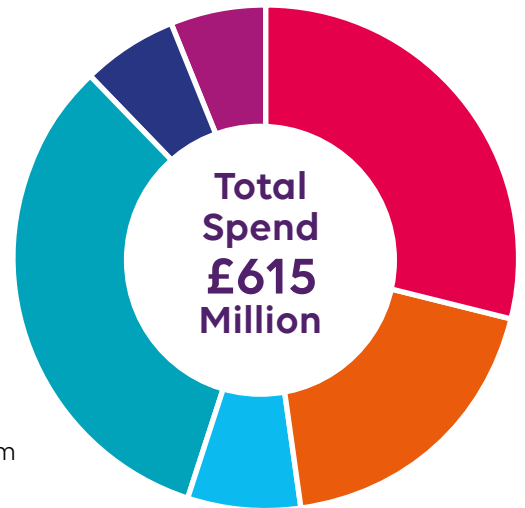
As you can see, the main source of funding comes from central government grants. This is why it impacts so much on our budget when the government make year-on-year cuts.

How is the budget spent?

In 2024-25, we'll spend approximately **£615 million** on our revenue budget, providing you and your family with a range of services. This includes an additional **£35 million** we are investing in our day-to-day services. The budget is split between our key service areas which are vital to you and your family and invested in those areas where it is most needed or will have the biggest impact. You can find out more about how we will be investing on page 6.



*In addition, we spend £79 million on our council houses which is mainly funded from housing rents.



Here is a more detailed breakdown of how the budget is allocated between service areas.



Total spend £615 million

Investing in our services and Barnsley's future

Barnsley – the place of possibilities

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Healthy Barnsley | Learning Barnsley | Growing Barnsley | Sustainable Barnsley |
| Enabling Barnsley We are a modern inclusive efficient, productive and high-performing council. | | | |

Despite increasing demand and pressures on our services and finances, we continue to work towards our ambitions in our Council Plan. This year, we'll launch a new Council Plan for 2024-2027, which sets out what we want to achieve in the next three years against our priority areas and how we are committing resources, people and time to ensure success.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Over the next four years, we're investing in areas that mean real differences for people and communities:</p> | <p>£64 million in new capital schemes to improve housing, schools, and roads.</p> |
| <p>£25 million on our Children's and Adult Social Care services.</p> | <p>This includes an additional £10.4 million to address potholes and general maintenance to improve our roads and highways. Also includes an extra £2 million of the council's funds.</p> |

Moving forward with our Health on the High Street plans with our health partners, we'll be building on the success of the trailblazing Community Diagnostic Centre in The Glass Works.

We'll be developing and piloting approaches to enrich young people's lives in Barnsley, so that all young people have the same opportunities as those available to young people from wealthier homes. This includes creating an activity park next to the town centre's forthcoming Youth Zone and working with the world-renowned Barnsley Youth Choir on the creation of a new Northern Academy for Vocal Excellence (NAVE) to deliver outstanding singing tuition to young people.

We'll be doing further work to transform our Principal Towns, improving the environment and giving urban spaces and buildings new purpose.

Support for you and your family

Around 24,000 households across the borough receive support through the Local Council Tax Support scheme.

If you're struggling to pay your Council Tax and can't access Local Council Tax Support, we have a Council Tax Hardship Support Scheme which might help people who are in financial crisis.

If you're struggling with money or need support with the cost of living, there's help and support available. On our More Money in Your Pocket webpage you can find out about the range of local help that's available, as well as national support.

On the page you can find out more about:



Housing support



Support with paying your bills



Food support



Help to manage your money

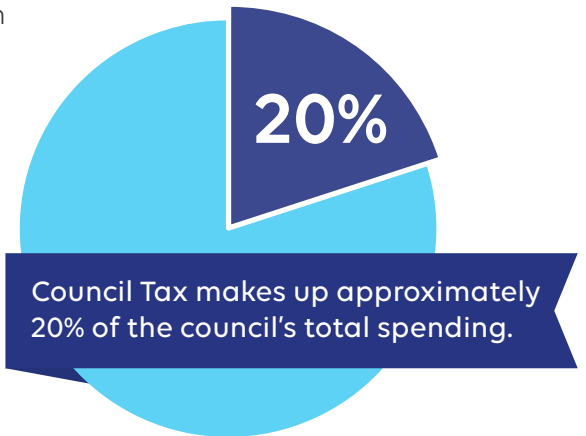


Wellbeing support

To take a look at the help and support available, go to barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP.

This week, you were served by Barnsley Council

It's important to remember that Council Tax is only a contribution towards the day-to-day running costs of delivering our services – it's not a charge for individual services. Council Tax only contributes towards around 20% of the total amount we'll spend delivering our services and does not contribute towards any capital investment schemes we deliver.



Here's a snapshot of what your Council Tax contributes towards in one week

 **325 tonnes**

of paper, cardboard and mixed recyclables



49,217 square metres of grass was cut



We've gritted and cleaned roads within the borough's **729 mile** network



172,692 bins were emptied



92 incidents 

of fly tipping were removed

 **104 incidents**

of anti-social behaviour were dealt with



1,774 children and young people young people received a service across Children's Social Care
2,987 people were cared for including those receiving home support



It costs around

£12M a week

To provide the services you need. Council Tax only contributes £2M towards these costs.

How do you work out how much Council Tax you need to charge?

To work out how much Council Tax our residents need to pay, we work out how much money we need to deliver our services and then take away the money we receive from the government and other sources. This leaves us with a funding gap or shortfall that we need to fund through Council Tax contributions.

Why has my Council Tax increased?

Despite our efforts to make financial savings, we're faced with growing demand on our services which increases the gap in funding we need to fill. If we didn't increase Council Tax to fill this gap, we'd have to cut vital services as the funding is simply not there.

Why is my Council Tax bill more than my friends?

The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on the property band you live in. All properties are banded into one of eight valuation bands (A to H) set by the government. If you live in an area with a Parish Council, you may also have to pay an additional precept set by them which is added to your bill.

Why do I have to pay for services I don't use?

Council Tax is like income tax – it's not a charge for individual services, it contributes towards the overall running costs of delivering our services. It contributes towards lots of services you use daily that benefit everyone - such as your bin collections, road maintenance and public health. Some services are used by fewer residents depending on personal circumstances but remember, we never know what services we may need in the future.

How do I pay my council tax?

You'll receive your bill in March which outlines payment options. You can pay the annual bill in one go or in monthly instalments. The easiest way to pay is to set up a Direct Debit – you can choose whether to pay over 10 or 12 months and you can even choose out of four dates when the payment leaves your account each month.

Even better, register for a My Bentax account so you can access information about your bill, change payment details and even register for paperless e-billing. To do this, visit:

barnsley.gov.uk/MyBentax

What do I do if I can't pay my Council Tax?

Council Tax – everything you need to know

If you're struggling to pay your bill, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make reasonable alternative payment arrangements.

What will happen if I miss a payment?

If you don't pay your Council Tax bill on time, we'll send you a reminder telling you how much is overdue which you'll be required to pay within seven days. If you fail to do so, you could lose the right to pay in instalments. If payment is still not made as required, recovery proceedings may be taken against you. For more information, visit: barnsley.gov.uk/CTrecovery

Could I be eligible for a discount or exemption?

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may be eligible for a discount on your Council Tax, for example, if you're the only person over 18 living in your home, you're a full-time student, or your property is unoccupied whilst undergoing major repairs. In some cases, you may be eligible for council tax support or exempt from paying Council Tax at all. For more information about discounts and exemptions or to make an application, visit: barnsley.gov.uk/Council-Tax.

How can I find out more information?

Information about all aspects of Council Tax - including how to pay, telling us about changes to your circumstances, discounts and exemptions, and managing your account online can be found all in one place on our website: barnsley.gov.uk/Council-Tax.

To make things even more convenient, we've introduced a live webchat service to the Council Tax section of the website so someone will be on hand to deal with any queries you may have at the click of a button - freeing up phone lines and saving you time.

You will also find a full list of FAQs about the 2024-25 budget and Council Tax on the website at barnsley.gov.uk/Budget.

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 [Barnsley-abc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/barnsley-abc)

 [barnsleycouncilofficial](https://www.instagram.com/barnsleycouncilofficial)

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Metropolitan Borough Council