

Your guide

to the budget and Council Tax
2026–2027



**Barnsley – the
place of possibilities**



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➤ 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.**



Creating an ambitious future

In Barnsley, we continue to invest in our borough so people can feel proud of where they live and have opportunities for the future.

Some of this work is funded through one-off government funding. We are using this money to deliver initiatives that support:

- children and young people
- local communities
- roads and highways
- businesses

These projects are designed to make a positive difference to everyday life.

Our journey for the next three years

We plan ahead to make sure we can balance our budget.

Our Council Plan sits alongside our financial plan. It sets out what are our priorities and how we deliver our services to best support residents, communities, partners and businesses.

Our strong and robust budgeting helps deliver these services and makes investments possible.

Funding our day-to-day services

Each year, we must make sure the money we plan to spend does not cost more than the money we receive.

This is becoming harder because more people need support and costs are rising, especially in social care.

For 2026–27, we estimate we need an extra £23 million just to cover day-to-day running costs.

We've done lots over the years to transform the way we work. This has helped us to reduce costs and deliver better services.

Even so, we still need to increase Council Tax to keep services running.

We didn't want to increase the council's element of Council Tax by the maximum 5% we are allowed to. We're pleased we were able to increase it by much less, at 3.4%, which is in line with inflation. This money is vital for keeping local services running effectively.

We know money is tight for many households. This decision was not taken lightly, but without it we would have to reduce or stop some services.

The council's element of the Council Tax will increase by 3.4%*. This is broken down by 2% to support Adult Social Care and 1.4% 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 9 provides more information about support for you and your family.

2026/27 annual increase 3.4%

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	Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner	Total 2026–27 Council Tax	Weekly Cost	Monthly Cost over 12 months
A-	£1,079.05	£52.81	£155.58	£1,287.44	£24.76	£107.29
A	£1,294.86	£63.37	£186.69	£1,544.92	£29.71	£128.74
B	£1,510.67	£73.93	£217.81	£1,802.41	£34.66	£150.20
C	£1,726.48	£84.49	£248.92	£2,059.89	£39.61	£171.66
D	£1,942.29	£95.05	£280.04	£2,317.38	£44.57	£193.12
E	£2,373.91	£116.17	£342.27	£2,832.35	£54.47	£236.03
F	£2,805.53	£137.29	£404.50	£3,347.32	£64.37	£278.94
G	£3,237.15	£158.42	£466.73	£3,862.30	£74.28	£321.86
H	£3,884.58	£190.10	£560.08	£4,634.76	£89.13	£386.23

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)

What is our budget spent on?

Revenue budget

The revenue budget is spent on our day-to-day running costs. It includes costs like employees' pay, schools, social care, planning, public health, bin collections and road maintenance.

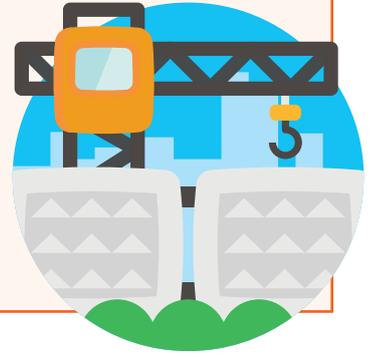
It's funded from a combination of government grants, fees and charges, business rates and Council Tax.



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.

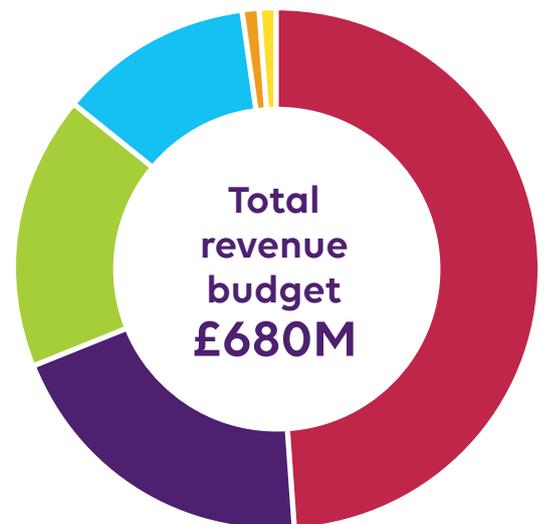
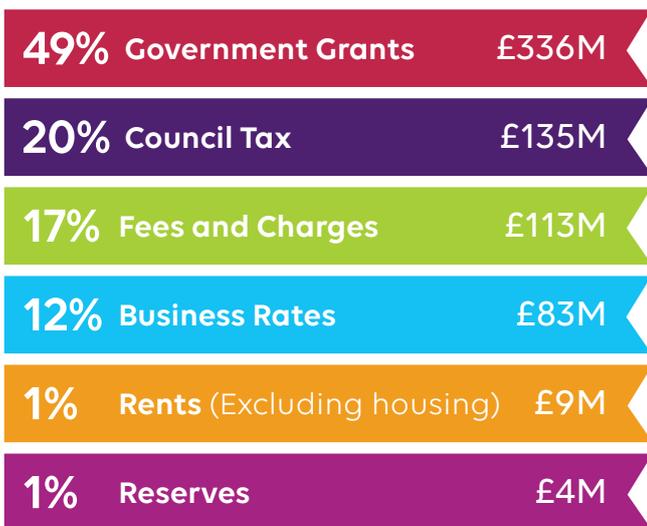
We cannot use this funding to pay for the cost of running day-to-day services.



Where does our revenue budget come from?

Our revenue budget comes from a number of different sources.

Council Tax will only contribute 20% towards the total amount we need in 2026–27 to deliver the services you and your family need – now and in the future.



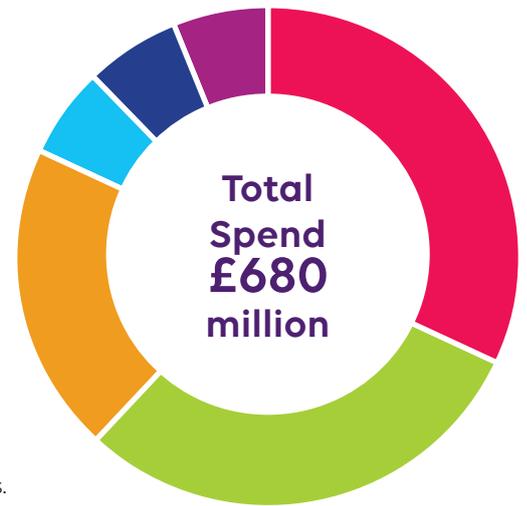
As you can see, the main source of funding comes from central government grants. This is why it impacts so much on our budget when the government make year-on-year cuts.

How is the revenue budget spent?

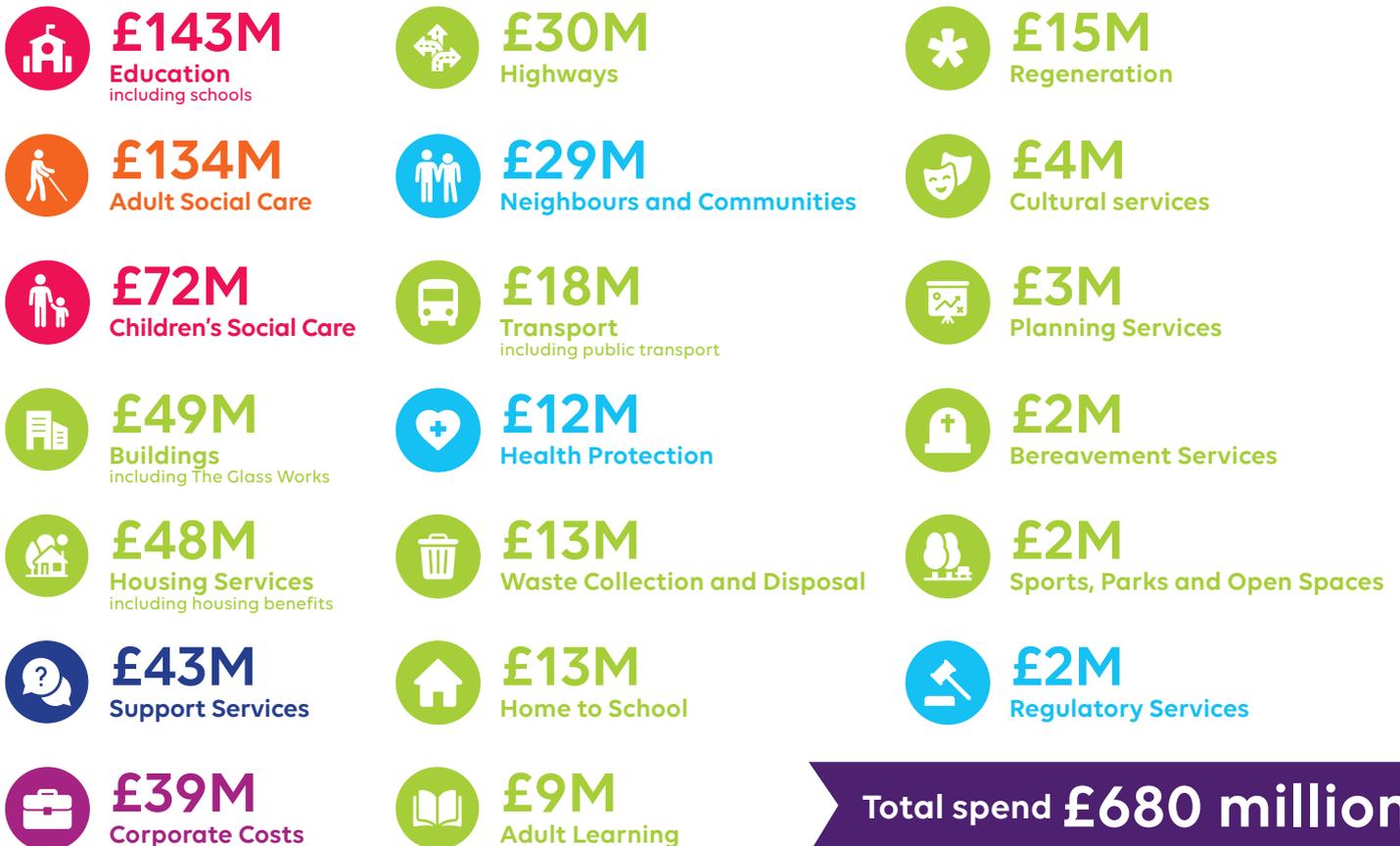
In 2026–27, we'll spend approximately **£680 million** on our revenue budget, providing you and your family with a range of services. The budget is split between our key service areas which are vital to you and your family and invested in those areas where it is most needed or will have the biggest impact. You can find out more about how we will be investing on pages 6–8.



*In addition, we spend £118 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 £680 million

Investing in our services and Barnsley's future

Our [Council Plan](#) for 2024–2027 sets out what we want to achieve against our priority areas and how we're committing resources, people and time to ensure success. We're focusing on transforming the way we deliver services for our residents while continuing to make brave investments in our borough.

Barnsley – the place of possibilities

Healthy
Barnsley

Learning
Barnsley

Growing
Barnsley

Sustainable
Barnsley

Enabling
Barnsley

Last year we've received some one-off government funding. We used that to pilot investments in key areas.

The Great Childhoods Ambition



Our Great Childhoods Ambition is a commitment to improving the lives and futures of our children and young people. In 2025 we invested in:

- School Uniform Support scheme to provide financial support to families across the borough towards the cost of buying school uniform for the new school year. We've issued 34,000 payments through the scheme.
- Bringing back the Barnsley MiCard, offering free bus travel for children and young people aged 5 to 18. Since then, over 1.1 million journeys have been taken and 18,000 passes have been issued.
- Year 11 Support Packs to secondary schools across the borough, which were distributed to around 3,000 young people to help with their exams.
- Covering the cost for over 5,000 8 to 18-year-olds in Barnsley with the access to their first year of Base71 Youth Zone membership.



Love Where You Live



We've been investing in projects that help to create a Barnsley that's vibrant, welcoming, and full of opportunity. So far, we have delivered:

- Improvements to 67 parks across the borough.
- 250 community events and activities.
- 11 ward projects across the borough have been completed.
- 16,000 volunteering hours have been undertaken.
- Additional wardens have been employed to tackle anti-social behaviour hotspots.



Cost of Living Support



Last year, we provided targeted financial support to residents by growing our Council Tax related support schemes to help people who need it most. So far, we've delivered:

- 23,500 cost of living payments for working age people and pensioners that are receiving Council Tax Support. This also included care leavers, people who receive a Council Tax exemption for Severe Mental Impairments and people in supported accommodation who are not responsible for paying Council Tax.
- 3,000 travel to work payments to support employed residents who receive Council Tax Support – including care leavers. This was part of our commitment to support more people to find and stay in employment through Pathways to Work.
- Over 650 business in retail, leisure and hospitality have been given 100% business rate relief.

Following the success of these investments, we'll continue to invest in The Great Childhoods Ambition, Love Where You Live, and cost of living support in 2026/27.

Our capital investment budget



We're known for leading the way with our long-term plans and innovative projects and providing a borough that is a good place for people to live and work.

On top of the continued investment in the Great Childhoods Ambition, Love Where You Live, and Cost of Living Support schemes, we're also planning **£400 million of capital investment over the next five years.**

This includes **£10 million pounds to maintain our highway network next year** and £120 million pounds of new investment to further reinvent the borough in the years ahead.

This new investment includes investment to complete phase 2 of the **SEAM redevelopment** after the installation of the iconic Yorkshire Roses, and following the announcement that Barnsley is to become the first Tech Town in the country, the **development of a National Centre for Digital Excellence.**

We're also **investing £55 million in council housing**, including a £24 million repairs programme.

Continued investment in our successful **Principal Towns programme** will support improvement in our principal towns and localities; including a new 2040 masterplan for Barnsley and the Dearne.

The next phase of our groundbreaking **Health on the High Street scheme** will continue to revolutionise how residents can access health and wellbeing services in Barnsley, following the successful opening of phase 1.

These highlights will help to drive regeneration, support thriving communities and keep Barnsley moving forward.

Our capital investment budget is funded from a number of sources, including:

- capital receipts from selling off assets
- grants to pay for specific schemes or initiatives
- borrowing, for example a loan
- match funding or contribution from external parties
- money set aside from reserves (underspends) from the revenue budget.

Support for you and your family

Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible for council tax discount or financial support in paying your council tax. For example, if you live alone, are disabled or on a low income.

Our Benefits and Taxation team are proud to help residents with Council Tax changes, discounts, exemptions, Council Tax support, housing benefit, discretionary reliefs and free school meals.

We currently support almost 23,000 residents through our Local Council Tax Support Scheme. This supports residents on a low income, providing fair and consistent support prioritising those who need the most support.

We're proud to be helping thousands of people to have more money in their pockets.

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

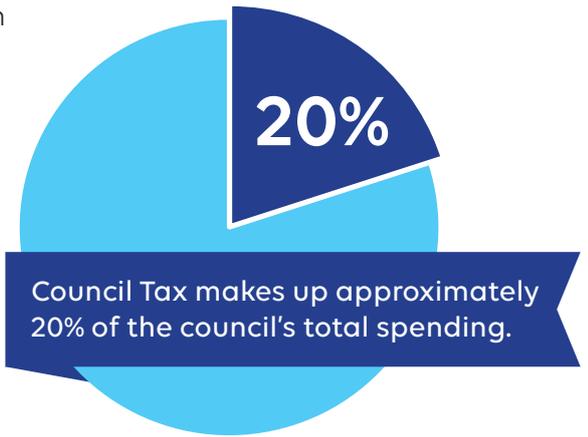


To take a look at the help and support available, go to barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP.

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.



An average week

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

 **320 tonnes**

of paper, cardboard and mixed recyclables



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



116,000 bins were emptied

Over 120 incidents 

on average of fly tipping cases are addressed



It costs around

£13M
a week

To provide the services you need. Council Tax only contributes £2.6M towards these costs.

 **40 incidents**

of anti-social behaviour were dealt with



17,000 children and young people receive services from Children's Social Care every month

3,000 people were cared for, including those receiving home support (as of February 2026)



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

Council Tax – everything you need to know

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

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 2026–27 budget and Council Tax on the website at barnsley.gov.uk/Budget.

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Metropolitan Borough Council