

YOUR council tax 2023/24



HBC2023

What does 54p per day pay for?

We will be increasing our share of council tax bills by 2.99% equivalent to £5.71 for the coming year, a rise of around 11p per week per household. The 2023/24 budget, agreed at a meeting of the full council on 22 February, will see our share of the average council tax bill rise to £198.04 for the forthcoming financial year – the equivalent of just 54p per day.

This money will be used to fund essential services including waste and recycling, street cleaning, planning, housing, parks and open spaces, environmental health, a contribution towards Police Community Support Officers and voluntary organisations such as Citizens Advice.

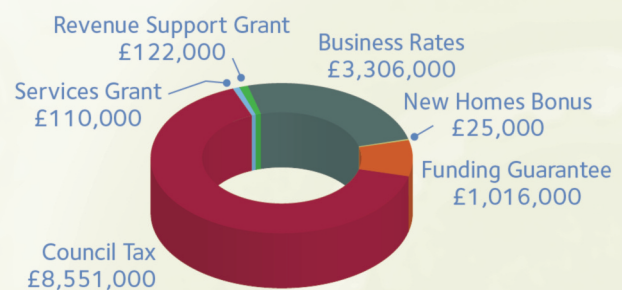
Your council tax pays for many different services across the borough



Funding the council's services

For the year 2023/24 we have set a gross expenditure budget of £61m of which £29m relates to housing benefit and council tax support. This leaves the operational budget of £32m, which is partly funded by income of £18.7m that we generate from fees, charges and property-related income to arrive at our net expenditure position.

We expect to incur net expenditure of £13,130,000 on running services and will fund the remainder of our spending from the Government's Revenue Support Grant, Services Grant, New Homes Bonus grant, Funding Guarantee, local taxes and business rates as follows:



Although you pay all your council tax to Hertsmere Borough Council, the share that we keep is just 10 per cent - the equivalent of 54p per day for an average band D property in the borough.

Our portion of the council tax goes to providing services to around 108,000 residents. Every day we provide services such as kerbside rubbish and recycling collections, community safety including Police Community Support Officers, support for Citizens Advice, benefits, environmental health, planning, car parking, leisure, housing, culture and parks.

Visit: www.hertsmere.gov.uk

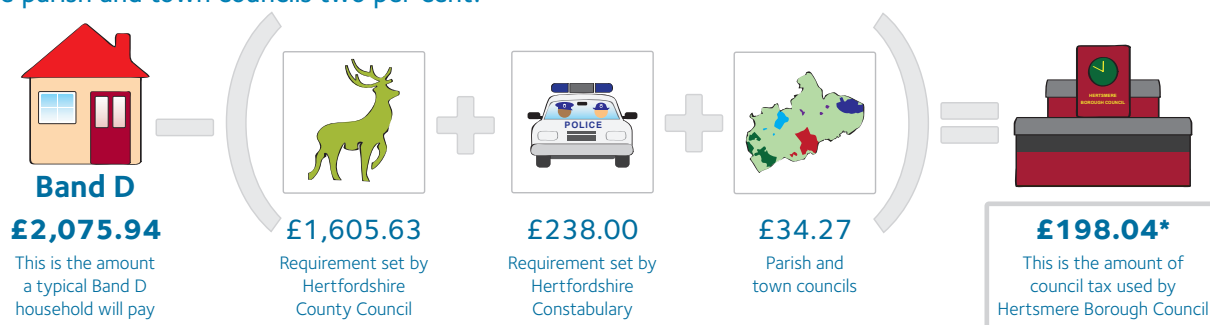
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In order to keep council tax as low as possible, please ensure that you are registered with your local General Practitioner (GP).

While we collect your total council tax (£2,075.94 for an average band D property) less than 10p in every pound is used by us, which is the equivalent of £198.04 per year or 54p per day for an average band D property in the borough. The majority share (77 per cent) goes to Hertfordshire County Council; the police receive 11 per cent and the parish and town councils two per cent.



*This includes special expenses which fund expenditure on parks, bus shelters and allotments, where these services are not provided by your town or parish council.

Setting our priorities

The Hertsmere Vision 2022-27, Driving Better Futures document reflects a new approach to setting our strategic priorities. It sets out our aspirations as a council, reflecting both challenges and opportunities for the borough in the widest sense, capturing our unique geographical, social and economic strengths and identifying areas for action and development. The document reflects not only how we will work in terms of delivering our services but also clearly reflects our organisational values. It will act as a clear framework for the development of future strategies including the Corporate Plan 2023/24 which will set out how we will deliver against the vision over the next year. Further details and a copy of the Hertsmere Vision can be found on our website: www.hertsmere.gov.uk/corporateplan

We also continue to work closely with our community partners, including the police and NHS, to share office space, whilst providing a one-stop shop and sharing cashable efficiencies.

Balancing the budget

The 2023/24 budget has been set under extreme economic conditions. The current high inflation has already has a significant impact on service budgets, with increased costs of supplies and services in particular energy and fuel costs. The rising costs of building materials is also impacting on our strategic development projects.

Our population continues to rise, bringing increased use of our services such as waste and recycling. Nationally, there continues to be high demand for affordable housing as more and more families find themselves priced out of the private rental market, bringing increased risk of homelessness. Hertsmere's close proximity to London makes this even more prevalent.

Given the significant financial pressures, the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget and the need to maintain our current level of services as far as possible, we continue to look at more efficient or alternative methods of service delivery and generating additional income.

For many years we have adopted an entrepreneurial approach to generating new income as well as reducing costs. To this end we have entered into partnerships with other councils and have looked for commercial opportunities such as establishing our own companies like Elstree Studios Ltd and Hertsmere Developments Ltd. We have recently invested in the development of new Platinum stages at the council owned Elstree Studios which will benefit the local area through new job and training opportunities as well as providing a significant additional income stream to support council services. Hertsmere Developments Ltd is now operational with its first two developments underway due for completion during 2023/24 delivering much needed new housing as well as a regular income stream.

Supporting our communities

We have continued to support our residents as the rising cost of living impacts on communities, co-ordinating sustained efforts across a range of agencies. We have supported a network of warm spaces across the

borough, providing a safe and welcoming space for people to enjoy some company during the colder months. Over the summer we handed out over 6,000 free hot meals to families and individuals from hubs across the borough through a scheme made possible with funding from the GMSP Foundation, The Childhood Trust and the Akshaya Patra Foundation. We continue to tackle the increased demand for foodbanks in the borough and have worked with our partners to produce a 'Worrying about Money' leaflet directing people to local advice providers. We continue to fund citizen's advice with around £273k to provide support and advice to our residents such as debt management.

Our Community Engagement Officers working in Borehamwood and Potters Bar have continued to support the local vaccination programme and delivered targeted public health messages in these communities and more widely.

Our Healthy Hubs continue to run drop ins in Borehamwood, Potters Bar and Bushey, providing help and support on a range of health and wellbeing matters and this year our 'Cancel Out Cancer' campaign offered information sessions to raise people's awareness and understanding of the signs and symptoms of cancer.

We've implemented a range of initiatives to make it easier to go greener including our partnership with Beryl, which has seen 45 bikes installed at 16 locations across Borehamwood. These bikes and e-bikes are available to hire via the Beryl app and in the first five weeks over 1,200 journeys were made, covering over 3,000 miles. We've also distributed 6,000 trees to local people and have offered a range of financial support through Government Funded Greener Home Grants to residents and a separate scheme for local community organisations.

More widely we awarded almost £400,000 in community grants to local voluntary sector and community groups who have worked to support local residents, with a focus on celebrating our increasingly diverse community. As part of this we awarded 35 small grants to help our communities celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and intend to offer similar support as we come together over The King's Coronation weekend in May. The Hertsmere Community Lottery continues to offer a free fundraising platform for 31 local causes, which receive 50p from every £1 ticket sold directly to their bank account each month.

Our economic development work has continued with our government-funded Community Wealth Building programme in partnership the Job Centre Plus and Clarion Housing Association providing training to more than 400 local people with 195 of these gaining employment and led to 195 job vacancies filled. Our Generation Hertsmere careers event in November 2022 linked local businesses with secondary school pupils from across the borough.

We're also working hard to prepare for the Council elections taking place in May, supporting residents to get prepared in the light of new requirements for voter ID. For more information visit our website at www.hertsmere.gov.uk/voterID

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How your money will be spent

Hertsmere Borough Council Budget

	2022/23 Net budget £M	2023/24 Expenditure budget £M	2023/24 Income budget £M	2023/24 Net budget £M
Planning & Economic Development	1.107	2.629	1.526	1.103
Housing Services	1.106	2.189	0.995	1.194
Environmental Health	1.101	1.380	0.239	1.141
Street Scene Services	5.239	9.617	4.113	5.504
Engineering & Asset Management	(4.644)	4.097	8.813	(4.716)
Partnerships & Community Engagement	1.203	1.652	0.413	1.239
Finance & Business Services	2.467	3.784	1.000	2.784
Legal & Democratic Services	1.505	1.982	0.418	1.564
Human Resources & Customer Services	1.224	1.529	0.198	1.331
Executive Directors	0.475	0.508	0.000	0.508
Audit & Assurance	0.191	0.201	0.000	0.201
Corporate Expenditure	1.316	2.312	1.035	1.277
Total Net Budget Requirement	12.290	31.880	18.750	13.130
Funded By:				
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	0.000			0.122
Services Grant	0.188			0.110
Business Rates	3.277			3.306
LTSG/Funding Guarantee	0.124			1.016
New Homes Bonus	0.400			0.025
Council Tax Support Grant	0.069			0.000
Total of Government Grants	4.058			4.579
Council Tax Requirement	8.232			8.551
Total All Funding	12.290			13.130

The Environment Agency and Lee Valley Regional Park

The County Council has to contribute to the funding of these two authorities. The Environment Agency's duties include managing flood defences. The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority develops, preserves and manages an area next to the River Lee as a regional park. More details are available from Hertfordshire County Council and on our website in the link below: <https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Benefits--Council-tax/Council-tax/Council-tax.aspx>

Your council tax payment to **Hertfordshire County Council** shows two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept (2.00%) and one for the part attributable to general expenditure (2.99%). The percentage change is applied to the full 2023/24 council tax for the County Council (General expenditure + Adult Social Care precept). Information about spending by the County Council is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax; email contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk, telephone 0300 123 4040 or by writing to Hertfordshire County Council, PO Box 153, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2GH

Aldenham Parish Council Budget ☎ 01923 856433

Net Expenditure	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Community Services		
Democratic Services	229,982	258,996
Parks and Open Spaces	182,851	195,890
Community Development	57,162	41,865
Newberries Car Park	-	12,500
Asset Management	177,000	164,300
Contingency	1,000	-
Sub-total	647,995	673,551
Grants	13,500	20,500
Total Precept Demand	661,495	694,051
Charge per Band D Dwelling	124.28	126.64

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council Budget ☎ 020 8207 1382

Net Expenditure	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Community Services		
General Management		
- Democratic Services & Admin	443,174	497,433
- Elections	10,000	10,000
- Community Hall	(11,600)	1,050
- Contingency	2,500	2,500
Environment & Planning		
- Allotments	2,500	-
- Town Centre Initiatives	(800)	(350)
- Sites & Equipment	8,411	7,221
Leisure & Entertainment		
Entertainments		
- Civic Festival	30,325	25,975
- Town Crier	18,150	5,750
- Coach Trips	4,200	2,753
- Christmas	36,500	42,300
- Events	23,350	16,650
Grants & Community Support		
- Grants	11,500	11,500
- School Swimming	31,000	31,000
- Town Twinning	5,500	10,000
- Youth Council	500	500
- To / (from) reserves	(65,443)	-
Total Precept Demand	549,767	664,282
Charge per Band D Dwelling	39.99	48.00

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How your bill is calculated

The amount of your bill will depend upon the band into which your property has been valued by the Valuation Office Agency. The bands range from A to H and are shown below.

Band D is the constant value by which all other bands are calculated.

For example if your property is a band A property its council tax would be 6/9ths of a band D property's council tax.

Council tax bands

(based on values at 1 April 1991)

A	6/9 x Band D
B	7/9 x Band D
C	8/9 x Band D
D	Council tax level
E	11/9 x Band D
F	13/9 x Band D
G	15/9 x Band D
H	18/9 x Band D

If you would like this document in a different language or format please call 020 8207 7445 or email customer.services@hertsmere.gov.uk and we will do our best to help.

Please allow sufficient time for any document to be translated.

Ways to reduce your bill

Helpline - 020 8207 7407

Help is available for people on low income under the Council Tax Support Scheme. If you were receiving Council Tax Support last year this should have been automatically reassessed and the amount will be shown on your bill.

If you were not receiving Council Tax Support previously you can check your eligibility by visiting the benefits pages at www.hertsmere.gov.uk to access our entitlement calculator and online claim form.

Discounts

Discounts or exemptions are available to people who live on their own, to students and to people with certain disabilities. Contact the helpline number above or email revenues@hertsmere.gov.uk for further details. Information can also be found on the council tax pages at www.hertsmere.gov.uk

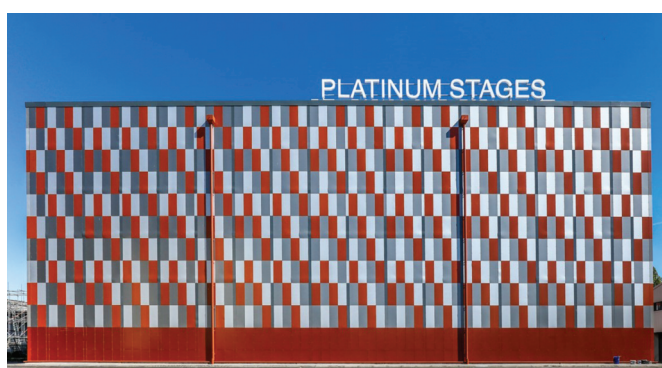


Photo credit: RG Carter

Elstree Studios - New Platinum Stages

Council Tax Banding

The table below shows the elements that make up the total council tax charge. The 'combined charges' are the annual amount to be paid (before any reductions for discounts, support, etc). Where you see 'special items' on your bill, this means that we provide a service which is provided in other areas by a town or parish council, for example allotments, parks or bus shelters.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Increase/ (Decrease) %
Borough plus parish charges	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Aldenham	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64	2.54%
Elstree and Borehamwood	164.98	192.46	219.97	247.46	302.46	357.44	412.44	494.92	5.90%
Shenley	168.39	196.45	224.52	252.58	308.71	364.84	420.97	505.16	5.50%
South Mimms and Ridge	171.60	200.19	228.79	257.39	314.59	371.79	428.99	514.78	0.97%
All other parts of the Borough	133.82	156.11	178.42	200.72	245.33	289.93	334.54	401.44	2.99%
Plus									
Hertfordshire County Council*	1,070.42	1,248.82	1,427.23	1,605.63	1,962.44	2,319.25	2,676.05	3,211.26	4.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire	158.67	185.11	211.56	238.00	290.89	343.78	396.67	476.00	6.73%
Combined charges - the amount on your bill									
Aldenham	1,435.64	1,674.90	1,914.19	2,153.45	2,632.00	3,110.55	3,589.09	4,306.92	4.67%
Elstree and Borehamwood	1,394.07	1,626.39	1,858.76	2,091.09	2,555.79	3,020.47	3,485.16	4,182.18	5.10%
Shenley	1,397.48	1,630.38	1,863.31	2,096.21	2,562.04	3,027.87	3,493.69	4,192.42	5.06%
South Mimms and Ridge	1,400.69	1,634.12	1,867.58	2,101.02	2,567.92	3,034.82	3,501.71	4,202.04	4.54%
All other parts of the Borough	1,362.91	1,590.04	1,817.21	2,044.35	2,498.66	2,952.96	3,407.26	4,088.70	4.82%

*There are two precepts for Hertfordshire County Council shown on your bill, one for general expenditure and one to fund Adult Social Care.

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