

YOUR council tax

2026/27

HBC2026

What does 59p per day pay for?

We will be increasing our share of council tax bills by 2.99% equivalent to £6.28 for the coming year, a rise of around 12p per week per household. The 2026/27 budget, agreed at a meeting of the full council on 25 February, will see our share of the average council tax bill rise to £216.34 for the forthcoming financial year – the equivalent of just 59p 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, and voluntary organisations such as Citizens Advice.

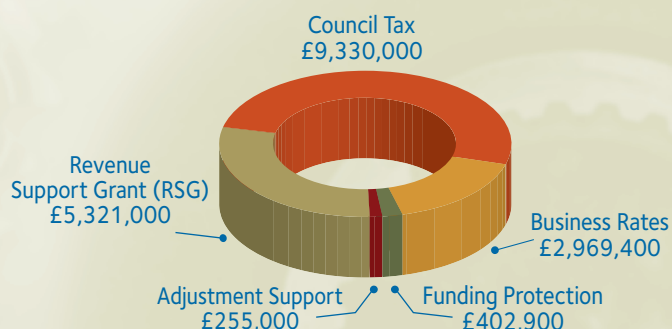
Your council tax pays for many different services across the borough



Funding the council's services

For the year 2026/27, we have set a gross expenditure budget of £59.6m of which £18.5m relates to housing benefit payments. This leaves the operational budget of £41.1m, which is partly funded by income of £22.9m that we generate from fees, charges, property-related income and investment income to arrive at our net expenditure position.

We expect to incur net expenditure of £18,278,500 on running services which will be funded from Government Grants, including Business Rates, Revenue Support Grant, but with the majority share coming from Council Tax.



Although you pay all your council tax to Hertsmere Borough Council, the share that we keep is just nine per cent – the equivalent of 59p 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, support for Citizens Advice, benefits, environmental health, planning, car parking, leisure, housing, culture and parks.

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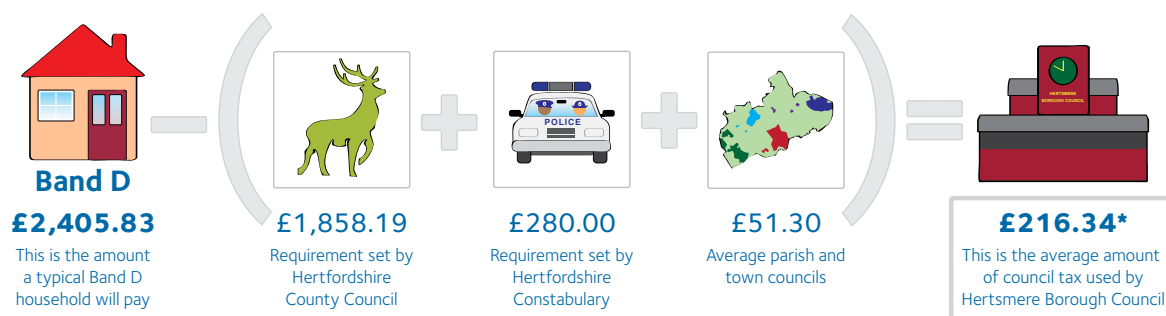


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While we collect your total council tax (which is on average for a band D property £2,405.83 including parish precepts) only nine pence in every pound is used by us, which is the equivalent of £216.34 per year or 59p per day for an average band D property in the borough. The majority share, 77 per cent goes to Hertfordshire County Council; the police receive 12 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 Hertsmer Vision 2024-27, Driving Better Futures, 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 2026/27 which will set out how we will deliver against the vision over the next year. Further details and a copy of the Hertsmer Vision can be found on our website: www.hertsmer.gov.uk/corporateplan

Hertsmer has an 'Engage' consultation platform on which we have run a number of surveys to gauge our residents' opinions about various themes. This is helping to guide our decision making and policy setting.

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

Balancing the budget

The 2026/27 budget has been set under challenging economic conditions. Whilst the economy is slowly recovering from the turmoil caused by the global pandemic, lifestyle changes as a result have impacted on demand for our services and more widely are impacting on labour markets. Inflation has seen an increase over the past 12 months and is now 3.4% compared to 2.5% at the same time a year ago. Interest rates are expected to continue to fall from the current rate of 3.75% to 3.25% by the end of 2026/27. The increased cost of living, however, continues to have a significant impact on household budgets affecting our residents and staff.

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. Hertsmer'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 Hertsmer Developments Ltd.

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 continue to support the foodbanks in the borough to ensure that residents are able to access emergency food aid and support from a range of agencies to help address the causes of food poverty. We continue to fund Citizens Advice with around £257,000 to provide support and advice to our residents such as access to benefits and debt management.

The community engagement team has been supporting over 120 community groups across the borough to access funding, improve their services and to support their communities better. The types of groups supported include voluntary groups, religious groups, community spaces, toddler groups, youth activities, foodbanks, libraries and many more. Our staff have helped to raise awareness of local health priorities, local support available, voter ID requirements, and local activities and have distributed 450 Small Acts of Kindness Warm in Winter bags to the most vulnerable members of our community. There are regular community priorities consultations taking place on our 'Engage' platform which will help the team to provide the support that our communities most need.

Our Healthy Hubs continue to run drop-ins in Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Radlett and Bushey, providing help and support on a range of health and wellbeing matters. The team is now able to offer wellbeing checks, NHS Health Checks and Stop Smoking Support. Our award-winning Hertsmer Against Cancer campaign has continued to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer. Working in partnership with local GPs, we have seen more than 3,800 women booked for cervical screening and over 500 booked for breast screening.

The Council has announced additional funding from April 2025 to increase the number of Community Enforcement Officers tackling community issues such as littering and fly-tipping as well as providing support at a local level to members of the public and businesses while on patrol. A new dedicated street cleansing response team will also be in operation to help tackle fly-tipping black spots promoting pride in Hertsmer. There will also be increased funding available to ward councillors under the Ward Improvement Initiatives Scheme (WIIS) which, alongside our community grants programme, helps to provide improvements to local areas where it is needed.

More widely we awarded over £470,000 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. The Hertsmer Community Lottery continues to offer a free fundraising platform for 48 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 with Job Centre Plus providing training to more than 400 local people and resulting in more than 130 job offers this calendar year. Our Generation Hertsmer careers event in November 2025 linked local businesses with secondary school pupils from across the borough.

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

How your money will be spent – 2026/27

Hertsmere Borough Council Budget

	2025/26 Net budget £M	2026/27 Expenditure budget £M	2026/27 Income budget £M	2026/27 Net budget £M
Asset Management & Engineering Services	(4.523)	4.188	8.289	(4.101)
Planning, Economic Development & Climate Change	1.090	4.243	2.063	2.180
Environmental Health, Licensing & Resilience	1.193	2.066	0.684	1.382
Housing Strategy	0.843	2.992	1.727	1.265
Street Scene Services	5.439	12.109	6.595	5.514
Customer Experience, Digital Transformation & IDS	2.433	2.622	0.052	2.570
Legal & Democratic Services	1.722	2.190	0.205	1.985
Finance & Business Services	1.761	3.041	0.948	2.093
Human Resources & Print Services	0.451	0.746	0.219	0.527
Policy & Partnerships	1.531	2.340	0.554	1.786
Executive Directors	0.549	0.748		0.748
Assurance Services	0.223	0.232		0.232
Corporate Expenditure	1.253	3.645	1.548	2.097
Net Budget Requirement	13.965	41.162	22.884	18.278
Funded By:				
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	0.149			5.321
Funding Protection	0.000			0.403
Adjustment Support Grant	0.000			0.255
Business Rates	3.577			2.969
Funding Guarantee/Floor	0.952			0.000
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant	0.038			0.000
New Homes Bonus	0.013			0.000
National Insurance Grant	0.134			0.000
Total of Government Grants	4.863			8.948
Council Tax Requirement	9.102			9.330
Total All Funding	13.965			18.278

N.B. All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Hertfordshire County Council

Your council tax payment to Hertfordshire County Council shows two separate 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 2026/27 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

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.

Aldenham Parish Council Budget

☎ 01923 856433

	2025/26 £	2026/27 £
Net Expenditure		
Community Services		
Democratic Services	487,629	476,112
Parks and Open Spaces	236,513	325,942
Community	66,353	62,625
Café	(9,640)	(13,430)
Total Precept Demand	780,855	851,249
Charge per Band D Dwelling	142.62	156.33

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council Budget ☎ 020 8207 1382

	2025/26 £	2026/27 £
Net Expenditure		
Community Services		
General Management		
- Democratic Services & Admin	641,430	661,453
- Elections	17,500	25,000
- Community Hall	33,550	15,050
- Contingency	4,400	5,000
Environment & Planning		
- Allotments	4,325	1,825
- Town Centre Initiatives	49,000	101,750
- Sites & Equipment	14,304	19,804
Leisure & Entertainment		
Entertainments		
- Civic Festival	20,300	24,200
- Town Crier	26,000	26,000
- Coach Trips	4,980	5,480
- Christmas	32,800	41,500
- Events	40,000	53,100
Grants & Community Support		
- Grants	16,600	47,600
- School Swimming	50,000	52,500
- Town Twinning	11,500	21,500
- Youth Council	1,500	1,500
- To / (from) reserves	30,000	45,000
Total Precept Demand	998,189	1,148,262
Charge per Band D Dwelling	72.66	85.06

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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 property 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 caption

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 the council itself provides 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	237.58	277.17	316.77	356.36	435.55	514.74	593.94	712.72	5.79%
Elstree and Borehamwood	202.19	235.89	269.59	303.28	370.67	438.07	505.47	606.56	6.58%
Shenley	209.03	243.88	278.72	313.55	383.22	452.91	522.58	627.10	15.03%
South Mimms and Ridge	201.11	234.62	268.14	301.65	368.68	435.71	502.76	603.30	10.05%
All other parts of the Borough	146.02	170.35	194.69	219.02	267.69	316.36	365.04	438.04	2.98%
Plus									
Hertfordshire County Council	1,238.79	1,445.26	1,651.73	1,858.19	2,271.12	2,684.05	3,096.98	3,716.38	4.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire	186.67	217.78	248.89	280.00	342.22	404.44	466.67	560.00	5.66%
Combined charges - the amount on your bill									
Aldenham	1,663.04	1,940.21	2,217.39	2,494.55	3,048.89	3,603.23	4,157.59	4,989.10	5.01%
Elstree and Borehamwood	1,627.65	1,898.93	2,170.21	2,441.47	2,984.01	3,526.56	4,069.12	4,882.94	5.09%
Shenley	1,634.49	1,906.92	2,179.34	2,451.74	2,996.56	3,541.40	4,086.23	4,903.48	6.00%
South Mimms and Ridge	1,626.57	1,897.66	2,168.76	2,439.84	2,982.02	3,524.20	4,066.41	4,879.68	5.46%
All other parts of the Borough	1,571.48	1,833.39	2,095.31	2,357.21	2,881.03	3,404.85	3,928.69	4,714.42	4.73%

*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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