



# **Budget and Council Tax 2025/26**

The District Council provides a wide range of services to you, our residents. This includes enabling a strong local economy with sustainable growth, working with our communities and ensuring we are a customer focused and service led council.

In total, the Council will spend £84.3m delivering services to residents in 2025/26, 13% of which is funded directly from Council Tax, 40% is funded by Government and 16% comes from retained business rates. The remaining 31% comes from fees and charges paid by service users, contributions from other bodies or our reserves. In addition, the Council has a capital programme which totals £14.5m. This is planned to be spent on town centre redevelopment, disabled adaptation grants, and maintaining our existing assets e.g., car parks, leisure facilities and commercial properties, and is funded through a mixture of grants received and the Council's reserves.

As a public body, the Council needs to balance the optimum level of services with the available money, which means it needs to get the best value from every £1 it spends. There are pressures on the services delivered from increased life expectancy, population growth and the impact of the national economy, but also uncertainty in relation to future Central Government funding.

The main pressures impacting this council are:-

- Increased energy costs.
- Increased demand for homelessness support.
- Uncertainty over future Government funding. From 2026/27 onwards grant income is likely to reduce as the Government phases out New Homes Bonus grant and introduces a fair funding regime.
- An ageing population in the district; the number of residents aged 65 or over increased by 33% between 2011 and 2021.

The Council has been very successful in becoming more efficient and effective over the last few years, with the ongoing programme of service restructuring and a shared service programme with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council continuing to deliver benefits. Work continues to review services to see if ever more innovative ways to deliver them more efficiently can be found, so that front line services can be protected.

This year, the Council has decided to increase the District Council element of the Council Tax for the 2025/26 year; Council Tax for a Band D property will be £165.86 (£3.19 per week) and even less for the 65% of residents who live in smaller properties and have a lower tax band. It is important to remember that even though Council Tax will rise, it is less than 7% of the bill that is sent out; it also includes precepts for the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority, Combined Authority

and your Parish or Town Council. Your bill will have risen because some of these bodies have increased their element, and this will be clearly shown on the bill. Please contact them via the details shown in the leaflet that accompanied your Council Tax bill if your query is about their services or Council Tax level. You can also find their contact details, and those for town or parish councils, on our website at:  
[www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/counciltax).

### **More Information**

More information about Huntingdonshire's budget can be found on the council website at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or email [suzanne.jones@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.jones@huntingdonshire.gov.uk).

## Huntingdonshire District Council 2025/26 Budget Summary

	2024/25	2025/26			
	Budget	Budget	Council Tax (Band D)	Change on last year	Share of Council Tax
	£000	£000	£	%	%
Gross Expenditure	82,395	84,349		2.37	
Income	(56,391)	(57,885)		2.65	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>26,004</b>	<b>26,464</b>		<b>1.77</b>	
Less Retained Business Rates	(13,780)	(13,171)		(4.42)	
Less Government Funding	(2,771)	(2,702)		(2.49)	
Surplus to reserves	1,179	462		(60.81)	
<b>Huntingdonshire Council Tax</b>	<b>10,632</b>	<b>11,053</b>	<b>165.86</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>6.80</b>
Town and Parishes Tax (average)			150.53	9.80	6.17
County Council Tax			1,700.64	4.99	69.71
Police & Crime Commissioner Tax			299.43	4.89	12.27
Fire Authority Tax			87.21	6.02	3.57
Combined Authority Tax			36.00	0.00	1.48
<b>Total Council Tax</b>			<b>2,439.67</b>		<b>100.00</b>

The reasons for the increase are shown below

	£000	£000
<b>Raised from Council Tax in 2024/25</b>		<b>10,632</b>
Inflation and other adjustments	52	
Efficiency and other savings	(845)	
New initiatives/Growth	1,253	
Decrease in government support	69	
Decrease in retained business rates	609	
Contribution to reserves	(717)	
<b>Raised from Council Tax in 2025/26</b>		<b>11,053</b>

Revenue reserves are estimated to be £2.175m at the start of the year and £2.175m at the end of the year.

## Huntingdonshire District Council provides services to every household in the District

It costs 52p a week per household to collect your waste and recycling

### Environmental Services £4.277m

- Collecting rubbish from over 83,000 properties every week
- Recycling 51% of our rubbish
- Monitoring 855 CCTV cameras (including 42 deployable cameras) across the Huntingdonshire and Cambridge areas

The District manages 6 parks and nature reserves and other green spaces costing 56p per household per week

### Planning, Infrastructure & Public Protection Services £2.794m

- Enabling 1239 new homes, including 494 affordable homes, to be completed in the District
- Enabling gross completions of over 15,968 square metres of employment floorspace
- Dealing with 2,400 planning applications
- Granting in excess of 2,600 licences and permits, plus supporting residents with complaints regarding taxi, animal welfare and premises issues.

### Leisure, Health & Environment Services £1.213m

- Providing Leisure & Health services and facilities across the district which attract in excess of 1.4 million visitors per year
- Managing 6 parks across Huntingdonshire

We spend 29p per household per week to keep streets and public places clean

### Customer Services £4.898m

- Re-housing 700 households through the housing register
- Preventing and resolving homelessness for 480 households
- Awarding Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support to over 8,000 people

### Economy, Regeneration & Housing Services -£0.302m

- Enabling people to live in their own homes by providing 185 disabled facilities grants
- Managing town car parks with 3,834 spaces

### Technical and Support Services £13.584m

- Managing elections (e.g. European, Parliamentary, District and Parish) and various referendums
- Provision of IT, Legal, Procurement, Financial, Audit, HR and Corporate support services to over 650 staff
- Delivery of Treasury, Insurance and other Corporate Financial Management
- Supporting the Democratic process and the 52 Council Members