

# Your Guide To Your Council Tax Bill

2024 to 2025



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# Your Guide To Your Council Tax Bill 2024 To 2025

## Foreword from Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council

### **Becoming a financially sustainable council**

Like many other councils, we are facing huge pressures on our finances.

We've put an enormous amount of work into transforming the way we do things, such as enabling people to be less dependent on our services in the future, doing things more efficiently and reducing our spend.

It has meant that this year we've saved over £40m – the highest amount of savings we've ever made - but this is not enough. Next year we need to make savings of around £62m. It's going to be extremely difficult, but we have no choice.

The savings we now need to make will impact upon you. For me, it's heart-breaking. We are having to make decisions that we never wanted to make so that we can continue to support the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Demand for our services has increased, particularly in social care, and so has the cost of delivering them.

This is true for local authorities everywhere in the UK but especially in places like Shropshire, because of our rural geography and older population.

Nearly 26% of our county's population is aged 65 and over. In England the average is 18.6%. By 2043 this gap is forecast to grow. However, we now spend over 50% of our adult social care budget on adults aged 18 – 65 and the complexity of their needs is also increasing.

We've also seen a growth in looked after children, which has increased by more than 80% since 2020.

It probably comes as no surprise that we spend more than 75% of our budget on social care. This leaves the remaining part of our budget to pay for waste and recycling, highways, leisure, youth services, housing, outdoor spaces and much more; services that you in Shropshire use every day.

We know that demand for all of our services will continue to grow, meaning that there will be even less to pay for other services.

Something that I often get asked is how the council can spend money on things like building a new leisure centre in Whitchurch or the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road when we have so many pressures on our budget.

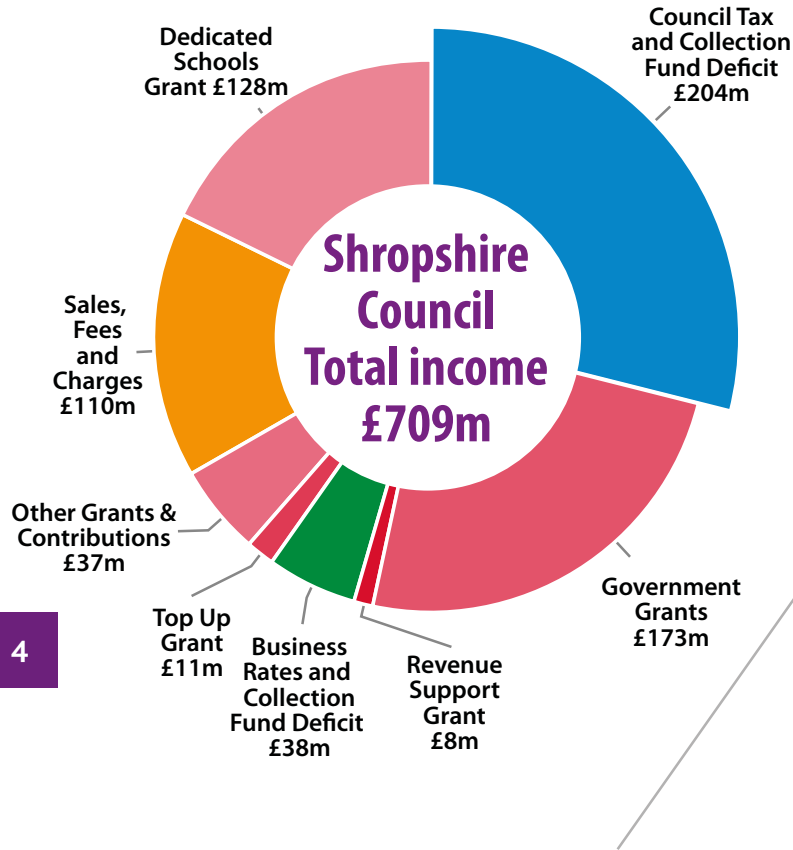
Unfortunately, we can't use money from our capital budget to pay for the running of day-to-day services.

We use what we call our revenue budget to pay for things like salaries, supplies and services, whereas our capital budget can only be used for things like new buildings, machinery or new roads.

You can find out more about the challenges we face and how we plan to address these by visiting our website (<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/council-budgets-and-spending/budget-202425/>)

If you'd like more information visit  
our website: [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)

# Sources of income

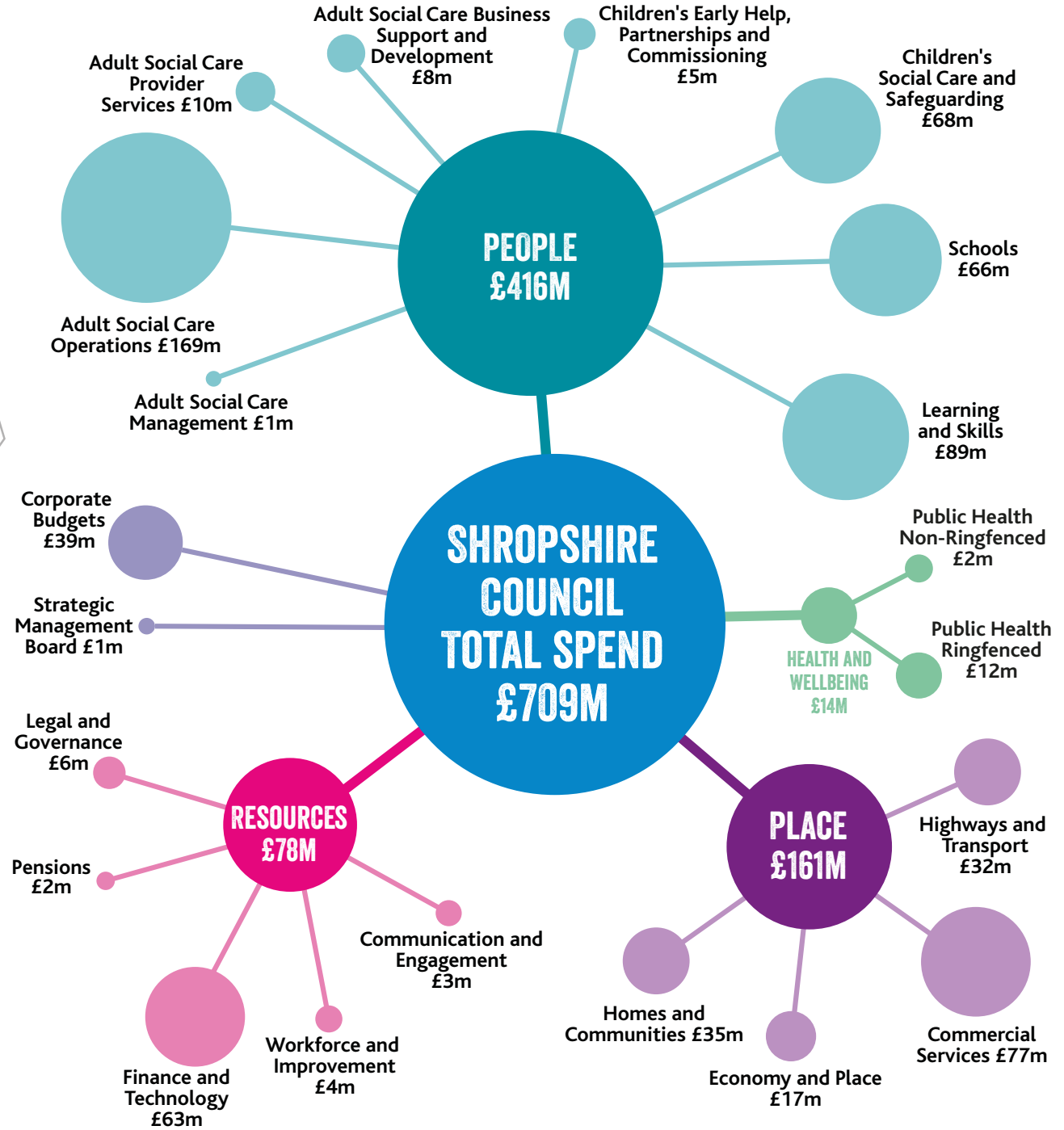


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The above chart shows where the council gets its money from and includes money from Government grants.

The chart on the right shows the key areas where the council spends its money.

# Overall Costs



## What your Council Tax pays for

### Charges for a Band D property

#### \*\* Universal Services \*\*

* Buses and Sustainable Transport	£46.51
* Highways and Environmental Maintenance	£88.31
* Leisure and Outdoor Spaces	£20.97
* Libraries	£19.15
* Registrars, Coroners, Bereavement Services, Trading Standards, Licensing, Regulatory Services and Public Health	£6.09
* Theatre, Arts, Museums and Archives	£6.97
* Waste and Recycling Collections	£220.67

#### \*\* Adult Services \*\*

* Adult Social Care	£821.41
* Housing, Housing Benefits and Welfare	£34.99

#### \*\* Children's Services \*\*

* Children and Families Early Help Services and Youth Services	£15.47
* Children's Social Care	£374.94
* Education, Schools, and Home to School Transport	£93.94

#### \*\* Economic Growth \*\*

* Broadband - Rural Rollout	£0.83
* Economic Growth	£6.71
* Planning	£6.44

#### \*\* Local Government Running Costs \*\*

* Organisational & Democratic Costs of the Council	£110.08
* Financing Costs - Debt Repayments and Interest Payments	£125.59

#### Voucher

#### \*\* Income and other funding to supplement Council Tax \*\*

* Car Parking Income (Net of Costs)	-£31.91
* Net Use of Non Ring Fenced Grants	-£246.36
*****	
<b>* Total to Pay</b>	<b>£1,720.80</b>

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This receipt broadly illustrates the Shropshire Council services that the average Band D Council Tax supports and excludes specific grant funded services such as schools.

## How the Council is funded

In 2024/25 Shropshire Council's total gross spending on services will be £709m (more details are provided below). This spending is funded by central government grants, business rates, council tax and fees and charges to users for some services.

In 2024/25 Shropshire Council expects to receive income from specific grants targeted at certain service areas, including the Dedicated Schools Grant, worth £301m. We also expect to receive income from fees and charges of £110m.

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Consequently, in 2024/25 Shropshire Council's net budget requirement (including the collection fund deficit) will be £262m. Of this, £8m or 3 per cent will come from central government in Revenue Support Grant, around £39m or 15 per cent will come from business rates and your council tax will contribute around £204m or 78 per cent of the money we have available to spend on services.

## The budget requirement for 2024/25

2023/24 £'000s		2024/25 £'000s
645,741	Gross Expenditure (excluding internal market charges)	709,472
-258,988	Government Grants	-300,846
-33,445	Other Grants and Contributions	-36,829
-97,394	Fees & Charges (including internal recharges)	-110,100
255,914	Net Budget Requirement	261,697
<b>Financed by:</b>		
7,479	Revenue Support Grant	7,974
11,120	Top-Up Grant	10,925
39,424	Business Rates	41,306
193,577	Council Tax	205,104
4,314	Collection Fund	-3,612
<b>255,914</b>	<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>261,697</b>

## Sign up to ebilling

Many people nowadays receive their bills online, whether it's your electricity, gas or other utility bill. So why not receive your Council Tax bill this way rather than having a paper copy sent to you each year?

Receiving your bill by email would be more convenient for you, and will also help us reduce our costs as we would no longer have to print and post your bill.

It also saves paper, so is much better for the environment. So if you would like to sign up to ebilling log on to your Council Tax Citizen Access account here:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax/your-account-online/#>

You'll need your Council Tax account reference and your online password from your latest Council Tax bill in order to do this.

**Don't forget  
about the  
Digital Switchover**

See inside back page  
for details



## Your Council Tax bill 2024/25 explained

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. “Adult social care authorities” are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

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The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

In 2024/25 the Secretary of State renewed the offer and as an adult social care authority Shropshire Council has used this additional flexibility. In 2024/25 therefore you will see an increase of 4.99% in the council tax amount for Shropshire Council services. This increase is comprised of two elements: a 2% increase specifically to fund adult social care duties and responsibilities in 2024/25 and a 2.99% increase to fund other core council services.

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The actual level of any increase to your whole council tax bill will depend on which parish or town council area you live in and the local spending in your area, together with any increases in spending by West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority. The total amount on your bill will depend on where you live within the area and which valuation band your property is in.

### The various Band D Council Tax breakdown for 2024/25 is shown below:

Shropshire Council 2023/24	£1,639.01	
- Core Services Increase	£49.01	(+2.99%)
- Adult Social Care Charge	£32.78	(+2.00%)
<b>Shropshire Council 2024/25</b>	<b>£1,720.80</b>	<b>(+4.99%)</b>
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>£277.50</b>	<b>(+4.91%)</b>
<b>Shropshire &amp; Wrekin Fire &amp; Rescue Authority</b>	<b>£114.49</b>	<b>(+2.99%)</b>
<b>Parish / Town Council (Average)</b>	<b>£90.87</b>	<b>(+5.68%)</b>



## Budget requirements and Parish and Town Council precepts

	2023/24	2024/25	
	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
<b>Parish and Town Council Precepts:</b>			
Shropshire Council	255,913,650	261,697,220	1,720.80
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	273,038,000	284,158,000	277.50
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	26,562,703	29,198,100	114.49
Parish & Town Councils	10,155,576	10,830,554	90.87
<b>Parish and Town Council Precepts:</b>			
Abdon & Heath	-	-	-
Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley	6,500	6,598	24.28
Acton Scott	600	600	13.56
Adderley	16,407	16,040	77.37
Alberbury with Cardeston	9,500	14,000	33.64
Albrighton	183,750	199,368	118.76
All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston	6,660	6,660	36.84
Alveley & Romsley	54,809	54,809	62.14
Ashford Bowdler	-	-	-
Ashford Carbonel	8,425	9,500	48.78
Astley	7,155	8,155	39.45
Astley Abbots	6,357	6,500	25.86
Aston Botterell, Burwarton & Cleobury North	7,000	6,500	56.48
Atcham	13,882	14,047	61.88
Badger	4,023	4,600	75.87
Barrow	11,000	11,500	42.79

	2023/24 Budget Requirement / Precept £	2024/25 Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
<b>Parish and Town Council Precepts:</b>			
Baschurch	51,635	53,406	43.41
Bayston Hill	182,825	197,059	105.93
Beckbury	10,000	10,000	66.15
Bedstone & Bucknell	28,050	30,155	92.55
Berrington	16,389	18,257	34.05
Bettws-Y-Crwyn	6,500	6,500	70.67
Bicton	14,746	14,746	31.17
Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley & Middleton Scriven	7,500	7,713	45.82
Bishops Castle Town	160,000	195,000	285.38
Bitterley	8,124	8,368	23.24
Bomere Heath & District	23,261	24,421	26.95
Boningale	3,140	3,140	22.15
Boraston	500	525	6.89
Bridgnorth Town	723,978	798,161	171.26
Bromfield	4,250	4,250	35.17
Broseley Town	319,303	319,303	202.56
Buildwas	9,228	10,000	87.16
Burford	24,200	37,510	81.38
Cardington	7,260	7,800	36.90
Caynham	21,000	21,542	39.34
Chelmarsh	14,271	13,936	59.90
Cheswardine	23,191	23,388	57.41
Chetton	6,000	6,300	37.20
Childs Ercall	13,587	14,674	47.67
Chirbury with Brompton	12,323	12,446	36.49
Church Preen, Hughley & Kenley	4,000	4,000	31.05
Church Pulverbatch	3,825	3,825	21.89
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	447,537	496,176	223.98
Claverley	25,231	25,181	26.95
Clee St. Margaret	-	-	-

Parish and Town Council Precepts:	2023/24	2024/25	
	Budget Requirement	Budget Requirement	Council Tax At
	/ Precept	/ Precept	Band D
	£	£	£
Cleobury Mortimer	117,892	140,000	114.95
Clive	16,495	17,610	71.04
Clun Town with Chapel Lawn	62,000	70,000	135.26
Clunbury	5,500	5,500	22.00
Clungunford	3,800	3,600	22.82
Cockshutt-cum-Petton	20,600	20,375	63.08
Condover	45,821	48,112	51.16
Coreley	7,440	7,810	56.16
Cound	6,756	7,756	36.55
Craven Arms Town	62,483	63,788	75.99
Cressage, Harley & Sheinton	28,174	28,644	68.29
Culmington	4,865	5,040	28.32
Diddlebury	6,660	7,500	25.32
Ditton Priors	16,000	17,000	46.42
Donington & Boscobel	36,390	37,599	61.36
Eardington	10,000	10,000	39.85
Easthope, Shipton & Stanton Long	4,600	5,637	27.23
Eaton-Under-Heywood & Hope Bowdler	5,588	5,588	30.12
Edgton	902	1,040	20.07
Ellesmere Rural	42,500	43,987	43.89
Ellesmere Town	261,412	284,684	185.16
Farlow	5,000	5,000	26.10
Ford	25,104	27,494	82.64
Great Hanwood	33,278	33,804	77.26
Great Ness & Little Ness	32,291	38,516	67.49
Greete	-	-	-
Grinshill	7,150	7,606	65.53
Hadnall	14,631	15,233	39.67
Highley	137,244	144,107	127.13
Hinstock	30,098	32,500	58.60

	2023/24 Budget Requirement / Precept £	2024/25 Budget Requirement / Precept £	Council Tax At Band D £
<b>Parish and Town Council Precepts:</b>			
Hodnet	26,893	28,237	47.37
Hope Bagot	550	550	18.66
Hopesay	14,782	16,150	63.13
Hopton Cangeford & Stoke St. Milborough	2,295	2,336	13.83
Hopton Castle	668	668	16.40
Hopton Wafers	9,900	10,393	34.02
Hordley	4,791	5,047	48.25
Ightfield	14,500	15,450	69.63
Kemberton	3,740	4,003	33.24
Kinlet	10,554	11,186	25.56
Kinnerley	24,600	25,193	46.99
Knockin	16,620	17,364	117.08
Leebotwood & Longnor	9,000	9,500	47.17
Leighton & Eaton Constantine	9,500	10,363	50.16
Llanfair Waterdine	4,500	5,500	50.74
Llanyblodwel	12,000	12,650	47.25
Llanymynech & Pant	28,000	28,600	40.92
Longden	37,472	38,853	69.41
Loppington	4,267	5,120	17.86
Ludford	9,420	9,420	22.84
Ludlow Town	773,395	823,696	231.95
Lydbury North	11,723	12,000	51.56
Lydham & More	-	-	-
Mainstone & Colebatch	1,000	2,500	28.20
Market Drayton Town	546,579	554,184	132.06
Melverley	4,802	5,258	100.10
Milson & Neen Sollars	9,268	9,268	77.48
Minsterley	26,000	29,000	46.92
Montford	6,000	6,000	22.89
Moreton Corbet & Lee Brockhurst	2,300	2,300	15.67

Parish and Town Council Precepts:	2023/24	2024/25	
	Budget Requirement / Precept	Budget Requirement / Precept	Council Tax At Band D
	£	£	£
Moreton Say	13,178	13,516	62.19
Morville, Acton Round, Aston Eyre, Monkhopton & Upton Cressett	12,000	12,000	30.70
Much Wenlock Town	249,532	275,287	216.48
Munslow	5,633	6,620	37.20
Myddle, Broughton and Harmer Hill	29,250	29,250	46.03
Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Wentnor	4,862	4,859	17.83
Nash	3,450	3,680	26.13
Neen Savage	6,000	6,500	40.73
Neenton	-	-	-
Newcastle	9,400	20,947	159.64
Norton-In-Hales	24,934	25,130	72.59
Onibury	4,744	4,774	35.72
Oswestry Rural	34,522	39,600	23.38
Oswestry Town	486,000	560,300	102.89
Pontesbury	207,780	221,188	155.11
Prees	27,804	29,343	24.34
Quatt Malvern	6,047	6,047	59.22
Richards Castle	5,000	6,000	43.70
Rushbury	8,100	8,500	30.38
Ruyton-XI-Towns	31,920	31,920	67.87
Ryton & Grindle	3,970	4,334	53.87
Selattyn & Gobowen	92,028	93,038	67.63
Shawbury	58,850	58,850	64.10
Sheriffhales	16,962	16,962	50.23
Shifnal Town	525,549	529,814	146.96
Shrewsbury Town	1,670,237	1,770,089	66.42
Sibdon Carwood	-	-	-
St. Martins	57,948	58,476	58.34
Stanton Lacy	4,304	4,677	28.29
Stanton-Upon-Hine Heath	11,563	11,910	47.69

Parish and Town Council Precepts:	2023/24	2024/25	
	Budget Requirement	Budget Requirement	Council Tax At
	/ Precept	/ Precept	Band D
	£	£	£
Stockton	5,628	6,128	44.93
Stoke-Upon-Tern	21,426	21,463	42.13
Stottesdon & Sidbury	24,000	26,000	73.71
Stowe	690	350	6.98
Sutton Maddock	3,150	3,330	28.73
Sutton-Upon-Tern	8,086	8,814	21.11
Tasley	10,410	10,930	26.15
Tong	4,550	4,732	36.48
Uffington	-	10,089	80.32
Upton Magna	5,268	5,584	36.52
Welshampton & Lyneal	26,000	26,344	67.03
Wem Rural	28,926	30,083	42.66
Wem Town	380,394	400,000	196.37
West Felton	17,261	17,735	29.37
Westbury	14,366	22,770	43.03
Weston Rhyn	34,000	34,000	37.93
Weston-Under-Redcastle	6,700	7,400	61.80
Wheathill	1,800	2,200	27.06
Whitchurch Rural	25,966	26,878	38.79
Whitchurch Town	556,730	561,732	160.20
Whittington	55,666	59,265	58.63
Whitton	-	-	-
Whixall	11,801	12,880	37.84
Wistanstow	12,450	12,358	37.16
Withington	6,028	6,495	59.55
Woore	31,537	31,250	50.16
Worfield & Rudge	24,437	27,160	28.90
Worthen with Shelve	37,928	32,900	39.93
Wroxeter & Uppington	5,095	5,095	30.33

## Parish and town council precepts over £140,000

The larger local councils precepting more than £140,000 in 2024/25 have provided additional information about their budget and tax levels. Further information can be obtained from the Town Clerk at the relevant council

Town Council	2023/24		2024/25			
	Gross Expenditure £	Budget Requirement £	Gross Expenditure £	Transfer to (-) / from (+) Reserves £	Income £	Budget Requirement £
Albrighton	254,200	183,750	246,700	41,032	6,300	199,368
Bayston Hill	324,472	182,825	223,059	11,000	15,000	197,059
Bishops Castle Town	179,670	160,000	225,900	3,000	27,900	195,000
Bridgnorth Town	1,054,221	723,978	1,163,744		365,583	798,161
Broseley Town	358,495	319,303	375,095		55,792	319,303
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	534,790	447,537	533,328		37,152	496,176
Ellesmere Town	318,760	261,412	358,364		73,680	284,684
Highley	N/A	N/A	158,829	13,666	1,057	144,107
Ludlow Town	1,057,161	773,395	1,120,807		297,111	823,696
Market Drayton Town	619,470	546,579	626,530	5,996	66,350	554,184
Much Wenlock Town	306,939	249,532	349,488		74,201	275,287
Oswestry	3,498,165	486,000	3,374,153	1,375,187	1,438,666	560,300
Pontesbury	231,980	207,780	266,413	11,000	34,225	221,188
Shifnal Town	555,913	525,549	568,821		39,007	529,814
Shrewsbury Town	4,198,993	1,670,237	4,505,555	3,884	2,731,582	1,770,089
Wem Town	478,504	380,394	464,670	30,000	34,670	400,000
Whitchurch Town	651,840	556,730	649,892		88,160	561,732

## Council Tax Support

The Council Tax Support Scheme assists people with low income by reducing their Council Tax bill.

Council Tax Support is not awarded to you automatically – you must claim it.

To apply online go to [www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits) or contact us at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactbenefits](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactbenefits)

Please note that normally benefit can only be awarded from the Monday following the date a claim is received by the Council.

You must not withhold payment or part payment of the Council Tax whilst awaiting the outcome of your application.

If you are in receipt of Council Tax Support you have a duty to inform Shropshire Council of any changes in circumstances that may affect your entitlement as soon as possible. This could be changes in your earnings, benefit entitlement, capital / savings, or the number of adults resident in the property. Failure to do so may lead to your benefit being stopped and you owing the council money.



## Universal Credit

Shropshire has now transitioned over to Universal Credit full service. Therefore, dependent on your age, anyone making a new claim for benefit may now be required to claim Universal Credit rather than Housing Benefit to get help with rent.

If you currently receive Housing Benefit, you do not need to do anything and unless there is a change in your circumstances, you may not be required to claim Universal Credit unless told to do so by DWP.

Because of the rules, there are some people who still need to claim Housing Benefit, this applies if:

- You, and your partner, are of Pension Credit age
- You live in specified exempt accommodation
- You live in temporary accommodation provided by Shropshire Council.

To find out if you are affected and what is being replaced visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search Universal Credit. Universal Credit replaces means tested benefits so, if you do need to claim, please remember to claim for any national insurance contribution based benefits as well and remember to claim help with Council Tax Support from Shropshire Council too.

## Demand notice explanatory notes

### Council Tax valuation bands

Most dwellings are subject to the Council Tax. There is one bill for each dwelling, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat, and whether it is owned or rented.

Each dwelling has been placed into one of eight bands by the Listing Officer of the Valuation Office Agency, according to its open market value at 1 April 1991.

Valuation Band	Range of Values
<b>A</b>	<b>up to and including £40,000</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>£40,001 to £52,000</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>£52,001 to £68,000</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>£68,001 to £88,000</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>£88,001 to £120,000</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>£120,001 to £160,000</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>£160,001 to £320,000</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>£320,001 and above</b>

The valuation band for your dwelling is shown on your Council Tax bill. You may look at any property's valuation band on the Valuation Office Agency website ([www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk))

## Appeals to the Valuation Office Agency

The grounds for appeal against your property's valuation band are as follows:

- You became the Council Taxpayer in respect of a property for the first time and you think your valuation band is incorrect your appeal must be made within 6 months
- You believe that the banding should be changed because there has been a reduction in the dwelling's value for example part of it has been demolished
- The Listing Officer has altered the band. This may occur when the property is sold and the previous owner has added an extension.
- You start or stop using your property to carry out a business or the balance between domestic and business use changes

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You can find out more about when you can challenge your band and what you need to do at [www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band](http://www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band) If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay Council Tax at your current band until your appeal is decided.

You can contact the VOA at [www.gov.uk/contactvoa](http://www.gov.uk/contactvoa) If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on 03000 501 501.

You may appeal to the council if you think:

- you are not liable to pay the Council Tax, for example because you are not the resident or owner of the property
- your property should be exempt
- the amount shown on your bill is incorrect

You should make any appeal in writing. The council will consider your case and if we have not contacted you within two months or if no agreement has been reached by this time, you have a further right of appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment or part payment of the council tax. If your appeal is successful you will be entitled to a refund of any overpayment.

## Reductions for people with disabilities

If you, or someone who lives with you, needs an extra room (which could include an extra bathroom or kitchen) or extra space in your property because of a permanent disability you may be entitled to a reduced Council Tax bill. A reduced bill will be calculated as if your property had been placed in a band immediately below the one shown in the valuation list. People in a band A property may also be entitled to a reduced Council Tax bill. If you think that you are entitled to a reduction and it is not shown on your bill, please contact the council. If your property has any special features which have been added for a resident with a disability which reduced the value of the property and you do not think it has been taken into account in the valuation band, you should contact the Listing Officer. (see 'Appeals to the Valuation Office Agency' section).

To apply for a disabled band reduction please visit:

[Disabled band reductions | Shropshire Council](#)

## Discounts

A full Council Tax bill assumes that there are two or more adults living in a property. If you are the only adult living in your property you are entitled to a 25% discount. The following people do not count when calculating the number of adult residents:

- Apprentices
- Care workers or carers
- Foreign diplomats
- Fulltime students, student nurses
- Members of religious communities
- Members of visiting forces
- Non British partners/dependant of a student
- Patients resident in a home
- Patients resident in hospital
- People for whom child benefit is payable
- Prisoners
- Residents of hostels
- School leavers
- Severely mentally impaired
- Youth training trainees

If all the adults resident in your property are not counted, then a discount of 50% will apply. If all but one of the adults resident in your property are not counted, then a discount of 25% will apply.

## Empty property and second homes

- No discount is awarded in respect of second homes (unless you are required to live in another property as a condition of your contract of employment, subject to certain conditions). With effect from 1 April 2025 owners of second homes will pay 100% premium (subject to certain conditions).
- No discount is awarded in respect of property undergoing or in need of major repairs
- Property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than one year but less than five years will pay 100% council tax premium
- Property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years but less than ten years will pay 200% council tax premium
- Property that is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years will pay 300% council tax premium.

As this premium applies to the property, a change of ownership or tenancy will not affect the premium. If, when you purchased or leased your property, it had already been substantially unfurnished for one year or more, you will have to pay the additional council tax charge. The additional charge can only be removed by bringing your property back into use by furnishing or occupying the property for a continuous six-week period.

## Annexes

Some properties, occupied by one household might appear to be single properties. However, they are allocated more than one council tax band. This is because they are made up of more than one self-contained unit and each self-contained unit must have a separate council tax band. The smaller unit is often referred to as an annex.

With effect from 1 April 2014, a 50% discount can be awarded in respect of annexes where:

- The annex is occupied by people related to the person liable to pay the council tax on the main dwelling.
- People who are living in dwellings with annexes which are unoccupied are using those annexes as part of their main residence.

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## Exempt Properties

### Some properties are exempt from council tax:

- B Unoccupied properties owned by charities (exempt for up to six months)
- D Properties left empty by prisoners
- E Properties left empty by long stay patients in hospitals and care homes
- F Properties left empty by deceased persons
- G Properties where occupation is prohibited by law
- H Empty clergy properties
- I Properties left empty by people moving to receive personal care from another

- J Properties left empty by people moving to provide personal care to another
- K Properties left empty by students
- L Repossessed properties
- M Halls of residence
- N Properties occupied by students or school leavers
- O Armed forces accommodation, ie barracks
- P Properties occupied by members of visiting forces
- Q Properties left empty by bankrupts
- R Unoccupied caravan pitches and houseboat moorings
- S Properties occupied only by person(s) under 18
- T Unoccupied annexes which form part of a single property and may not be let separately without a breach of planning consent
- U Properties occupied only by person(s) who are severely mentally impaired
- V Property where at least one person who would otherwise be liable is a diplomat
- W Annexes and similar accommodation occupied by an elderly or disabled relative

For further information or if you think you are entitled to an exemption, please go to [www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax)

Under Section 13A(1)(c) of Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Council has the power to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable as it sees fit.

Under Section 16 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992 a Council Tax payer has a right of appeal to the Council about their liability, or refusal to award a discount, reduction or exemption.

For further information please contact us at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactcounciltax](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactcounciltax)

## Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Levy

**The council is required to provide the following information for the Environment Agency issuing a flood defence levy in the area.**

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 2,486 and 6,500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Severn & Wye and North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committees respectively.

Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

	2023/24 Actual Expenditure		2024/25 Budgeted Expenditure	
	Severn	North West	Severn	North West
Gross Expenditure (£'000s)	31,427	104,636	33,364	131,143
Levies Raised (£'000s)	1,245	4,412	1,270	4,544
<b>Total Council Taxbase Band D Equivalents</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>2,278</b>

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by the Severn & Wye and North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committees has increased by 2.0% and 3.0% respectively.

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £1,245,423 in 2023/24 to £1,270,332 for 2024/25 for the Severn & Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and from £4,411,893 in 2023/24 to £4,544,250 for 2024/25 for the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

The amounts levied on Shropshire Council in 2023/24 and 2024/25 are as follows:

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Severn Region Flood Levy	135,777	138,170
North West Region Flood Levy	5,171	5,327

## Jamie paid his Council Tax whilst walking his dog!



## Pay the easy way and sign up today!

Paying by direct debit saves you time, saves us money and removes the worry of missing a payment.

It also helps us to provide a more efficient service to you. So if you would like to sign up to pay by Direct Debit log on to your Council Tax citizen access account here:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax/your-account-online/>

You'll need your latest Council Tax account reference and your online password from your Council Tax bill in order to do this.

## Cost of Living

Many people are worrying about rising costs. Shropshire Council and its partners has brought together the following information to support our residents at this challenging time.

[Cost of living help | Shropshire Council](#)

## Fair processing notice – how we use your information

The information that you provide will be processed in accordance with Data Protection and other relevant legislation. This council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers and may use information held about you for the prevention and detection of fraud and other lawful purposes.

This may include, but is not limited to, matching Council Tax data with electoral registration records. The council will also use the information for the purpose of performing any of its statutory enforcement duties.

It will make any disclosures required by law and may also share this information with other bodies responsible for detecting or preventing fraud or auditing or administering public funds. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties for marketing purposes.



## Digital switchover

*The UK's telephone network is being upgraded, which means that landline services are changing.*

*You can still have a landline in your home, but the technology that it uses will be different.*

*For most, switching over will be straightforward and won't cost anything, but some people may need new equipment or support to make the changes.*

*Only your current telephone service provider (eg BT) can make this change, so please contact them to find out more.*

## Contact Details:

### Revenues and Benefits

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactcounciltax](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactcounciltax)

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactbenefits](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/contactbenefits)

**National Benefit Fraud hotline 0800 854 440**

**Payment Line 0345 678 9009**

### Revenues and Benefits address is:

Revenues and Benefits, Shropshire Council,  
PO Box 4826, SHREWSBURY, SY1 9LJ

### For general Shropshire Council enquiries:

Visit [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk) or call 0345 678 9000  
[customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk)



Get the latest information and news from Shropshire Council. Sign up to our updates [here](#).

If you can read this but know someone who can't, please contact us on 0345 678 9000 so we can provide this information in a more suitable format.

**Did you know, you can pay  
your Council Tax by Direct Debit visit:  
[shropshire.gov.uk/counciltaxonline](https://shropshire.gov.uk/counciltaxonline)**