



South Staffordshire Council

Council Tax

Financial information

2025/26



www.sstaffs.gov.uk



Financial Information 2025/26

Welcome

Now more than ever, people and businesses are turning to their local authorities for support. It is therefore vital that we continue to provide those services that are important to you.

South Staffordshire Council is continually working hard to ensure that we retain high quality value for money services for our residents and local businesses.

This booklet outlines how South Staffordshire Council plans to spend the money raised from your council tax this year. Please take a few minutes to read through this information. You may find you are eligible to claim an exemption or discount, which could reduce how much council tax you need to pay.



My Login

Report • Pay • Apply • Request



A brand-new feature is now live on our website, allowing residents to report issues directly to us and access a range of services, whenever and wherever is convenient for them.

We have created a user guide to walk you through creating an account at:

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/my-login-user-guide

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

The table below shows how much of your council tax goes to each authority.

Who gets your money? Your bill is divided up like this (Band D)	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Increase this year	Percentage Share
South Staffordshire District Council	140.34	145.34	3.56%	6.5%
Parish councils	69.99	73.27	4.69%	3.3%
Staffordshire County Council	1,544.64	1,621.71	4.99%	73.1%
Police Authority	273.57	287.57	5.12%	13.0%
Fire and Rescue Authority	86.77	91.77	5.76%	4.1%
Total amount payable (Band D)*	2,115.31	2,219.66	4.93%	100.0%

***This is the average amount all Band D properties in South Staffordshire will pay for their core services. The parish council charge is an average amount. The charge varies according to which parish you live in, please see pages 10 and 11 for further details.**

The actual amount of council tax you pay will depend on which council tax band your property is in. Any discounts and benefits you are entitled to receive may reduce your charge.

Summary of your council tax charge

The table below shows you what each authority plans to spend in the coming year and the amount each will raise from council tax.

	South Staffordshire Council £000's	Fire & Rescue Authority £000's	OPCC £000's	County Council £000's
Gross spending	44,290	59,357	299,790	1,536,400
Less income	28,689	6,031	17,009	801,358
Net expenditure	15,601	53,326	282,781	735,042
Business rate income	7,493	10,547		138,715
Government grant	1,884	7,621		111,885
Transfer from collection fund	638			648
Police grant			171,625	
Enterprise zone disregard				
Use of reserves	-255	1,330	5,142	-3,866
Gov grants and other contributions	9,760	19,498	176,767	247,382
Amount to be raised from council tax	5,841	33,828	106,014	487,660

To work out the **Band D** council tax we divide the amount to be raised from council tax by the number of **Band D** equivalent properties in Staffordshire.

Introduction

Find out more about your council tax bill, including information on discounts, exemptions and appeals.

How is council tax calculated?

Your council tax is based on two adults living in a property.

- If only one person lives there, they are entitled to a 25% discount.
- If you are in receipt of a low income your bill may be reduced by council tax Support.
- Certain properties could be 100% exempt even if they are occupied. **See page 6 for more detail.**

Please remember, if you are waiting for the outcome of an application for a reduction, you must continue to pay your current bill.

If successful, you will be entitled to a refund of any overpaid council tax.

Could I get a discount?

This depends on the number of adults in your house and their circumstances. If any of the adults are on the list below, they may not be counted for council tax purposes. If this takes the number of 'counted' adults below two, you are eligible for a discount.

- Full-time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees and foreign language assistants.
- Young people for whom child benefit is payable and 18/19 year olds who have just left school or college.
- Patients resident in hospital or being looked after in care homes.
- Severely mentally impaired people.
- People in hostels or night shelters.
- Low paid care workers usually for charities.
- People caring for a person with a disability who is NOT a partner or child under 18.
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns.
- People in detention (except for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine).
- Spouses or dependants of students who are non-British subjects and are prevented by immigration regulations from working or claiming benefits.
- Members of visiting forces, certain international and defence organisations and those with diplomatic privilege or immunity.



FACTS ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

Empty and second homes

You may be able to get a discount on your bill for empty and unfurnished homes. If the property is furnished, a discount may apply if you live in job related accommodation.

A 100% discount for a maximum of one month will be given for a property that is empty and unfurnished. If the property is deemed uninhabitable, a 50% discount can be given for 12 months.

If a property is empty and unfurnished for over two years then a premium is charged of 100% of the council tax charge. For properties empty for more than five years, the premium increases to 200%. If the property remains empty for 10 years, the premium increases to 300%.

From the 1st April, 2025 there will be no council tax discount for unoccupied or uninhabitable properties. Any properties currently in receipt of these discounts as at the 31st March, 2025 will begin paying a full charge with effect 1st April, 2025.

Premium council tax charges can also be applied to empty properties. If a property is empty and unfurnished for over two years then a premium is charged of 100% of the council tax charge. For properties empty for more than five years, the premium increases to 200%. If the property remains empty for 10 years, the premium increases to 300%. From the 1st April, 2026 this premium charge will be applicable once a property has been unoccupied and unfurnished for one year.

From the 1st April, 2025 there will be exceptions to the premium charge. To find out about these exceptions and how to apply to have the premium charge removed, please visit our website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts-exemptions-and-reductions under empty and unoccupied properties section.

Furthermore, from the 1st April, 2026 properties which are considered 'second homes', which are properties either not occupied as someone's main residence or are unoccupied but furnished will also attract a premium charge.

Reduction for people with disabilities

If you, or someone who lives with you, needs a room, an extra bathroom or kitchen, or extra space in your property to meet special needs arising from a disability, your bill may be reduced.

The bill may be reduced to that of a property in the band immediately below the band of your property. If your property is in Band A, a reduction (equivalent to a band) will be given. This reduction is not based on your income or savings.

Council tax valuation bands

The Valuation Office Agency, part of HM Revenue and Customs (not your local council), has put every property into one of eight valuation bands.

A full list of valuation bands is available on its website at www.voa.gov.uk (see table below).

Band	Range of values as at 1st April, 1991	Proportion of Band D tax payable
A	Up to and including £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	1
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	More than £320,000	2

Your council tax bill states which band applies to your home and your home's valuation is based on an estimate of how much it was worth on 1st April, 1991. Price changes since that time won't affect the valuation.

Could I be exempt from council tax?

Some properties may be exempt from council tax.

Class	Unoccupied properties which are:
B	Owned by a charity (allowed for up to six months).
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison.
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care.
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted (continuous for up to six months after being granted).
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law.
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion.
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness.
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person.
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student.
L	Subject to a Repossession Order.
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt person's trustee.
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring.
T	Unable to let separately because it is linked to, or in the grounds, of another property.

Class Occupied properties where:

M/N	All the residents are students.
O	They are used for UK armed forces accommodation, whether occupied or not.
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force.
S	All residents are less than 18 years old.
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired.
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat.
W	It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives.

FACTS ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL

Can I appeal against my council tax band?

Yes, you may appeal against your council tax band. There are several situations where you can appeal against the band in which your house has been placed:

- **Within six months of becoming the new tax payer for the property.**
- **Within six months of the Valuation Office Agency making a change to the band.**
- **If there have been specific material changes in the property value.**

Any queries about appeals and bandings should be made direct to the Valuation Office Agency at www.gov.uk

What if I don't think I should be paying council tax?

You can appeal to the council if you think you are not liable to pay council tax e.g. because you are not the resident or owner, or because your property is exempt or you are entitled to a discount or reduction.

You should not withhold payment if you are making an appeal. You should pay as normal and a refund will be made if you are successful.

Changes in circumstances

If you have been granted a reduction **you must tell the council of any change in circumstances which will affect your entitlement within 21 days**. If you fail to do so you may be faced with a penalty of £70.

How we collect and use information

We are required under Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to participate in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data matching exercise. Council tax data is provided to the Audit Commission for this purpose and will be used for cross-systems and cross-authority comparison for the prevention and detection of fraud.

We advise council tax payers that the data held by the council in respect of your council tax liability will be used for comparison purposes.

The eight district and borough councils within the Staffordshire area are also working in partnership with Staffordshire County Council to conduct a review of council tax discounts. The council may share the information you have provided to the council tax team, with private organisations employed to conduct data matching for the prevention and detection of fraud.

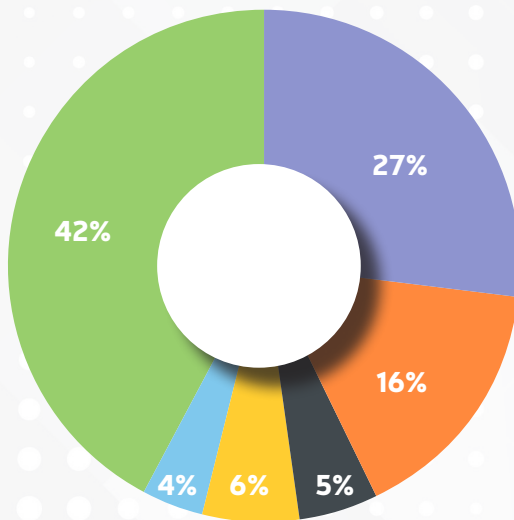
Data matching helps to identify fraud but it may also identify claims and payments which are erroneous. Where a match is found it may indicate that there is an inconsistency which requires further investigation. No assumption is made as to whether there is fraud, error or another explanation until an investigation is carried out.

If you are currently in receipt of a council tax discount that you are not entitled to, or require further information, please contact the council on **01902 696000**.



SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET

Service by service spend 2025/26



Planning and Enterprise Services	2.56m
Community services	11.76m
Corporate Services	6.95m
Estates, Assets & Commercial Services	2.30m
Regulatory Services	1.52m
Welfare services	18.20m

Total service gross expenditure **£43.29 million**

Council tax requirement 2025/26

	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	Increase
Gross expenditure	48,339	43,293	
Income	(26,738)	(27,296)	
Total service expenditure	21,601	15,997	-25.9%
Less investment income	(680)	(488)	
Plus borrowing costs	235	347	
Taken from reserves	(1,742)	0	
South Staffordshire Council's council tax budget requirement	19,414	15,856	-17.9%
Less: government support	(7,531)	(10,015)	
Enterprise zone disregard	(6,281)		
	(13,812)	(10,015)	-27.0%
Amount to be met from South Staffordshire council tax payers	5,602	5,841	4.3%
Council tax at Band D	140.34	145.34	3.6%

Revenue reserves are estimated to be £7.498m at 31st March 2025 and £7.753m at 31st March 2026.

Financial Information 2025/26

Council tax summary

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Increase
South Staffordshire Council	140.34	145.34	3.56%
Parishes	69.99	73.27	4.69%
Staffordshire County Council	1,544.64	1,621.71	4.99%
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	273.57	287.57	5.12%
Fire authority	86.77	91.77	5.76%
Council tax	2,115.31	2,219.66	4.93%

Why the council tax needs to increase this year

	£m	£m	£m
Raised from council tax in 2024/25			5.602
Changes in gross expenditure			
Budget pressures	0.381		
Inflation	0.272	0.653	
Changes in income			
Inflation	(0.143)		
Additional Income	(0.442)		
		(0.585)	
Decreased use of reserves		1.710	1.778
Changes in Central Government Support			(1.539)
Raised from council tax in 2025/26			5.841

Council tax amounts 2025/26

Precept 2024/25 £		Precept 2025/26 £
5,601,536.37	South Staffordshire Council	5,841,360.00
61,652,822.00	Staffordshire County Council	65,178,147.00
10,919,284.00	Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	11,557,725.87
3,463,341.00	Staffordshire Fire Authority	3,688,328.07
81,636,983.37		86,265,560.94
31,500.00	Acton Trussell, Bednall and Teddesley Hay	39,000.00
105,000.00	Bilbrook	110,000.00
6,500.00	Blymhill and Weston-under-Lizard	6,825.00
5,650.00	Bobbington	5,933.00
191,697.62	Brewood and Coven	212,061.70
238,239.67	Cheslyn Hay	251,345.81
199,572.92	Codsall	202,925.33
4,850.00	Dunston with Coppenhall	5,093.00
7,780.00	Enville	8,020.00
146,041.00	Essington	152,000.00
111,740.00	Featherstone	122,914.00
216,488.00	Great Wyrley	227,312.00
29,767.00	Hatherton	30,511.00
6,483.00	Hilton	6,677.00
12,000.00	Himley	12,000.00
100,000.00	Huntington	104,000.00
166,998.00	Kinver	192,048.00
130,508.00	Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston	134,364.00
17,260.00	Lower Penn	17,260.00
46,209.00	Pattingham and Patshull	46,209.00
310,000.00	Penkridge	310,000.00
248,001.00	Perton	264,705.00
21,877.00	Saredon	22,665.00
25,308.00	Shareshill	26,573.00
18,200.00	Swindon	18,200.00
37,650.00	Trysull and Seisdon	39,680.00
358,390.00	Wombourne	376,309.50
2,793,710.21	Amount required from council tax	2,944,631.34*

*If this is divided by the relevant TAXBASE of **40,191** it gives an average council tax for Band D of **£2,219.66**. To calculate the Band D council tax in a particular parish, we have to use the Parish requirement and the appropriate taxbase for that Parish.

To calculate YOUR council tax (before any reliefs or reductions)

1. Pick your property's band.
2. Add together the charges for South Staffordshire Council, Staffordshire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Staffordshire Fire Authority and your Parish Council.

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
96.89	113.04	129.19	145.34	177.64	209.94	242.23	290.68
1081.14	1261.33	1441.52	1621.71	1982.09	2342.47	2702.85	3243.42
191.71	223.67	255.62	287.57	351.47	415.38	479.28	575.14
61.18	71.38	81.57	91.77	112.16	132.56	152.95	183.54
1430.92	1669.42	1907.9	2146.39	2623.36	3100.35	3577.31	4292.78
42.39	49.45	56.52	63.58	77.71	91.84	105.97	127.16
45.03	52.53	60.04	67.54	82.55	97.56	112.57	135.08
12.83	14.97	17.11	19.25	23.53	27.81	32.08	38.50
15.85	18.50	21.14	23.78	29.06	34.35	39.63	47.56
44.75	52.21	59.67	67.13	82.05	96.97	111.88	134.26
75.11	87.62	100.14	112.66	137.70	162.73	187.77	225.32
42.03	49.03	56.04	63.04	77.05	91.06	105.07	126.08
12.89	15.03	17.18	19.33	23.63	27.92	32.22	38.66
22.56	26.32	30.08	33.84	41.36	48.88	56.40	67.68
58.81	68.61	78.41	88.21	107.81	127.41	147.02	176.42
73.11	85.29	97.48	109.66	134.03	158.40	182.77	219.32
44.21	51.57	58.94	66.31	81.05	95.78	110.52	132.62
72.98	85.14	97.31	109.47	133.80	158.12	182.45	218.94
89.95	104.94	119.93	134.92	164.90	194.88	224.87	269.84
15.51	18.10	20.68	23.27	28.44	33.61	38.78	46.54
54.23	63.26	72.30	81.34	99.42	117.49	135.57	162.68
37.87	44.19	50.50	56.81	69.43	82.06	94.68	113.62
84.90	99.05	113.20	127.35	155.65	183.95	212.25	254.70
23.73	27.69	31.64	35.60	43.51	51.42	59.33	71.20
30.37	35.43	40.49	45.55	55.67	65.79	75.92	91.10
60.37	70.43	80.49	90.55	110.67	130.79	150.92	181.10
50.00	58.33	66.67	75.00	91.67	108.33	125.00	150.00
49.81	58.11	66.41	74.71	91.31	107.91	124.52	149.42
56.54	65.96	75.39	84.81	103.66	122.50	141.35	169.62
24.35	28.40	32.46	36.52	44.64	52.75	60.87	73.04
45.00	52.50	60.00	67.50	82.50	97.50	112.50	135.00
47.78	55.74	63.71	71.67	87.60	103.52	119.45	143.34

Parish Council budgets 2025/26

Budget information for those Parish Councils with a precept over £140,000

2024/25 Expenditure		2025/26 Expenditure	
Gross £000's	Net £000's	Gross £000's	Net £000's

2024/25 Expenditure		2025/26 Expenditure	
Gross £000's	Net £000's	Gross £000's	Net £000's

Cheslyn Hay Parish Council

Revenue	268	259	281	230
Capital		5		5
		264		235
Contribution from balances		(26)	16	
Precept		238		251
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation		10		5
Service provision		5		7
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		50		43
Staff employed (FTEs)		4.75		4.75

Perton Parish Council

Revenue	436	358	526	447
Capital		30		30
		388		477
Contribution from balances		(140)	16	
Precept		248		265
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation		23		7
Service provision				10
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		30		30
Staff employed (FTEs)		6		6

Great Wyrley Parish Council

Revenue	280	234	295	247
Capital				
		234		247
Contribution from balances		(18)	(20)	
Precept		216		227
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation			5	
Service provision			6	
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		170		186
Staff employed (FTEs)		5.0		4

Wombourne Parish Council

Revenue	399	262	416	268
Capital				
		262		268
Contribution from balances		96	108	
Precept		358		376
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation		13		
Service provision		13		
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		136		146
Staff employed (FTEs)		5		5

Penkridge Parish Council

Revenue	431	334	442	340
Capital		42		50
		376		390
Contribution from balances		(66)	(80)	
Precept		310		310
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation		20		
Service provision		20		
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		5.34		5.34
Staff employed (FTEs)		5.34		5.34

Codsall Parish Council

Revenue	270	256	292	284
Capital				
		256		284
Contribution from balances		(56)	(81)	
Precept		200		203
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation				
Service provision		6		2
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		63		82
Staff employed (FTEs)		3.3		3.3

Kinver Parish Council

Revenue	181	167	220	192
Capital		0		0
		167		192
Contribution from balances		0	0	
Precept		167		192
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation		5		5
Service provision				20
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		59		71
Staff employed (FTEs)		3		3

Brewood and Coven Parish Council

Revenue	294	277	389	358
Capital		32		22
		309		380
Contribution from balances		(117)	(168)	
Precept		192		212
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation		17		10
Service provision				10
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		100		76
Staff employed (FTEs)		3.5		3.5

Essington Parish Council

Revenue	228	131	234	125
Capital		95		61
		226		186
Contribution from balances		(80)	(34)	
Precept		146		152
<i>Difference made up as follows:</i>				
Inflation			6	
Service provision				
Use of balances				
Reserves at 31 March		205		205
Staff employed (FTEs)		1.1		1.7



Council Tax booklet - 2025/2026

The council tax (Demand Notices) (England) regulations 2011

Changes in Gross Budgeted expenditure between the years reflect the impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of capital projects.

The total Levy raised has increased from £3,583,804 in 2024/2025 to £3,655,480 in 2025/2026.

Severn & Wye regional flood and coastal committee	2024/2025 £000's	2025/2026 £000's
Gross expenditure	£34,573	£32,588
Levies raised	£1,270	£1,296
Total Council Tax base	1,029	1,049

Severn & Wye Flood and Coastal Committee	2024/2025 £000's	2025/2026 £000's
Gross expenditure	£67,518	£99,241
Levies raised	£2,313	£2,360
Total Council Tax base	1,930	1,959

Combined	2024/2025 £000's	2025/2026 £000's
Gross expenditure	£102,091	£131,829
Levies raised	£3,583	£3,656
Total Council Tax base	2,959	3,008

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





South Staffordshire Council

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