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Royal Borough  
of Windsor &  
Maidenhead

# Your guide to Council Tax 2023/24



# Royal Borough revenue budget

	2022/23	2023/24			
Service / Expenses	Net expenditure £'000	Gross expenditure £'000	Specific Govt. grants £'000	Other income £'000	Net expenditure £'000
Chief Executive Department	279	275	0	(13)	262
Children's Services	27,145	109,986	(81,823)	(280)	27,883
Adults, Health & Commissioning	40,711	69,446	(5,387)	(22,724)	41,335
Place	13,122	35,011	(82)	(22,070)	12,859
Resources	4,876	36,453	(21,499)	(9,520)	5,434
Governance, Law and Strategy & Public Health	3,485	10,338	(4,967)	(1,111)	4,261
<b>Service Expenditure</b>	<b>89,618</b>	<b>261,509</b>	<b>(113,758)</b>	<b>(55,718)</b>	<b>92,033</b>
Non-Service Costs	13,728				16,618
<b>Total Borough Expenditure</b>	<b>103,346</b>				<b>108,651</b>
Funding	(20,853)				(21,428)
<b>Total Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>82,493</b>				<b>87,223</b>



# Royal Borough budget 2023/24 and changes

The Royal Borough has set a Band D equivalent (including Adult Social Care precept) Council Tax of £1,223.11 for the year ended 31 March 2024. This is calculated as follows - **Tax base (Band D equivalent properties) 69,736 for 2022-23 and 70,250 for 2023-24.**

	2022/23		2023/24	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR &amp; MAIDENHEAD</b>				
The Royal Borough Budget Requirement		103,346		108,651
National Non Domestic Rates	(14,296)		(14,226)	
Other Grants	(7,340)		(7,202)	
Collection Fund (surplus) / deficit	783	(20,853)	0	(21,428)
<b>Net Council Tax Requirement</b>		<b>82,493</b>		<b>87,223</b>
<b>BAND D EQUIVALENT CHARGE (excluding adult social care and special expenses) (A)</b>		<b>1,025.90</b>		<b>1,060.73</b>
<b>Adult Social Care precept - BAND D EQUIVALENT (B)</b>		<b>139.09</b>		<b>162.38</b>
<b>POLICE &amp; CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY</b>				
Total Budget Requirement	505,000		524,212	
The Royal Borough Police Precept	16,826		18,004	
<b>BAND D EQUIVALENT (C)</b>		<b>241.28</b>		<b>256.28</b>
<b>ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICE</b>				
Total Budget Requirement	38,446		41,975	
The Royal Borough Fire Authority Precept	5,157		5,546	
<b>BAND D EQUIVALENT (D)</b>		<b>73.95</b>		<b>78.95</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL BAND D EQUIVALENT (Excluding Parish figure) A + B + C + D</b>		<b>1,480.22</b>		<b>1,558.34</b>

## Royal Borough budget changes 2022/23 to 2023/24

	£'000
<b>Budget requirement 2022/23</b>	<b>103,346</b>
Inflation	3,879
Savings and Growth	(366)
Removal of C-19 budget	(1,092)
Funding changes	230
Change in Non service	2,557
<b>Other Adjustments</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Budget requirement 2023/24</b>	<b>108,651</b>

## Environment Agency

The Environment Agency charges local authorities, including The Royal Borough, a levy for providing flood defence. In the Thames region, this includes maintenance of the river system and the operation of a flood warning system. In 2022/23 The Royal Borough's levy was £164,282.73, for 2023/24 the levy is £166,131.

## Parish council costs

Each parish council tells the borough council how much to collect to enable them to provide their services, and the Royal Borough collects this and passes it on.

Parish	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24 charge
	Precept £	Precept £	Band D £
Bisham	35,391	39,998	54.20
Bray	204,350	217,633	48.56
Cookham	134,077	140,781	47.24
Cox Green	175,803	189,173	61.86
Datchet	144,531	144,531	63.52
Eton	124,190	130,165	70.99
Horton	45,405	45,560	97.81
Hurley	34,000	35,000	34.32
Old Windsor	174,377	175,822	72.42
Shottesbrooke	-	-	0.00
Sunningdale	213,224	228,962	64.35
Sunninghill & Ascot	214,112	260,360	38.87
Waltham St. Lawrence	26,500	29,000	41.95
White Waltham	130,510	133,014	102.33
Wraysbury	106,700	128,000	59.33
Unparished*	1,250,746	1,298,736	35.60

\*If you live in Windsor or Maidenhead, you pay a contribution towards the services provided in Maidenhead or Windsor in the same way that a parish charge is made upon people who live in a precepting parish.

## Report it!

### How to report:

! **Visit** the Department for Work and Pensions Benefit theft website [www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud](http://www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud)

! **Call** 0800 854 440 (text phone 0800 3280 512).

! **Write** to NBFH, PO Box 224, Preston, PR1 1GP.

### All other fraud

To report a fraud affecting the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, such as Council Tax support, social care, blue badges, housing applications or any other council area, please call the confidential fraud hotline 020 8142 8462 or email [confidential@swapaudit.co.uk](mailto:confidential@swapaudit.co.uk) giving as much information about the fraud as you can (SWAP internal audit services for RBWM).





## Adult social care precept

### What is the adult social care precept?

Since 2016/17 the Government has given councils the power to apply an additional charge on top of Council Tax to provide more funding for adult social care services.

The precept was introduced to ensure council services can support vulnerable residents and meet the increase in demand as our population ages.

This additional funding has paid for:

- More nursing beds for residents with dementia and other complex needs.
- Meeting the increased cost of care in care homes and people's own homes.
- Improving the accommodation offer for residents with learning disabilities.

### Cheques no longer accepted

Cheques are no longer accepted at the Royal Borough as a form of payment.

You will still be able to make payments to us for Council Tax, business rates or anything else using a credit or debit card or via bank transfer.



# Funding for Adult Social Care

The Secretary of State made an offer to Adult Social Care Authorities (these are local authorities, including Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, 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).

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 its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016/17. It was originally made in respect of financial years up to and including 2019/20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew the offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to approval of the House of Commons.

The Government has said that this precept must be shown as a separate charge on all council tax bills. The income generated from this charge is ring-fenced, meaning it can only be used for Adult Social Care services.

The table below for a Band D property shows the total amount to date that has been ring-fenced for Adult Social care, i.e., £162.38:

Year	RBWM Band D basic charge & ASC (Opening balance)	Council tax Increase	%age Increase on Ctax basic charge	"ASC Precept Band D Increase"	%age Increase on ASC element	RBWM - Basic charge & ASC (Closing Band D)	Cumulative ASC
2016/17	£906.95	£0.00	0.00%	£18.14	2.0%	£925.09	£18.14
2017/18	£925.09	£8.62	0.95%	£27.75	3.0%	£961.46	£45.89
2018/19	£961.46	£17.85	1.95%	£28.85	3.0%	£1,008.16	£74.74
2019/20	£1,008.16	£27.91	2.99%	£28.85	0.0%	£1,036.07	£74.74
2020/21	£1,036.07	£20.62	1.99%	£20.72	2.0%	£1,077.41	£95.46
2021/22	£1,077.41	£21.44	1.99%	£32.32	3.0%	£1,131.17	£127.78
2022/23	£1,131.17	£22.51	1.99%	£11.31	1.0%	£1,164.99	£139.09
2023/24	£1,164.99	£34.83	2.99%	£23.29	2.0%	£1,223.11	£162.38
<b>Total</b>		<b>£153.78</b>		<b>£162.38</b>			

The Adult Social Care precept for 2023/24 (£162.38 for band D) combines the amount charged in 2016/17 to 2023/24.

Adult Social Care services support some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, largely supporting those in old age and adults with disabilities. While we appreciate not everyone may currently require Adult Social Care services, it must be charged and paid by all residents.

The Adult Social Care precept has had to be shown as a cumulative figure on the council tax bill since it was introduced. The % Increase allowed for 2023-24 is 2% of RBWM's 2022/23 total council tax bill.

Although the amount on the Band D bill shows a change from £139.09 to £162.38 (an increase of £23.29) this appears to be a 16.74% increase, the actual increase is only 2%, or £23.29. This being 2% of 2022/23 Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead element of the bill and ASC element (£1,164.99) and not on the ASC element only. These values need to be adjusted for the other bands accordingly.

### **To check your 2023/24 ASC Precept:**

1. Add together the amount for the "Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead" and "Adult Social Care\*\*" on your 2022/23 bill to get the total amount
2. You then need to calculate 2% of this total amount.
3. Add this 2% figure to the 2022/23 Adult Social Care amount. The result is the Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept you are being charged for 2023/24.

Council Tax charges for your local Town or Parish council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the fire services are shown on your bill separately and you do not need to include them to calculate the Precept.

**Please note:** The government has said that the ASC precept must be shown as a separate charge on all council tax bills. The way that we work out this increase and show it on our council tax bills is prescribed by The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

By law, any increases on your council tax bill must be shown to the nearest decimal point – which means that the 1.99% general expenditure increase must be shown as 2%.



# How much is your total bill?

The amount you will pay depends on which of the eight valuation bands your home is in. The bands are based on your home's capital value at 1 April 1991 and are set by the government's Valuation Office. The table below sets out how much your bill will be depending on your parish and valuation band.

## Valuation band & range

<b>A</b> - Up to £40,000	<b>E</b> - £88,001 to £120,000
<b>B</b> - £40,001 to £52,000	<b>F</b> - £120,001 to £160,000
<b>C</b> - £52,001 to £68,000	<b>G</b> - £160,001 to £320,000
<b>D</b> - £68,001 to £88,000	<b>H</b> - More than £320,000

BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Bisham	1075.02	1254.21	1433.37	1612.54	1970.87	2329.22	2687.56	3225.08
Bray	1071.26	1249.82	1428.35	1606.90	1963.98	2321.07	2678.16	3213.80
Cookham	1070.38	1248.79	1427.18	1605.58	1962.37	2319.17	2675.96	3211.16
Cox Green	1080.13	1260.16	1440.18	1620.20	1980.24	2340.28	2700.33	3240.40
Datchet	1081.24	1261.45	1441.65	1621.86	1982.27	2342.68	2703.10	3243.72
Eton	1086.22	1267.26	1448.29	1629.33	1991.40	2353.47	2715.55	3258.66
Horton	1104.10	1288.12	1472.13	1656.15	2024.18	2392.21	2760.25	3312.30
Hurley	1061.77	1238.74	1415.70	1592.66	1946.58	2300.50	2654.43	3185.32
Old Windsor	1087.17	1268.38	1449.56	1630.76	1993.14	2355.54	2717.93	3261.52
Shottesbrooke	1038.89	1212.05	1385.19	1558.34	1904.63	2250.93	2597.23	3116.68
Sunningdale	1081.79	1262.10	1442.39	1622.69	1983.28	2343.88	2704.48	3245.38
Sunninghill & Ascot	1064.80	1242.28	1419.74	1597.21	1952.14	2307.08	2662.01	3194.42
Waltham St. Lawrence	1066.86	1244.68	1422.48	1600.29	1955.90	2311.52	2667.15	3200.58
White Waltham	1107.11	1291.64	1476.15	1660.67	2029.70	2398.74	2767.78	3321.34
Wraysbury	1078.44	1258.20	1437.93	1617.67	1977.14	2336.63	2696.11	3235.34
Unparished	1062.62	1239.74	1416.83	1593.94	1948.14	2302.35	2656.56	3187.88



# Council Tax discounts

## Single person discount

A 25 percent discount is given where a property is the sole or main residence of only one adult aged 18 or over.

## Disregard discount

Some people will get a discount because they or the people they live with are not 'counted' for Council Tax purposes.

The people who are not 'counted' include:

- Full-time students, youth training trainees, apprentices and some student nurses.
- People who are severely mentally impaired.
- 18 and 19-year-olds who have just left school.
- People caring for someone with a disability (other than their partner or a child under 18).

## Job related discount

If you pay Council Tax on two properties because you are required to live in one of them as a condition of your employment, you may be entitled to a 50 percent discount on one property.

## Empty properties

If a property is unoccupied and unfurnished for a period of at least two years, a 100 percent Council Tax premium is payable on top of the full Council Tax for the property. From 1 April 2020, the premium rose to 200 percent where the property has been empty and unfurnished for at least five years and 300 percent where it has been empty and unfurnished for at least ten years.

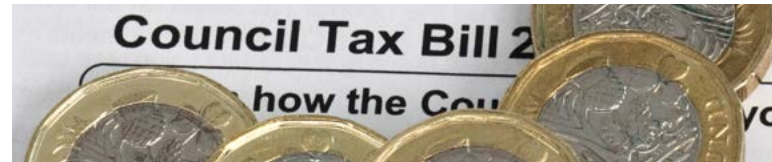
The Royal Borough intends to take advantage of any changes to the ability to charge a premium on Council Tax for long term empty

properties and second homes contained within the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill at the earliest opportunity available

## People with disabilities

You may be entitled to a Council Tax reduction if your property has:

- An additional bathroom or kitchen required for meeting the needs of a disabled resident.
- Sufficient floor space for a wheelchair which is used for meeting the needs of a disabled resident.
- A room predominantly used by and required for meeting the needs of a disabled person.



## Appeals

### Appealing against your banding

If you think your property should be in a different valuation band, you should contact the Valuation Office Agency to ask them to check it or to find out what your rights are and how to appeal. Their website is [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk).

### Appeals against liability or amount payable

If you feel you should not be liable for Council Tax you can appeal to the council. You can also appeal if you have asked for a discount or exemption that has not been awarded. For a full list of Council Tax discounts and exemptions, please visit the website.

## Council Tax exemptions

The following unoccupied properties may be exempt from Council Tax:

- Owned by a charity (up to six months).
- Was the home of someone who is in detention (i.e. in prison or detained under Mental Health Act or Immigration Act).
- Was the home of someone who has gone to live elsewhere to receive care (including a residential care home, hospital or with relatives), or was the home of someone who has moved away to provide care for another person.
- Self-contained property which forms part of another dwelling (e.g. an annexe) and it would be a breach of planning law to let it separately.
- Where executors are responsible for the property and are waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted.

The following occupied properties may be exempt from Council Tax:

- Occupied only by students or people who are severely mentally impaired.
- Annexe occupied by elderly or disabled relatives.

## Council Tax support and second adult rebate

### Council Tax support

Since 1 April 2013 Council Tax Benefit has been replaced by Council Tax Support. If you are not receiving Council Tax Support you could be missing out on support of up to a 100 percent reduction in your Council Tax bill if you are a pensioner.

### Second adult rebate

If you have someone aged over 18 living with you and they have a low income and are not a spouse or partner you could qualify for a 25 percent second adult rebate.

### Had a change in your circumstances?

The amount you are entitled to is affected by many things including the income of your household, the number and ages of the people living there, any disability, your Council Tax and savings.

If your claim is not based on current information there is a chance you could be getting too much support – or not enough.

If your circumstances have changed you must notify us immediately.

## Unoccupied and unfurnished properties

Please note that, since April 2017 no reduction is available to properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished. This means that full Council Tax is payable on these properties.

If the property remains empty and unfurnished for two years, then a 100 percent premium is payable on top of the full Council Tax for the property.

This will increase to 200 percent if the property remains empty and unfurnished for at least five years and 300 percent where it has been empty and unfurnished for at least ten years. There is no reduction for properties undergoing or requiring structural alterations. For further details please visit the council's website.



# Struggling with the cost of living?



**If you are struggling financially and having to make difficult decisions – help is available.**

**Please visit [www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help](https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help) to see what support might be available to you. If you aren't online, call 01628 683800 or visit your library**



## Household Support Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund aims to help households in need to deal with the rising costs of living. If you are facing financial difficulties and are at risk of problems escalating, you may be able to receive a £145 cash payment, to help.

Residents can apply for this support through speaking to one of nine organisations across the borough, who are partnering with the council. Residents are not able to apply to the council directly.

We are working with:

- Citizens Advice East Berkshire (CAEB)
- Abri Housing Association
- Housing Solutions
- Royal Borough Housing Service
- Age Concern Windsor
- Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead Social Prescribing service for the Primary Care networks
- West Windsor Hub
- The Baby Bank
- Maidenhead Foodshare

Please approach Citizens Advice East Berkshire (CAEB), if you are unsure which of these organisations to contact. If possible, please email [hsf@caeb.org.uk](mailto:hsf@caeb.org.uk), as this is the quickest way to request support. CAEB also have a drop-in service at 4 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7YR on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10am - 12pm.

Visit the Household Support Fund webpage <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/community-and-living/community-support/here-help/household-support-fund>, for more information about the scheme and how to apply or scan the QR code below.



## Here to help support

If you are struggling with the cost of living there are schemes and support that could help. Visit [www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help](https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help) for more information or visit the government support webpage at [www.gov.uk/cost-of-living](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living) to find out what support is available. This includes income and disability benefits, bills and allowances, childcare, housing and travel. Alternatively, call 01628 683800 or pop into your local library.



HM Government

www.rbwm.gov.uk



# Make maths work for you

## Free adult numeracy courses to help at work and home

**SKILLS  
FOR LIFE**

**Multiply**

### Don't let numbers hold you back!

Boosting your maths skills can help you unlock more job opportunities, lead to higher wages or prepare you for further study. It also benefits you in everyday life, such as helping children with homework or making sure your household bills and budget add up.

### Free maths courses for adults

Multiply is a new government-funded programme, working with local councils, to help adults improve their numeracy skills. If you're aged 19 or over and don't have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), you can join free numeracy courses to build your confidence with numbers and gain a qualification.

### What courses are available?

There are courses for beginners looking to get to grips with maths, through to more advanced courses such as GCSE Maths, Functional Skills Qualifications, or equivalent. Online tutorials are also available, so you can learn at a pace that suits you.

### Take the next step today

Visit [skillsforlife.campaign.gov.uk/multiply](https://skillsforlife.campaign.gov.uk/multiply) to sign up and take a quick quiz to see where you might want to brush up on your numbers. Email [multiply@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@rbwm.gov.uk) for more information.

To register for our Community Learning courses:

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddjhsnb>

Scan the QR code,

Call 01753 476611



To register for other courses:

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4ed32jj5>

Scan the QR code

Call 01753 793288





## Further information about Council Tax can be found at:

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead - <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-tax-and-benefits>

The Environment Agency - [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley - [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service - [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk)

## Mandatory parish precept information available at:

Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council - <https://sunninghillandascotparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Datchet Parish Council - [www.datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Bray Parish Council - [www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Cox Green Parish Council - [www.coxgreen.gov.uk](http://www.coxgreen.gov.uk)

Sunningdale Parish Council - [www.sunningdale-pc.org.uk](http://www.sunningdale-pc.org.uk)

Old Windsor Parish Council - [www.owpc.co.uk](http://www.owpc.co.uk)

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Contact Us:

01628 683800

[customer.service@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@rbwm.gov.uk)

[www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk)



The  
Electoral  
Commission



From May 2023, you will need to bring photo ID to be able to vote at a polling station. A range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences, and certain concessionary travel cards.

## No ID? You can apply for a free voter ID

Find out more call 0800 328 0280 or visit:

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)



Deadline for applying is 5pm 25 April 2023

Please also consider voting by post or appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf. Your proxy will need to provide their own voter ID. Find out more at:

[www.gov.uk/how-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote)

