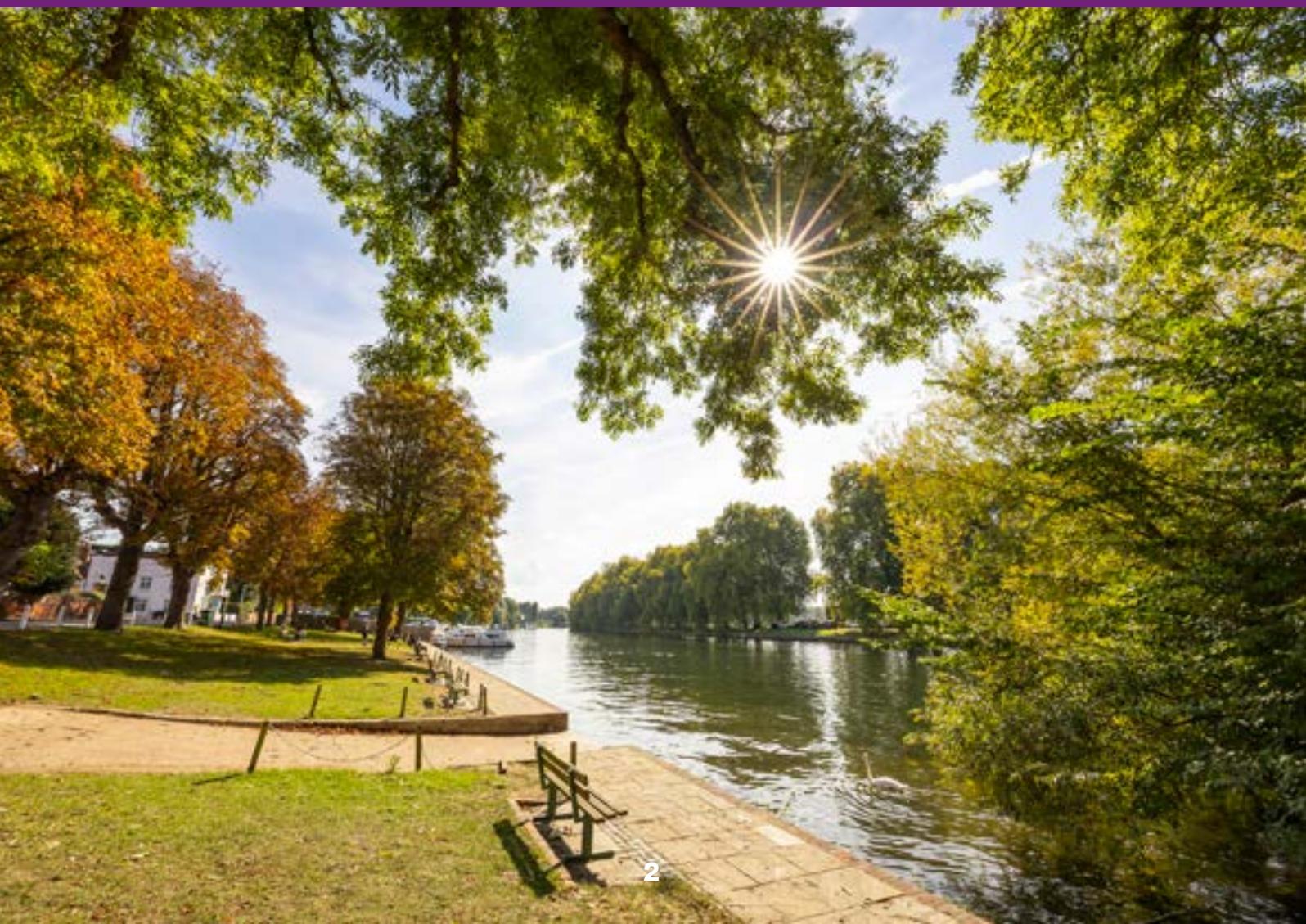


Your guide to council tax 2026/27



Your council tax



Introduction

This guide explains your council tax for 2026/27, including how your bill is calculated, our budget for the upcoming year, and the help available if you're struggling to pay.

The Royal Borough is continuing its work to stabilise finances, address historic budget pressures, and invest in the essential services residents rely on most. The council is progressing a programme of savings and service transformation designed to ensure long term financial sustainability while protecting priority areas such as children's services, adult social care and housing support.

Alongside these savings, the budget includes targeted investment to rebuild capacity in frontline services, respond to rising demand and help create a cleaner, greener and safer borough for everyone.

This guide continues useful information about this year's council tax and support available. If you are worried about paying your bill, please contact us as early as possible so we can discuss the support available.

Helpful links

Helpful links

- [Set up a council tax direct debit](#)
- [Apply for council tax support](#)
- [Check if you are eligible for council tax reduction](#)
- [Find help with the cost of living](#)
- [Contact the Valuation Office Agency to check or challenge your council tax band](#)
- [Subscribe to our Residents' Newsletter](#)

Further information

- [Council tax and benefits](#)
- [Parish Council information](#)
- [Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley](#)
- [Thames Valley Police](#)
- [Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)
- [Environment Agency](#)



How much is your total bill?

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

Valuation bands:

A - Up to £40,000

B - £40,001 - £52,000

C - £52,001 - £68,000

D - £68,001 - £88,000

E - £88,001 - £120,000

F - £120,001 - £160,000

G - £160,001 - £320,000

H - More than £320,000

Parish	Valuation band							
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Bisham	1,307.04	1,524.90	1,742.72	1,960.57	2,396.24	2,831.94	3,267.61	3,921.14
Bray	1,302.15	1,519.20	1,736.21	1,953.24	2,387.28	2,821.35	3,255.39	3,906.48
Cookham	1,303.03	1,520.22	1,737.38	1,954.56	2,388.90	2,823.26	3,257.59	3,909.12
Cox Green	1,310.59	1,529.03	1,747.45	1,965.89	2,402.75	2,839.62	3,276.48	3,931.78
Datchet	1,368.43	1,596.52	1,824.58	2,052.66	2,508.80	2,964.96	3,421.09	4,105.32
Eton	1,319.49	1,539.43	1,759.33	1,979.25	2,419.07	2,858.92	3,298.74	3,958.50
Horton	1,338.75	1,561.90	1,785.01	2,008.14	2,454.38	2,900.65	3,346.89	4,016.28
Hurley	1,288.88	1,503.71	1,718.51	1,933.33	2,362.95	2,792.59	3,222.21	3,866.66
Old Windsor	1,311.68	1,530.31	1,748.91	1,967.53	2,404.75	2,841.99	3,279.21	3,935.06
Shottesbrooke	1,262.66	1,473.12	1,683.55	1,894.00	2,314.88	2,735.78	3,156.66	3,788.00
Sunningdale	1,307.94	1,525.95	1,743.92	1,961.92	2,397.89	2,833.89	3,269.86	3,923.84
Sunninghill & Ascot	1,303.55	1,520.83	1,738.07	1,955.34	2,389.85	2,824.38	3,258.89	3,910.68
Waltham St. Lawrence	1,295.44	1,511.36	1,727.26	1,943.17	2,374.98	2,806.80	3,238.61	3,886.34
White Waltham	1,360.27	1,586.99	1,813.69	2,040.41	2,493.83	2,947.26	3,400.68	4,080.82
Wraysbury	1,317.27	1,536.84	1,756.37	1,975.92	2,415.00	2,854.11	3,293.19	3,951.84
Unparished	1,291.29	1,506.52	1,721.72	1,936.94	2,367.36	2,797.80	3,228.23	3,873.88

Parish council costs

The Royal Borough has 14 parish councils plus one town council which provide a variety of services. Each parish council tells us how much to collect on their behalf to enable them to provide their services. If you live in Windsor or Maidenhead towns, you do not belong to a parish but pay a contribution towards the services the Royal Borough provides:

Parish	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27 change
	Precept £	Precept £	Band D £
Bisham	49,567	52,388	66.57
Bray	255,806	271,592	59.24
Cookham	168,196	180,811	60.56
Cox Green	206,943	217,663	71.89
Datchet	264,787	361,821	158.66
Eton	154,735	162,472	85.25
Horton	49,805	53,836	114.14
Hurley	38,500	40,620	39.33
Old Windsor	176,805	178,308	73.53
Shottesbrooke	-	-	-
Sunningdale	260,811	260,811	67.92
Sunninghill & Ascot	404,377	443,876	61.34
Waltham St. Lawrence	33,000	35,000	49.17
White Waltham	181,692	193,203	146.41
Wraysbury	146,496	176,810	81.92
Unparished – Windsor and Maidenhead towns	1,478,467	1,604,350	42.94



Environment Agency

The Environment Agency charges a levy for providing flood defence. In the Thames region, this includes maintenance of rivers and the operation of a flood warning system. In 2025/26 The Royal Borough's levy was £166,649, for 2026/27 the levy is £174,016.

How much is the adult social care precept?

The adult social care (ASC) precept increases by a maximum of 2% of your overall council tax precept (not including parish, police or fire precepts). More information about how you can calculate what you are paying in adult social care precept for 2026/27 is provided below.

The income generated from the precept is ring-fenced only for adult social care services, the total budgeted cost of adult social care services for the council is shown in the table on page 11.

The table below shows the different precept elements and the increases plus the income predicted to be raised to fund adult social care services from this precept.

How to calculate the 2% increase in the adult social care precept:

1. Take the previous years Band D closing precept (£1399.58) from the table below
2. Calculate 2% of this amount by dividing by 100 and multiplying by 2 (£27.99)
3. Add this 2% increase to the previous years ASC precept (£27.99 plus £212.52) to give the new ASC precept.

In 2026/27 your bill will no longer show the ASC precept on a separate line as this is combined with the general precept; however bills from the previous years (2016/17 to 2024/25) do show the separate ASC figures.

Council tax precepts and charges for your town or parish councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service are set independently to the Royal Borough and are shown separately on our bill and you do not include them in the calculation for the ASC precept.

Year	Opening RBWM band D (including ASC precept)	RBWM general increase	ASC precept increase	Closing RBWM band D (including ASC precept)	% Increase	New ASC band D	Total income from from ASC precept
							£'000
2025/26	£1,284.14	£89.76	£25.68	£1,399.58	8.99%	£212.52	£15,140
2026/27	£1,399.58	£76.84	£27.99	£1,504.41	7.49%	£240.51	£17,369



Paying for council tax

Direct debit

The easiest way to pay your council tax is by direct debit. You can choose between monthly payment dates on 1st and 15th of each month and never miss a payment.

[Visit our website to set up or amend your direct debit.](#)

Other ways to pay

We no longer accept cheques, but you can also pay your council tax or business rates by credit or debit card, or via bank transfer.

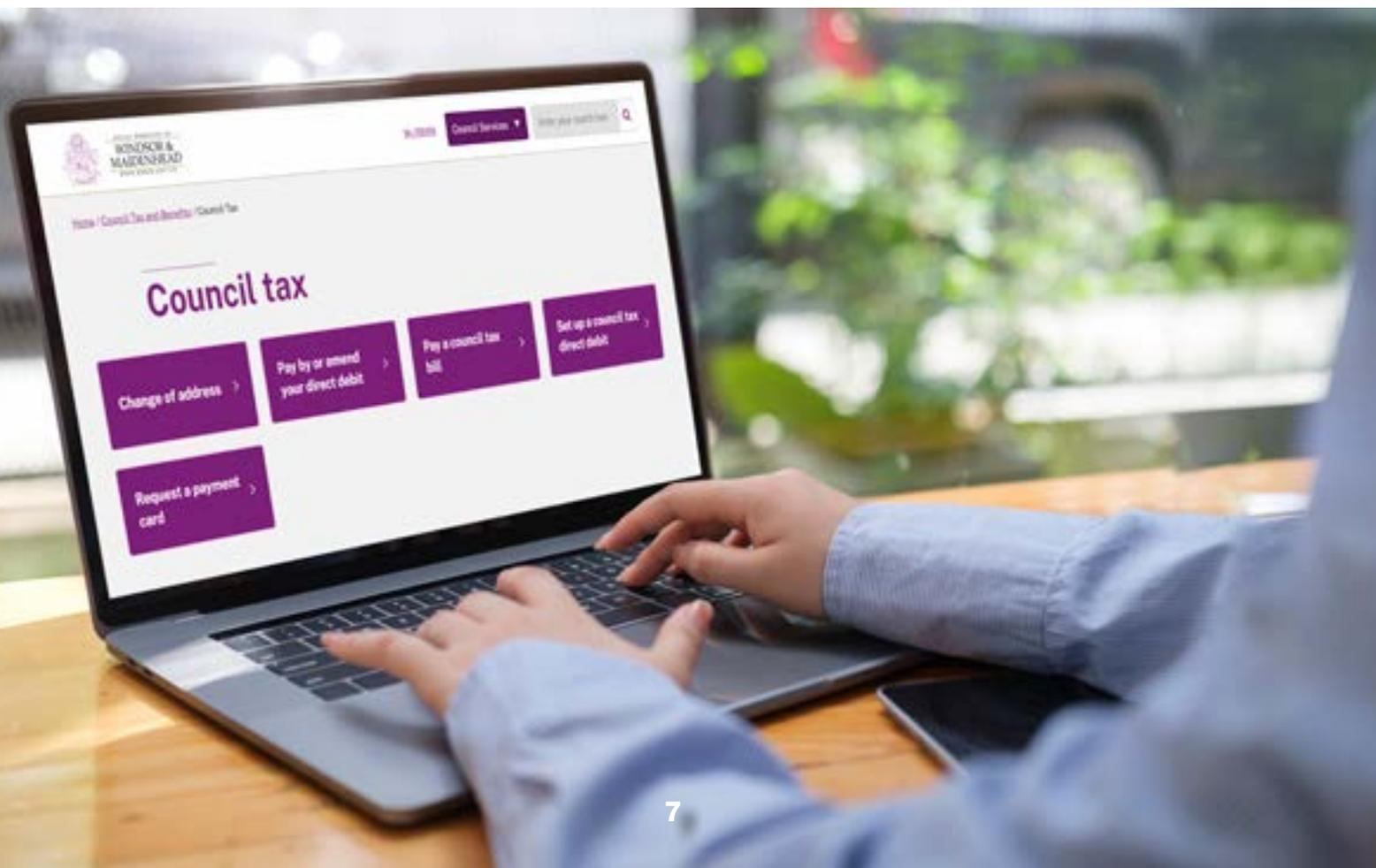
Visit our website to pay for council tax directly.

What happens if I don't pay?

Please contact us as soon as possible if you're unable to pay your bill, so we can help identify any support you may be eligible for and/or agree a payment plan with you.

If you miss a council tax payment, we will send you a reminder notice. If you don't pay the amount owed in seven days, you can lose the right to pay by instalments and the full amount becomes due.

If you don't pay in full, we can request a court summons and ask the Magistrates Court to grant a Liability Order which would add additional court costs. With a Liability Order, we can enforce the debt, for example by instructing enforcement agents or recovering money directly from your wages or benefits.





Appeals

If you think your property should be in a different valuation band, you should contact the Valuation Office Agency.

If you feel you shouldn't be liable for council tax or believe you should have received a discount or exemption that has not been awarded, please consult the '[support paying council tax](#)' section of our website and then please contact us.

Unoccupied property and second home premiums

We charge an additional council tax, called a premium, if your property is unoccupied and not exempt.

If a property is unoccupied for more than 12 months, a long-term empty premium of 100% is payable on top of the full council tax – meaning you'll pay double. The premium is higher if the property is empty and unfurnished for more than five years, or more than ten years.

If a property is unoccupied but furnished, from Tuesday 1 April 2025, the council is now able to charge a Second Home Premium as soon as the property becomes unoccupied.

The premium is a standard amount of 100% on top of the standard council tax charged, irrespective of how long the property remains unoccupied but furnished.

There are some exceptions to these premiums which can be found on our [website](#).

Fraud - Report it!

You can report fraud that relates to council tax support, social care, blue badges, housing applications or other services in the Royal Borough to our Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit. Please email cfeu@rbwm.gov.uk providing as much information as possible.

Additionally, you can report other forms of benefit fraud through the [Department for Work and Pensions website](#).

Our budget



Our Services

The Royal Borough is continuing its work to stabilise finances, address historic budget pressures, and invest in the essential services residents rely on most. Find out how the council is helping improve services and build a cleaner, greener, safer and more prosperous borough.

Giving children a good start in life

The council has strengthened its children in care services over the past year, supporting – even recently being commended by Ofsted for exemplary commitment and work. The ongoing improvements have included the opening of Oak House, the first in-borough home for children in care. The project was funded by the council through an investment of £1.8 million and will reduce costs of alternative care for children and young people in the borough.



Improving travel

Transport across the Royal Borough has been transformed over the past year over different modes of travel. The council have worked with bus companies to obtain new vehicles which include features such as free on-board Wi-Fi, audio and visual bus announcements and skylights!



Supporting adults

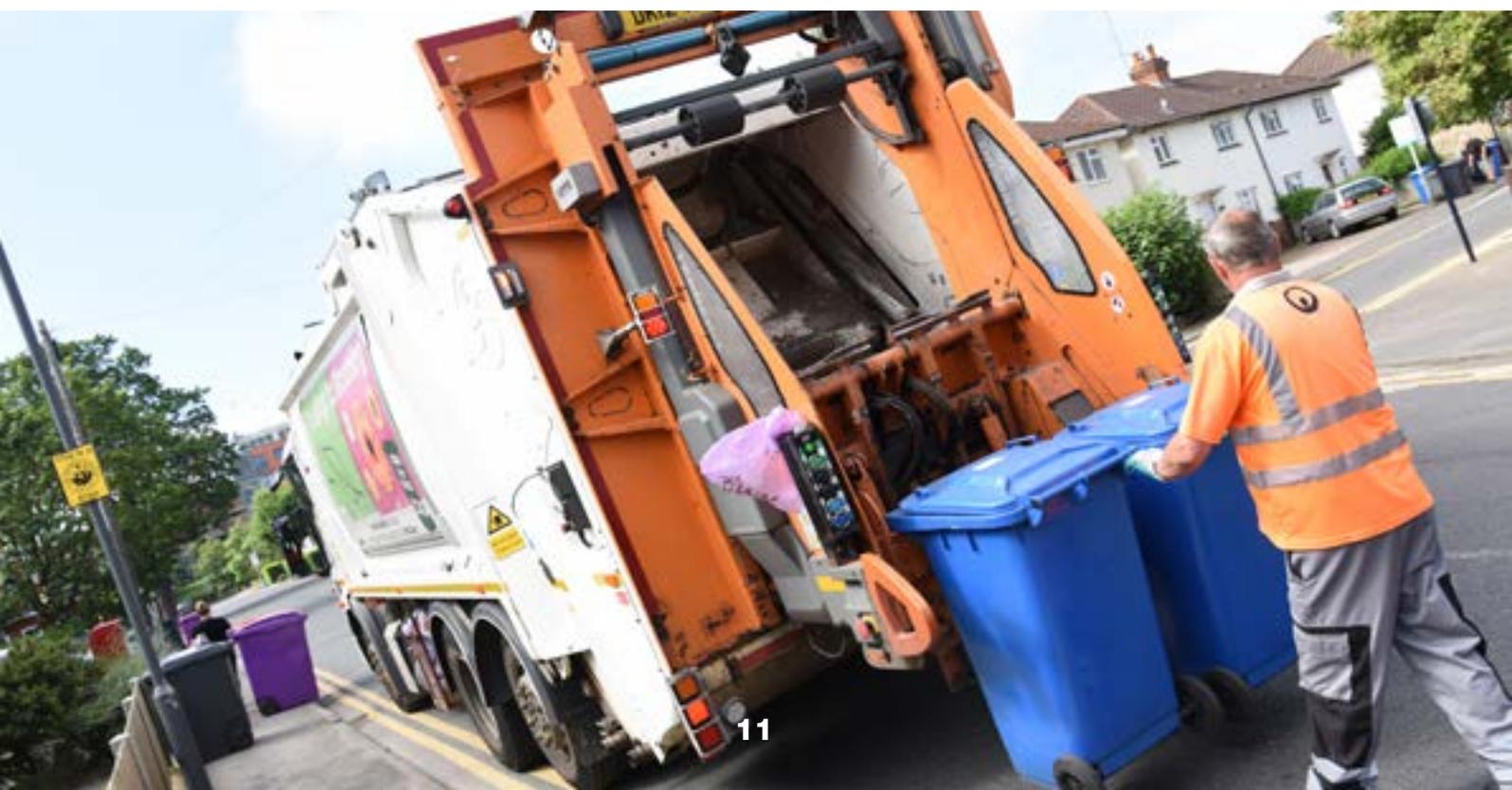
We are continuing to invest in and transform Adult Social Care services across the Royal Borough. More than 5,000 residents sought support from adult services in the past year and according to the results of the latest national Adult Social Care Survey, 87.3% of service users are satisfied with the level of support received. We are continuing to innovate and expand our services with the launch of a new platform for carers and [AskSARA](#) to help residents live independently.

Investing in neighbourhoods

We are also investing in services all residents use and helping create a cleaner, greener, safer borough for all. We have installed more than 200 home solar arrays through the Solar Technology scheme, planted more than 30,000 trees and expanded options for waste disposal and recycling across the borough.

Our revenue budget for 2026/27

	2025/26	2026/27
	Net Spending	Net Spending
Service / Expenses	£'000	£'000
Adults & Health	58,059	64,391
Chief Executive's Directorate	968	1,392
Children's Services	38,063	42,470
Place	19,704	26,452
Resources	15,125	14,555
Service Total	131,919	149,260
Corporate & Contingency	5,340	5,588
Non-Service Costs	28,191	30,303
Exceptional Financial Support Capitalisation Adjustment	(35,412)	(48,754)
Total council expenditure	130,038	136,397
Funding	(28,855)	(26,146)
Total council tax requirement	101,183	110,251



Budget 2026/2027

	2025/26		2026/27	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM)	130,038		136,397	
National non-domestic rates income	(16,294)		(793)	
Other grants & income	(17,274)		(24,166)	
Collection fund (surplus) / deficit	4,713		(1,187)	
Net council tax requirement	101,183		110,251	
RBWM band D equivalent charge (excluding adult social care and special expenses) (A)		1,187.06		1,263.90
RBWM adult social care precept - band D equivalent (B)		212.52		240.51
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley (PCC)				
Budget requirement	20,181		21,541	
PCC band D equivalent (C)		283.28		298.28
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (FRS)				
Budget requirement		6,149		6,594
FRS band D equivalent (D)		86.31		91.31
Grand total band D equivalent (excluding parish precept figures) (i.e. A + B + C + D)		1,769.17		1,894.00

[For more information about this year's budget.](#)

Budget changes 2025/26 to 2026/27

The Royal Borough has set a Band D equivalent council tax (including Adult Social Care precept) at £1,504.41 for the year ending 31 March 2027.

	£'000
Base Budget Requirement 2025/26	164,685
Inflation	8,523
Savings and Growth	7,813
Funding Changes	4,130
Other Adjustments - EFS	(48,754)
Grant Funding	(26,146)
Budget Requirement 2026/27	110,251

Support with paying council tax



Council tax reductions

A range of reductions are available based on the circumstances of a property's residents and the property itself.

- Single person discount: a 25% discount is available when a property has only one resident aged over 18.
- Disabled reduction: you may qualify if a resident of your property is substantially and permanently disabled, and because of this the property has an additional bathroom or kitchen; there is space for a wheelchair to be used indoors; or there is a room predominantly used by the disabled person to meet their needs.

Visit our [council tax reductions](#) website to find out more.

Council tax exemptions

You may also qualify for a reduction if one or more residents of the property are 'disregarded' – which includes:

- Full-time students, youth training trainees, apprentices and some student nurses.
- 18 and 19-year olds who have just left school.
- People who are severely mentally impaired.
- People providing care for someone with a disability who is not their partner or child aged under 18.

Some properties may be exempt from council tax including:

- Those unoccupied because someone has moved to live elsewhere to receive care (e.g. a care home or with relatives) or to provide care for another person.
- The property is occupied only by people who are severely mentally impaired.
- Where executors are responsible for the council tax and are waiting for probate or probate was granted less than six months ago.
- The property is occupied only by students.



Help to pay council tax

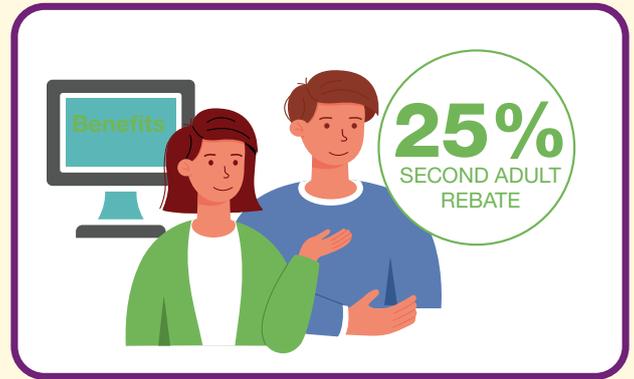
Support is available if you are struggling to pay council tax.



If you are concerned around not being able to pay council tax then please contact us as soon as possible, so we can help to identify any support you may be eligible for and/or agree a payment plan with you.

Low income support

If you live on a low income, you may be eligible for some help by claiming benefit.



If you receive a council tax reduction from 1 April, you may notice a 'cash payment' on your bill. This only applies to the RBWM element of your bill and not charges from parish councils or other organisations. This is a one-off discretionary payment made by us to ensure that you are only charged an increase of 4.99%. Visit our [council tax webpages](#) for more information on eligibility

Foster carers

New and existing foster carers who are registered with the council will be reimbursed the cost of council tax.



As part of our package of incentives for foster carers in the borough.

To find out more about fostering, please visit the [Achieving for Children](#) website or call 0208 547 5355.

Here to Help Hub

Did you know there is a range of cost of living support available on our Here to Help hub?



Our online webpage has information on possible support available from the council, government and local partners. It contains guidance on possible support to meet the costs of essentials including food, heating, childcare, and council tax. Visit our [Here to Help Hub](#) for more information.

