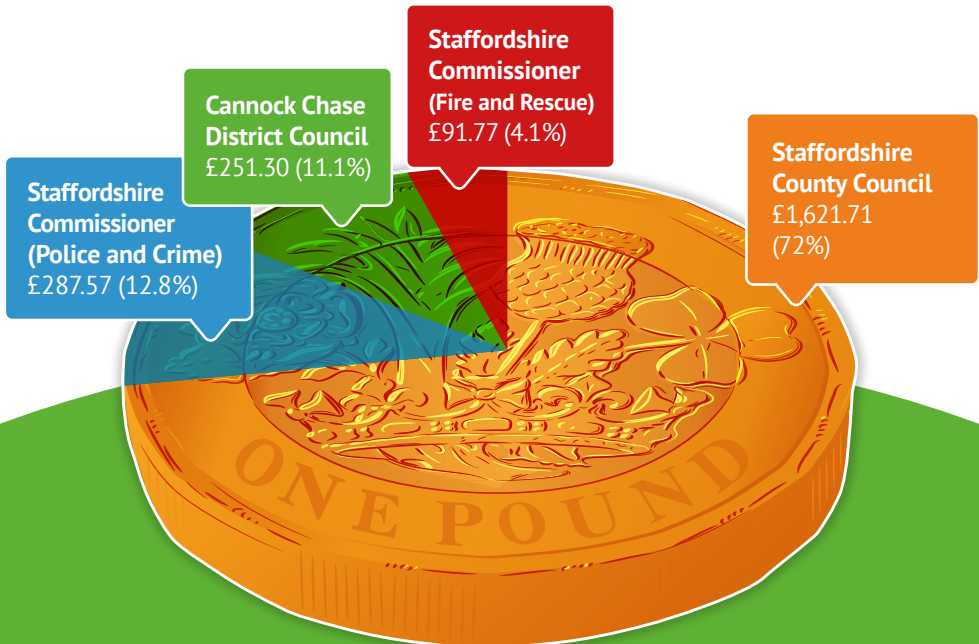


# Your 2025/26 Council Tax Explained

The average household will pay around 14p more a week to the District Council in tax for 2025/26. This small increase helps protect services to you.



See just some of the services we provide for £4.83 a week.\*

\*Based on the average Band D Council Tax

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As well as the long list of key services that we deliver to the community - we have ambitious plans to regenerate Cannock town centre and bring more investment into the area.

You will know that the multi-storey car park in the centre of the town, which has long been an eye-sore for residents, visitors, and shoppers, is coming down. Work is well under way this year on the demolition which will also include the empty shop units - creating a huge footprint that would be perfectly placed for a major residential and commercial offer.



We have received positive feedback from investors and developers who are interested in coming to Cannock Chase - so we are preparing the groundwork with sites that are ready to build on.

And that's not all. To demonstrate our confidence in delivering an exciting vision for Cannock - we will be regenerating the northern gateway to the town centre, getting rid of an outdated subway and improving the car park to make an attractive entrance.



Over the last 12 months we have made significant improvements to local parks which are so important for the health and wellbeing of our community. Flaxley Road Play Area in Rugeley was reopened after a refurbishment costing just over £140,000. Laburnum Avenue Park has undergone a significant upgrade and a new play area is coming to Cannock Park with further site improvements - such as better pathways - as well as substantial investment in safety with enhanced lighting and CCTV.

Small and medium sized businesses are the lifeblood of the economy and we have recognised that by rolling out schemes worth hundreds of thousands of pounds to provide financial support and expert advice.



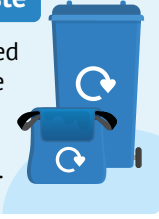
**Tony Johnson**

Leader Cannock Chase District Council

Here are just some of the services we provide for £4.83 a week:

## Recycling and Waste

**69,000** bins emptied each week. We recycle around **40%** of the waste collected from **46,000** households.



## Planning and Building Control

We manage development in the district and ensure that buildings are safely constructed. Nearly **300** planning applications were received in 2024.



## Community Safety

The council monitors **106** CCTV cameras and partner the police and other agencies in initiatives to reduce crime and make people feel safer.



## Street Cleaning

We clean more than **4,000** miles of roads and pavements each year and empty over **600** litter bins.



## Housing

Our work has helped reduce the number of people sleeping rough. We prevented more than **200** people becoming homeless over the last year working with partners.



## Parks and Open Spaces

We look after nearly **2650 hectares** of park and open spaces - including 6 which have won national **'Green Flag'** awards.



## Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support

We make sure people get the help they are entitled to as soon as possible and regularly review claims to identify any changes in circumstances. Nearly **8,000** households received our help towards their rent or council tax.



## Environmental Health

Last year we investigated **3,160** complaints including noise, fly tipping, dog fouling, licensing and private rented housing, and carried out **450** food hygiene inspections.



## Bereavement Services

We manage **five cemeteries** - and have a **'Silver Gilt'** award from the Institute of Cemeteries and Crematorium Management.



# About Your Council Tax

## How is Council Tax calculated?

Your Council Tax is based on the valuation band of your property and on two adults living in a property.

Discounts, reductions and exemptions are available based on your circumstances.

If you are unemployed or on a low wage, you may be able to get your bill reduced.

For more information please visit our website and use our [online calculator](#).



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## Could I get a discount or reduction on my bill?

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 working for charities
- People caring for a person with a disability who is NOT their 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.

# Council Tax Discounts & Reductions

## Empty and second homes

Council tax on empty or second homes in the area will be payable as follows:

### Furnished and second homes

Furnished and unoccupied  
**200% charge** (100% up to the  
31 March 2025)

### Empty homes

Unfurnished and unoccupied  
for less than 1 year  
Up to 28 days -  
**100% discount**

**100% charge** (after the  
28 day discount period)

### Long term empty homes

Unfurnished and unoccupied for:

more than 1 year but less than 5 years - **200% charge**

more than 5 years but less than 10 years - **300% charge**

more than 10 years - **400% charge**

Unfurnished and unoccupied due to liable person living  
elsewhere in armed forces accommodation - **100%**

### Second Homes (job related)

Furnished and unoccupied due to liable person  
living elsewhere in job-related or armed forces  
accommodation - **50% charge**

From 1 April 2025, the government have introduced a number of exceptions to the second home and long term empty premiums.

Examples are; second homes and long term empty properties being actively marketed for sale or to let (exception can apply for up to 12 months), dwellings left empty following the death of the owner (exception will apply for up to 12 months from the date of Grant of Probate/Letters of Administration), long term empty properties which require or are undergoing major repairs or structural alteration (exception will apply for up to 12 months).

Full details of all of the exceptions and online application forms can be found on our website [www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/CTExceptions](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/CTExceptions)

## Reduction for people with disabilities

Your bill may be reduced if you (or someone who lives with you) need a room, an extra bathroom or kitchen, or extra space in your property to meet the required needs arising from a disability.

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.

## Annexe Discount

A discount of 50% may be applicable to a separately assessed annexe (or similar self contained part of a property) which is occupied as part of the main property or is the main home of a relative of the council taxpayer of the main property.

# Council Tax Exemptions

Some properties may be exempt from Council Tax.

## Unoccupied properties which are:

Owned by a charity (allowed for up to six months)

Left empty by someone who has gone to prison

Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care

Owned by the estate of a deceased person and waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted (continuous for up to six months after being granted)

Empty because occupation is forbidden by law

Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion

Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age or disability

Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person

Owned by a student and last occupied by a student

Subject to a Repossession Order

The responsibility of a bankrupt person's trustee

A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring

Unable to be let separately because it is linked to, or in the grounds of, another property and planning conditions do not allow separate letting.

## Occupied properties where:

All the residents are students

Used for UK armed forces accommodation, whether occupied or not

At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force

All residents are less than 18 years old

All liable residents are severely mentally impaired

At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat

It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives

Unable to be let separately because it is linked to, or in the grounds of, another property and planning conditions do not allow separate letting.

# Council Tax Information

## What if I don't think I should be paying Council Tax?

You can appeal to Cannock Chase Council if you think you are not liable to pay Council Tax, for example because you are not the resident or owner, or because your property is exempt or you are entitled to a discount.

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.

For more details about Council Tax discounts and exemptions see [page 5, 6 & 7](#)

## 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.

### Cancel your single person discount

Contact the:

**Cannock Chase Council Tax team**  
tel **01543 464285** or visit  
[www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/counciltax)

## How we collect and use information

Cannock Chase Council, as the data controller, will use the information that you provide to update your Council Tax account.

We want to be able to provide appropriate, timely and effective services so it is important to us that we co-ordinate what we do for you properly. To do this, we will share basic information such as name and address between services within the Council. This allows us to keep our information on you as up-to-date as possible in order to improve our services to you.

Even though our systems are joined-up, we ensure that staff within the Council can only access the information they need to do their job. Please be advised, we won't sell or give your information to any third party for marketing purposes unless we have asked for your permission.

We will only share your information, when necessary, with agencies involved in the administration of your Council Tax account, or where the law requires or allows us to, for example, to prevent or detect fraud and error within the Council Tax and/or Benefit System.

For more information, please see [www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/PrivacyNotice](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/PrivacyNotice) or visit [www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/nfi](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/nfi)




# Council Tax Valuation Bands

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

Property band	Range of values (based on 1991 prices)	*
A	Up to £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	Over £320,000	18/9

\* Proportion of Band D Council Tax Payable

 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 1 April 1991. Price changes since that time won't affect the valuation.

A full list of valuation bands is available online at [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

## Can I appeal against my 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. See handy contacts on [page 16](#)



# About Your Council Tax Bill

Your Council Tax bill comprises charges from four principal authorities in the area, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Commissioner (Police and Crime), Staffordshire Commissioner (Fire and Rescue) and Cannock Chase Council.

Cannock Chase Council is solely responsible for collection of Council Tax.

## How is your District Council charge calculated?

The amount of money required by the Council for 2025/26 to carry out its functions and provide services (its budget requirement) is £13.877 million (£13.695 million in 2024/25).

A proportion of this is met by Business Rates Retention with the balance being met from council taxpayers.

The table below provides an analysis of the funding of the budget requirement and illustrates how the charge of £251.30 is calculated.

2024-25 £'000s £	Band D Equivalent		2025-26 £'000s £	Band D Equivalent
13,695	456.26	Budget Requirement	13,877	462.57
-	-	Less Central Government Support	-	-
6,371	212.26	Less Business Rates Retention	6,338	211.27
7,324	244.00	Amount to be raised from Council Tax	7,539	251.30

The charge for each property band is as follows:-

Property band	District £	County £	Fire £	Police £	Total £
A	167.53	1,081.14	61.18	191.71	1,501.56
B	195.46	1,261.33	71.38	223.67	1,751.84
C	223.38	1,441.52	81.57	255.62	2,002.09
D	251.30	1,621.71	91.77	287.57	2,252.35
E	307.14	1,982.09	112.16	351.47	2,752.86
F	362.99	2,342.47	132.56	415.38	3,253.40
G	418.83	2,702.85	152.95	479.28	3,753.91
H	502.60	3,243.42	183.54	575.14	4,504.70

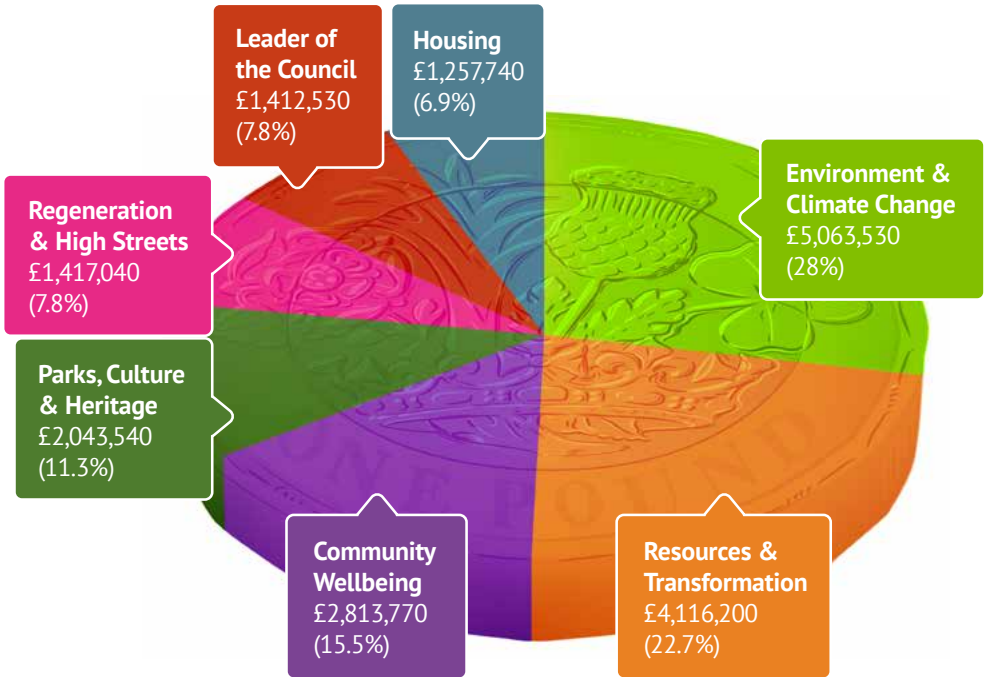
In addition a further charge is included for the spending of Parish Councils where appropriate.

# Where Your Money Goes

## Spending on Council Services

(Net spending before technical adjustments)

The spend shown is for each Cabinet Member's portfolio of services.



## Why the increase in spend?

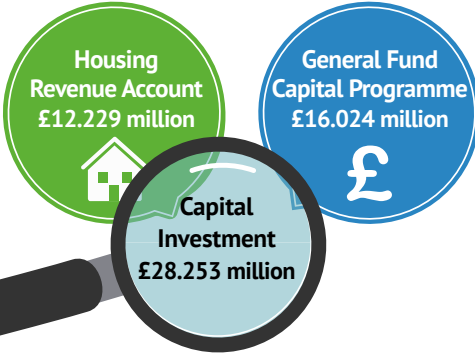
The Council's budget requirement for 2025/26 of £13.877 million is £182,000 more than in 2024/25. The following table identifies the major reasons for this:

	£'000s
Inflation and price increases	443
Waste changes to service	253
National Insurance	174
Changes in income	(724)
Changes in leisure, culture and heritage services	(375)
Other variations	411
<b>Increase in budget requirement</b>	<b>182</b>

# Additional Information

## Capital Expenditure

In 2025/26 Cannock Chase Council will be spending approximately £28.253 million on capital investment, which is split £12.229 million on the Housing Revenue Account and £16.024 million on the General Fund Capital Programme.



Areas of investment in the Housing Capital Programme include new build on the Aelfgar site and improvements to existing council housing including upgrading of central heating, kitchens, bathrooms and electrical systems. Funds have also been set aside for external and environmental works, disabled housing adaptations and sheltered scheme works.

Areas of Investment on the General Fund Capital Programme include works to Cannock park, CCTV, play areas, UK Shared prosperity investment fund and the purchase of replacement wheeled bins. Resources will continue to be made available for disabled facilities grants to private householders.

## Borrowing

The Council's total outstanding debt at 31 March 2025 is estimated to be £80.2 million.

## Staffing

Budgeted staffing for 2025/26 is shown in the following table with the previous year's figures as a comparison (part time staff are shown as full time equivalents):

	Full time equivalents 2024-25 £	Full time equivalents 2025-26 £
General Fund	320.3	298.4
Housing Revenue Account	125.7	131.7
	446.0	430.1

# Parish Council Information

## What is your Parish spending?

Parish Councils tell Cannock Chase Council how much income they need from Council Tax (their 'precept'). This is paid for from the District Council's General Fund and is recovered by setting a parish tax for each Parish Council.

The detailed analysis has been provided by Rugeley/Hednesford Town Council in line with the Local Government Act 1992 which requires all Parish/Town Councils with a precept in excess of £140,000 to provide details of expenditure and income to Council Tax/National Non-domestic Rate payers.

2024-25 £	Parish	2025-26 £	Band D Equivalent
66,400	Brereton and Ravenhill	66,400	33.88
8,330	Bridgtown	8,580	13.69
4,272	Brindley Heath	4,272	17.65
12,811	Cannock Wood	13,144	33.09
116,127	Heath Hayes and Wimblebury	120,772	30.27
221,218	Hednesford	227,808	38.24
114,500	Norton Canes	120,366	45.16
329,908	Rugeley	337,034	63.90

## Rugeley Town Council Precept

	Revenue Expenditure 2024-25 £	Revenue Expenditure 2025-26 £
Administration	133,836	149,345
Christmas	50,000	40,000
Council Office	45,508	76,825
Elections	0	0
Small grants	4,000	7,500
Other services	0	26,175
Neighbourhood Plan	0	0
Community events & regeneration	26,500	18,860
Rugeley Rose	198,144	216,825
<b>Total gross expenditure</b>	<b>457,988</b>	<b>535,530</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>128,080</b>	<b>198,500</b>
<b>Total net expenditure</b>	<b>329,908</b>	<b>337,030</b>
<b>Total precept</b>	<b>329,908</b>	<b>337,034</b>

## Hednesford Town Council Precept

	Revenue Expenditure 2024-25 £	Revenue Expenditure 2025-26 £
Council administration	74,828	62,445
CCTV	26,200	27,200
Town Centre maintenance	0	250
Christmas lights	7,500	9,500
Community events	5,250	4,750
Citizens Advice Grant	5,000	5,000
Community Grants	5,000	5,000
Pye Green Community Centre	84,131	98,006
Town Regeneration	28,805	28,597
Community Engagement	46,065	36,660
Farmers Market	0	0
Town Magazine	0	0
<b>Total gross expenditure</b>	<b>282,779</b>	<b>277,208</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>
<b>Income from Pye Green Community Centre</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>
<b>Income from Market</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Contribution from reserves</b>	<b>14,161</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total precept</b>	<b>221,218</b>	<b>227,808</b>
<b>Total gross income</b>	<b>282,779</b>	<b>277,208</b>
<b>Total net expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# The Environment Agency - Midlands Region

## The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011.

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 2369 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. 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:

### Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

	2024-25 000's	2025-26 000's
Gross expenditure	£82,164	£99,241
Levies raised	£2,313	£2,360
<b>Total Council Tax base</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>1,959</b>

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 this committee has increased by 2.0%.

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.

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £2,313,472 for 2024/25 to £2,359,742 for 2025/26

# Handy Contacts

Cannock Chase Council Contact Centre	01543 462621
Web address	<a href="http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk">www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk</a>
24 hour telephone payment line	0161 621 4113 or 01543 215020
To pay on-line	<a href="http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/payonline">www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/payonline</a>
Business Rates enquiries	01543 464282
Business Rates online	<a href="http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/businessrates">www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/businessrates</a>
Council Tax enquiries	01543 464285
Council Tax online	<a href="http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/counciltax">www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/counciltax</a>
Benefits section	01543 464292
Valuation Office Agency website	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/voa/contact">www.gov.uk/voa/contact</a>
Listing Officer, Valuation Office Agency	03000 501501
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service	Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Pirehill, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0BS <a href="http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk">www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk</a>
	08451 221155 In an Emergency Dial 999
Staffordshire Police	Staffordshire Police Headquarters, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0YY <a href="http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/">www.staffordshire.police.uk/</a>
	Police single non emergency number 101
	In an Emergency Dial 999
Staffordshire Commissioner (Police, Fire and Rescue, Crime)	Commissioner's Office, Block 9, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0YY <a href="mailto:PFCC@staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk">PFCC@staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk</a>
Staffordshire County Council	1 Staffordshire Place, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2DH <a href="http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk">www.staffordshire.gov.uk</a> Main reception 0300 111 8000