

How your council tax is spent

Council tax pays for local services like libraries, schools, emergency services, rubbish collection, street-lights and much more.

Council tax is charged to the household. It is based on the value of the property and not on what the household earns. So the amount of council tax to pay depends on which property band your home is in.

Most of council tax goes to the local authority, Bristol City Council, to spend on local services but parts also go to the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and the Avon Fire Service.

The council also receives income from business rates, government grants, other fees and charges, all of which contribute towards the cost of providing council services.

How your council tax is used (average £ per household)



Adult
Social Care
£709.60



Children's
social services
£248.70



Bin and
recycling
collections
£119.20



Housing
(inc. accessible
housing)
£55.20



Education
and skills
£45.50



Sport and
leisure
£39.30



Highways and
Transport
£26.60



Public
Health
£17.40

Council tax also contributes to other costs and services including the management of council buildings, costs associated with policy, strategy and communication, the costs of running the revenue and benefits service and corporate budgets and contingencies. These total an average of £72.40 per household. There is also a council tax contribution of £73.70 per household towards borrowing costs.

2021-22 Budget

The council's five-year medium term financial plan sets out the financial challenges we face following the coronavirus pandemic. This lays a stable foundation for us to build our recovery. In particular it will focus on how the vulnerable and those most in need will recover from the pandemic.

The council spending is split into two categories called revenue and capital. The council's budget plan sees an overall revenue budget for 2021-2022 of £424.1 million and a capital budget including the housing revenue account over the next five years of £890.1 million. The budget aims to balance increasing costs, service demand, and maintain and improve the city's infrastructure.

This year, Bristol City Council's Budget 2021-22 plan includes a council tax increase of 4.99 per cent, the majority of which (3 per cent) will be used to support Adult Social Care services that help some of the most vulnerable people in our communities to live independently at home. We have also kept a fully-funded council tax reduction scheme for low income families.

Read more about council tax and business rates on our website:

- Council tax explained: bristol.gov.uk/council-tax-explained
- Business rates explained: bristol.gov.uk/business-rates-explained

If you need help paying...

If you need help paying your council tax because you have low income, can't work, have been made redundant or have had a drop in your income because of COVID-19 then you can apply for a Council Tax Reduction.

To apply for this reduction please visit bristol.gov.uk/ctr and click on 'claim Council Tax Reduction'.

Other financial assistance may also be available to low income households, or those facing hardship. More information can be found at bristol.gov.uk/coronavirus under 'Get help'.

Alternative formats:

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