



Council Tax 2026–2027

How much you pay and how it's spent



**Sunderland
City Council**

Your Council Tax Bill

2025–2026 was another year shaped by shifting national conditions and global developments. Despite this, working with residents, businesses and voluntary and community sector partners, your council has remained focused on strengthening neighbourhoods, expanding opportunities and delivering improvements.

Over the past year, we have made strong progress towards the vision of a connected, international city with opportunities for all, including:

- refreshing the Sunderland Community Safety Plan and expanding safer communities hubs based on the SARA, HALO and SAIL models
- developing the Stronger Communities Framework to deepen engagement between communities and services
- opening Keel Crossing, linking the city centre, Sheepfolds and Stadium of Light
- improving 21 local shopping areas, making them safer, cleaner and more welcoming
- opening the Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy, supporting careers in modern construction and low carbon industries
- the start of production at AESC's new battery plant, creating skilled jobs and strengthening our city's role in the UK's electric vehicle and clean energy sector
- further investments informed by community engagement including green space improvements, action on anti social behaviour, digital, health and family hubs, and neighbourhood projects

Your council is ambitious for all of our city and focused on what matters most to residents, communities and businesses. We are working hard to understand your needs and aspirations to ensure the benefits of regeneration and investment reach every community. Looking to 2026–2027, we will build on this with:

- the opening of the new Eye Hospital in the city centre

- completion of Riverside Park, transforming underused land into biodiverse social and community spaces
- opening Culture House, a new city centre hub with events and exhibitions celebrating national and local talent
- major events including Radio 1's Big Weekend and Take That's The Circus Live tour
- the return of the BIG 3K Run, BIG Walk and BIG Bike Ride
- further digital inclusion, skills work and Smart City initiatives, strengthening our city's global reputation for people-centred innovation

While the council delivers more than 600 services and works to create opportunities for residents, we continue to face significant financial pressures. The latest funding settlement under the new Government has been more positive with additional resources allocated to councils such as ours, on the basis of need.

However, we will be dealing with the impacts of previous underfunding for some time to come, and for 2026–2027 this means having to make further budget cuts of £3.2m and use £9.7m of reserves to balance the budget. With a more positive settlement, whilst we do have to raise council tax by 4.5%, we have taken steps to ensure we do not raise it to the maximum level permitted.

We remain committed to creating a city where everyone can benefit from ongoing transformation - that is ambitious, inclusive, proud of its past and confident in its future.



Cllr Michael Mordey
Leader of
Sunderland City Council



Patrick Melia OBE
Chief Executive
Sunderland City Council

What you will pay

The amount of council tax you pay depends on the value of your home. More expensive properties pay more council tax. Each home is placed in a valuation band based on what your home was valued at in 1991. This table sets out the council tax levels for 2026-2027 for each valuation band.

Your council tax bill includes charges for levies and precepts which the council is legally required to collect on behalf of other organisations. Charges for levies are included within the City Council Tax Level shown in column 2. Precepts from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria are shown in columns 3 and 4.

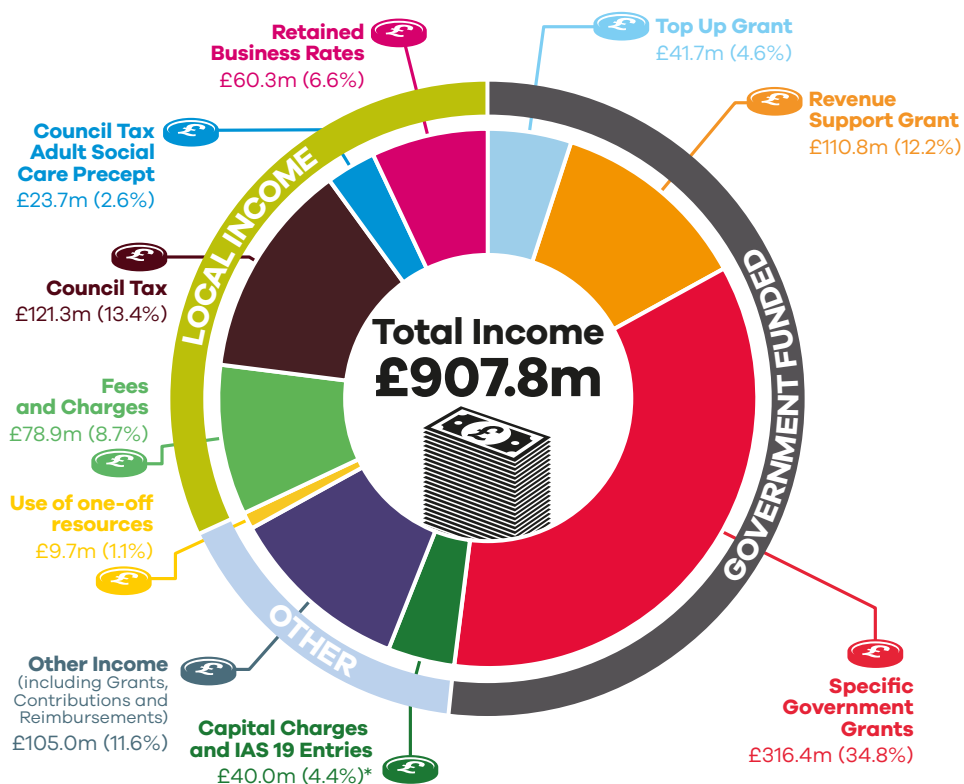
Your council tax bill states the band that applies to your property. Residents in most of Sunderland will pay the Total Council Tax Level in column 5. Residents of Hetton will pay the Total Council Tax Level in column 7.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Valuation Band	City Council Tax Level £ p	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority Tax Level £ p	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria Tax Level £ p	Total Council Tax Level £ p	Hetton residents only	
					Hetton Town Council Tax Level £ p	Total Council Tax Level £ p
					A	1,251.20
B	1,459.73	81.75	166.71	1,708.19	11.94	1,720.13
C	1,668.27	93.43	190.52	1,952.22	13.64	1,965.86
D	1,876.80	105.11	214.34	2,196.25	15.35	2,211.60
E	2,293.87	128.47	261.97	2,684.31	18.76	2,703.07
F	2,710.93	151.83	309.60	3,172.36	22.18	3,194.54
G	3,128.00	175.18	357.23	3,660.41	25.58	3,685.99
H	3,753.60	210.22	428.68	4,392.50	30.70	4,423.20

Where the council's money will come from in 2026–2027

The council delivers a wide range of services including schools, caring for the elderly, and waste collection. The cost of running and maintaining the day-to-day services provided by the council is called Revenue Expenditure.

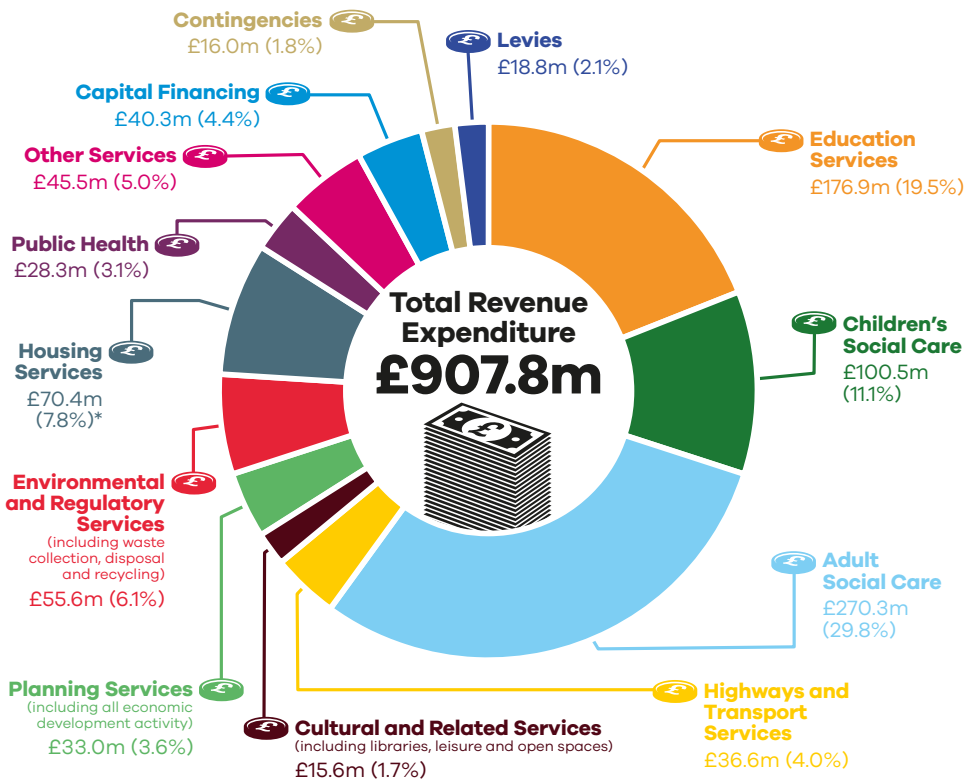
The council tax you pay forms only part of the funding to pay for these services. The chart below shows that over half of the council's income comes from grants from the Government and the remainder comes from council tax, Retained Business Rates, and users of council services.



* Capital charges and IAS19 amounting to £40.0m are included in gross expenditure and income in accordance with the Service Reporting Code of Practice. This has no impact on the level of council tax.

How the council's money will be spent in 2026–2027

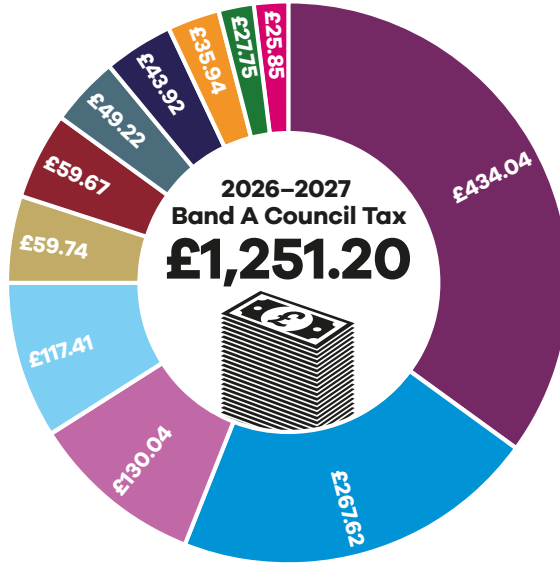
The chart below shows what the council plans to spend on its services in 2026-2027. Total or gross expenditure is the total revenue costs of running council services before any income from grants, fees and charges are taken into account.



* This expenditure mainly relates to Housing Benefit payments, funded by a specific government grant.

How your Council Tax is used to fund council services

The chart below shows the services provided by Sunderland City Council that Council Tax payers contribute towards. The illustration below is for a Band A Council Tax payer, which applies to 59.5% of households in Sunderland.



Service	2026–2027 Band A Council Tax £ p	Percentage
Adult Social Care	434.04	34.69%
Children's Social Care	267.62	21.39%
The cost of funding our capital investment in roads, buildings, vehicles, parks etc	130.04	10.39%
Maintaining parks and open spaces, refuse collection and keeping our city clean	117.41	9.38%
Levies including Public Transport	59.74	4.78%
Central services which keep the council running	59.67	4.77%
Education Services	49.22	3.93%
Maintaining the roads, car parks, footpaths and street lights	43.92	3.51%
Libraries, Museums and Leisure services	35.94	2.87%
Regenerating our city and attracting new businesses	27.75	2.22%
Support to housing and homelessness	25.85	2.07%
	1,251.20	100.00%

Adult Social Care funding and council budget consultation

Since 2016–2017 provision has existed for adult social care authorities 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.

In respect of 2026–2027 the council has elected to increase its adult social care precept by 2%. The additional £23.7m raised in 2026–2027 from the cumulative impact of the ASC precept will help to meet expenditure on adult social care.

BUDGET CONSULTATION

A budget consultation took place between December 2025 and January 2026, seeking views on the budget savings proposals and the level of council tax increase for 2026–2027. The responses received during the consultation, and feedback from residents have been used to inform the budget proposals for 2026–2027. At the time of the consultation, for 2026–2027 it was proposed to increase core council tax by 2.99% and to increase the social care precept by 2%, resulting in a combined increase of 4.99% i.e., within the 5% referendum limit permitted by the Government.



The cost of delivering services 2026–2027

The budget for the next financial year has been prepared taking account of spending pressures and commitments associated with the provision of council services.

The cost of services

In addition to services provided by the council, other bodies including the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority also provide services which the council must take into account.

This table provides a summary of the net cost of these services for 2026–2027 and how the Band D Council Tax is built up.

Last Year 2025–2026 £m	Summary net cost of services	This Year 2026–2027 £m	Band D Council Tax £ p
137.294	City Council (including Levies)	144.940	1,876.80
7.653	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	8.117	105.11
14.971	Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	16.553	214.34
159.918	Total	169.610	2,196.25
0.065	Hetton Town Council	0.068	15.35
159.983	Total (Hetton residents only)	169.678	2,211.60

Cost per head of population

The table below shows the total cost to each person in Sunderland of services provided by the council and Precepting Authorities, after taking account of the income received from Revenue Support Grant and Retained Business Rates.

	Total Net Budget Requirement £ p	Government Funding* £ p	Retained Business Rates £ p	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit £ p	Council Tax Requirement £ p
City Council	1,240.75	(528.15)	(209.06)	(1.34)	502.20
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	57.93	(23.96)	(6.02)	(0.16)	27.79
Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	251.49	(197.46)	0.00	(0.32)	53.71
Total	1,550.17	(749.57)	(215.08)	(1.82)	583.70

* Reflects Revenue Support Grant and Top Up Grant

Budget information

SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL BUDGET INFORMATION

The council needs to collect £7.6m more from council tax payers in 2026–2027 than it did in 2025–2026 to meet increasing cost pressures after taking into account government funding. The remaining pressure has again been funded by using reserves. Details are shown in the table opposite.

	£m
Net Funding Changes	6.1
Spending pressures and additional investment	19.4
Planned budget savings	(3.2)
Business Rates/Collection Fund impact	(14.0)
Change in use of Reserves	(0.7)
Total	7.6

Last Year 2025–2026				This Year 2026–2027			
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m	
252.3	(104.3)	148.0	Adult Social Care	270.3	(113.8)	156.5	
92.4	(12.3)	80.1	Children's Social Care	100.5	(11.3)	89.2	
161.1	(144.3)	16.8	Education Services	176.9	(158.8)	18.1	
13.9	(1.0)	12.9	Cultural and Related Services	15.6	(2.2)	13.4	
54.9	(8.4)	46.5	Environmental and Regulatory Services	55.6	(8.5)	47.1	
35.3	(8.1)	27.2	Highways and Transport Services	36.6	(8.8)	27.8	
85.0	(78.5)	6.5	Housing Services (mainly Housing Benefit payments)	70.4	(60.8)	9.6	
33.7	(22.4)	11.3	Planning Services	33.0	(17.4)	15.6	
26.0	(26.0)	0.0	Public Health	28.3	(28.3)	0.0	
39.1	(18.1)	21.0	Other Services	45.5	(19.1)	26.4	
0.0	(122.5)	(122.5)	Other Core Grants	0.0	(68.6)	(68.6)	
37.3	0.0	37.3	Capital Financing Costs	40.3	0.0	40.3	
831.0	(545.9)	285.1		873.0	(497.6)	375.4	
19.6	0.0	19.6	Provision for contingencies and strategic priorities	16.0	0.0	16.0	
0.0	(2.3)	(2.3)	Interest on Balances	0.0	(2.3)	(2.3)	
0.0	(9.0)	(9.0)	Movement on Reserves	0.0	(9.7)	(9.7)	
0.0	(41.7)	(41.7)	Capital Charges and IAS19 entries	0.0	(40.0)	(40.0)	
850.6	(598.9)	251.7	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	889.0	(549.6)	339.4	
			Levies and Precepts				
		17.6	North East Combined Authority			18.3	
		0.2	Environment Agency - Flood Defence			0.3	
		0.1	NE Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority			0.1	
		0.1	Hetton Town Council			0.1	
		269.7	TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT			358.2	
			Less:				
		(35.4)	Revenue Support Grant			(110.8)	
		(46.5)	Retained Business Rates			(60.3)	
		(50.2)	Top Up Grant			(41.7)	
		(0.2)	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit			(0.4)	
		137.4	COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT			145.0	

Budget information

LEVIES AND PRECEPTS COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL

Your council tax bill is made up of a number of elements besides the council's council tax requirement. These include levies and precepts that the council is legally required to collect on behalf of other organisations. For Sunderland City Council these organisations are:

Levy: Environment Agency						
Last Year 2025-2026				This Year 2026-2027		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
33.7	(30.9)	2.8	Flood Defence	32.4	(29.5)	2.9
		2.8	Levy			2.9
Change in levy between years is attributable to:						£m
Programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee						0.1
						0.1

Sunderland's proportion of the Environment Agency levy is £0.285m in 2026-2027 (2025-2026 £0.276m).

Levy: North East Combined Authority						
Last Year 2025-2026				This Year 2026-2027		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
42.8	(42.8)	0.0	Tyne Tunnels	45.8	(45.8)	0.0
7.0		7.0	Transport co-ordination and former ITA	5.0		5.0
127.4		127.4	Grant to Nexus	124.5		124.5
23.7		23.7	Grant to Durham and Northumberland	23.0		23.0
200.9	(42.8)	158.1		198.3	(45.8)	152.5
		(10.9)	Less transfer from Reserves			(4.8)
		147.2	Total Budget Requirement			147.7
			Less:			
		(51.1)	Rail Grants and Miscellaneous Grants			(50.1)
		96.1	Levy			97.6
Change in Budget Requirement between years is attributable to:						£m
Inflation and other cost pressures						(2.6)
Increased income						(3.0)
Movement on contribution from reserves						6.1
						0.5

Sunderland's proportion of the North East Combined Authority levy is £18.266m in 2026-2027 (2025-2026 £17.647m).

Budget information

Precept: Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria						
Last Year 2025–2026				This Year 2026–2027		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
453.4	(52.8)	400.6	Police General	476.4	(44.7)	431.7
			Less:			
		(292.4)	Formula Grant			(314.7)
		(10.3)	Special Pension Grant			(10.3)
		(5.7)	National Insurance Compensation Grant			(5.8)
		(6.9)	Council Tax Support Grant			(6.9)
		(1.3)	Legacy Council Tax Freeze Grant			(1.3)
		(1.1)	Constituent Authorities' Net (Surplus)/Deficit			(0.5)
		82.9	Precept			92.2

Change in Precept between years is attributable to:

Pay Awards, Inflation, recruitment, budget pressures and other budget adjustments	£m
Increase in planned use of reserves	23.5
Budget reductions and efficiencies	(1.3)
Increase in Home Office Formula Grant	(2.5)
Net reduction in Workforce Grants	(22.3)
Reduction in Council Tax Net Surplus	11.4
	0.5

9.3

This represents £214.34 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to a council tax increase of 9.44%.

Council tax represents 19.4% of Gross Expenditure (2025–2026 18.3%) this increases the reliance on council tax as a funding stream.

The amount to be collected from Sunderland residents on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria is £16.553m in 2026–2027 (£14.970m in 2025–2026).

Budget information

Precept: Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority						
Last Year 2025–2026				This Year 2026–2027		
Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m		Gross Expenditure £m	Gross Income £m	Net Expenditure £m
71.3	(6.1)	65.2	Fire Service	76.5	(9.7)	66.8
		65.2				66.8
		1.9	Contingencies			2.4
		(1.1)	Interest on Balances			(1.0)
		66.0	Total Budget Requirement			68.2
			Less:			
		(12.9)	Revenue Support Grant			(19.9)
		(13.7)	Top Up Grant			(8.3)
		(3.9)	Business Rates Local Share			(5.1)
		0.0	Fire and Rescue Real-Terms Floor			(2.0)
		(0.5)	Collection Fund Surplus/ (Deficit)			(0.2)
		(3.4)	Business Rates Under-Indexation Grant			0.0
		(0.5)	National Insurance Grant			0.0
		(0.5)	Business Rates Grant			0.0
		30.6	Council Tax Requirement			32.7
Change in Precept between years is attributable to:						£m
Cost Pressures						1.3
Decrease in net Government funding						0.6
Decrease in Collection Fund net surplus						0.2
						2.1
This represents £105.11 of the Band D Council Tax and equates to a council tax increase of 4.99%. Council tax represents 41.5% of Gross Expenditure (2025–2026 41.9%) this reduces the reliance on council tax as a funding stream.						

The amount to be collected from Sunderland residents on behalf of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority precept is £8117m in 2026–2027 (£7652m in 2025–2026).



Do it online...

- Set up a council tax Direct Debit or make a payment
- Report a change in address
- Report a Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Support change in circumstance
- Report missed refuse collections or damaged/missing bins
- Report a damaged drain gully, manhole, road, pavement or surface
- Arrange a bulky waste collection
- Report fly tipping
- Request a copy of a birth, death or marriage certificate
- Arrange a pest control appointment
- Book an appointment to register a birth or death
- Book an appointment to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership
- Report animal fouling
- Request maintenance of grass, trees, shrubs, hedges and weeds
- Sign up to garden waste collections
- Report anti-social behaviour and hate crimes
- Report an issue with street lighting

...and much more at www.sunderland.gov.uk

More than **seven out of ten** households in Sunderland pay their council tax by Direct Debit because it's the easiest way.

Why don't you join them?



**Sunderland
City Council**