

Your Services, Your Halton

A guide to Council Tax and Business Rates 2026/2027

www.halton.gov.uk



Working efficiently for you

Dear Resident,

After a number of years of reductions, the funding available to councils now falls well short of the increasing demand and costs of council services, especially for Children's and Adult Social Care Services. The Government are starting to tackle this situation nationally with additional funding, but it will take a long time to repair the significant damage which has been done since 2010.

The Council therefore finds itself in a very challenging financial position, with a significant gap between the cost of delivering services and the available funding. This will once again have a severe impact during the year ahead, upon our Borough and the essential services which the Council delivers for residents.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to affect everyone, especially the most vulnerable in our Borough. The Council will continue to provide whatever support it can, to assist vulnerable residents through this difficult period.

We are doing all we can to limit the impact of cuts upon the Borough, trying as far as possible to protect those services that support the most vulnerable members of our community. Nationally, councils like Halton have seen huge rises in demand and costs for both Children's and Adult Social Care Services, well beyond available funding. The Government recognise that this position is not sustainable and are urgently looking for alternative ways to address the rising demand and costs.

We are unfortunately, having to consider all possible ways to meet the significant funding gap which the Council faces. Everything we do and spend continues to be closely scrutinised and challenged, in order to identify efficiencies and savings wherever possible. However, we have reached a point where we can simply no longer afford to run all Council services at the same level as we have done previously.

You will have already noticed changes and reductions to services delivered across the Borough, many of which we would not have wanted to consider. The Council

is having to fundamentally review how services are best delivered efficiently and effectively, with reduced costs wherever possible, but still providing the essential services which residents require.

It is with this extremely challenging backdrop that the Council has had no choice but to take the difficult decision to increase general Council Tax this year by 2.99% and also to levy a 2.0% Adult Social Care Precept. These are the maximum increases permitted by Government, which they assume every council will adopt. We know this places further burden on already stretched household budgets, however, we have no alternative if we are to continue to provide essential services for our residents.

Despite taking all of these measures, the Council still has significant funding gaps for the coming year and beyond. Therefore, along with nearly 40 other councils, we have once again been forced to seek an arrangement from Government termed Exceptional Financial Support, which will enable us to balance the funding gap for next year. The arrangement will allow us to borrow monies to fund day-to-day running costs, while continuing to find ways of reducing the demand for and cost of services.

These are difficult messages to have to give, and I must thank our residents for their continued support during these challenging times. We know that many of you will have friends, neighbours and family who rely upon Council services in their everyday lives, please be reassured that we are working hard to ensure we can continue to offer this essential support.



Mike Wharton
Leader of Halton Borough Council

About this leaflet

This leaflet contains important information about your Council Tax bill, how your money is spent, what your bill is for the coming year and different ways to pay.

The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on:

- The value of your property based on values at 1 April 1991; and
- Your personal circumstances

For a property that is in Band D (a 'typical' property for the UK) the tax is £2358.34 made up of the following

Halton Borough Council charge	£1938.81
Police Authority charge	£295.44
Fire Authority charge	£ 100.09
Mayoral Precept	£24.00
Total	£2358.34

* The Council Tax attributable to Halton Borough Council includes a precept to fund adult social care.

Details of how properties are 'banded' are shown below. A full table of tax for each type of property and parish is below.

Range of valuation bands

Band

A	Up to and including £ 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

What you will pay in 2026/2027

Council Tax charges 2026/27

Band	Halton	Hale	Moore	Daresbury	Preston Brook	Sandymoor	Halebank
A	1,572.23	1,635.65	1,584.60	1,606.06	1,777.98	1,591.62	1,634.74
B	1,834.27	1,908.26	1,848.70	1,873.74	2,074.32	1,856.90	1,907.20
C	2,096.30	2,180.86	2,112.79	2,141.41	2,370.64	2,122.16	2,179.65
D	2,358.34	2,453.47	2,376.89	2,409.09	2,666.97	2,387.43	2,452.11
E	2,882.41	2,998.68	2,905.08	2,944.44	3,259.62	2,917.96	2,997.02
F	3,406.49	3,543.90	3,433.28	3,479.80	3,852.29	3,448.51	3,541.94
G	3,930.57	4,089.12	3,961.49	4,015.15	4,444.95	3,979.05	4,086.85
H	4,716.68	4,906.94	4,753.78	4,818.18	5,333.94	4,774.86	4,904.22

Making it easier to pay your bill

You can pay your Council Tax by direct debit, card, cash, cheque or online.

Your Council Tax bill is normally payable by ten monthly instalments, however if you wish to pay over 12 months, please contact us by 15 April. If you become liable part way through the year or receive a bill after the start of the year your instalments will be reduced accordingly.

year are shown at the bottom of your bill. You may pay fortnightly provided the monthly amount is paid in full by the due date.

We're here to help. If you have difficulty in paying your Council Tax, please call us immediately, we will make an arrangement to help you clear the debt.

Details of the monthly instalments for the current

Direct Debit Monthly instalments starting 1st, 10th, 20th or 28th April

Half yearly 1st installment due 15th April, 2nd installment due on or before 1st September

Annually Payable on or before 15th April

Debit/credit card Payment can be made over the telephone using most major debit / credit cards.

Please call the automated payment line on **0303 333 4300** (open 24hrs, seven days a week)

Online Payment can be made online at www.halton.gov.uk
You will need to have your account reference number to hand

Cheque Cheque payments are no longer accepted at Halton Direct Link. Please send by post to
**Halton Borough Council, Income Control Team,
Municipal Building, Widnes, WA8 7QF**

Please make your cheque payable to Halton Borough Council

Cash Cash can be paid at any convenience store displaying the paypoint logo (you will need the barcode shown on your bill)
Please do not send cash through the post



The easy way to pay. If you already pay other bills by direct debit, you will know how simple it is. With **direct debit** there is no more queuing, postage and you have the peace of mind knowing your bill is being paid on time. You can set up your direct debit by calling us on **0303 333**

4300, or in person at any Halton Direct Link, just remember to have your bank details with you. We will confirm details of your direct debit within three working days. As well as being simple and safe for you, paying by direct debit helps us keep costs down too, therefore helping to keep the Council Tax as low as possible.

**Having problems paying?
We're here to help –**

If you have difficulty in paying your Council Tax, please call us immediately and we will make an arrangement to help you clear the debt.

A guide to Council Tax

Council Tax is payable on most homes. How much you pay, before benefits and discounts, depends on the “banding” of the property. A ‘typical’ house in the UK is one that was valued at 1 April 1991 at between £68,001 and £88,000 and so is in tax ‘band D’. Houses with lower values are put in bands A to C and pay less tax, while those with higher values are put in bands E to H and pay more tax. The band of your house and the amounts you pay are shown on your bill.

Are you paying too much?

The Council Tax bill for each band assumes that there are at least two adults living in each property. If there is only one adult, a 25% discount will be given.

Any person over 18 years old is counted as an adult. **The following people may not count when we look at the number of adults who live in a property:**

- Full time students, student nurses and Youth Training trainees
- Patients resident in hospital
- Anyone being looked after in care homes
- Anyone with a severe mental illness
- Anyone who lives in a hostel or a shelter
- 18 and 19 year olds still at or just left school
- Care-workers working for low pay (Less than £36 per week)
- Anyone caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18
- Diplomats and visiting services staff
- Members of religious communities (monks & nuns)
- People in prison (except those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or fine)
- Annexes occupied by members of the main household’s family, or used as part of the main dwelling are entitled to 50% discount

Your bill will show if you are entitled to a discount. If none is shown but you think you could be entitled to one, call us immediately on 0303 333 4300.

Help if you are disabled

If you, or someone living with you, need a room, an extra bathroom, kitchen or extra space in your property to meet special requirements arising from a disability you may be entitled to a discount.

Your bill may be reduced to that of a property in the band immediately below the band shown for your property. If you are already in band A, the lowest valuation band, you may still qualify for a reduction of 1/9th of band D charge.

Should you be paying Council Tax?

Owners of empty properties will be liable for Council Tax.

Some properties that have no one living in them may be exempt if they:

- are owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- are left empty by someone who has gone to prison
- are left empty by someone who has moved in order to receive personal care in a hospital or a home or elsewhere
- are left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person
- have been left empty by students
- are waiting probate or letters of administration to be granted (and for up to six months after)
- have been repossessed
- are the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee
- are empty because no one is allowed to live there by law
- are waiting to be lived in by a minister of religion
- are unoccupied granny annexes
- are made up of a pitch or a mooring which is not occupied by a caravan or a boat
- are solely occupied by students, under 18's, or severely mentally impaired people.

There are no discounts for properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished which do not fall into any of the exemption categories listed above. These properties are subject to 100% charge.

From 1st April 2025, unoccupied properties which are furnished (classed as second homes in Council Tax legislation) are subject to an additional second home premium of 100%. However, some second homes provided by an employer as part of a contract of employment, may be eligible for 50% discount.

Properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for between more than one year and less than five years are subject to an additional empty homes premium of 100% and 200% for those empty over five years.

Properties which have been empty for more than ten years are subject to an empty homes premium of 300%. There are a number of circumstances in which the additional premiums may not apply. Please see www.halton.gov.uk/counciltax for full details.

For a property to be deemed a job-related dwelling it must meet the conditions outlined in the Schedule contained within The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 as follows:

1. (1)... a dwelling is job-related for a person if it is provided for him by reason of his employment or for his spouse by reason of the spouse's employment, in any of the following cases-

- (a) where it is necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the employment that the employee should reside in that dwelling;
- (b) where the dwelling is provided for the better performance of the duties of the employment, and it is

one of the kinds of employment in the case of which it is customary for employers to provide dwellings to employees

2. (1)...a dwelling is job-related for a person if he or his spouse is required, under a contract to which this sub-paragraph applies, to live in that dwelling

From 1st April 2018, people aged between 18 and 25 who were previously under the care of a Local Authority may be entitled to a discount.

From 1st April 2019, Halton Borough Council will provide a 100% discretionary council tax discount for all foster carers resident within the borough who foster Halton children directly with the Council

Please contact us on **0303 333 4300** for further information.

A billing authority also has discretion to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable for situations that are not covered by national discounts and exemptions. This can be used in individual cases or to determine classes of case in which liability may be reduced.

If you think your property may be exempt, please contact us on **0303 333 4300**.

How to appeal

You may only appeal against the band your home is in if one of the following applies:

- The property has significantly changed in value because of demolition or adaptation work or because of a change in the area such as a major new road next to the property
- You start or stop using part of the property as a business, or the balance between domestic and business use changes
- The Listing Officer has altered a list without a proposal having been made by a taxpayer
- You become the taxpayer of the property for the first time (you must appeal within six months)

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of your bill.

If you wish to appeal, you should contact the Listing Officer, you can contact the VOA at gov.uk/contact-voa.

If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on **03000 501 501**

You may also appeal if you consider that you are not liable to pay Council Tax, or you believe there has been a mistake in calculating your bill.

If you wish to appeal on these grounds, you should contact Halton Borough Council in writing.

If your appeal is successful, you will be entitled to a refund of any overpaid tax. If you think your property may be exempt please contact the Council Tax team on 0303 333 4300.

Important information about your Council Tax data

Halton Borough Council is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes. For further information and privacy notices, please visit www.halton.gov.uk/dataprotection

Are you entitled to Council Tax reduction?

Over 35% of people who are entitled to claim money off their Council Tax bill are missing out – could you be one of them?

You do not have to be unemployed to claim Council Tax reduction. If you are in work but on a low income, Council Tax reduction could pay some of your Council Tax bill.

Housing Benefit

If you pay rent for your home and are on a low income, you may also qualify for help towards paying this too. You may be able to get Housing Benefit if you are on other benefits, work part-time, or work full-time on a low income.

How much will you get?

If you are eligible for housing benefit and/or Council Tax reduction, the amount you receive will depend on how much you have to pay in rent/Council Tax and your circumstances. This includes:

- Your income (and partner's income if you have one)
- Your savings
- The number of children that live with you
- Other people in your household
- If you or someone in your family has a disability

Second adult rebate

You may also be able to reduce your Council Tax bill if you live with someone who is on a low income and you would normally be entitled to a single person discount if they were not living with you. The rebate is based on the income of any second adult that lives with you, not on your income or savings.

How to claim

If you are unsure if you will qualify, you should make a claim to find out. For expert advice, leaflets and application forms, contact our Benefits Service:

In person – at any Halton Direct Link

By telephone – 0303 333 4300

By email – benefits@halton.gov.uk

You will find more information about benefits on our website www.halton.gov.uk/benefits

Don't delay, report today!

If you receive Council Tax reduction and/or housing benefit, you should tell us immediately if your circumstances change. Things you need to tell us about include:

- A change in your income, including the type of income or the amounts you receive
- A person moving in or out of your home, including additions to your family
- A child leaving school, or further/higher education
- A change in the income of anyone living in your home, other than yourself or your partner

It is important that you tell us about these changes so that you do not miss out on benefits you are entitled to, or that you do not receive benefits you are not entitled to. If you receive more than you are entitled to, we may claim the money back by taking it off future payments, or by sending you a bill.

Maximise your income – claim it or lose it

Every year the Welfare Rights Service helps residents of Halton to claim over £2.5 million in welfare benefits.

This is money that people are often unaware they are entitled to. Much of this money is not “means tested”, but depends on your state of health and will not affect any other benefit entitlement.

Our Welfare Rights Service can help in a number of ways:

- Benefit check – a free and confidential benefit check to maximise your income and advise and apply for any welfare benefits you may be entitled to
- Appeals – help in making an appeal against a decision for any welfare benefits, where you have refused or think the decision is wrong
- Money advice – free and confidential advice and debt management to help you with your finances

To contact the Welfare Rights Services call 0151 511 8930.

How the money is spent

The calculation of the amount of Council Tax is based on the spending requirements of Halton Borough Council, Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Cheshire Fire Service, Liverpool City Region Mayor and, if appropriate, the relevant Parish Council.

The Council's spending (known as the 'Budget Requirement') is planned to be £224.237m. Schools are funded by a specific grant known as the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). In 2026/27, each £100 of Council Tax is anticipated to be spent as follows:

Budget Requirement by Service 2026/2027

Your Council Tax Explained	
	
	Where does every £100 of your Council Tax go?
Adult Social Care	£40.26
Central Services	£1.99
Children's Social Care	£31.81
Community Safety	£0.76
Culture, Libraries, Leisure and Sports	£3.52
Customer Services	£2.33
Health and Wellbeing	£5.74
Housing and Homelessness	£0.84
Open Spaces and Environment	£0.37
Planning and Development	£3.90
Regeneration	£0.43
Roads and Transport	£1.07
Support to Schools	£4.25
Waste and Recycling	£2.72

Local Government Settlement Funding, Business Rate Retention and the surplus or deficit from the Collection Fund (Business Rates & Council Tax), are deducted from the Budget Requirement to give the 'Council Tax Requirement'.

Council Tax is calculated by reference to the number of equivalent band D properties in Halton, which is 37,115 (called 'The Tax Base'), and is expressed as a charge per band D property. Charges for other bands are then arrived at using a set ratio (see Council Tax Charges on Page 4 for details of all the band charges).

Halton's band D

	2026/27 £	2025/26 £	Difference £
Estimated Gross Expenditure	626,681,465	568,801,200	57,880,265
(less) Estimated Income	402,444,532	385,749,770	16,694,762
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	224,236,933	183,051,430	41,185,503
(less)			
Top Up Grant	31,716,000	5,638,615	26,077,385
Retained Business Rates and Related Grant Funding	80,091,000	79,936,057	154,943
Collection Fund Contribution ^{Note 1}	6,598,000	-116,424	6,714,424
Exceptional Financial Support ^(Note 2)	33,873,000	29,385,000	4,488,000
	152,278,000	114,843,248	37,434,752
Council Tax Requirement ^{Note 3}	71,958,933	68,208,182	3,750,751

^{Note 1} - The Collection Fund contribution is a result of the net difference in actual council tax and business rates billed to 31 March 2026 compared to forecast amounts.

^{Note 2} - The Council has been granted provisional approval to borrow to fund annual revenue costs under the Government's Exceptional Financial Support scheme.

^{Note 3} - The increase in the council tax requirement is a combination of an increase of 4.99% to the council tax charge for the Council and an increase of 179 (0.48%) to the Tax Base.

The band **D** charge is calculated by dividing the above Council Tax Requirement by the Tax Base.

Band D Council Tax Charge Calculation: **71,958,933 = £1,938.81**
37,115

The aggregate band **D** charge for Halton is made up as follows:

	2026/27 £	2025/26 £	Difference £	%
Council Band D Charge	1,938.81	1,846.66	92.15	4.99
Police Authority Band D Charge	295.44	276.94	18.50	6.68
Fire Authority Band D Charge	100.09	95.09	5.00	5.26
Liverpool City Region Mayor Band D Charge	24.00	24.00	0.00	0.00
Total Council Tax Band D Charge	2,358.34	2,242.69	115.65	5.16

Properties in the parishes will be liable to pay an extra charge to cover the parish needs. The 2026/27 Tax Base, Precept, and **Band D** charge for each Parish are shown below.

Parish	Tax Base	Parish Precept		Band D Charge	Band D Charge	Difference
		2026/27 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2025/26 £	£
Hale	675	64,216	62,433	95.13	92.63	2.50
Daresbury	424	21,520	14,430	50.75	47.94	2.81
Moore	338	6,271	6,271	18.55	18.23	0.32
Preston Brook	368	113,575	73,538	308.63	197.15	111.48
Halebank	540	50,635	40,960	96.77	75.02	21.75
Sandymoor	1,739	50,587	47,853	29.09	29.09	0
Total precept		306,804	245,485			

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. ('Adult social care authorities' are local authorities 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 the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the method by which those who are liable for non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements, from April 2017, local authorities will keep 100% of the business rates collected locally.

This money, together with revenue from council tax payers, revenue support grant provided by the Government and certain other sums, is used to pay for the services provided by Halton Borough Council and other local authorities in your area. Further information about the business rates system, including transitional and other reliefs may be obtained at www.gov.uk.

For 2026/27, the Government has set the following multipliers;

43.2p – Small Business Rates Multiplier

38.2p Small Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Multiplier

48p – Standard Business Rates Multiplier

43p Standard Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Multiplier

50.8p – Higher Multiplier

For further information please visit the business rates section on the council's website.

Valuation of Property

All rateable values are provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), which is a division of HM Revenue & Customs. More detailed information on the valuation of properties can be obtained by visiting their website at www.voa.gov.uk. For further details, you can e-mail the VOA at: ratingnorthwest@voa.gsi.gov.uk, write to the Agency at Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 7HS or call them on **03000 501501**

Please note that you must pay in accordance with the instalments shown on your bill, pending any appeal against the rateable value for the property.

Empty Property Rates

The rating liability of empty property is presently 100% of the rate due, using the standard non-domestic rating multiplier, once the initial exemption period has expired. The exemption is three-months for offices, shops and other non-industrial properties and six-months for industrial premises, such as factories, workshops and warehouses.

The Government reduced the threshold for the exemption for empty properties in 2011/12 only vacant premises with a rateable value below £2,900 qualify for this exemption. This condition will continue for the 2026/27 financial year.

Contact the Team

You should not hesitate to contact the Non-Domestic Rate Team on **0151 511 8932** or by email at business.rates@halton.gov.uk, should you require any further information on any rating matters.

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 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the North West 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:

North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

	2025/2026 000's	2026/2027 000's
Gross Expenditure	£128,112	£162,983
Levies Raised	£4,681	£4,821
Total Council Tax Base	2,328	2,356

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.

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 3.0%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £4,680,577 in 2025/2026 to £4,820,995 for 2026/2027.

Worried about money?

If you have lost your job, are working less hours, or just struggling to pay your bills because of growing debt, we are here to help you. Our advisors can give you practical help, advice on managing your debts, money saving tips, benefits advice and ways to deal with other financial problems. Give us a call today on 0303 333 4300.

Looking for work?

If you are unemployed, at risk of redundancy, looking for a career change or you think you need to improve your skills, there is a range of help at hand.

Our **Adult Learning team** offers courses to improve English, Maths and ICT skills - visit **www.halton.gov.uk/adultlearning** or call us on 0303 333 4300.

The **Halton Employment Partnership Award** is a programme aimed at enhancing your job prospects by combining employability skills with sector-specific training.

The course is delivered in two parts. During the first two weeks you will cover:

CV and letter writing, job search and job applications, interview skills, IT for work, team working, communication and assertiveness, setting goals and action planning, time management.

The following two weeks offer you the opportunity to access sector specific training in Customer Care, Hospitality & Leisure or Retail. The course also includes achievement of a Health & Safety Certificate.

For more information call 0151 511 8931, visit **www.halton.gov.uk/hep** or email: **hep@halton.gov.uk**.

Halton People Into Jobs can offer a wide range of support to help you get back to work if you are unemployed, visit **www.halton.gov.uk/hpij** or call 0303 333 4300.

Other sources of help include:

Citizens Advice Bureau

(**www.citizensadvice.org.uk** t: 08451 304055)

can give you advice on managing your finances and any tax issues.

StepChange

(**www.stepchange.org** t: 0800 1381111) is a charity that provides confidential free counselling and money management advice

The National Debtline

(**www.nationaldebtline.co.uk** t: 0808 808 4000) provides free debt advice and support.

Contact details:

Council Tax:

Tel: 0303 333 4300

Email: **council.tax@halton.gov.uk**

Business Rates:

Tel: 0151 511 8932

Email: **business.rates@halton.gov.uk**

Benefits:

Tel: 0151 511 7772

Email: **benefits@halton.gov.uk**

Cheshire Police Authority

Tel: 01244 614003

Cheshire Fire Authority

Tel: 01606 868484

You can also write to:

Strategic Director – Policy & Resources
Halton Borough Council
Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QF

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner



Police & Crime
Commissioner
for Cheshire

Each year, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner uses funds raised from Council Tax to support Cheshire Constabulary's budget to keep communities safe.

More information of how they use those funds can be found at

<https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-i-publish/what-i-spend-and-how-i-spend-it/precept/>

This information can also be found on pages 18 and 19.

For further information, contact:

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner

www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01606 364000

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Each year the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service uses funds raised from Council Tax to support their services.

More information of how they use those funds can be found at

<http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/about-us/key-documents/council-tax-leaflets>

For further information, contact:

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters

Winsford

Cheshire

CW7 2FQ

Tel: 01606 868700

Halton Direct Link

All together - a better way

We are here to help you however you choose to contact us:

In person

If you would like to speak to one of our expert advisors face-to-face you can visit us at Halton Direct link located at **Halton Lea Shopping Centre** and **Widnes Brook Street**.

Please check the website for latest opening times www.halton.gov.uk

Call us

If it is more convenient for you to use the telephone, then just call our contact centre on 0303 333 4300 we are open 8am - 6pm Monday to Friday.

Whichever way you choose to get in touch, our expert staff will be there to help. They are fully trained to help with Council Tax queries and payments, benefits advice, street lighting repairs, pest control, waste management enquiries and much, much more.

If they cannot help you directly themselves they will ensure your query is passed on to the correct person and that you receive a prompt response.

Visit our website

Don't forget that our website www.halton.gov.uk has lots of useful information about council services, our borough, facts and figures, what's on and other local news.

You can also pay your Council Tax online or email us with your questions and comments.

If you do not have access to the internet at home or work, you can use the internet for FREE at one of our libraries or any Halton Direct Link.

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION METRO MAYOR & COMBINED AUTHORITY



LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METRO MAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

STEVE ROTHERAM

Mayor of the Liverpool City Region



Since 2014, Halton has been part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. **But what does that actually mean for you and your family?**

Put simply, it means more decisions about everyday things like transport, housing, jobs and skills are being made locally, not just by the government in Westminster. It also means Halton can access funding and investment that individual councils cannot secure on their own, helping to bring improvements directly into our communities.

Having a directly elected Mayor gives the city region a single, accountable voice working with Halton Council to stand up for local priorities - whether that's cheaper transport, better job opportunities or support with the cost of living.

Steve Rotheram has been Mayor of the Liverpool City Region since 2017. Since then, he's been working to build a fairer, more equal future for the 1.6 million people who live here - with a strong focus on making sure our area is the best place to grow up, grow a family and grow a business.

To help with the rising cost of living, the Mayor is freezing the Mayoral precept this year. In 2026/27, the precept remains £24.00 for a Band D property. Most households in Halton will pay the Band A rate of £16.00 for the whole year - about £1.33 a month.

That contribution helps fund services and investment that benefit residents across Halton and the wider city region.

Better homes, jobs and opportunities for local people

Thousands of households across the city region have already benefited from a £105 million programme to make homes warmer and more energy efficient - helping families cut energy bills, stay warm in winter and improve their quality of life.

A record £700 million has also been secured for social and affordable housing, meaning more people in Halton can access a decent, secure home they can actually afford.

Alongside this, tens of thousands of jobs and apprenticeships have been created across the city region, backed by more than £50 million invested in schools, colleges and training - including Riverside College. This support is helping people of all ages gain the skills

employers need and access better-paid, more secure work.

For young people, this means clearer pathways into jobs, training and apprenticeships closer to home, rather than having to leave the area to get on in life. And through programmes like Households into Work, hundreds of long-term unemployed residents have been supported to rebuild confidence, gain new skills and move back into employment.

Together, this work is about making sure opportunity isn't determined by where you're born - and that both today's workforce and the next generation can build a future here in Halton.

Transport that saves time and money

A £1.6 billion transport settlement is helping to create a public transport network that is cheaper, quicker and more reliable - making it easier to get to work, college, school and family.

This has included £2 single bus fares, capped fares for under-18s, new publicly owned trains and buses, and smart tap-and-go ticketing on the way - all designed to reduce costs and simplify journeys.

Plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail have also taken a major step forward, with £45 billion committed nationally and over £1 billion already agreed for early development. This will mean faster and more frequent trains between Liverpool and Manchester via Warrington, improving connections and opening up new job opportunities across the North - including for people living in Halton.

Work is also expected to begin before the end of the decade on a new Merseyrail station at Daresbury, supporting up to 8,000 jobs. The Combined Authority is also exploring how services could be extended to Widnes in future.

Over £70 million has been put into walking and cycling routes to make active travel safer and more convenient.

Local investment you can see

Halton has already benefited from significant, visible investment - including £18.2 million for Runcorn Station Quarter, £16 million to reopen the Halton Curve rail line, and £6 million for the Daresbury-Runcorn cycling route. Around £4 million has also been invested in repairing

roads and potholes across the borough.

The Combined Authority is backing Halton's strengths in science and innovation too. Sci-Tech Daresbury is expanding, with £17 million helping to create 250 new jobs. A further £9.5 million is supporting a new 60,000 sq. ft laboratory building, bringing around 150 high-skilled roles to the area.

Cleaner energy, lower bills and a stronger future

The Liverpool City Region has committed to reaching net zero by 2035 - not just to cut carbon, but to help secure cleaner, cheaper and more reliable energy for local people.

This means focusing on creating skilled local jobs, reducing exposure to rising energy costs and protecting communities from the increasing impacts of extreme weather.

Projects like Mersey Tidal Power could eventually generate enough renewable electricity to power hundreds of thousands of homes, helping to build long-term energy security while supporting jobs and growth here in the region.

The 2026/27 council tax requirement is detailed below:

2025/26 £'000		2026/27 £'000
292,713	Gross Expenditure	349,370
(161,066)	Income and Specific Grants	(208,740)
(107,090)	Income from Levy	(110,303)
(14,098)	Contributions from Reserves	(19,667)
10,459	Council Tax Requirement	10,660
435,808	Tax Base	444,165
24.00	Band D Equivalent	24.00

The movement in the gross expenditure budget is detailed below.

	£'000
Gross Expenditure 2025/26	292,713
Additional Reserves funded expenditure	5,569
Net change in Revenue Grant Funded Activity	39,564
Inflationary and other cost pressures	5,079
Transport Related cost pressures	6,445
Gross Expenditure 2026/27	349,370

For more information, visit

www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Transport Funding

The LCRCA's transport responsibilities are funded through transport levies across each of the six councils. This funds concessionary travel, subsidised bus services, the Mersey Ferries and a range of other services.

The transport levy 2026/27 for each of the Merseyside Councils within the LCRCA is:

Transport Levy 2025/26 £'000		Transport Levy 2026/27 £'000
11,708	Knowsley	12,152
37,036	Liverpool	38,047
20,788	Sefton	21,401
13,674	St Helens	14,118
23,884	Wirral	24,585
107,090	Total	110,303

Please note that, for historical and legal reasons, Halton Borough Council currently provide transport activities directly within the boundaries of the borough of Halton.

The orders that created the Combined Authority allowed for a differential levy recognising that Halton Borough Council remains responsible for transport in the Halton area, whereas the other areas of the Combined Authority remain the responsibility of Merseytravel. This levy will be £3.558m for 2026/27.



Mayor Steve Rotheram

Mayor of the Liverpool City Region



Mr John Fogarty, B.A. Hons, C.P.F.A.

Executive Director of Corporate Services: Liverpool City Region Combined Authority



POLICE BUDGET 2026/27

VISIBLE POLICING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

This year's policing budget was a tough one to set. 60 of our 87 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) roles were at risk of being cut. I wrote to the Government to ask for an exceptional rise in the policing precept to help keep as many PCSO roles as possible. As usual I also reached out to the public in Cheshire, both online and in person, to see how much extra they would be willing to pay for policing. I based it on Band B because two thirds of Cheshire homes fall into bands A-C. This consultation offered:

- **Cut back** – No rise; major service reductions including the loss of all 87 PCSOs.
- **Manage** – A 97p per month rise (Band B); investment in automation and drones but reduction of 50 PCSOs.
- **Do more** – A £2.14 per month rise (Band B); save all PCSOs, add 21 neighbourhood officers and enhance drones, prevention work, and call answering times.

Two thirds of Cheshire properties fall into bands A-C.

More than 6,000 people had their say - Cheshire's largest response ever. 73% supported a rise through their council tax bill, with 57% choosing 'Do more' and 16% selecting the 'Manage' option. There was a clear desire to 'To More'.

In the end the Government allowed me to increase by an additional £1.20 per month on a Band B.

This will mean improved and enhanced neighbourhood policing. Cheshire Police will also be able to invest in technology to drive efficiencies. I'm aware that people are still feeling the effects of the cost-of-living crisis, but I sincerely believe that this small rise offers good value and will deliver the visible policing presence that the public have told me they would like to see.

Dan Price

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner



Listening to the public



Create local policing plans **specific** to that area, **listening** to public concerns.

Commission **services** to support victims of crime, when and where they need them.



Reducing crime



Increase in officer numbers and **enhanced** neighbourhood policing.

Provide **innovative intervention programmes** to deter those getting involved in crime.



Modernising



Embrace modern technology, e.g AI, to enhance policing.

Provide a **fit for purpose** police service, with a modern estate and assets.



Council tax bands for policing

The final Police Funding Settlement, was published on 28 January 2026. This confirmed that total funding for territorial police forces will be up to £18.4 billion in 2026/27, representing an increase of £796 million compared with 2025/26. This is equivalent to a 4.5% cash increase and a 2.3% real terms increase.

At this time, the Home Office also confirmed additional exceptional precept flexibility for Cheshire of £3.50 to bring the council tax referendum threshold to £18.50 for a Band D property or £14.39 increase for a Band B property. Cheshire's share of this funding increase is £15.2m, of which £8.7m comes from the precept increase and £6.5m is from Central Government

The online survey was launched on Friday 9th January 2026 and ran until 12noon on Friday 23rd January 2026.

Paper copies of the surveys for members of the public on commuter trains between Knutsford and Ashley and bus routes in Warrington enabled face-to-face consultation to take place.

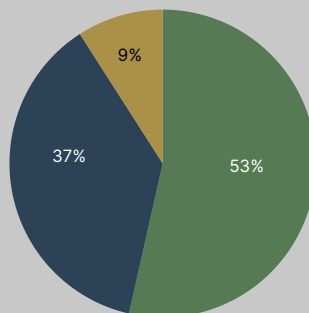
73% of the 6,169 respondents backed some level of increase to support the measures outlined in the budget. On Friday 6th February 2026, the Police and Crime Panel approved the £14.39 annual precept rise for Band B households.

How much police precept you'll pay depends on your council tax bands and these figures are available in the table. These figures represent a rise of 6.68%.

Band	£	Band	£
A	£196.96	E	£361.09
B	£229.79	F	£436.75
C	£262.61	G	£492.40
D	£295.44	H	£590.88

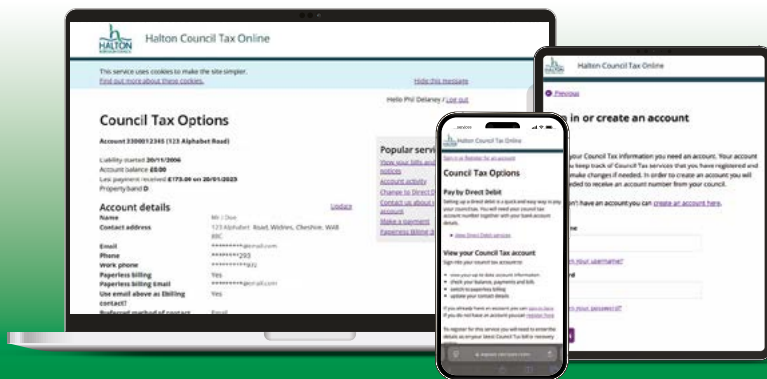
Where does the funding come from?

- Government Grant
- Council tax precept and collection fund
- Other income and specific grants



Funding	£
Government grant	£171,997,282
Council tax precept	£120,915,486
Other income and specific grants	£30,418,242
Total funding and income	£323,331,010

Halton Council Tax You Should Do It Online!



If you register for our online Council Tax scheme you can

- Access your bills faster online rather than through the post.
- Access your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Improve the environment by helping us use less paper.
- Help us save money on printing and postage costs.
- Have all the people on your Council Tax bill get their own email notifications.
- View a property's band and annual charge
- View previous bills and recovery notices
- Inform us of a change of address
- Register to pay your Council Tax by direct debit
- Apply for a single person discount or other reductions
- Change your contact details
- Use a copy of your online bill if you are eligible for the Merseyflow Residents' Discount Scheme

To Sign up for future online Council Tax Bills, and all the above benefits go to **www.halton.gov.uk/ctaxonline**

You will need your current account number, which is on the Council Tax bill that came with this flyer.

**You're
not
alone**

Domestic abuse is
never okay but
feeling isolated
doesn't mean
you're on your own.

If you, or someone you know
is suffering abuse, help is available.

**PLEASE DON'T
SUFFER IN
SILENCE.**

- 📞 Contact Cheshire Police on **101**
- 📞 In an immediate risk of harm, **call 999**
- 📞 National Domestic Abuse helpline **0808 2000 247**

You can get help and advice at:
openthedoorcheshire.org.uk

 **OPEN**
THE DOOR
...and start a conversation on Domestic Abuse

PAYING BY CASH? A NEW WAY TO PAY US!



PayPoint

You can now pay your **Council Tax Bill**, **Business Rates** or **Council Invoice** by cash at any convenience store displaying the **PayPoint** logo.



PayPoint

All you need is your barcoded bill.

Find your nearest **PayPoint** location at www.consumer.paypoint.com

PayPoints are conveniently located in local newsagents and supermarkets so that you can make your payment at the same time as buying your groceries or newspapers.

You should allow up to 3 working days for **PayPoint** transactions to reach your account.

There are more than 50 outlets across our borough.

- Extended opening hours
- Multiple payment locations
- No transaction charge
- Only cash accepted
- Minimum transaction £5
- Maximum transaction £300
- Processing requires barcoded bill or invoice

**You can also pay online at www.halton.gov.uk
or telephone 03033334300.**



Thinking about **adoption?**

Grow your family with Together for Adoption

Support every step of the way

Throughout your adoption journey you'll receive dedicated guidance and access to high quality training designed to help you feel confident and prepared.

Inclusive and welcoming

Whether you're single, part of a couple, LGBTQ+, or from a variety of backgrounds, Together for Adoption welcomes adopters from all walks of life.

A strong community

You'll benefit from peer support networks, social events, and resources to help support you and your family.

Finding the right match

Working across five councils means a wider pool of families and children, leading to quicker, more effective matching.



SCAN ME

www.togetherforadoption.co.uk



Wigan
Council



**Cheshire West
and Chester**



WARRINGTON
Borough Council



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Recycling your foil, cartons and plastic tubs, trays, pots and tubes

Great news! You can now recycle even more. We've added plastic tubs, trays, pots and tubes, cartons, Tetra Pak® and foil.

Just follow these simple steps:

1. Rinse out cartons and leave cap on
2. Remove any food or liquid from your foil and scrunch into a ball
3. Pop them in your blue recycling container loose along with your other recyclables



Yes please



✓ Card, paper



✓ Plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays and tubes



✓ Glass jars and bottles



✓ Tins, cans and aerosols



✓ Clean foil



✓ Cartons and Tetra Pak®

No thanks



✗ Food waste



✗ Nappies



✗ Crisp packets, pet food pouches



✗ Plastic film from food containers



✗ Vapes, batteries

Thank you! By sorting and recycling your waste, you're making a BIG difference, helping to reduce waste, increase recycling rates and protect our environment.



haltonbc



halton.gov.uk/whichbin

