

Council Tax Guide 2026/27

Welcome to your Council Tax guide

This brief guide will explain how your Council Tax helps to pay for the services Fareham Borough Council provides across the Borough.

Fareham's Council Tax increase

Following a consultation with residents living in the Fareham Borough, it has become clear that an increase in Council Tax is necessary to ensure that residents continue to receive the same high level of service they have come to expect.

In the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2026/27 the referendum limits for local authorities were set out and council tax increases that exceed 2.99% would trigger a referendum. However, the government has again allowed shire districts to raise their council tax by the higher of 2.99% or a maximum of £5 when compared to the previous level, before a referendum is triggered. This £5 limit no longer benefits Fareham.

The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and Fair Funding Review 2.0 were announced on 17 December 2025 and confirmed that it would be a one-year settlement for 2026/27 with indication as to funding levels for the two following years through to 2028/29. The Medium-Term Finance Strategy has been updated using these funding indications.

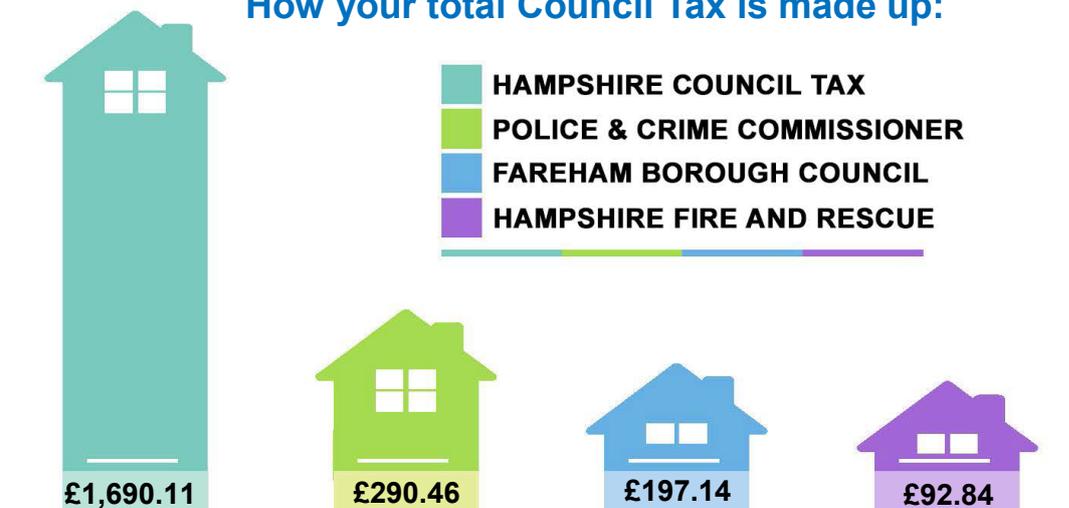
Although the overall economic situation appears to have stabilised recently the impact of changes announced in the Autumn Statement are yet to be fully known for Councils and by the economy in general.

How much of my Council Tax goes to Fareham Borough Council?

Just under 9% of the Council Tax you pay goes towards the services provided by Fareham Borough Council. Fareham's 2026/27 Band D charge of £197.14 (£191.42 in 2025/26) is an increase of £5.72 or 2.99%.

In 2025/26, Fareham had the 2nd lowest Council Tax in Hampshire and the 4th lowest Council Tax across all District Councils in England. This is achieved by running our services very efficiently and by careful financial management.

How your total Council Tax is made up:



Council Tax for Band D property (the mid Band) in 2026/27 will be £2,270.55.

How do we calculate the Council Tax in Fareham?

We produce a Finance Strategy each year. This helps us make spending, borrowing and investment decisions over the next 5 years.

The Council has £7.7 million revenue reserves (money saved to invest in the future), funds balances of £7.0 million and capital reserves of £12.3 million.

These are used to pay for new projects and services, meet any unforeseen costs and to smooth the effect of other financial pressures and changes in Government funding on Council Tax.

However, the Council's funds remain even tighter this year and are likely to be so for the foreseeable future because of economic pressures, the cost-of-living crisis and a lack of clarity over Government funding.



The table below shows the changes to the Council's budget for 2026/27.

COUNCIL TAX SUMMARY 2026/27		Amount per Band	
2025/26		2026/27	D Property
£'000		£'000	£
14,322	Net Expenditure	15,667	348.02
	Less Income:		
-1,255	Lower Tier Services Grant	-3,444	-76.51
0	Use of Collection Fund Balances	-0	0.00
-4,530	Retained Business Rates	-3,348	-74.37
8,537	Fareham Borough Council Total	8,875	£197.14
Add:	Hampshire County Council Precept		£1,690.11
	Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Precept		£92.84
	Police and Crime Commissioner Precept		£290.46
	TOTAL		£2,270.55

Good at collecting Council Tax

Fareham Borough Council maintains excellent collection rates for Council Tax. We collected 98.29% of the Council Tax due in 2024/25. This compares excellently with other authorities both in Hampshire and nationally.

Making sure your Council Tax is well spent

Part of your Council Tax funds services provided by Fareham Borough Council such as waste collection and kerbside recycling, street cleaning, housing and community and leisure services.



The table below shows how we spend your money to provide services in Fareham.

REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2026/27	Budget	Budget	Change between
	2025/26	2026/27	2025/26 and 2026/27
	£	£	£
Service Budgets			
Planning Committee	619,900	664,500	44,600
Licensing & Regulatory Affairs Committee	700,600	759,000	58,400
Executive - Service Budgets			
- Leisure & Community	471,700	51,000	-420,700
- Housing	2,787,800	2,579,700	-208,100
- Planning & Development	-85,200	-121,800	-36,600
- Policy & Resources	1,010,000	959,100	-50,900
- Health & Public Protection	-221,800	825,200	1,047,000
- Streetscene	6,935,100	7,383,600	448,500
Accounting Adjustments in Service Portfolios	3,977,700	5,643,100	1,665,400
Total Service Expenditure	16,195,800	18,743,400	2,547,600
Other Budgets	-1,873,700	-3,076,800	-1,203,100
NET EXPENDITURE	14,322,100	15,666,600	1,344,500

What is my Council Tax spent on?

The chart below shows you how much of your £197.14 (Band D) is spent on the different services we provide to our residents.

MENU OF SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET 2026-2027	
How your £197.14 is spent	
EMPTYING YOUR BINS	41.05
GOOD QUALITY GREEN SPACES	23.97
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	23.88
REMOVING LITTER	18.64
CONTROLLING PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT	11.37
GIVING LOCAL PEOPLE A VOICE	9.28
CONSERVATION	8.71
MANAGING GROWTH	7.62
KEEPING YOU INFORMED	7.09
SUPPORTING THOSE ON LOWER INCOMES	6.16
MOWING THE GRASS	6.12
PROTECTING YOUR HEALTH	5.63
CREATING A VIBRANT TOWN CENTRE	5.56
ENTERTAINMENT AT FAREHAM LIVE	3.64
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	3.62
GRANTS	2.28
HELPING YOU FEEL SAFE AND SECURE	2.18
LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES	2.04
WELL MAINTAINED SPORTS PITCHES	2.04
PROTECTING THE COAST	1.20
A RANGE OF LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES	1.13
HELPING WITH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT	0.95
PEST CONTROL	0.90
PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES	0.70
HELPING WITH BEREAVEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	0.48
HELPING YOU TRAVEL AROUND THE BOROUGH	0.42
PLAY AREAS	0.29
LICENSING	0.15
HOME IMPROVEMENTS	0.04
POPULAR LEISURE CENTRES	0.00
PLACES TO PARK YOUR CAR	0.00
HELPING WITH YOUR PROPERTY MOVES	0.00
TOTAL TO BE MET BY FAREHAM COUNCIL TAX PAYERS	197.14

Council Tax Support

If you have made a claim for Council Tax Support, your Council Tax bill and enclosed Decision Letter will tell how much support you are entitled to. Please contact us to find out more about the Council Tax Support scheme and how to apply.

Contact us

For more information regarding Council Tax please see the back of your Council Tax Bill or visit our website. Alternatively you can contact us at the Civic Offices and we will be happy to help you.

Tel: (01329) 824651

Email: counciltax@fareham.gov.uk

Web: www.fareham.gov.uk

Address: Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham,
PO16 7AZ



How is the rest of my Council Tax spent?

Further details on the spending plans of Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority can be found at the following websites:

Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk/counciltax

www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/budgetspendingandperformance

Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner

www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/money/council-tax

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority

www.hantsfire.gov.uk/about/council-tax