

Council Tax booklet 2022-23

How we pay for services

This document incorporates Council Tax information for Luton Council and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

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[Contact us through the Council Tax general enquiry form](#)

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Contact us

Luton Council

Written enquiries

Customer Service Enquiries

5th Floor Town Hall, George Street

LUTON

LU1 2BQ

Enquiries: You can [contact us through the Council Tax general enquiry form](#)

Council Tax

Paying by phone: 0300 456 2725 (open 24/7)

See www.luton.gov.uk/Counciltax for [information about your Council Tax and discounts and exemptions](#).

Direct Debit set-up for Council Tax

Complete this form to [set up a Direct Debit to pay your Council Tax](#).

Benefits

Find out [more about Housing benefit and Council Tax Reduction](#) here.

Department for Work and Pensions

Universal Credit

Tel: 0800 328 5644

[Visit the DWP Universal Credit website](#).

Valuation Office Agency (VOA)

[Select Council Tax on the VOA website](#) to:

- view your property
- check if you can request a review

You can [contact the VOA here](#).

Or send them an email: cteast@voa.gsi.gov.uk

If you cannot use the online service, call **03000 501 501**. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm.

Or write to:

Valuation Office Agency
Durham Customer Service Centre
Wycliffe House
Green Lane
Durham, DH1 3UW

Valuation Tribunal Service

If you've appealed to the council about your bill and disagree with our decision, you can appeal to this independent organisation.

Website: www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Email: vtDoncaster@valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Telephone: 0303 445 8100

Fax: 020 7481 4891

Introduction

This booklet explains how we work out your Council Tax, and where the money goes. It also sets out:

- easy ways to pay
- details of how you could qualify for a discount

Many people are entitled to claim Council Tax Reduction (CTR), even if they're in full time work. For more information, please [visit the CTR section of our website](#).

This booklet is available on our website, where you can find a copy that can be easily downloaded and printed if you need a hard copy. Making it available online helps us save considerable printing and delivery costs.

Fair Processing Notice

It is a statutory requirement the authority holds your personal information.

You have the right to:

- request access to, rectification or erasure of your personal data from the council
- restrict or object to processing, and data portability

All parties above using such information do so on the basis of public interest and the legitimate interest stated above, processing will only cease if compelling legitimate grounds cannot be proven to override your interest.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) or relevant supervisory authority.

For further information [please see our privacy notice](#).

What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is the way people pay for local services such as:

- education
- bin collections
- libraries
- care for the elderly

Based on property values set by the Inland Revenue's valuation office in 1991, the amount of tax you pay makes a contribution towards the cost of local services. This year, a band D Council Taxpayer in Luton will be charged **£2003.71**. See how this is broken down by service:

- Luton Council: £1662.17
- Bedfordshire Police: £237.09
- Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service: £104.45

Ways to pay your Council Tax

Direct debit

Direct Debit is the easiest and most convenient way to pay. [Switch to Direct Debit payments here](#).

Bank transfer

Pay online through your own bank's website. You will need to quote your council tax account number.

Our account bank details are:

Lloyds Bank
Sort code 30 66 76
Account number 17 25 68 62

Online or telephone

Please [visit our website to pay online](#) or call our 24 hour payment line on **0300 456 2725** and follow the instructions.

Telephone banking

You need to have signed up with your bank in order to pay your bills by this method. You can make payments 24 hours a day, seven days a week simply by quoting:

- our bank sort code 30 66 76
- our account number 17 25 68 62
- your Council Tax account number

Post Office or PayPoint

You can pay at your local post office by cash, cheque or debit card – credit cards are not accepted – or by cash only at newsagents and convenience stores that display the PayPoint sign. Please take your Council Tax payment card with you.

Post

Cheques should be made payable to **Luton Borough Council** with your Council Tax account number written on the back and sent to:

Revenues
Luton Council
Town Hall
George Street
Luton LU1 2BQ

Please note that credit card payment is a discretionary service offered by the council. There is no additional charge for payment by debit or credit card.

Remember:

- ensure you have your Council Tax reference available when making payments
- your instalments by default are due on the **first of each month** (unless you've specifically requested a different day)
- if you pay your Council Tax by cash or credit or debit card, you must ensure these payments are received on or before the due date
- if you pay by cheque, please allow six extra days

Pay your Council Tax over 12 instalments instead of ten

Council Tax is now payable in a maximum of 12 monthly instalments. The default number of instalments is still ten, so you'll pay over ten months unless you tell us to bill you over 12.

If you wish to move from your current ten monthly instalments to 12 please **contact us before 13 April** by [completing this application form](#).

The amount you have to pay, and when, is shown on your bill. Payments will start:

- in April and end in January for ten instalments
- in April for 12 instalments

Sign up to Council Tax self-service

It is now easy for you to manage your own Council Tax, Housing Benefit or Council Tax reduction online through the Council Tax self-service portal. You can

- view your Council Tax bill and set up eBilling
- set up a direct debit
- check your account balance, payment history and next payment due
- make a payment
- apply for a Council Tax reduction/Housing Benefit
- view your benefit awards and calculations
- tell us you're moving

[Sign up for a Council Tax self-service account here](#)

Paperless billing

All residents will be asked if they would like to receive Council Tax bill notifications by email rather than through the post.

[Sign up for a Council Tax self-service account here](#)

Who has to pay?

To work out who is responsible for paying Council Tax in your home, look down the list below until you come to the category that applies to you.

1. Resident owner of the property (who owns the freehold)
2. Resident person who owns the lease
3. Resident tenant (including council tenants)
4. Resident who has a licence to live in the property
5. Someone who just lives there
6. Non-resident owner of the property

If no adults live in the property as their main home, the owner or person entitled to possession is responsible for paying the Council Tax bill.

In some special cases (including houses in multiple occupation such as bedsits), it's the owner who is responsible for paying the Council Tax and not the residents.

A resident is a person aged 18 years or over who lives in the dwelling as their only or main home.

Joint owners or tenants are jointly liable for one Council Tax bill for the dwelling. Husbands and wives, civil partners and unmarried partners who live together are also jointly responsible for paying the bill.

Council Tax rebate 2022 - Support for energy prices

The Government announced on 03 February 2022 they are providing a £150 one-off Energy Bills Rebate for most households in council tax bands A-D. This includes property that is valued in band E but has an alternative valuation band of band D, as a result of the disabled band reduction scheme.

The rebate will be made as a payment to households who are liable on 1 April 2022.

Households in England in Bands A-D that pay less than £150 or do not pay Council Tax as a result of Local Council Tax Support will also be eligible for a payment of £150.

People in receipt of the Single Person Discount in Bands A-D will be eligible for a payment of £150.

The rebate will not be paid for second homes or empty properties.

Discretionary support is available for households living in property valued in bands E – H that are on income related benefits.

For more information about the Council Tax £150 rebate including details of how this will be paid, [please visit our website](#).

Penalties

We may impose a **penalty of £70** if you fail to:

- notify us about matters which affect your entitlement to a discount or exemption **within 21 days**
- respond to a request for liability information **within 21 days**

Each subsequent failure may result in a penalty of £280 being imposed.

Appeal a penalty

If you wish to appeal a penalty imposed on your bill, you should do so in the first instance to Luton Council. Should you remain unhappy with our decision you can appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS).

Any penalty appeal to VTS should be made in writing within two months from the date that the penalty is first included on your bill.

[Further details on how to appeal can be found on the VTS website](#).

What if I don't pay?

SMS text messaging

We've adopted this service to help assess and collect outstanding Council Tax. If your account falls into arrears we may send a text message reminder before taking further recovery action.

We may also contact you by text message in order to determine correct liability.

This service can:

- prevent statutory recovery documents being issued
- help residents avoid paying expensive costs

Whilst this service is offered to prevent residents falling further into arrears, it should not be relied upon and may not always be available.

It's your responsibility to maintain the instalments due on your account in line with the demand notice issued and failure to do so will result in recovery action being taken.

The Revenue department will not send marketing information, or pass your details onto third party marketing companies. However, this authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you've 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.

If you would like to update the Revenue team with a new phone number, or you would like to opt out of receiving text messages, please [contact us through the Council Tax general enquiry form](#).

Enforcement

If you fail to pay or pay late, you'll lose your right to pay by instalments and have to pay the outstanding balance in full immediately. You'll receive a reminder / final notice and ultimately you could receive a court summons and have to pay £77 costs.

Your case could then be referred to enforcement agents for collection and incur the following charges.

Compliance stage fee: £75

This fee is due as soon as the case is received by the enforcement agent and covers all activity up to the first commencement of the enforcement stage.

Enforcement stage fee: £235 plus 7.5% of the value of the original debt which exceeds £1500

This stage comprises all activity from the first attendance at the premises in relation to the instruction.

Sale stage fee: £110 plus 7.5% of the value of the original debt which exceeds £1500

This stage commences with the 1st attendance at the property for the purpose of transporting goods to the place of sale.

Enforcement fees are nationally fixed and set by government.

You could also:

- be made bankrupt
- lose your home
- be jailed for up to 90 days

So, please let us know straight away if you are having difficulty paying your Council Tax. You can make an arrangement to pay if you go online and [login to your Council Tax self-service account](#).

We will do our very best to help. You can [contact us through the Council Tax general enquiry form](#).

Council Tax discounts

You may be entitled to a discount on your Council Tax bill if you, or someone in your household, fall into one of these categories:

- students, apprentices, YTS trainees, student nurses and foreign language assistants
- a person aged between 18 and 25 who has left Luton Council local authority care
- people under 20 who are on, or have just completed, a qualifying course of further education
- young people for whom child benefit is still payable
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18
- severely mentally impaired people
- live-in care workers on low pay, such as community service volunteers
- patients usually resident in hospital, residential care homes, nursing homes or hostels providing a high level of care

- residents of certain hostels or night shelters
- prisoners, convicted or on remand, except where imprisonment is for non-payment of fines or council tax
- second adult rebate for pension age only

To claim, please [go to the Council Tax discount page on our website](#).

Reductions for people with disabilities

If you or anyone who lives with you is disabled, you may be entitled to reduced council tax if:

- your home has an extra bathroom or kitchen that is essential or of major importance to the disabled person's wellbeing
- your home has a room (not a bathroom, kitchen or lavatory) specifically used or adapted for the disabled person, which is essential or of major importance to the disabled person's wellbeing
- a wheelchair is used inside the home and it is essential or of major importance to the disabled person's wellbeing

You can still apply even if your home is charged as a band A property.

If you care for someone with a disability who is not your spouse, partner, or a child under 18, you may be entitled to be 'disregarded' for council tax.

For more information and to apply online visit the [Council Tax discounts & exemptions pages on our website](#).

Empty homes premium

Homes that have been empty and unfurnished for more than two years will be charged double their normal Council Tax rate.

From April 2020 homes that have been empty and unfurnished for more than five years will be charged three times their normal Council Tax rate.

From April 2021 homes empty for more than ten years will be charged four times their normal Council Tax rate.

Discount for annexes

The government wishes to support extended families living together i.e. children saving for a new home or elderly parents. If parts of a home are constructed or adapted for separate occupation and separately banded for council tax as an annex, a 50% discount can be awarded.

If you think this discount applies to you please [apply online through the Council Tax Discount & Exemption pages on our website](#).

Council tax exemptions

You don't have to pay Council Tax on a property if it falls into any of the following exemption categories. If your bill has an exemption code on it, you must tell us if you think the exemption is wrong. If you have not been granted an exemption but think you may be entitled to one, please [apply online through the Council Tax Discount & Exemption pages on our website](#).

Class B

Owned by charity and unoccupied. Exempt for up to six months.

Class D

Unoccupied because the owner or tenant is in prison.

Class E

Unoccupied because the owner or tenant now lives in a hospital or care home.

Class F

Unoccupied after a death. Exempt for up to six months after grant of probate.

Class G

Unoccupied because occupation is forbidden by law.

Class H

Unoccupied and is being held for occupation by a minister of religion.

Class I

Unoccupied as the person has moved to receive personal care elsewhere.

Class J

Unoccupied as persons have moved to provide personal care elsewhere.

Class K

Unoccupied properties owned and last used by a student

Class L

Unoccupied properties that have been repossessed by the mortgage lender.

Class M

Student hall of residence.

Class N

Properties only occupied by students.

Class O

UK armed forces accommodation.

Class P

Occupied by a member of visiting force.

Class Q

Unoccupied property that is the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee.

Class R

Unoccupied caravan pitch or boat mooring.

Class S

All occupiers under 18 years of age.

Class T

Unoccupied granny flat or annex which cannot be let out separately.

Class U

All occupiers are severely mentally impaired.

Class V

Main residence of a person with diplomatic privilege or immunity.

Class W

Granny flat or annex that is occupied by a dependant relative.

Moving home?

Please remember to tell us if you move home. You can [do this through our online change of address form](#).

Let us know immediately about any changes in your circumstances, particularly if you are claiming council tax reduction, housing benefit or any other discount or exemption.

You must also tell us if you have been given a discount to which you're not entitled.

We rely on accurate information from Council Tax payers to make the system work. If you knowingly provide inaccurate information or refuse to supply details we need, you could:

- be liable for a penalty of up to £70
- risk prosecution

How to request a review of your Council Tax bill

If you disagree with our decision about the bill or your responsibility to pay Council Tax, please [contact us](#) giving the reasons why you think your bill is wrong.

You can ask for a review of the decision if you think:

- we're sending bills to the wrong person for your home
- your home should be exempt from Council Tax
- the amount of the bill is wrong, for example if you think you are entitled to a discount or a reduction
- we haven't reduced the bill for a disability

Appeals to the Valuation Tribunal Service

If you asked for a review of your bill and do not receive a reply within two months, or you receive a reply within two months and you still disagree with our decision, you have a further two months in which to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS). [Contact details for VTS can be found here](#).

You cannot appeal if your only reason for doing so is that you do not agree with our Council Tax Reduction scheme.

Disagree with the banding of your property?

Your property has been allocated to one of eight bands by the Inland Revenue's Valuation Office, on the basis of its open market value on 1 April 1991.

Each valuation band pays a different amount of Council Tax.

If you think the property has been placed in the wrong band you may be able to appeal by:

- asking the [Valuation Office Agency](#) (VOA) to check it
- making a formal challenge to the VOA – you can only do this in certain circumstances, for example, if your property has changed significantly since it was valued

Statement concerning adult social care funding

This year, the government has allowed councils who are responsible for providing Adult Social Care to increase their Council Tax by up to 5%. Luton Council has chosen to increase their precept by 1.99% (rounded to 2%) for general expenditure and by 1% which is specifically for Adult Social Care services (The Adult Social Care precept).

The government introduced legislation and guidance setting out how the Adult Social Care precept is calculated and shown on Council Tax bills. This has been followed when producing the Council Tax bills for 2022-2023.

Getting help with your Council Tax bill

Council Tax reduction scheme

Our Council Tax Reduction scheme continues to support those struggling on lower incomes while raising the amount those on higher incomes will have to pay.

The scheme helps those on a low income, even if they are working, by providing a discount on their Council Tax liability.

We'll compare your income to your needs and calculate if you're entitled to any reduction. You must apply for the reduction as it is not granted automatically.

The maximum Council Tax Reduction for working age households is **80% of the charge for your Council Tax band**. Pensioners and war widows may qualify for up to 100% reduction under this scheme.

[Go to our Council Tax Reduction pages for more information or to make an online application.](#)

Disagree with our Council Tax Reduction decision?

If you think our decision is wrong you can ask us to look at it again. For more information [go to the benefits disputes and appeals page on our website](#).

There's no time limit for asking us to look at a decision again.

If we decide that our original decision was correct you have the right to appeal directly to the Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) which is independent of the council. You can appeal against the:

- amount of Council Tax reduction we have granted you
- information we have used to calculate your Council Tax reduction

You cannot appeal against any of the rules of our Council Tax Reduction scheme.

Before you can appeal to VTS, you must write to us first, asking us to look at our original decision. You can only appeal to the VTS once we've considered our decision and decided that it is correct.

If you appeal directly to the VTS without first asking us to look at the original decision again, the appeal will not be accepted or considered. If we've decided our original decision is correct, you then have two months in which to appeal directly to the VTS.

If we don't respond to your request to look at the original decision again within two months, you can appeal directly to the TVS. In these circumstances the appeal must be made within four months of the original decision that you think is incorrect.

Please note you must continue to pay your Council Tax while awaiting the result of an appeal hearing.

[See contact details for VTS here.](#)

Council Tax exceptional hardship relief

If you are a Council Tax payer and you experience exceptional circumstances of financial hardship you may be able to claim some discretionary assistance with your Council Tax. This is not a cash payment, it is a payment on your account to help manage debt.

Discretionary reductions are funded by the Council Tax payers of Luton. Payment of any award under this scheme is dependent upon sufficient funds being available within our budget. An award will only be made for Council Tax within the current or previous financial year.

As a condition of any award you may be signposted to our partner organisations who can offer you support, advice and guidance to help you manage to pay your share of this local tax on an ongoing basis. All applicants will be expected to engage with the council and local authority partners and undertake the full application process - failure to do so will result in no award. This may include:

- help with employment
- skills training
- additional child care

Applications are made online, to apply please [complete the application form on our website](#).

Applications will be evaluated on their individual merits and must be due to exceptional financial or personal hardship usually brought about by events outside the applicants' control.

Evidence required:

- summary of reason for application
- any evidence to substantiate reason
- statement of how this reduction will assist and what will happen next
- completed income and expenditure form
- two months bank statements (mandatory)
- utility bills
- evidence of rent and mortgage
- employment details with proof of pay
- evidence of benefits received

A decision on your claim will be made where practicable within one month of receipt of the application, but this will be extended if you are asked to provide further evidence. Then a decision will be made within one calendar month of receiving all the evidence.

If you disagree with the decision on your application, you can ask for a review of the decision which must be done within one calendar month of the decision notification letter.

Help with your rent: Universal Credit or Housing Benefit

What is Universal Credit (UC)?

UC is a means-tested benefit for people of working-age who are on a low income. It replaces the following six existing means-tested benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

The above six benefits are also known as legacy benefits.

Can I get UC?

Whether you can claim UC depends on your personal circumstances. If you're receiving any of the legacy benefits listed above, you will lose these if you claim UC, and will not be able to go back on them.

To claim UC you must:

- be 18 or over (in most cases)
- be under Pension Credit age
- be in Great Britain
- not be in education (in most cases)
- have accepted a claimant commitment

If you have a partner you will make a joint claim as a couple. If one of you does not meet any of the above conditions, that person will be ignored for the purposes of calculating the UC maximum amount - although their savings/capital, income and earnings will still be taken into account.

What is the UC housing costs element?

This money is to help you with your housing costs. It can help with rent and some service charges if you are a tenant.

If you're a homeowner, you can't get the housing costs element to help with mortgage payments. However, you might be able to get it for ground rent and service charges. Homeowners might be able to get help with mortgage payments in the form of a [Support for Mortgage Interest loan](#).

The UC housing cost element cannot be paid if you:

- are a pensioner
- live in supported or temporary accommodation

If any of the above applies you will need to claim Housing Benefit if you need help with your rent costs.

If you're already claiming any of the benefits that UC replaces, you can carry on getting your benefits. If you have any change of circumstances that means your existing claims for these benefits ends, you won't be able to make new claims for any of the benefits UC replaces.

In the future everyone will be moved on to UC through a process called managed migration. At the moment the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) plans to complete managed migration by September 2024.

Citizens Advice (England and Wales) provide a new Help to Claim service to anyone who requires support to make a new UC claim. This includes anyone moving from another benefit to UC following a change of circumstances.

The service offers you tailored, practical support to help you make a UC claim up to receiving your first full correct payment on time. You can access the service:

- online through webchat
- on free telephone phone number
- face to face through local Citizens Advice services

[Find out more about the Help to Claim service here.](#)

Please note UC does not cover Council Tax costs so applications for Council Tax Reduction should still be made through the council. Visit our website for more information [on applying for Council Tax Reduction](#).

Claim Housing Benefit today online

You should claim Housing Benefit to help with your housing costs if:

- you've reached State Pension age
- you live in temporary accommodation
- you live in sheltered or supported housing with special facilities such as alarms or wardens

[See the Housing Benefit pages on our website for more details.](#)

Disagree with our Housing Benefit decision?

If you think our decision is wrong you can ask us to look at it again. Your request needs to be made in writing and include the reasons why you think our decision is wrong plus any additional evidence you want to be taken into account.

You have one month from the date of the original decision to ask us to look at that decision again.

Having received a response to your request for a Housing Benefit reconsideration, if you remain unhappy with the decision as it was not in your favour, you have the right to appeal.

[See benefits, disputes and appeals on our website for more information.](#)

Help us fight benefit fraud

If you think someone is claiming benefit fraudulently, you can [report it online here](#) or contact the benefit fraud hotline on **0800 854 440**, which is a 24 hour free phone service. Any information provided will be treated in strictest confidence.

Council Tax Budget 2022/23

Expenditure and Council Tax

Each year the council has to plan its finances and make important decisions on behalf of the people of Luton, balancing the money coming in and going out.

The 2022/23 budget has been prepared during a period of continuing challenges faced by the council, the community and local businesses, as we all continue to work on overcoming the coronavirus pandemic and return to more regular life again. Our budget for the forthcoming year will ensure we can continue to reduce the impact of the virus and support recovery across the town.

Our priority continues to be protecting the essential services needed by the community, ensuring that resources are allocated to support the most vulnerable and to support businesses, stimulate the local economy and boost employment and prosperity in Luton.

The forthcoming year has continuing challenges as we work on delivering this, including the increased impact of current inflation levels, wider unavoidable increases in service costs and national changes to the funding of health and social care resulting from the government's 1.25 per cent increase in national insurance.

The government's financial settlement for local authorities in 2022/23 assumes a 2 per cent general increase in council tax, plus a 1 per cent increase to meet the increasing cost of adult social care

The total council tax also includes amounts called "precepts" for services provided by the Fire Service and the Police. With the precepts, this will mean a total increase for council tax in 2022/23 of 3.10 per cent.

For a resident living in a Band B property the total council tax will be £1558.44, which represents an annual increase of £46.90, or approximately £0.90 per week.

Luton has the lowest council tax in Bedfordshire and the tax rate also continues to be one of the lowest for unitary councils in the country per head of population.

Around 85 per cent of properties in the town are below the Band D property average. In reality this means the amount of money raised by council tax payers contributes just 15 per cent toward the cost of the council's services.

The distribution of properties in Luton between the council tax bands and the total council tax payable for 2022/23 is shown in the table below.

Property Band	Capital values (£) as at 1 April 1991	No. of properties	total Council Tax (£)
A with disability relief	0 to 40,000	24	1113.17
A	0 to 40,000	20,388	1335.80
B	40,001 to 52,000	27,359	1558.44
C	52,001 to 68,000	22,583	1781.08
D	68,001 to 88,000	7,800	2003.71
E	88,001 to 120,000	3,243	2448.98
F	120,001 to 160,000	1,085	2894.24
G	160,001 to 320,000	272	3339.51
H	over 320,000	31	4007.42
Tax base band D equivalents: 52738.0		Total: 82,785	

Balancing the budget 2022/23

Luton's core funding from government for 2022/23 is £11.3 million. This has been reduced by £109m since 2010, creating a funding gap that needs to be met by alternative income sources or by savings. Costs continue to rise each year due to pressures from inflation and the increasing levels of demand for the services provided to the community. This means we need to make some further limited budget savings in 2022/23 and increase our proportion of the council tax by 2.99 per cent, to balance the budget.

The total budget set for the year includes:

- £5.3 million to meet the increased cost of care services for children and adults, partly funded by the one per cent adult council tax precept and by specific grant income received from the national changes in health and social care funding.
- £6.7 million of increased costs for wider non-care services, primarily for the effects of inflation, but also for increased demand in some services.
- £2.1m for improvements in services, including street cleansing, enforcement and highways.
- £0.3 million of savings to help balance spend and resources. The savings have no impact on services delivered to the community.

After other movements in the funding available for 2022/23, the increased cost of services to be met from the Council Tax is £5.2m.

The budget also includes £84 million of planned capital investment, to improve public assets & infrastructure across the town, including the start of major investment to redevelop the town centre supported by a successful bid for £20 million from the Government's levelling up fund.

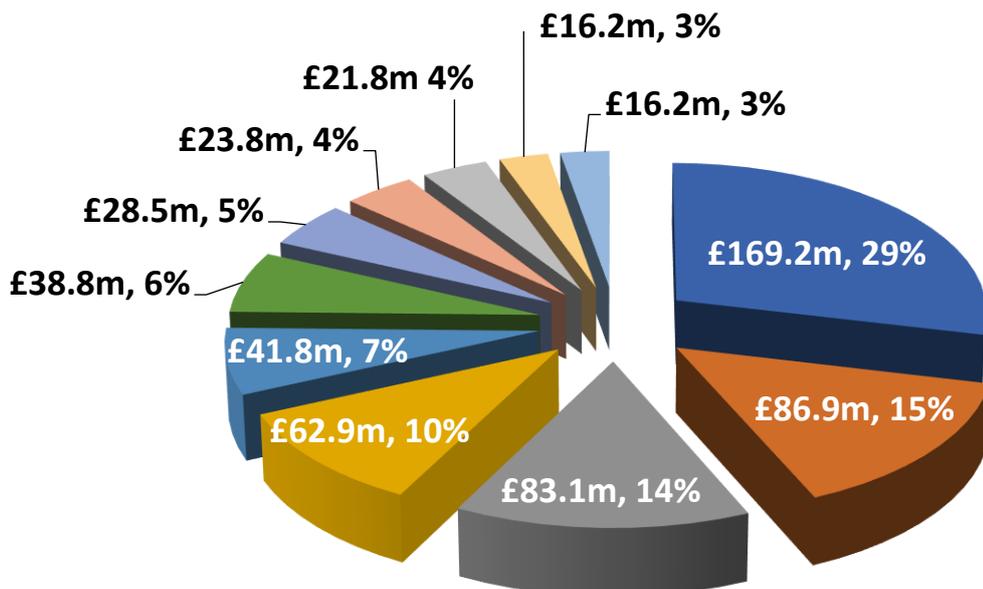
Total Expenditure, Income and Council Tax

	2022/23		2021/22	
	Expenditure and Income £000	Council Tax per band D property £	Expenditure and Income £000	Council Tax per band D property £
Gross cost of services	589,211		577,183	
Less income	-440,842		-440,685	
Total net expenditure	148,369	2,813.31	136,498	2,671.89
Contribution to/from(-) collection fund	-2,932	-55.61	3,389	66.34
Revenue Support Grant	-11,278	-213.84	-10,939	-214.12
Collection Fund Business Rates	-31,991	-606.60	-31,991	-626.21
Business Rates Top Up Grant	-14,508	-275.10	-14,508	-283.99
Luton Borough Council precept	87,659	1,662.17	82,449	1,613.91
Bedfordshire Police Authority precept	12,504	237.09	11,601	227.09
Bedfordshire Fire Authority precept	5,508	104.45	5,232	102.41
Total Band D Council Tax		2003.71		1,943.41

Where the money goes 2022/23

The total gross revenue budget for 2022/23 is £589 million. The distribution of the revenue budget across services is summarised below.

Revenue Budgets by Main Service 2022/23 - £589.2m

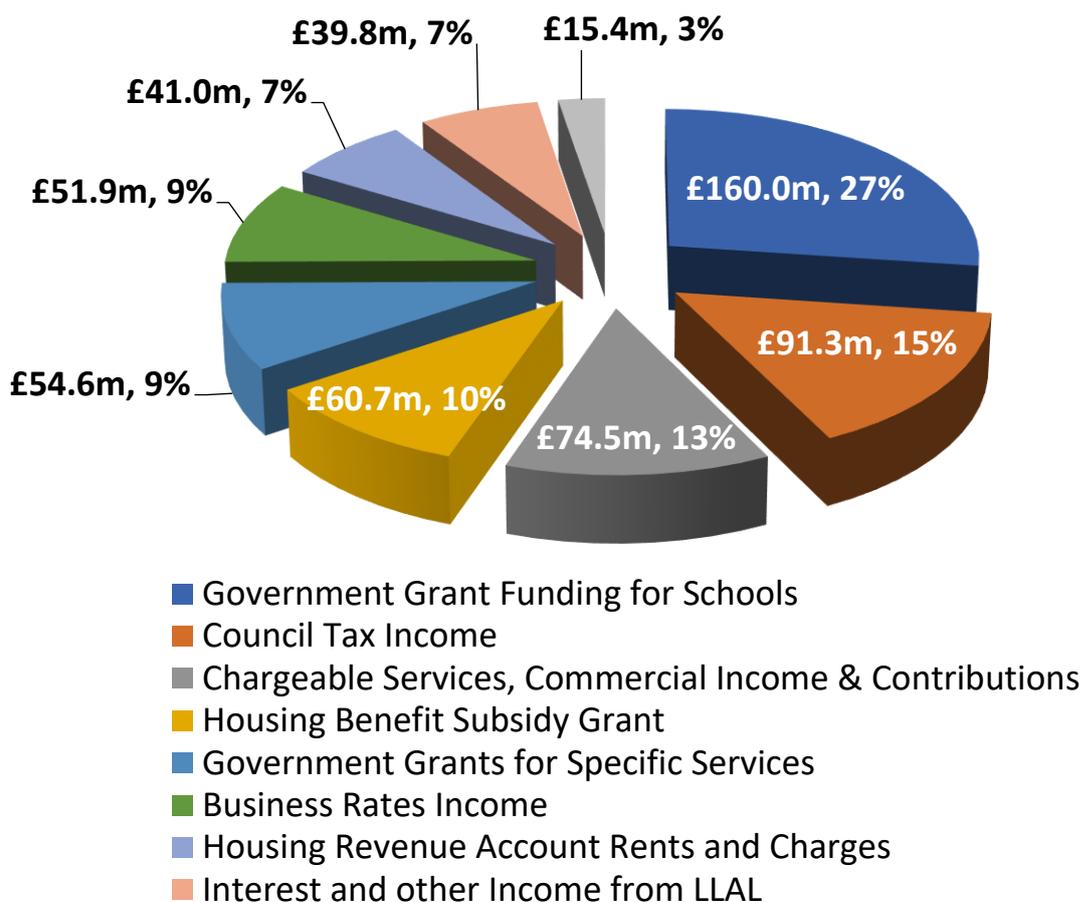


- Schools Budget
- Adult Social Care
- Children's Services & Education Support
- Housing Benefit Support
- Cultural, Environment and Planning Services
- Housing Revenue Account - Public Sector
- Central Services (local tax collection, democracy, etc.)
- Highways, Roads and Transport
- Housing General Fund - Private Sector

Where the money comes from 2022/23

The expenditure for 2022/23 is met by £589 million of budgeted income. The income sources for revenue spend are shown in the chart below.

Revenue Budget Income Sources 2022/23 - £589.2m



Just over half of the income received to support costs comes from government grants to support services, including £160 million for education.

Approximately one fifth is raised from chargeable services, commercial income, contributions from partners and returns on investments, including the Airport Company: Luton Rising.

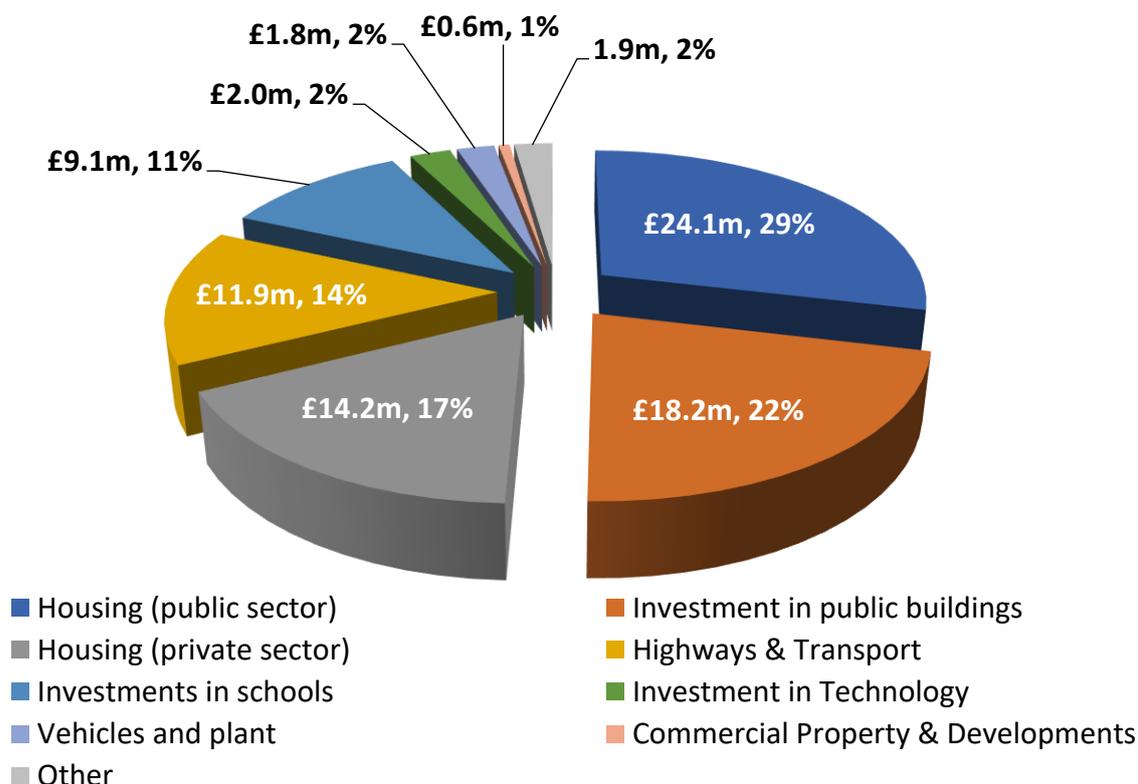
The remainder is raised from council tax and business rates.

The £26m of net income from Luton Rising provides vital funding to support the provision of services in the town and this reduces the income that needs to be raised from Council Tax in 2021/22 by around £500 for an average property.

Capital Expenditure 2022/23

The capital service budget is set for maintaining and improving the town's assets and infrastructure. It will be £83.8 million for 2022/23. This includes investing £38m to improve housing provision, £12m for highways and transport infrastructure, £18m to improve public buildings and £9m for improvements and expansion in schools. The full service programme is summarised in the chart below.

Capital Expenditure Budget 2022/23 - £83.8m (excluding subsidiary companies)

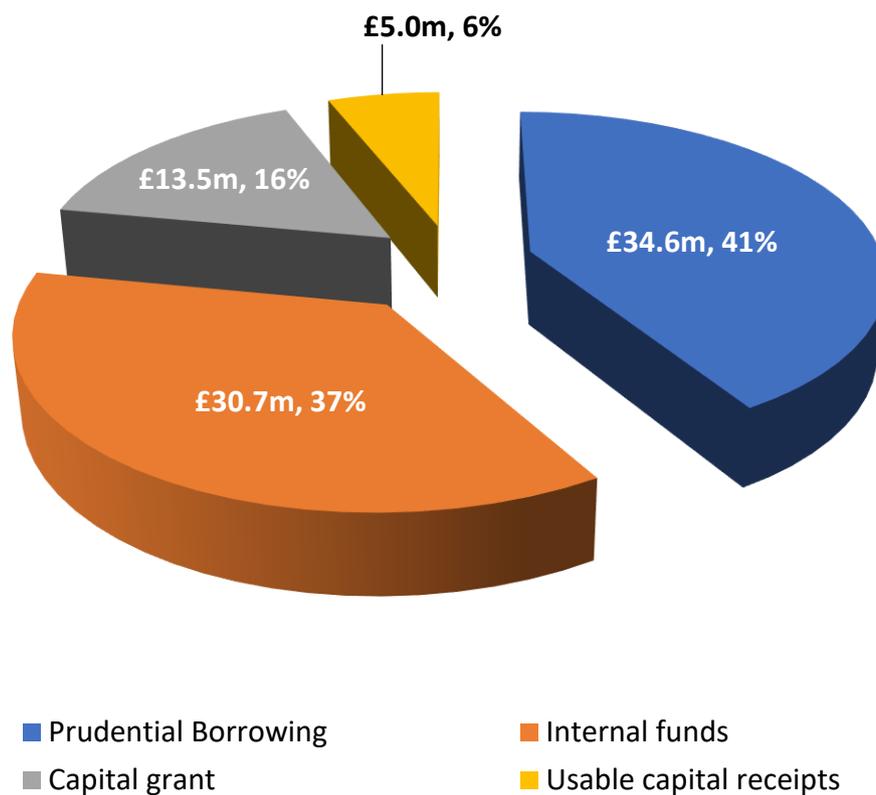


We are also investing in our wholly owned subsidiary company: Luton Rising, to support the post-Covid recovery of the local economy, job creation and prosperity in the town. Investments of £79.7m are planned for this in 2022/23

Capital Resources 2022/23

Capital expenditure for 2022/23 is funded from a mix of resources, including capital grants, capital receipts and borrowing. The £83.8 million of resources for funding the 2022/23 service programme is summarised in the chart below:

Capital Resources Budget 2022/23 - £83.8m (excluding subsidiary companies)



The additional investment in Luton Rising will be funded by borrowing. We expect this to generate significant returns which will support the costs of delivering future services.

Bedfordshire Police Council Tax 2022/23



Part of my role as being your Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire means that I am responsible for securing the annual budget for Bedfordshire Police.

One of my focuses is to determine the local policing priorities for the Chief Constable based on listening to what local residents tell me. These priorities are set out in my Police and Crime Plan and I hold the Chief to account, on your behalf, for their successful delivery.

The priorities in the Police and Crime Plan reflect what local people tell me are important, which is why I created the consultation survey to hear from you about changes to the budget.

You will probably know that we are facing rising costs across the public sector because of inflation. This means an increase to the Bedfordshire Police Council Tax (otherwise known as precept), is needed for Bedfordshire Police to maintain its current position and meet the costs of pay and price increases.

With higher costs for some everyday items and the impact of the pandemic affecting everyone, I know that any increase for 2022-2023 for some people will be hard. I also know, that you want to see more officers in our communities and our rural areas, taking more criminals off the streets and protecting our towns and villages. To do this, as well as maintaining other services, we will need to increase the precept.

This is the first budget of my first term as PCC and I have worked closely with the Chief Constable and his senior leadership team to understand the operational needs of Bedfordshire Police and the increase in demand that the force continues to experience.

Based on the analysis of crime trends and criminality in the county, there is no doubt in my mind that the Force requires additional investment, so that more criminals can be taken off our streets and put before the courts.

Amongst the survey, I asked if you thought these were important areas for us to direct additional resources into and I can positively say, the majority agreed with these directions, with 58% in support of the precept.

I have also welcomed support from the Police and Crime Panel to increase the precept. I want to reassure the public, that the use of taxpayer's money is one that I take very seriously.

I am fully committed to holding the Chief Constable accountable for delivering on these priority areas and will do everything within my power to help him and his team deliver these for the people of Bedfordshire.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make Bedfordshire a better place to live and work.

Regards,

Festus Akinbusoye

Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Police

A £10 increase (per band D property) will enable the Chief Constable to:

- Recruit an extra 72 Police Officers to strengthen the front line
- Increase our rural crime capability to protect our villages and farms from criminals who target our rural communities
- Improve the way 999 and 101 calls are answered, which you have told me takes too long
- Continue to prioritise drug related serious organised crime to dismantle county lines
- Increase our victim engagement officers to support victims of rape, serious sexual offences and domestic abuse
- Leadership of the local criminal justice board
- Improving links with local authorities to work closer in partnership on shared priorities
- A swifter commissioning process to distribute funding to local organisations to support victims of crime
- Invest in the Professional Standards Department to improve vetting and ensure the highest standards of professional behaviour
- Invest in the sustainability agenda including the use of low and zero emission vehicles, and alternative forms of energy

About us

For further information about the PCC, his Police and Crime Plan, the budget or how you can get involved, visit:

www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk



 Office of the
Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner



Recruit an extra 72 Police Officers

We know that visible community policing, working alongside our partners to problem solve, to stem the tide of anti-social behaviour, and to combat the crime that blights our towns and villages is the bedrock of policing in our county.



Improve the answer rate for 999 and 101 calls

Urgent investment is needed in improving how well Bedfordshire Police is able to respond to emergency calls. Our Control Room teams and call handlers do an amazing job, but the fact is that there just aren't enough of them to meet the demand coming in day after day and night after night. This precept rise will allow the Chief to devote more resources into our control room, to harness new and better technology and to be more responsive.



Continue to prioritise drug related serious organised crime to dismantle county lines

Many of you will know about the enormous amounts of Class A and Class B drugs being brought into Bedfordshire each month. Drugs are a sickening feature of modern life throughout the country. The scale of drug dealing, drug use, and the serious violence that accompany these should worry us all. With this rise in precept, we can target more investment into the parts of policing that is going to make a significant difference in the activities of organised crime gangs in our county.



Increase our rural crime capability to protect our villages and farms from criminals who target our rural communities

The rise in precept will allow the Chief Constable to invest in our rural crime team and increase the number of officers who work with our farmers and landowners and those who reside in the tucked away homes that criminals target because they have no neighbours watching out for them.



Invest in the Professional Standards Department so that we continue to root out and deal swiftly with any corrupt behaviour within the Force

The public, rightly have very high expectations of policing and Police Officers. Sadly, a very small number, including here in Bedfordshire, have fallen far short of the standards expected of a serving police officer. This is why I am proposing that we put more investment into our Professional Standards Department which has responsibility for vetting and helping to maintain the high quality of integrity we all expect from Bedfordshire Police's staff and officers.



Increase our victim engagement officers

The Chief Constable will be able to make permanent, the roles of Victim Engagement Officers who work with boys, girls, men and women - who have been raped or faced serious sexual assault in Bedfordshire. These victims need specialist, high quality care and support.

Our Police Force has gone from being one of the worst performing forces nationwide to now being 2nd and 6th at solving serious sexual violence and rape cases respectively.

I want us to improve or at least maintain this progress.

Public consultation

Before implementing this council tax increase, the PCC consulted local taxpayers.

The consultation survey was sent to:

- All commissioned partners
- All councillors, town councillors, parish councillors, ward councillors
- Media contacts across Bedfordshire
- Members of the public subscribed to the PCC's newsletter
- Published on the PCC's website
- Regular social media updates via Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn

Of those who completed the survey, 57.58% supported an increase of precept (which works out as 84p per month, per average Band D household).

To be notified of future consultations about policing and crime in your area, sign up to receive the PCC's newsletter here:

pccevents@beds.police.uk

How to contact Bedfordshire Police



999 in an emergency
when a life is threatened or there is imminent danger



101 for all non-emergency calls
when you don't require an urgent response



Report Online
<https://www.beds.police.uk/crime>



You can report anonymously to **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111** or online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>



Bedfordshire Victim Care Services
To offer support to those who have been a victim of crime, contact BVCS on **0800 0282 887** or visit <https://www.bedfordshirevcs.com/>

Yearly Council Tax Rates By Band

Band	2021/2022	2022/2023
A	£151.39	£158.06
B	£176.63	£184.40
C	£201.86	£210.75
D	£227.09	£237.09
E	£277.55	£289.78
F	£328.02	£342.46
G	£378.48	£395.15
H	£454.18	£474.18

854
contacts received

544
calls to 101

16
online reports

Deals with
478
incidents

310
calls to 999

Makes
22
arrests

Records
134.67
new crimes

Including:

34.46
assaults

4.43
sexual offences

An average day in Bedfordshire Police



Contact us



@BedsOPCC



pcc@beds.police.uk



@bedsopcc



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,
Bridgebury House,
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
Woburn Road, Kempston,
Bedfordshire, MK43 9AX.



[linkedin.com/company/bedsopcc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bedsopcc)

Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service information 2022/23

Further information can be found on the [Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service](#) website

Supporting you through tough times

We cannot stop the tough times, but as a council we are committed to providing you with local quality services delivering value for money.

Do not bury your head in the sand if you are in financial difficulty. Contact us as early as possible. We can advise you of any discounts or benefits to which you may be entitled. In special circumstances, we may be able to offer you a revised payment plan.

You can also get specialist money advice from an outside organisation.

Luton Citizens' Advice

Provides a range of advice services including how to cope with your debt problems.

15 New Bedford Road, Luton LU1 1SA

Tel: 0344 245 1285

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

StepChange Debt Charity

Tel: 0800 131 1111

www.stepchange.org

Factoring Helpline

Tel: 0800 597 4757

www.factoringhelpline.co.uk

Luton Rights

15 New Bedford Road, Luton LU1 1SA

Tel: 01582 453372

Luton Law Centre

5 New Bedford Road, Luton LU1 1SA

Tel: 01582 481000

admin@lutonlawcentre.org.uk

www.lawcentres.org.uk

National Debtline

0808 808 4000

<https://www.nationaldebtline.org/>