

# Council Tax booklet 2026/27

## How we pay for services

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

**Author:** Revenues and Benefits | Luton Council

**Contact:** [Contact us though the Council Tax general enquiry form](#)

**Version:** 1

**Last updated:** March 2026

# Contents

Contact us .....	3
Introduction.....	4
Fair Processing Notice .....	4
What is Council Tax? .....	4
Ways to pay your Council Tax .....	5
Request to extend your Council Tax Payments .....	6
Sign up to Council Tax self-service .....	6
Paperless billing .....	6
Who has to pay? .....	6
Penalties.....	7
What if I don't pay?.....	7
Enforcement .....	8
Council Tax discounts.....	8
Reductions for people with disabilities.....	9
Empty homes premium.....	9
Second homes premium.....	9
Discount for annexes.....	10
Council tax exemptions .....	10
Moving home?.....	11
How to request a review of your Council Tax bill .....	11
Getting help with your Council Tax bill .....	12
Help with your rent: Universal Credit or Housing Benefit.....	14
Council Tax Budget 2026/27 .....	16
Bedfordshire Police information 2026/27 .....	21
Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service information 2026/27 .....	21
Supporting you through tough times.....	21

# Contact us

## Luton Council

### Written enquiries

Customer Service Enquiries  
Service Centre, Town Hall  
George Street  
LUTON  
LU1 2BQ

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

## Council Tax

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

Visit our website 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 online](#).

## 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](#).

If you cannot use the online service, call **03000 501 501**. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm.

## 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](http://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk)

You can [contact the Valuation Tribunal Service here](#).

Email: [appeals@valuationtribunal.gov.uk](mailto:appeals@valuationtribunal.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0303 445 8100

Or write to:

Ground Floor, Fry Building,  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

## 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

We use personal information only when it serves the public interest or a legitimate purpose described in our Privacy Notice. We will stop processing your information if we cannot show a strong, legitimate reason that outweighs your rights and interests.

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 £2,439.93.

See how this is broken down by service:

- Luton Council: £2,019.62
- Bedfordshire Police: £297.59
- Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service: £122.72

# 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

## Request to extend your Council Tax Payments

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 10th April** by [Completing this on line 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 10 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 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 such as a squatter
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 so please check with your landlord.

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.

## Penalties

You may have to pay a **£70 penalty** if you do not:

- tell us **within 21 days** about any changes that affect your discount or exemption
- reply **within 21 days** to a request for information about who is responsible for the charge

If this happens again, each further failure may result in a £280 penalty.

### 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 pay 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 £83 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 per cent 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 per cent 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

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 also 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 apply for a discount, please go to the [Council Tax discounts 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, please go to the [Council Tax discounts page](#) on our website.

## Empty homes premium

Homes that have been empty and unfurnished for more than one year 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.

If you are actively trying to let or sell the empty property, or if probate was granted less than one year ago, you may qualify for an exception from this premium.

To apply, please contact us using the Council Tax general enquiry form [Council Tax general enquiry form](#).

## Second homes premium

From April 2026 Second Homes will be charged double their normal Council Tax rate.

If you are actively trying to let or sell the empty property, or if probate was granted less than one year ago, you may qualify for an exception from this premium.

To apply, please contact us using the Council Tax general enquiry form. [Council Tax general enquiry form](#).

## 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 per cent discount can be awarded.

If you think this discount applies to you, please apply online through the [Council Tax discounts page](#) 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 discounts and exemptions page](#) 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 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 through the [Council Tax general enquiry form](#) 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

## 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 per cent of the charge for your Council Tax band**. Pensioners and war widows may qualify for up to 100 per cent 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 the 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 through the

[Council Tax Exceptional Hardship page](#) of 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 either 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 the end of March 2026.

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

[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.

You can submit a reconsideration online through our [benefit disputes, appeals and enquiries pages](#) of our website for more information.

### Help us fight benefit fraud

If you think someone is claiming benefit fraudulently, you can [report it online at GOV.UK](#) 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 2026/27

## 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 2026/27 budget has been prepared during a period of continued economic uncertainty, shaped by persistent inflationary pressures, elevated interest rates, and ongoing cost-of-living challenges. These factors have had a significant impact on Local Government finance in general and the financial position of Luton Council in particular.

Despite these challenges, the Council's financial position has strengthened because of the increased Government funding in the recent finance settlement and sustained prudent financial management over the years. The 2026/27 budget provides additional resources where they are needed the most, whilst delivering the high-quality services that all Luton residents and local businesses rely on.

Despite increased demand for core services driven by demographic and social pressures, 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 to deliver this, including the increased impact of current inflation levels and wider unavoidable increases in service costs.

To meet its increasing costs, council tax will rise by 2.99 per cent with an additional 2 per cent for Adult Social Care Precept. These increases were necessary otherwise the council will face even harder budget choices and financial pressures in futures years. Residents whose earnings fall in the lowest income bracket will continue to benefit from the discount system that is in place to provide additional support.

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 2026/27 of 5 percent. For a resident living in a Band B property the total council tax will be £1,897.73, which represents an annual increase of £92.95, or approximately £1.79 per week. Luton has the lowest council tax in Bedfordshire 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 taxpayers contributes just 28 percent towards 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 2026/27 is shown in the table below.

Property band	Capital values (£) as at 1 April 1991	No. of properties	Total Council Tax (£)
<b>A with disability relief</b>	0 to 40,000	27	
<b>A</b>	0 to 40,000	21,543	1,626.63
<b>B</b>	40,001 to 52,000	28,106	1,897.73
<b>C</b>	52,001 to 68,000	22,857	2,168.83
<b>D</b>	68,001 to 88,000	8,000	2,439.93
<b>E</b>	88,001 to 120,000	3,521	2,982.13
<b>F</b>	120,001 to 160,000	1,125	3,524.34
<b>G</b>	160,001 to 320,000	292	4,066.56
<b>H</b>	over 320,000	32	4,879.86
<b>Tax base band D equivalents: 57,932 (57,349 in 2025/26)</b>		<b>Total:</b>	
		85,503	

Distribution of properties between Council Tax bands

## Balancing the budget 2026/27

Luton will receive £164.79 million in government core funding in 2026/27, including £45.52 million in Revenue Support Grant. Since 2010 the council had to make savings of £186 million, creating a funding gap that needs to be met by alternative income sources and/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 2026/27 and increase our proportion of the council tax by 4.99 per cent, to balance the budget.

The total budget set for the year includes:

- £14.5 million to meet the increased cost of care services for adults and children's social care and for those with special education need (SEN), partly funded by the two per cent adult council tax precept and increased government grants resulting from the improved finance settlement.
- £17.5 million of increased costs for wider non-care services, primarily for the effects of inflation and pay awards, but also for increased demand in some services.
- £3.2 million of increased funding to support households experiencing hardship and to try and prevent homelessness
- £7.7 million of Deficit Recovery Plan savings and additional £3.2 million Transformation Savings and additional income to help balance spend and resources.

The budget also includes £115.6 million of planned capital investment, to improve public assets & infrastructure across the town, including the start of major investment to redevelop the town centre and improvements and expansion in schools.

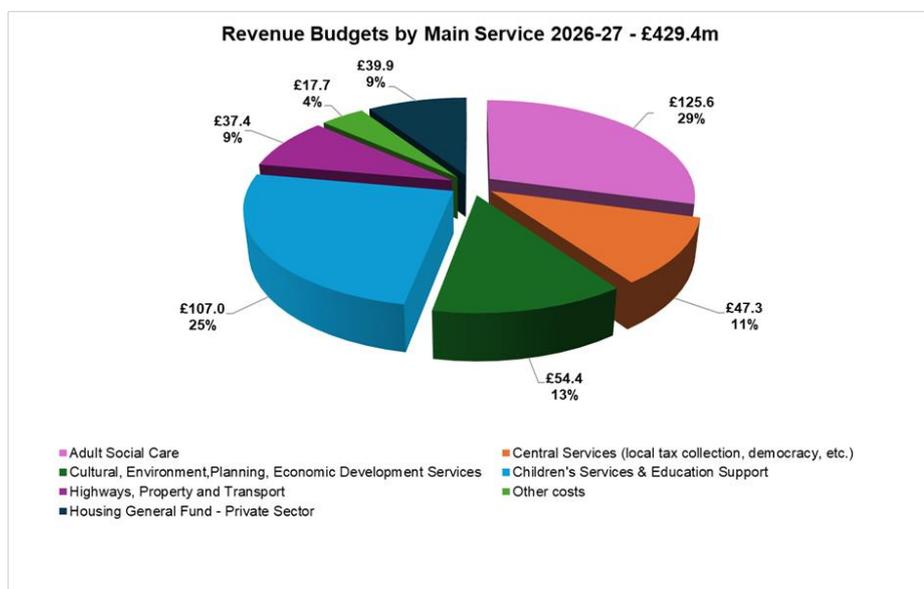
## Total Expenditure, Income and Council Tax

The tables below show the total net expenditure for 2026/27, funded by Council Tax, Business Rates, and the Revenue Support Grant. The gross service cost and income in the table below includes expenditure and funding for General Fund Services plus Schools, the Housing Revenue Account, Public Health and Housing Benefits. All of these, with the exception of the General Fund which is funded through Council Tax, are funded by ringfenced grants or income:

	2024/25		2025/26	
	Expenditure and Income £000	Council Tax per band D property £	Expenditure and Income £000	Council Tax per band D property £
Gross cost of services	635,978		656,741	
Less income	-468,611		-479,127	
<b>Total net expenditure</b>	<b>167,367</b>	<b>2,976.82</b>	<b>177,614</b>	<b>3,097.08</b>
Contribution to/from(-) collection fund	-4,550	-80.93	-4,565	-79.60
Revenue Support Grant	-13,488	-239.90	-13,833	-241.21
Collection Fund Business Rates	-33,758	-600.43	-35,368	-616.72
Business Rates Top Up Grant	-13,371	-237.82	-13,531	-235.94
<b>Luton Borough Council precept</b>	<b>103,013</b>	<b>1,832.20</b>	<b>110,318</b>	<b>1,923.62</b>
<b>Bedfordshire Police Authority precept</b>	<b>14,903</b>	<b>265.09</b>	<b>16,006</b>	<b>279.09</b>
<b>Bedfordshire Fire Authority precept</b>	<b>6,337</b>	<b>112.72</b>	<b>6,751</b>	<b>117.72</b>
<b>Total Council Tax</b>		<b>2,210.01</b>		<b>2,320.43</b>

## Where the money goes 2026/27

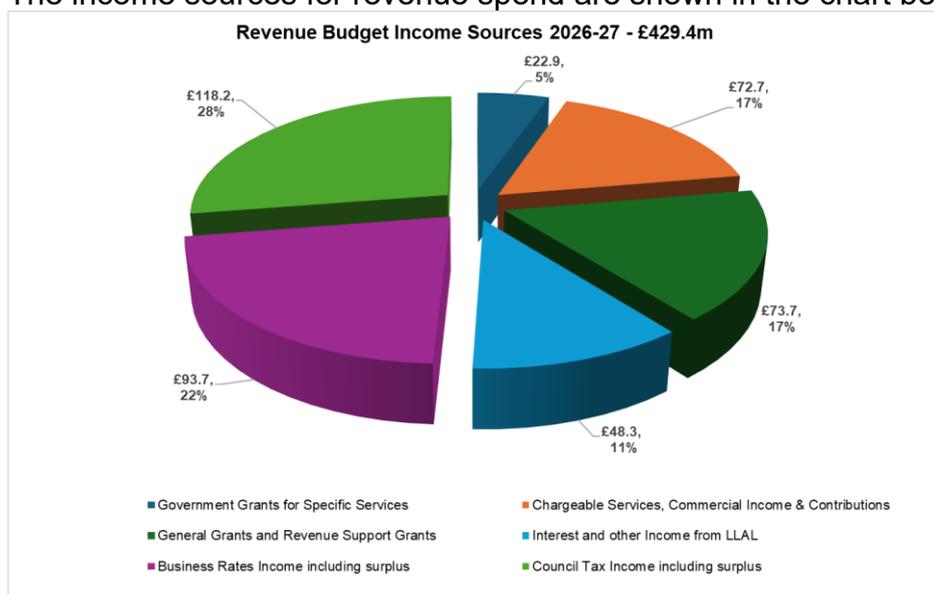
The total gross revenue budget for General Fund services only in 2026/27 is £429.4 million. General Fund services are what council tax pays towards. The distribution of the revenue budget across services is summarised in the pie chart below.



Summary of 2026/27 General Fund Revenue Expenditure Budgets

## Where the money comes from 2026/27

The expenditure for 2026/27 is met by £429.4 million of budgeted income including Council Tax. The income sources for revenue spend are shown in the chart below.



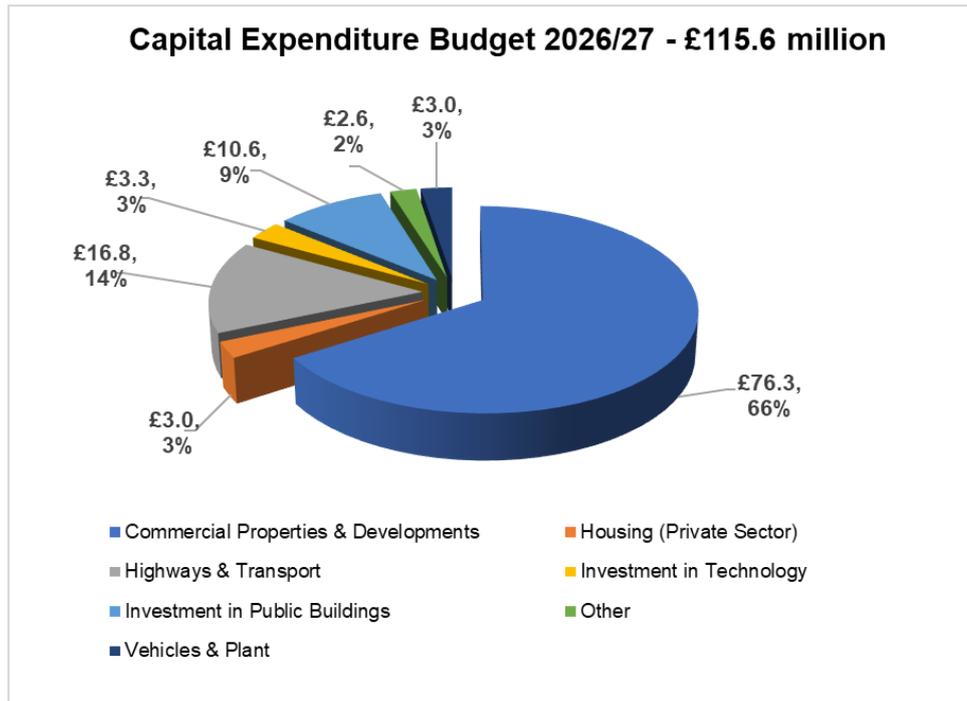
Summary of 2026/27 General Fund Revenue Budget Income Sources

Just over one fifth of the income received to support General Fund service costs comes from government grants. Approximately one third is raised from chargeable services, commercial income, contributions from partners and returns on investments, including the Airport Company:

Luton Rising. The remainder, approximately half of the funding, is raised from council tax and business rates.

### Capital Expenditure 2026/27

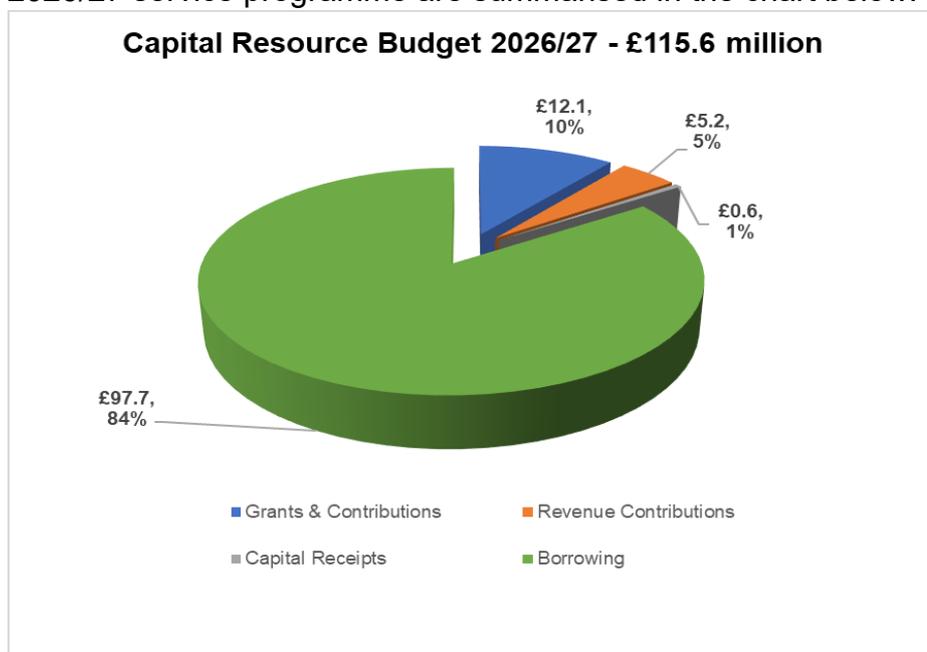
The capital service budget is set for maintaining and improving the town’s assets and infrastructure. It will be £115.6 million for 2026/27. This includes investing £16.8m for highways and transport infrastructure, £10.6m to improve public buildings and £75.3m for Commercial Properties and Developments including The Stage project (£53.5m). The full service programme is summarised in the chart below.



Summary of the 2026/27 Capital Programme

## Capital resources 2026/27

Capital expenditure for 2026/27 is funded from a mix of resources, including capital grants, capital receipts, borrowing and revenue contributions. The £115.6 million of resources for funding the 2026/27 service programme are summarised in the chart below.



Summary of the 2026/27 Capital Programme

## Bedfordshire Police information 2026/27

Further information can be found on the [Bedfordshire Police website](#).

## Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service information 2026/27

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

## Supporting you through tough times

As a council we are committed to providing you with local quality services delivering value for money.

If you are in financial difficulty please 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.

For extra support and guidance further information is available through the [Luton, supporting you pages](#) of our website.

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: 0808 278 7847

Visit the [Citizens Advice website](#) for more information.

### StepChange Debt Charity

Tel: 0800 131 1111

Visit the [Step Change website](#) for more information.

### Luton Rights

28 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP

Tel: 01582 453372

Visit the [Luton Rights website](#) for more information

### Luton Law Centre

15 New Bedford Road, Luton LU1 1SA

Tel: 01582 481000

Visit the [Law Centre Network website](#) for more information.

### National Debtline

Tel: 0808 808 4000

Visit the [National Debtline website](#) for more information.