

# Council Tax › 2023 - 2024

The average household\* will pay around 6p more a week to the Borough Council in tax for 2023/24. That small increase will help protect services to you.



**£168.52**

Stafford  
Borough Council

**£1,471.23**

Staffordshire  
County Council

**£260.57**

Staffordshire  
Commissioner  
(Police and Crime)

**£84.25**

Staffordshire  
Commissioner  
(Fire and Rescue)

**But what does Stafford Borough Council  
do for my £3.24\* a week?**

*\* Figure based on the average Band D charge.*

## What are we doing in 2023?

This year we started work on the first phase of the biggest transformation of the High Street in Stafford in a generation.



Work gets under way in the Spring for a fantastic new £1.5m destination park at Westbridge Park in Stone.

These are just some of the millions of pounds being invested in our area - despite the challenging financial circumstances all local authorities face.

We have frozen charges on our car parks for 2023 to encourage more visits to town centres and support local businesses.

We also froze the taxi driver licence fee and indoor market stall rents to help small businesses.

## And what did we do in 2022?

We made changes that will mean an extra **1,700 lower-income families will not pay any council tax from April 2023.**

Set up a network of 'warm spaces' in venues such as community centres, churches and village halls for people struggling to heat their homes.

Distributed around **£7.3m to 49,000 households**

to help with energy bills.



Established and funded a 'Food Distribution Hub' to provide additional support to local foodbanks.

Secured more than **£4.5m from Government to help regeneration, climate change and culture schemes** for businesses and organisations - such as the new Crown Wharf Theatre and scout building in Stone, and proposed enterprise centre to encourage investment in rural businesses.

Ran or supported a variety of events for example the **Christmas Light Switch On, the Half Marathon, Stafford in the World, Farmers' Markets** in Stone and Stafford - and the most popular **Borough Community Awards** ever, where we paid tribute to some of the unsung heroes doing great things for our community.

Here are just some of the services we provide for £3.24 a week for the average Band D council tax payer:

## Planning and Building Control

We manage development in the borough and ensure that buildings are safely constructed. Nearly **1,300 planning applications** were received in 2022.

## Street Cleaning

We clean more than **5,000 miles** of roads and pavements each year. We empty **1,569 litter bins** and last year we fined or prosecuted **24 people** for littering, fly tipping or not cleaning up after their dogs.



## Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support

We make sure people get the help they are entitled to as quickly as possible and regularly review claims to identify changes in circumstances. **Around 7,000 households received our help** towards their rent or council tax.

## Community Safety

The council monitors more than **140 CCTV cameras**. We also partner the police and other agencies in initiatives to reduce crime and make people feel safer.

## Recycling and Waste Services

More than **90,000 bins** are emptied each week. We recycled **around 50%** of the waste collected from **60,000 households**.



## Elections

We run the polls for national and local elections. We keep the electoral register for the borough up to date.

## Parks and Open Spaces

We look after nearly **1,000 acres of parks and open spaces** six of which have won national awards.



## Housing Issues

Our work has helped reduce the number of people sleeping rough. We prevented **around 1,230 people** becoming homeless over the last year working with partners.

## Bereavement Services

Hold top awards for the services it provides at the crematorium and cemetery in Tixall Road, Stafford and cemeteries in Eccleshall Road and Stone.

## Contact Us

[info@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:info@staffordbc.gov.uk)

01785 619 000

[www.staffordbc.gov.uk](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk)



## Discounts and Reductions

### Local Council Tax Banded Discount Scheme

If you are on a low income and need help paying your Council Tax you may be entitled to a reduction in the amount you have to pay. For people of pensionable age, we operate a national rebate scheme. For working age people we operate a local Banded Discount Scheme whereby a percentage discount, based on the household income, is deducted from the council tax bill. The Banded Scheme provides additional help for families with children, people in low paid jobs and for anyone who is disabled.

### Discounts and Premiums

The premiums for some long term empty properties have changed. Please see our website for details on discounts for unoccupied and unfurnished properties or contact us for further details. Other discounts depend on the number of adults in your house and their circumstances. If you are the only adult resident in your property, you can apply for a 25% discount. Some people are not counted when looking at the number of adults in a property. These people include students and young people for whom child benefit is paid, people receiving or providing personal care, severely mentally impaired people and prisoners. The Council will consider applications for discretionary discounts based on individual circumstances.

### Exempt Properties

Some properties are exempt from Council Tax such as those occupied only by students or unoccupied properties which were previously occupied by persons who are now in residential care.

### Reduction for People with Disabilities

If you, or someone who lives with you, needs a room, an extra bathroom or kitchen, or extra space in your property to meet special needs arising from a disability, your bill may be reduced.

### Adult Social Care

For adult social care authorities, council tax demand notices show two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept, and one for the part attributable to general expenditure.

## Council Tax Valuation Bands

The Valuation Office Agency, part of HM Revenue and Customs (not your local Council) has put every property into one of eight valuation bands. A full list of valuation bands is available on its website at [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

Band	Range of Values (based on 1991 prices)	*
A	Up to £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	1
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	Over £320,000	18/9

\* Proportion of Band D Council Tax Payable

## Banding Appeals

You may be able to appeal against the banding if you have just moved to a property, if the property has been structurally altered, or if the area in which your property is situated has changed.

Any queries about appeals and bandings should be made direct to the Valuation Office Agency at [www.gov.uk/voa/contact](http://www.gov.uk/voa/contact).

## What Do I Do if I Think I am Paying Too Much Council Tax?

If you believe your bill to be incorrect, you can write to the Council to appeal. If you still believe the decision to be wrong, you can then appeal to the Valuation Tribunal. Please contact the Council Tax team on 01785 619 279, who will be happy to discuss this with you.

## Contact Us

If you need further information about your Council Tax bill please visit our website [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/ctbooklet](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/ctbooklet) to see the full e-booklet or you can call the Council Tax team on **01785 619 279**.