

# Your Council Tax 2026-27

Where your money goes



[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/counciltax)

# Dear Resident,

Staffordshire County Council is determined to deliver more for our residents and businesses. We are committed to protecting the services that matter most, making the most of every pound of taxpayers' money, and **keeping council tax as low as possible.**

Despite the pressures on local government we are a well-run, financially responsible council. We will continue to balance the budget, and plan ahead with common-sense decision-making.

**This year, council tax will increase by 3.99%, lower than most other councils and below the government's expectation of 4.99%.** Of this, 2% will be spent on adult social care, helping us protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

We are ambitious for Staffordshire and we are committed to strengthening the county's position as **the beating heart of the country, a place that is proud of its identity, confident in its future, and focused on delivering the basics well.**

With your support, we can build a county that is connected, confident, and focused on the wellbeing and prosperity of all who live and work here.



**Cllr Martin Murray**  
Acting Leader of  
Staffordshire County Council

*Cllr Martin Murray*

## Where our money comes from



\*Council Tax figure for 2025/26 was £488.3m

## Making every pound count

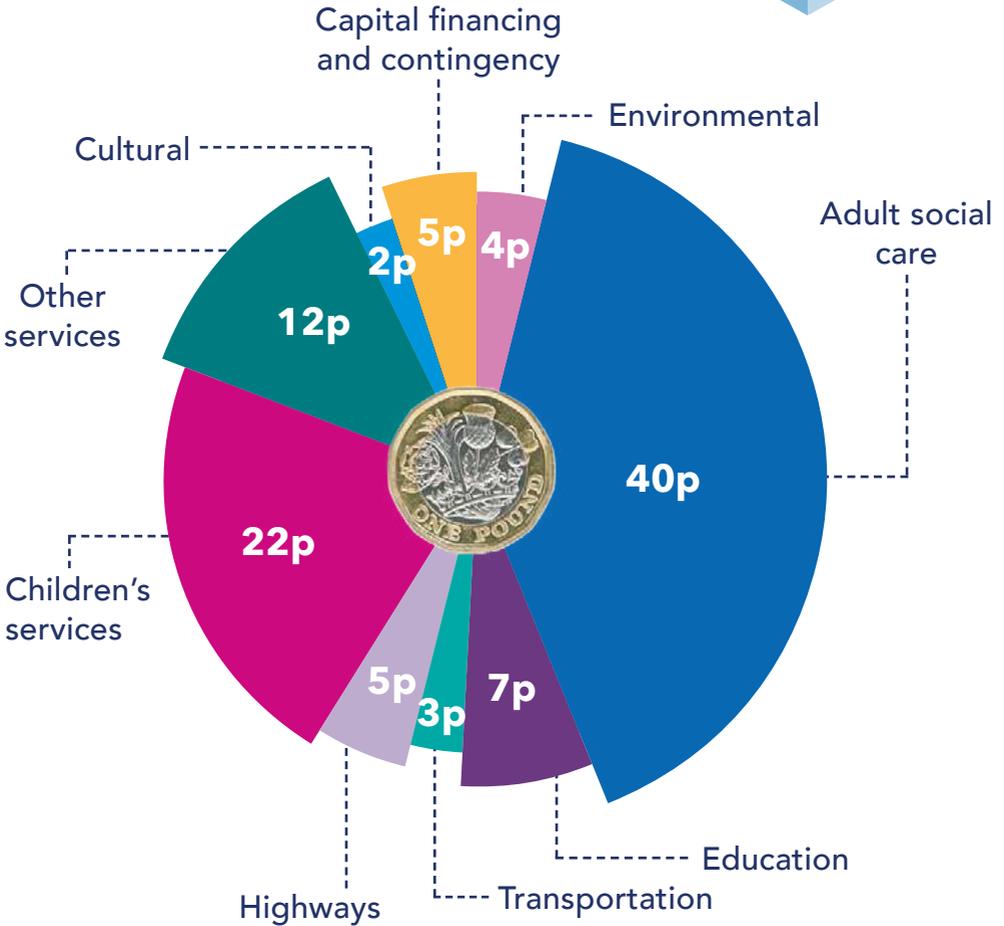
We have focused on saving money first, finding efficiencies, reducing costs, and managing every pound carefully, so we can keep council tax as low as possible. This means:



**£4.9m** will stay in residents' pockets this year

The increase is still needed to keep up with rising costs, but our commitment remains the same: **make every pound work harder, deliver real value for money, and keep improving the services that matter most to the people of Staffordshire.**

## Out of every pound we spend...



---

# More than 60p of every pound is spent on social care.\*

---

\*This includes the 2% rise that can only be used to fund adult social care.

# Managing rising costs and protecting services

Like households across Staffordshire, the council is facing rising costs.

Inflation has pushed up the price of everyday services and wages but we still have a legal duty to provide essential support, especially for vulnerable children and adults.

Our job is to manage these pressures while keeping services running well.

## Looking after the vulnerable

Staffordshire's population is ageing, and more people need care and support. We have a responsibility to help residents live safely, with dignity and independence.

---

## Increasing pressures in children's services

More families are turning to us for help, so we're investing up to £5.5m in extra frontline staff. To make sure children and families get the right support at the right time — because Staffordshire families deserve nothing less.

---

## Special educational needs

We support around 10,000 children with special educational needs. This number rises every year. Staffordshire is one of the lowest government funded areas in the UK.



# Investing in Staffordshire

We are pressing ahead with ambitious plans to make Staffordshire the Beating Heart of the Country. This includes:



## Roads and highways

Investing **£15 million** extra into highways, to deliver longer lasting repairs, improving travel across the county and giving residents better value for money.

---



## Looking after vulnerable children

Investing up to **£5.5 million** into children's services, recruiting almost 120 staff to keep vulnerable children and young people safe. As well as investment in special educational needs.

---



## Our countryside and visitor economy

We attract more visitors per mile than most areas, yet residents don't see the full benefit. Our **£18 million** countryside investment will change this—protecting vital landscapes while strengthening local returns. We're reinventing Chasewater, upgrading Cannock Chase Discovery Centre and revitalising the Staffordshire Way to support nature and our communities.

---

## Transforming libraries



Libraries are trusted community spaces and offer access to essential services on your doorstep. Our **£5 million** investment will secure them for future generations, transforming them into modern hubs that engage more groups and deliver the services and activities residents have asked for.

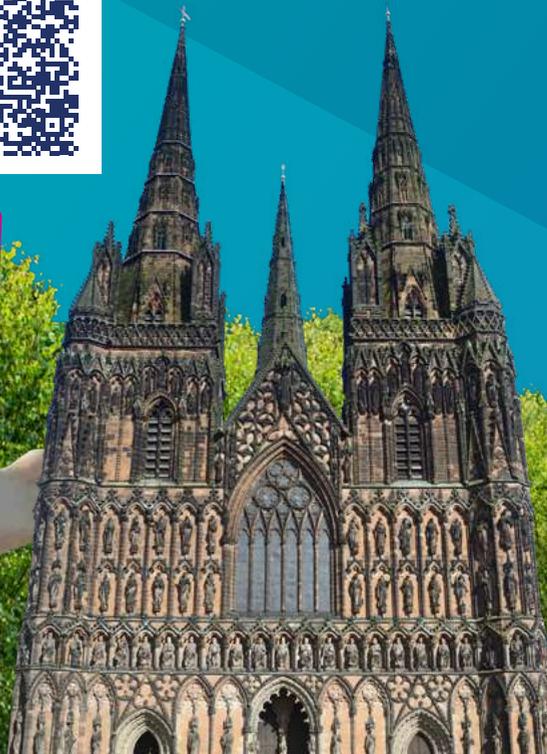
---

Staffordshire

# The Beating Heart of the Country

Staffordshire has a long and proud history, and we want to build a future that makes the county an even better place to live, work, visit and invest. Our ambition is clear: to strengthen Staffordshire as the Beating Heart of the Country, by protecting what makes the county special and improving it where we can.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our plans and how your council tax will be spent



# Open your heart and home

## Foster

with Staffordshire  
County Council



## Foster carers needed.

You can earn between £200 and £600  
per child per week.

Find out how **YOU** can make  
a difference to a local child

[fosterwithstaffordshire.co.uk](http://fosterwithstaffordshire.co.uk)



# Community Fund

Got an idea to make your community stronger?  
Your county councillor has up to £2,500 to support  
projects that help people, places and local culture -  
with no minimum amount needed.

Find out more by visiting  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/councillors-fund](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/councillors-fund)

Applications open: May to November 2026