Council tax information 2024/25

Explaining the amount of council tax which you will pay towards the services we will provide over the course of the financial year, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Your council tax helps pay for services in the local area, such as education, caring for people in need, maintaining the road network, and protecting our environment. It also pays for services at town and parish level, as well as supporting the emergency services such as the fire service and the police.

The money raised through Council Tax is shared out between the following authorities:

- Your local council/s (including town and parish)
- Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

This page explains the amount of council tax which you will pay towards the services we will provide over the course of the financial year, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

For 2024/25 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority agreed a 2.99 per cent rise in council tax, which means that the amount paid by a band D taxpayer will rise from £77.16 a year to £79.46 a year. This £2.30 increase, which equates to around 4p a week, will come into effect on 1 April 2024.

We will spend £39.47 million (£46.98 per head of population) on providing services to you. Our services are funded by Government grants and business rates (£16.60 per head of population) and council tax (£31.18 per head of population).

Council tax bills in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes include the following totals per home to pay for Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority in 2024-25:

Band	Per Week (£)	Per Month (£)	Per Year (£)
A	£1.02	£4.41	52.97
B	£1.19	£5.15	61.80
C	£1.35	£5.89	70.63
D	£1.52	£6.62	79.46
E	£1.86	£8.09	97.12
F	£2.20	£9.57	114.78
G	£2.54	£11.04	132.43
H	£3.05	£13.24	158.92

Where the money comes from

The funding settlement for 2024-25 was announced on 07 February 2024. The table below shows the breakdown of where our funding comes from:

Table: Where the money comes from		**2023-24 £'000**	**2024-25 £'000**
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates		£12,745	£13,010
Specific Grants		£989	£933
Council Tax		£25,194	£26,192
Use of Reserves/ (Contribution to Reserves)		-£2,478	-£665
Total		**£36,450**	**£39,470**

Where the money goes

The Medium-Term Financial Plan will support the approved Public Safety Plan 2020-2025.

Table: Where the money goes		**2023-24 £'000**	**2024-25 £'000**
Employees		£26,577	£29,825
Premises		£2,441	£2,324
Transport		£1,180	£1,256
Supplies and services		£5,652	£6,033
Capital charges		£1,876	£1,699
Income		-£1,275	-£1,667
Net budget requirement		**£36,450**	**£39,470**

Included within employee costs are the National Insurance contributions required by employers, and pension contributions set in accordance with relevant pension schemes regulations.

Staffing Levels

[Figures in the table above are based on full-time equivalents (FTEs) as at 1st April 2024]

We currently have an establishment of 301 Whole-time Firefighter posts. Our On-call establishment is 96 FTEs and Support Staff is 129.98 FTEs. Every role within the fire service plays a vital part in ensuring that we provide a quality service to the communities we serve.

Employee costs include costs for training our staff to ensure that they are well prepared for any event that they may be required to attend and are skilled to the appropriate level to help you at a variety of different types of incidents. As well as responding to fires, our Firefighters are needed in situations involving road traffic collisions, flood response, specialist rescue, hazardous substance incidents, home fire risk checks and fire safety enforcement. Each requires highly qualified, experienced, and expert staff, ready to respond to an emergency 24 hours a day.