

Council tax information 2025/26

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 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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 2025 to 31 March 2026.

This year the government proposed additional precept flexibility to all Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to increase their precept by up to £5 for 2025/26 only without the need to hold a referendum. The inability to increase precepts significantly had been a major limiting factor for the Service as FRAs are restricted by the core referendum principles for Council Tax increases, which until recently had effectively restricted precept increases to either 2% or 3% each year. The impact this has on our Service is significant given most of our funding is from Council Tax and we have one of the lowest Band D equivalent charges of any standalone FRS.

For 2025/26 Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority agreed a £5 increase in its council tax, which means that the amount paid by a band D taxpayer will rise from £79.46 a year to £84.46 a year. This £5 increase, which equates to just under 10p a week, will come into effect on 1 April 2026.

We will spend £42.99 million (£51.17 per head of population) on providing services to you. Our services are funded by Government grants and business rates (£16.62 per head of population) and council tax (£33.96 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 2025-26:

Band	Per Week (£)	Per Month (£)	Per Year (£)
A	£1.08	£4.69	£56.31
B	£1.26	£5.47	£65.69
C	£1.44	£6.26	£75.08
D	£1.62	£7.04	£84.46
E	£1.98	£8.60	£103.23
F	£2.34	£10.17	£122.00
G	£2.70	£11.73	£140.77
H	£3.24	£14.08	£168.92

Where the money comes from

The funding settlement for 2025-26 was announced on 03 February 2025. The table below shows the breakdown of where our funding comes from:

Table: Where the money comes from		2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000
Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates		£13,010	£13,082
Specific Grants		£933	£877
Council Tax		£26,192	£28,529
Use of Reserves/ (Contribution to Reserves)		-£665	£501
Total		£39,470	£42,989

Where the money goes

The Medium-Term Financial Plan is set to invigorate our Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2030! For 2025-26, the added precept flexibility will empower us to maintain our exceptional operational staffing levels despite significant pay and non-pay inflationary pressures. Plus, it opens the door to greater investments in our capital programme than ever before!

Our service is gearing up for some thrilling developments, including an ambitious new training facility that will benefit not only our staff but also other Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). And that's not all—capital funds are being allocated to transform our estates into modern facilities that are truly fit for purpose,

Table: Where the money goes		2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000
Employees		£29,825	£31,863
Premises		£2,324	£2,368
Transport		£1,256	£1,337
Supplies and services		£6,033	£6,410
Capital charges		£1,699	£2,661
Income		-£1,667	-£1,650
Net budget requirement		£39,470	£42,989

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 2025]

We currently have an establishment of 301 Whole-time operational posts. Our On-call establishment is 96 FTEs and Support Staff is 135.33 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. We will continue to strive to make Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes the safest areas in England in which to live, work and travel.