

# YOUR COUNCIL TAX EXPLAINED 2023/24



For more information about your council tax and ways to pay, visit [sutton.gov.uk/counciltax](https://sutton.gov.uk/counciltax)



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# A message from the Leader



Dear resident,

Last year your council tax enabled us to make a real difference to the lives of people living in our borough.

Together we delivered over 500,000 hours of care to people in their homes, supporting residents to continue to live independently. We ensured no child in Sutton went hungry over the school holidays; and we provided warm spaces for people struggling to heat their homes.

Every year we provide over 800 different services to our residents, with two thirds of our budget supporting older people, vulnerable children, people with learning difficulties and those with physical disabilities. This year, we need to continue to support those residents and also those affected by the cost of living crisis.

After over a decade of Government cuts in funding, your council tax continues to help us to protect essential services and support our most vulnerable residents.

Like everyone else, the Council is experiencing rising costs and with an ageing population, demands on our services are at record levels. So in order to continue to provide vital services, the Government has assumed all local authorities will cover our increased costs by taxing our residents.

This is why the Council is taking the difficult decision to increase council tax by 2.99%. We will also apply the Government's additional 2% for adult social care which can only be used to support the most vulnerable older people in Sutton. This increase is still well below the current rate of inflation.

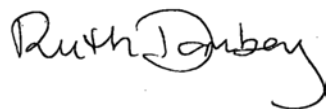
Along with supporting the most vulnerable in our borough, we will continue to invest in Sutton's future. Developing our town centre will help Sutton's local economy to grow. Together with the London Cancer Hub in Belmont, this will bring more new jobs to the local area. This year we will also increase our investment in community safety, CCTV cameras and new street lighting. We will deliver new school places and more funding for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, as well as investing in improved street cleaning.

The Mayor of London has decided to increase the Greater London Authority (GLA) charge in your council tax bill by 9.7%. This money goes towards the Metropolitan Police, the London Fire Brigade and Transport for London.

This means the average Sutton household living in a Band D property will pay an extra £0.89p per week in council tax and £0.59p per week for adult social care, as well as an extra £0.74p per week for the GLA charge. This is a total increase of £2.22 per week.

I know that this increase comes at a particularly challenging time. If you or anyone you know is struggling, there is lots of support available and so please get in touch about a council tax reduction and other cost of living help we can offer at [sutton.gov.uk/support](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/support).

Yours faithfully,



**Councillor Ruth Dombey**  
**Leader of Sutton Council**

# What your council tax does for Sutton

Here are just a few examples of how your council tax helps people in Sutton.



“Oru Sutton is a great place to work on growing my business and social enterprise. I’m excited about bringing the young people I work with here.”

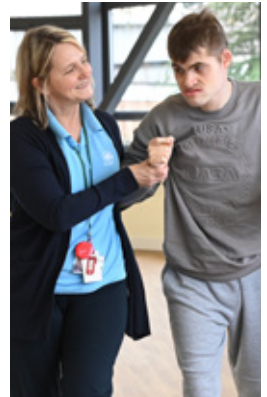
**Lawrence, Founder and CEO of Just A Guy**

Oru Sutton is the new co-working and wellbeing space on Sutton High Street. Visit [sutton.gov.uk/budget](https://sutton.gov.uk/budget) to find out about plans to transform the high street.

“It’s made an incredible difference. They have worked in such an encouraging and patient way with Bradley. They have also really helped by finding different places and groups I can take him to.”

*Nicola, Sutton resident and mother to Bradley*

Bradley was referred to our clinical health team who worked to improve his leg strength and walking. Find out how your council tax supports people like Bradley at [sutton.gov.uk/budget](https://sutton.gov.uk/budget).



“I would encourage anyone to consider fostering because it is a worthwhile, positive experience.”

**Simone, Sutton resident**

Simone is a short break foster carer for children with disabilities. Find out more about becoming a foster carer, visit [fosteringinsutton.gov.uk](https://fosteringinsutton.gov.uk).

Find out more about the vital services your council tax makes possible at [sutton.gov.uk/my-sutton-my-story](https://sutton.gov.uk/my-sutton-my-story)

# Our 2023/24 budget

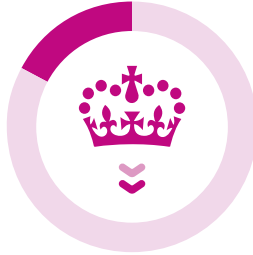
## Where our funding comes from

Like all local authorities, Sutton Council gets its funding from a range of sources including council tax, business rates, government grants, as well as fees and charges.



**10%**

**Business rates**



**16%**

**Funding from central government**



**74%**

**Council tax**

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## How it's spent

All our income is invested in services for Sutton residents.



**£122.1m**

Adult social care and supporting children



**£36.6m**

Improving Sutton's environment and local economy



**£23.1m**

Managing benefits, buildings, infrastructure and services



**£6.6m**

Public health and wellbeing

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A more detailed breakdown of this information is available on page 8.

## Investing in our borough



**£6.6m** in roads, pavements, street lighting and public safety



**£7.4m** in school place expansion and maintenance



**£17.1m** in our main town centre and the London Cancer Hub



**£50m** in building new council homes and regeneration



**£26m** in council home improvements

## What does each Council department do?

**People's Services** includes adult social care and supporting children.

**Public Health and Wellbeing** includes school nurses, libraries and museums, leisure centres, Sutton College, sexual health, substance support, transport for older people and Meals on Wheels.

**Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods** includes parks and open spaces, waste management, sustainability, roads, transport, housing regeneration, community safety, building planning and control, trading standards and emergency planning.

**Development, Growth and Regeneration** includes economic growth, Sutton Town Centre regeneration, creating The London Cancer Hub, employment and skills. This department has successfully brought millions of pounds of outside investment into the borough to deliver these projects.

**Resources** includes buildings, human resources, IT, finance, legal, elections, communications and policy.

# How we calculate your council tax

As in all London boroughs, your total council tax is made up of two parts:

- An amount set by the Council based on how much money we need to deliver vital local services and meet our levying obligations (see below).
- An amount set separately by the Greater London Authority, called the GLA precept.

## What are levies?

The Council Tax you pay includes amounts collected on behalf of other statutory bodies, known as levying bodies. These bodies pay for the net cost of their services by issuing a levy on each billing authority in their area, after deducting all other sources of income raised. The money due is included in your Council Tax bill, and is paid over to each body during the year.

Unlike the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept, levies have to be included as part of the council's own budget calculations and hence are included in the calculation of the council's own band D tax. The amounts included are shown in the tables below:

	2022/23	2023/24
Environment Agency	£173,000	£175,000
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	£174,000	£188,000
London Pensions Fund Authority	£247,000	£247,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£594,000</b>	<b>£610,000</b>

## What is the GLA precept?

The GLA precept is the part of your council tax that goes towards funding services provided by the Greater London Authority. These include London-wide transport, policing and fire services. The GLA precept is set each year by the Mayor of London, is collected by the Council and transferred to the Mayor. More information about the GLA precept is available at [sutton.gov.uk/counciltax](https://sutton.gov.uk/counciltax)



We calculate the Sutton Council element of your council tax in two stages. First, we work out how much money the Council needs to deliver its services and meet its levying obligations (our gross expenditure). Then, we work out how much income we will generate and other funding we will receive (our gross income). Then, we work out the difference (our net expenditure) and what we need to raise in council tax. The next two tables show these calculations for 2023/24. Figures in brackets show income, savings or a surplus.

1. This table shows how much funding is needed to deliver Council services, by department, and the ring-fenced central government grants we receive towards this. Ring-fenced grants are grants that must be spent on certain services and cannot be spent elsewhere.

	2022/23 Net expenditure	2023/24 Gross expenditure	2023/24 Gross Income	2023/24 Net expenditure
<b>Directorates</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
People's Services	98.8	119.8	(11.4)	108.4
Health and Wellbeing	6.9	13.9	(7.3)	6.6
Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods	33.4	53.9	(18.4)	35.6
Development Growth and Regeneration	0.9	1.0	(0.0)	1.0
Resources	22.7	105.0	(82.0)	23.1
Ringfenced Better Care Funding Joint NHS/LA Grant	0.0	13.7	(13.7)	0.0
Ringfenced Public Health Funding Grant	0.0	10.5	(10.5)	0.0
Interest, levies, reserves and other centrally-held budgets	12.4	14.6	(1.1)	13.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>175.1</b>	<b>332.4</b>	<b>(144.3)</b>	<b>188.1</b>
Non-ringfenced Core Grants	(20.1)			(26.9)
<b>Total council budget</b>	<b>155.0</b>			<b>161.2</b>

2. This table shows where the remaining funding needed to deliver Council services comes from, including how much council tax we need to raise after other sources of funding have been accounted for.

	2022/23 Net expenditure £m	2023/24 Net expenditure £m
<b>Total council budget</b>	<b>155.0</b>	<b>161.2</b>
Revenue Support Grant	(7.0)	(7.9)
Business Rates	(15.2)	(16.6)
Top-Up Grant	(19.5)	(18.1)
Collection Fund (surplus) / deficit - Council Tax	(1.4)	0.0
Collection Fund (surplus)/ deficit - NNDR	1.1	0.7
<b>Council tax needed</b>	<b>113.0</b>	<b>119.4</b>

## How our budget has changed from last year

The table below shows how pressures like inflation and increased demand have affected our budget this year, and where we have saved money or received more income. These changes have led to an overall increase in the amount we need to raise through council tax.

	£m
<b>Council tax needed 2022/23</b>	<b>113.0</b>
Inflation	9.7
Additional costs from continuing budget pressures and income shortfalls	6.5
Transfer to capital, provisions and reserves	(1.1)
Efficiencies, cost reduction measures and other savings	(7.6)
Collection Fund surplus increase	1.1
Decrease in Business Rates Income	(1.3)
Changes in grant income funding, Business Rates Retention and Revenue Support Grant	(0.8)
<b>Council tax needed 2023/24</b>	<b>119.4</b>

# How much council tax you will pay this year

How much council tax you pay depends on how much your home was worth in April 1991, when it was valued and put into one of eight bands by the Valuation Office Agency. Your council tax bill tells you which band your home is in. The table below shows how much council tax each band will pay in 2023/24.

Valuation band	Range of values	Sutton Council general	Sutton Council ASC* precept	Greater London Authority	Total council tax
A	up to £40,000	£932.96	£143.20	£289.43	<b>£1,365.59</b>
B	£40,001 - £52,000	£1,088.45	£167.07	£337.66	<b>£1,593.18</b>
C	£52,001 - £68,000	£1,243.95	£190.93	£385.90	<b>£1,820.78</b>
D	£68,001 - £88,000	£1,399.44	£214.80	£434.14	<b>£2,048.38</b>
E	£88,001 - £120,000	£1,710.43	£262.53	£530.62	<b>£2,503.58</b>
F	£120,001 - £160,000	£2,021.41	£310.27	£627.09	<b>£2,958.77</b>
G	£160,001 - £320,000	£2,332.40	£358.00	£723.57	<b>£3,413.97</b>
H	more than £320,000	£2,798.88	£429.60	£868.28	<b>£4,096.76</b>

\*Adult social care precept

If you think your property is in the wrong band, visit [voa.gov.uk](https://voa.gov.uk) or call **03000 501 501**. If you make an appeal, you will still need to pay your council tax while it is considered.

## Worried about the cost of living?

We are here to help you and those you care about with the rising cost of living.

Call **020 8770 5000**, visit [sutton.gov.uk/support](https://sutton.gov.uk/support) or visit your local library or the Civic Offices.

# Discounts and reductions

Depending on your income and who is living in your home, you may be able to apply for a discount on your council tax bill.

## Council tax discounts

You may be eligible for a discount if you live alone (excluding any children under 18) or if you or someone you live with:

- Has a disability and your home has been adapted to meet their needs.
- Is a full-time student, student nurse, apprentice or Youth Training trainee.
- Is severely mentally impaired.
- Is a person caring for someone who is not their spouse, partner or child under 18.

For further details on all discounts, including how to make an application, visit [sutton.gov.uk/counciltax](https://sutton.gov.uk/counciltax)

## Council Tax Reduction scheme

If you are on a low income or receive benefits, you may be eligible for a reduction on your council tax bill. Find out more at [sutton.gov.uk/counciltaxreduction](https://sutton.gov.uk/counciltaxreduction)

### Important information

Some discounts and exemptions are time-limited and will expire during the financial year. If your discount or exemption expires, we will send you a revised bill for the rest of the year. If your bill shows a discount or exemption that you are no longer entitled to, or your circumstances change so you are no longer entitled to a discount or exemption, you must tell us within 21 days. If you don't, you may have to pay a penalty.

Grounds for appeal against a decision regarding your council tax can be found on our website at [sutton.gov.uk/counciltax](https://sutton.gov.uk/counciltax)

# Empty properties and exemptions

**Empty and unfurnished properties, including those needing or undergoing major repairs or structural alterations, are not exempt from council tax. This follows a change in the law on 1 April 2013.**

Properties that are empty (vacant and substantially unfurnished) for more than two years are subject to a premium. From 1 April 2021, the following premiums apply:

- For properties that have been empty for two or more years, but less than five years, the premium is 100%. This means you will be asked to pay 200% of the full council tax bill.
- For properties that have been empty for five or more years, but less than 10 years, the premium is 200%. This means you will be asked to pay 300% of the full council tax bill.
- For properties that have been empty for 10 years or more, the premium is 300%. This means you will be asked to pay 400% of the full council tax bill.

If a premium becomes payable during the financial year, you will be sent a revised bill.

As this premium applies to the property, a change of ownership or tenancy will not affect the premium. If the property had already been empty or substantially unfurnished for two or more years when you bought or leased it, you will have to pay the extra council tax.

Some properties are still eligible for an exemption.

For more information or to make an online application visit **[sutton.gov.uk/counciltax](https://sutton.gov.uk/counciltax)**

# Help to pay and financial support

The cost of living crisis is affecting many people in Sutton. If you are worried about paying your council tax or other bills, help is available.

## Hardship Fund and Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

If you are entitled to a Council Tax Reduction, Universal Credit or Housing Benefit and are struggling with council tax or rent, you can apply for a Hardship Fund payment for council tax or a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) for rent.

These payments are designed for those who most need some extra help. Our budget is limited and we will prioritise helping to keep people in work and helping disabled and vulnerable people. We will also take levels of income and expenditure into account. Find out more at [sutton.gov.uk/DHP](https://sutton.gov.uk/DHP)

## Crisis loans and grants scheme

The Council's crisis loans and grants scheme can help to cover unexpected expenses in a crisis or emergency. Support that can be offered includes food vouchers, top-ups for pay-as-you-go gas and electric meters and furniture (beds, cookers, fridges and freezers). Find out more at [sutton.gov.uk/crisisloansandgrants](https://sutton.gov.uk/crisisloansandgrants)

## Together for Sutton


If you are feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to go for support, please contact Together for Sutton online at [togetherforsutton.org.uk](https://togetherforsutton.org.uk) or by phone on **020 8254 2616** (Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm).

This is a free, impartial and confidential advice service which is run by local organisations and funded by Sutton Council.

Go to [sutton.gov.uk/budget](https://sutton.gov.uk/budget) and click on “**Get the support you need**” for more information about the wide range of support available in Sutton.

# How to pay






## Direct Debit

-  You can help us save money, protect the environment and make your life easier by paying by Direct Debit and receiving your bill electronically. Set up your Direct Debit at [sutton.gov.uk/directdebit](https://sutton.gov.uk/directdebit)

## Win £100 cash

If you pay by Direct Debit, you'll also be in with a chance of winning our £100 prize draw every three months.

## Other ways to pay

-  Go online: [sutton.gov.uk/payforit](https://sutton.gov.uk/payforit)
-  Call the 24 hour automated payment line: **020 8770 7887**
-  Pay with your Payzone card at Post Offices and newsagents that display the Payzone sign
-  Online banking, standing order, BACS and CHAPS Payments. Please make payments to:  
**Bank Sort Code: 30-80-12**  
**Bank Account Number: 13740960**
-  **12** Want to pay your annual bill over 12 monthly instalments rather than 10? Email us at [counciltax@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@sutton.gov.uk)

# Manage your council tax online with MyAccount

You can manage your council tax online using MyAccount, the Council's online portal for council tax, business rates and Housing Benefit. With MyAccount you can:



**Set up a  
Direct Debit**



**Sign up  
for e-billing**



**See past and  
future payments**



**Claim discounts  
and exemptions**



**Change your  
name or address**



**Get a PDF version  
of your bill**

**Save yourself time by going online today.  
Sign up at [sutton.gov.uk/myaccount](https://sutton.gov.uk/myaccount)**

For more information  
about council tax, visit  
[sutton.gov.uk/counciltax](https://sutton.gov.uk/counciltax)

