



Your **2026/27** **Council Tax** **explained**

For more information and ways to pay,
visit sutton.gov.uk/counciltax

Dear resident

I am proud to call Sutton my home, a place full of hardworking, caring people, great parks, excellent schools, clean streets, and busy town centres.

We look after those who are made homeless, our older people and children and young people including those with special educational needs. Many of these essential services are paid for by your council tax. This letter is to explain how we spend your council tax and why it is having to increase.

This year, the government has changed the way it supports all councils in England. For Sutton, this has resulted in cuts to our funding.

In making this cut, the government has assumed that even more of our essential services will be funded by council tax.

Increasing council tax is not a decision we make lightly. We know that people in Sutton are still struggling with the cost of living, but to continue to deliver these essential services to the most vulnerable we must increase council tax. This alone will not be enough and the Council will also be making £13 million in savings this year.

From April, on average you will pay an extra £1.71 per week in council tax.

The Mayor of London is also asking for an extra 39 pence via the Greater London Authority Charge. This makes a total increase of £2.10 per week.

Despite the challenges, this has been an important year for Sutton. Ofsted have rated us good for the support we provide to our children, as has the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for our care for adults. We also achieved the highest rating for our social housing services.

Last month, a landmark moment happened when the London Cancer Hub, in Belmont was given the green light. Once completed, the London Cancer Hub will be a world-leading site for cancer drug discovery and research. This will bring more businesses, investment and jobs to all of Sutton.

I love Sutton, it's always been my home and I am committed to its success. Over the next few years, we will be working even harder to make sure that we spend every penny wisely. We will continue to build our local economy, keep our streets clean, look after our environment and support our local communities, all of which help to make Sutton such a great place to live.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Lewis
Leader of Sutton Council



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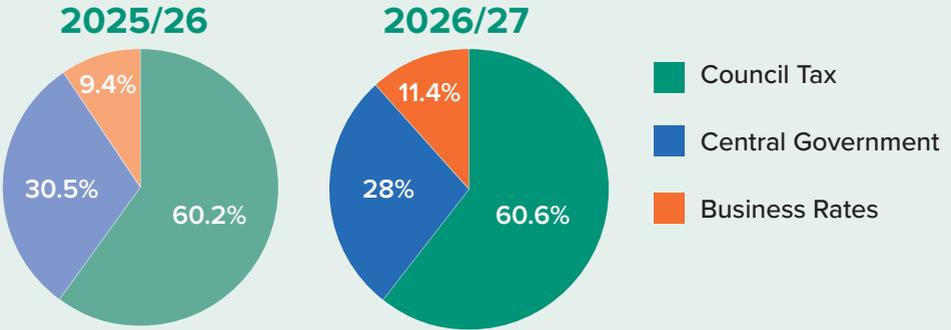
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Our 2026/27 Budget

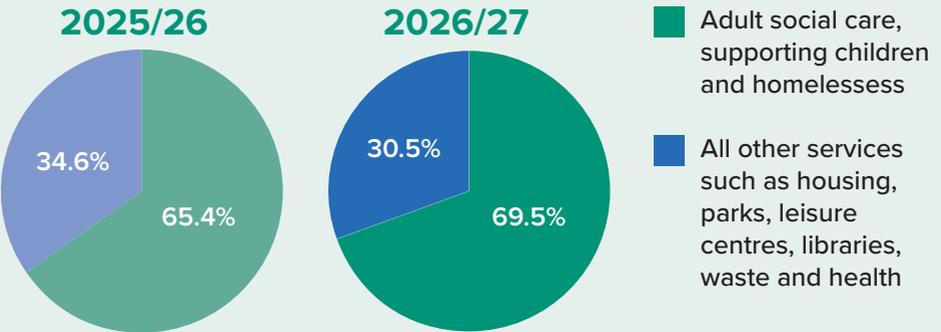
Where our funding comes from

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.

How our budget is funded



How we will spend our 2026/27 budget



Rising demand for our services means that each week, we spend:



£1.3m

on adult social care
(an increase of £200,000)



£6,800

on a child in residential care
(an increase of £300)



Over £146,000

on emergency housing for more than 550 households
(an increase of £23,000 and more than 150 households)

Investing in what matters most



£6m

in roads, pavements and
street lighting



£3.4m

maintaining and expanding
school places



£21.1m

in developing Sutton High
Street and the London
Cancer Hub



£61.2m

in new council homes and
housing regeneration

Council tax increase - breakdown for a Band D home

Sutton Council



**£1.71 per week
extra**



Mayor of London



**£0.39 per week
extra**



**£2.10 per week extra
(£108.92 per year extra)**

What does each Council department do?

People's Services

For children and families, this includes helping children at risk of going into care and those in care. Services include; Fostering, education, mental health, youth offending and supporting children with physical disabilities and with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. For adults, this includes supporting people to live well at home for longer - for example, through Occupational Therapy or care at home - supporting unpaid carers, and providing support for disabilities, sensory impairments, mental health and dementia.

Public Health and Wellbeing

Includes school nurses, libraries and museums, leisure centres, Sutton College, registering of births, death and Marriages, sexual health, substance support, transport for older people and Meals on Wheels.

Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods

Includes parks and open spaces, waste collections and street cleansing, sustainability and bio-diversity, roads, transport, housing regeneration, community safety, building planning and control, trading standards, licensing and emergency planning.

Resources

Includes council buildings, economic growth, 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 so are included in the calculation of the Council's own band D tax. The amounts included are shown in the table below:

Amount paid by Sutton	2025/26	2026/27
Levies	£'000s	£000's
Environment Agency	181	185
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	198	202
London Pensions Fund Authority	241	247
Total	620	634

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/w/understanding-your-bill

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 2026/27. 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.

	2025/26 Net expenditure (£m)	2026/27 Gross expenditure (£m)	2026/27 Gross Income (£m)	2026/27 Net expenditure (£m)
People Services	137.7	183.7	(33.7)	149.9
Health & Wellbeing	3.3	10.8	(8.2)	2.5
Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods	39.8	64.0	(19.5)	44.4
Resources	25.5	47.3	(23.5)	23.8
Pooled minimum NHS contributions from ICB (Better Care Fund)	0.0	18.6	(18.6)	0.0
Ringfenced Public Health Fund Grant	0.0	11.9	(11.9)	0.0
Interest, levies, reserves and other centrally held budgets	18.2	62.3	(47.1)	15.2
Total	224.5	398.4	(162.5)	235.9
Non-ringfenced Core Grants	(40.3)			(13.5)
Net Budget Requirement	184.1			222.5

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.

	2025/26 Net expenditure (£m)	2026/27 Gross expenditure (£m)
Net budget requirement	184.1	222.5
Revenue Support Grant	(8.6)	(45.2)
Business Rates	(20.2)	(27.2)
Top-up Grant	(19.4)	(7.5)
Collection Fund (surplus) / deficit - Council Tax	(0.2)	0.2
Collection Fund (surplus) / deficit - NNDR	(0.8)	0.4
Amount from Council Tax	134.9	143.1

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.

Changes in Council expenditure	£m
Council Tax Requirement 2025/26	134.9
Inflation	8.3
Additional costs from continuing budget pressures and income shortfalls	18.2
Efficiencies, cost reduction measures and other savings	(13.8)
Additional spend funded by ring fenced grants	2.8
Collection Fund movement	1.6
Changes in funding	(7.1)
Use of reserves	(1.8)
Council Tax Requirement 2026/27	143.1

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 2026/27.

Band	Range (£)	London Borough of Sutton Council Tax	Greater London Authority Precept	Total
A	Up to 40,000	£1,245.42	£340.34	£1,585.76
B	40,001 - 52,000	£1,452.99	£397.06	£1,850.05
C	52,001 - 68,000	£1,660.56	£453.79	£2,114.35
D	68,001 - 88,000	£1,868.13	£510.51	£2,378.64
E	88,001 - 120,000	£2,283.27	£623.96	£2,907.23
F	120,001 - 160,000	£2,698.41	£737.40	£3,435.81
G	160,001 - 320,000	£3,113.55	£850.85	£3,964.40
H	More than 320,000	£3,736.26	£1,021.02	£4,757.28

If you believe the banding of your property is incorrect, visit voa.gov.uk or call 0300 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** 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

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

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

Empty properties and exemptions

Properties that are empty (vacant and substantially unfurnished) for one year or more are subject to a premium. The amount of the premium payable depends on how long a property has been empty.

Details of the premiums payable from 1 April 2026 can be found on our website at www.sutton.gov.uk/w/empty-properties

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 one or more years when you bought or leased it, you will have to pay the extra council tax.

From 1 April 2025 properties that are classed as second homes are subject to a 100% premium. A second home is a property which is substantially furnished but is no-one's sole or main home. This includes properties that are left empty and furnished or the owner/occupier has a main residence elsewhere.

There will be exceptions to the premiums, details of which and how to apply can be found on our website at www.sutton.gov.uk/w/empty-properties

In addition some properties are still eligible for an exemption. For more information or to make an online application visit 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.

Crisis and Resilience Fund

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 the Crisis and Resilience Fund (previously known as the Hardship Fund and Discretionary Housing Payment).

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/w/discretionary-housing-payment-dhp](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/w/discretionary-housing-payment-dhp)

Cost of Living

Find out about the range of support provided by Sutton Council, community groups, local charities, and partners at:

www.sutton.gov.uk/support

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



Together For Sutton

Information | Advice | Support | Advocacy

We can help anyone who lives, works, studies or cares for someone in the London Borough of Sutton

We can help with information such as:



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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

If you set a Direct Debit for the upcoming tax year, you will be in with a chance of winning £100.

Other ways to pay



Go online: 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



Want to pay your annual bill over 12 monthly instalments rather than 10?

Email us at 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**

For more information
about council tax, visit
sutton.gov.uk/counciltax

