



# **Budget and Council Tax 2024/25**

The District Council provides a wide range of services to you, our residents. This includes enabling a strong local economy with sustainable growth, working with our communities and ensuring we are a customer focused and service led council.

In total, the Council will spend over £81m delivering services to residents in 2024/25, 13% of which is funded directly from Council Tax, 49% is funded by Government and 8% comes from retained business rates. The remaining 30% comes from fees and charges paid by service users, contributions from other bodies or our reserves. In addition, the Council has a capital programme which totals £26.1m. This is planned to be spent on town centre redevelopment, disabled adaptation grants, and maintaining our existing assets e.g., car parks, leisure facilities and commercial properties, and is funded through a mixture of grants received and the Council's reserves.

As a public body, the Council needs to balance the optimum level of services with the available money, which means it needs to get the best value from every £1 it spends. There are pressures on the services delivered from increased life expectancy, population growth and the impact of the national economy, but also uncertainty in relation to future Central Government funding.

The main pressures impacting this council are:-

- Increased energy costs
- Increased demand for homelessness support.
- Uncertainty over future Government funding. From 2025/26 onwards grant income is likely to reduce as the Government phases out New Homes Bonus grant and introduces a fair funding regime.
- An ageing population in the district; the number of residents aged 65 or over increased by 33% between 2011 and 2021.

The Council has been very successful in becoming more efficient and effective over the last few years, with the ongoing programme of service restructuring and a shared service programme with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council continuing to deliver benefits. Work continues to review services to see if ever more innovative ways to deliver them more efficiently can be found, so that front line services can be protected.

This year, the Council has decided to increase the District Council element of the Council Tax for the 2024/25 year; Council Tax for a Band D property will be £160.86 (£3.00 per week) and even less for the 65% of residents who live in smaller properties and have a lower tax band. It is important to remember that even though Council Tax will rise, it is less than 7% of the bill that is sent out; it also includes precepts for the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority, Combined Authority

and your Parish or Town Council. Your bill will have risen because some of these bodies have increased their element, and this will be clearly shown on the bill. Please contact them via the details shown in the leaflet that accompanied your Council Tax bill if your query is about their services or Council Tax level. You can also find their contact details, and those for town or parish councils, on our website at: [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/counciltax).

### **More Information**

More information about Huntingdonshire's budget can be found on the council website at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or email [karen.sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.sutton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

## Huntingdonshire District Council 2024/25 Budget Summary

	2023/24	2024/25			
	Budget	Budget	Council Tax (Band D)	Change on last year	Share of Council Tax
	£000	£000	£	%	%
Gross Expenditure	75,115	81,887		9.02	
Income	(51,002)	(55,883)		9.57	
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>24,113</b>	<b>26,004</b>		<b>7.84</b>	
Less Retained Business Rates	(5,629)	(6,727)		19.51	
Less Government Funding	(8,379)	(9,823)		17.23	
Surplus to reserves	150	1,178		685.33	
<b>Huntingdonshire Council Tax</b>	<b>10,255</b>	<b>10,632</b>	<b>160.86</b>	<b>3.21</b>	<b>6.93</b>
Town and Parishes Tax (average)			137.09	6.49	5.91
County Council Tax			1,619.82	4.99	69.77
Police & Crime Commissioner Tax			285.48	4.76	12.30
Fire Authority Tax			82.26	2.93	3.54
Combined Authority Tax			36.00	200.00	1.55
<b>Total Council Tax</b>			<b>2,321.51</b>		<b>100.00</b>

### The reasons for the increase are shown below

	£000	£000
<b>Raised from Council Tax in 2023/24</b>		<b>10,255</b>
Inflation and other adjustments	2,729	
Efficiency and other savings	(1,307)	
New initiatives/Growth	469	
Increase in government support	(1,444)	
Increase in retained business rates	(1,098)	
Contribution to reserves	1,028	
<b>Raised from Council Tax in 2024/25</b>		<b>10,632</b>

Revenue reserves are estimated to be £2.175m at the start of the year and £2.175m at the end of the year.

## Huntingdonshire District Council provides services to every household in the District

It costs 66p a week per household to collect your waste and recycling

### Operations & Refuse Collection Services £5.534m

- Collecting rubbish from over 80,500 properties every week
- Recycling 57% of our rubbish
- Monitoring 805 CCTV cameras (including 42 deployable cameras) across the Huntingdonshire and Cambridge areas

### Planning and Housing Services £1.350m

- Enabling 1250 new homes, including 485 affordable homes, to be completed in the District
- Enabling gross completions of over 38,900 square metres of employment floorspace
- Dealing with over 2,700 planning applications

The District manages 6 parks and nature reserves and other green spaces costing 24p per household per week

### Leisure & Health Services £0.296m

- Providing Leisure & Health services and facilities across the district which attract in excess of 1.4 million visitors per year

### Chief Operating Officer Services £5.801m

- Enabling people to live in their own homes by providing 200 disabled facilities grants and providing relocation grants to enable 6 applicants
- Re-housing 890 households
- Awarding Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support to over 7,300 people
- Providing over 2,500 licences for taxis, licensed premises, lotteries etc

We spend 24p per household per week to keep streets and public places clean

### Strategic Insight & Delivery Services £0.662m

- Managing town car parks with 3,834 spaces
- Managing 6 parks across Huntingdonshire

### Technical and Support Services £12.361m

- Managing elections (e.g. European, Parliamentary, District and Parish) and various referendums
- Provision of IT, Legal, Procurement, Financial, Audit, HR and Corporate support services to over 650 staff
- Delivery of Treasury, Insurance and other Corporate Financial Management
- Supporting the Democratic process and the 52 Council Members