



Council Tax Booklet

2026/27

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Council Tax 2026/2027

The agreed Kirklees Council Tax rise for council services in 2026/27 is 4.99%

The West Yorkshire Fire Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner (Mayor of West Yorkshire) and the parish councils approve their own annual precept amounts, which are included in the overall household bill.

Here are some ways we may be able to help you to reduce your bill

Single person discount

You can claim 25% off your bill if you are the only person in your household over eighteen.

Disabled band reduction

If a disabled person lives in your property you may qualify for a reduction.

Other discounts

If you or someone living with you fits into one of the groups below, we may be able to give you a discount:

- full-time students, student nurses, apprentices, and youth trainees
- you receive child benefit for this person, who is over 18 years of age
- 18- and 19-year-olds who are at or have just left school/college
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- people being looked after in care homes or permanently in hospital
- people caring for someone with a disability
- people serving a prison sentence.

In certain circumstances, you may be exempt from paying Council Tax

This could mean you have no Council Tax to pay. Here are some of the reasons you may get an exemption:

- property left unoccupied because someone has died
- property left unoccupied by someone who is permanently in hospital or a care home
- the property has been repossessed
- the property is only occupied by full-time students.

Please complete our online forms to apply for discounts and exemptions at [Kirklees Council - Council Tax discounts, exemptions and reductions](#)

Council Tax Reduction

If you are on a low income, you may be entitled to some help through the Council Tax Reduction scheme. To qualify you must be:

- responsible for paying Council Tax, and
- have less than £8,000 in capital if you are working age, or
- have less than £16,000 in capital if you are over state pension age (unless you are receiving the Pension Credit Guaranteed Credit)

Find out if you are entitled and make a claim online at: [Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction](#)

Make benefits and work pay with Better Off Kirklees

For more information about benefits, to appeal against a benefit decision, see handy tips to help you back into work and search for jobs, visit: [Better Off Kirklees website](#)

Have you told us about your changes?

It is your responsibility to tell us straight away about any changes which affect:

- any Council Tax discount or exemption you may be receiving.
- your Council Tax Reduction, including changes in income or capital for you or others in your household, moving home or someone moving into or out of your household.

You can report your Council Tax Reduction changes online at: [MyKirklees - Tell us about a change in circumstance](#)

If you do not tell us about the above changes within 21 days, depending on the circumstances, you may be fined £70 and, in some cases, could face prosecution.

Moved to a new house? Tell us online!

For any Council Tax changes visit [Kirklees Council – Tell us if you have moved](#)

My Kirklees Account

Join nearly 250,000 people who use My Kirklees Account to access council services online anytime. With just one password, you can:

- Manage your Council Tax, Housing Rent and Housing Benefit accounts
- Register or renew permits for tips, residential and visitor parking.
- Report issues like fly-tipping, broken streetlights, potholes, and missed bin collections.
- Check your bin collection schedule.

You can now view any paperless bills you've signed up for by selecting the 'Bills/Documents' button when viewing your Council Tax account. Over 100,000 people have already linked their Council Tax account to their My Kirklees Account.

Not signed up yet? Do it today! Visit [My Kirklees Account](#).

Council Tax Appeals

The HMRC Valuation Office values domestic properties for Council Tax. This valuation is used to set your Council Tax band. You might need to contact the Valuation Office if you think your Council Tax band is wrong.

You can find out more about when you can challenge your band and what you need to do at [GOV.UK - Challenge your Council Tax band](#). If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay Council tax at your current band until your appeal is decided.

You can contact the Valuation Office at this link [Contact the Valuation Office - GOV.UK](#). If you are unable to use the online service, you can also contact the VOA on 03000 501 501.

District Council Elections 2026

Whole Council elections are taking place on Thursday 7 May 2026. For more information visit our website at [Voting and elections](#)

Register to vote

Recently moved home? Remember to register to vote at your new address. It only takes five minutes, and you will need your National Insurance Number, register online at [GOV.UK - Register to vote](#) Deadline to apply is **midnight on Monday 20 April 2026**.

Voting by post

Prefer not to visit a polling station? You can apply to vote by post at [Apply for a post vote](#). Deadline to apply is **5pm Tuesday 21 April 2026**.

Empty homes premium

If a property is empty and not exempt, it will be charged the full Council Tax.

Properties that are empty long term will have an extra charge called an empty homes premium. This extra charge is on top of the normal Council Tax.

2013: The empty property premium was introduced. Councils were able to charge up to 50% extra Council Tax on properties that had been empty and unfurnished for 2 years or more.

2019: The premium amount was increased. Councils could now charge up to 100% extra Council Tax on properties empty for 2 years or more.

Further increases were allowed:

2020: Up to 200% extra for properties empty for 5 years or more.

2021: Up to 300% extra for properties empty for 10 years or more.

2024: Councils could charge the premium on homes empty for just 1 year (instead of 2 years).

Empty and unfurnished property premiums:

Table 1: Empty and unfurnished property premiums

Period	Charge Plus Premium	Total Council Tax
1 year or more, but less than 5 years	100% charge plus 100% premium	200%
5 years or more, but less than 10 years	100% charge plus 200% premium	300%
10 years or more	100% charge plus 300% premium	400%

Empty and furnished homes

Starting from 1 April 2025, properties that are empty and furnished, also known as 'second homes', will be subject to the empty premium. This premium charge will be applied from the date the property is classified as empty and furnished (a second home) and will include the full standard Council Tax charge plus an additional 100% premium.

Exceptions to premiums

From 1 April 2025 there are specific exceptions where the premium charge will not apply if certain criteria are met:

Exceptions to premiums for properties that are either furnished or unfurnished:

- Properties that would be someone's sole or main residence: If not for residing in job-related armed forces accommodation.
- Annexes: Forming part of, or being treated as part of, the main property.
- Properties actively marketed for sale: Up to a 12-month limit.
- Properties actively marketed for let: Up to a 12-month limit.
- Unoccupied properties with recent probate: Up to 12 months from the grant of probate/letter of administration.

Exceptions to premiums for empty properties that are furnished only:

- Job-related properties: Due to a requirement of your job to reside elsewhere.
- Occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings: If the pitch/mooring is occupied by a caravan/boat, but nobody is residing in the caravan/boat.
- Seasonal homes: Where year-round, permanent occupation is prohibited, specified for use as holiday accommodation, or planning conditions prevent occupancy for more than 28 days continuously.

Exceptions to premiums for empty properties that are unfurnished only:

- Empty properties undergoing major repairs or structural alterations: Up to a 12-month limit.

If you believe you might qualify for an exception or any other Council Tax discount, you can check using our [Discount and Exemption Form](#).

Empty properties are a priority for the council as they could provide a much-needed home. Please visit [empty residential properties](#) for help and advice if you have a property you wish to bring back into use.

How your Council Tax is calculated

The calculation is:

Basic Council Tax charge +

Parish precept (if there is one in your area) +

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority +

West Yorkshire Police Authority charges

= Your Council Tax charge

How much Council Tax you pay in 2026/27

Table 2: The total Council Tax for each property in Kirklees, including fire, police, and parish precepts

Valuation Band	Denby Dale £	Holme Valley £	Kirkburton £	Meltham £	Mirfield £	All other parts £
A	1650.62	1647.64	1631.60	1672.10	1645.08	1620.13
B	1925.71	1922.24	1903.53	1950.77	1919.24	1890.14
C	2200.82	2196.85	2175.47	2229.46	2193.43	2160.17
D	2475.92	2471.46	2447.40	2508.14	2467.61	2430.19
E	3026.13	3020.68	2991.27	3065.51	3015.98	2970.24
F	3576.32	3569.88	3535.13	3622.86	3564.32	3510.27
G	4126.54	4119.10	4079.00	4180.24	4112.69	4050.32
H	4951.84	4942.92	4894.80	5016.28	4935.22	4860.38

Basic Council Tax charge for 2026/27

Table 3: Basic council tax charge and valuation band

Valuation Band	All areas of Kirklees £
A	1374.95
B	1604.10
C	1833.26
D	2062.42
E	2520.74
F	2979.05
G	3437.37
H	4124.84

West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority and West Yorkshire Police Authority charges

Table 4: West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority and West Yorkshire Police Authority charges

Valuation Band	West Yorkshire Fire Civil Defence Authority £	West Yorkshire Police Authority £
A	59.66	185.52
B	69.60	216.44
C	79.55	247.36
D	89.49	278.28
E	109.38	340.12
F	129.26	401.96
G	149.15	463.80
H	178.98	556.56

Parish precepts

If you live in an area where there is a Parish Council your Council Tax will increase to take into account, the Parish precepts for those areas:

Table 5: Parish precepts

Valuation Band	Denby Dale £	Holme Valley £	Kirkburton £	Meltham £	Mirfield £
A	30.49	27.51	11.47	51.97	24.95
B	35.57	32.10	13.39	60.63	29.10
C	40.65	36.68	15.30	69.29	33.26
D	45.73	41.27	17.21	77.95	37.42
E	55.89	50.44	21.03	95.27	45.74
F	66.05	59.61	24.86	112.59	54.05
G	76.22	68.78	28.68	129.92	62.37
H	91.46	82.54	34.42	155.90	74.84

The Parish Council budget in areas where there is one is as follows:

Table 6: The Parish Council budget in areas

Parish	2026/27 £	2025/2026 £
Denby Dale Parish Council	293,617	281,000
Holme Valley Parish Council	447,717	447,780
Kirkburton Parish Council	167,000	159,000
Meltham Parish Council	238,183	222,012
Mirfield Parish Council	265,000	125,000

Where your Parish Council's money goes

Parish Councils with a budget of £140,000 or more are required to provide information about how it is spent:

Actions of Denby Dale Parish Council

- Running costs of the council building acquired by Community Asset Transfer to ensure full use by the community of the library, rooms to hire for local community groups and health groups, and to provide office provision for the countryside officer and clerk to the council as well as host the Council meetings
- Employment of a part-time Clerk and a full-time Countryside Officer
- Awarding Community, Small and Schools Grants
- Community Aid Grant to address any possible future shortfall in services from Kirklees Council which the Parish Council may be able to assist with and to fund large scale community projects.
- Awarding an annual grant to the Environment Trust
- Setting up of the Climate Emergency Fund and assistance given to local schools with Eco Schools awards
- Taking on an Apprentice within the Countryside Project, now on a Level 4 Countryside Ranger Apprenticeship
- Running the Countryside Project and allotments at Churchfield site, Denby Dale.
- Provision of dog waste bags and dispensers.
- Donation towards Christmas trees, which for the last two years budgets have been fully funded.
- Provision of floral displays for the Parish.
- Annual donation towards the Emley Show (transport)
- Provision and placement of Remembrance Day wreaths.
- Various web, IT, newsletter and office costs.

Actions of Holme Valley Parish Council

- Holme Valley Parish Council works to improve the quality of life for residents across the Holme Valley. The Council delivers and supports a wide range of local services, facilities and community projects that would otherwise not be provided.
- Ownership of The Civic (Holmfirth), Honley Library and Holmfirth Public Toilets.
- Holmfirth Public Toilets – Running costs of approximately £16,000 per year, with investment funded roof repair and solar panels in 2025/26 to reduce long-term costs.
- The Civic – approximately £60,000 spent in 2025/26 on building maintenance, and development, working with Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust.
- Honley Library – annual running contribution of £15,000, plus additional ad hoc grant to the Friends of Honley Library for replacement windows.
- Around £50,000 was awarded in grants in 2025/26 to support community-owned assets such as village halls, sports clubs and community centres.
- Around £25,000 was awarded in 2025/26 to support local events, festivals, arts, sports, children’s activities and groups for older people.
- Examples of grant support include Christmas switch on celebrations, a heat pump for Hepworth Village Hall, venue hire for the Film Festival, toilet improvements at Brockholes Bowling Club, food and toys for the Christmas food bank, solar panels at Cartworth Moor Cricket Club, Honley children’s Halloween & Christmas parties, netball uniforms for Hepworth Hurricanes, room hire for parent and baby classes, set up costs for a community choir, new toilets at Holme Village Community Centre and fixing Santa’s Sleigh.
- Subsidy of the H1–H7 Holme Valley minibus services, costing approximately £23,000 per year, providing essential links for outlying settlements and isolated residents.
- Grant for active travel with Environmental Projects in Kirklees (EPIKs) to support bus use to access rural walks
- £25,000 to fund dedicated youth provision across the Holme Valley, supporting youth clubs and opportunities for young people.
- Support for community events including Christmas trees, lights and switch-on events across village centres, in addition to the main Holmfirth tree (approximately £5,000).
- Organisation and hosting of the Big Community Celebration at The Civic, providing an opportunity for local groups and organisations to showcase their work.
- Installation of Covid memorial gardens with commemorative plaques at Sands (Holmfirth) and Honley Library.
- Insurance and provision of Remembrance Day events and wreaths for the eight war memorials of the Holme Valley.
- Maintenance of a closed churchyard, approximately 150 benches, 35 bus shelters, six adopted phone boxes and eight war memorials, at a cost of approximately £10,000 per year.
- Management of public allotments in Holme Village and garages for rent in Honley and Holmfirth.

- Provision and replenishment of dog waste bag dispensers (approximately £1,200 per year).
- Rolling grant to cover the maintenance of Honley CCTV system.
- Own and maintain several defibrillators across the valley.
- Engaging with the community on national, regional, and local consultation work to support decision making in planning and local governance.
- Employment of three part-time officers and support for 23 councillors.

Actions of Kirkburton Parish Council

- Delivered a dynamic community grants programme, empowering local groups with essential funding. By December 2025, we had awarded £47,000 to projects ranging from new music for village bands to major refurbishment works such as scout hut renovations — helping community life to thrive.
- Driven forward village improvement projects, backing a wide range of small and medium scale works that enhance the look, feel, and function of our parish environments.
- Managed and maintained two flourishing allotment sites, supporting a total of 37 plots where residents grow food, friendships, and community spirit.
- Brought festive cheer to every village, providing eleven Christmas trees and brightening Lepton Square with Christmas lights.
- Honoured our communities on Remembrance Sunday, supplying eleven poppy wreaths laid with respect by Parish Councillors across the parish.
- Boosted local pride with more than 110 hanging baskets, adding colour, vibrancy and a sense of place throughout the parish.
- Carried out essential maintenance in the churchyard of St John the Baptist Church, Kirkheaton, meeting our legal duties and helping preserve a cherished local landmark.
- Launched a brand-new parish council website, making it easier than ever for residents to find information, access services, and engage with local democracy.
- Promoted active lifestyles by providing free maps for 10 circular parish walks, encouraging people to explore our beautiful local countryside – and chased up heritage queries from residents prompted by the walks.
- Looked after parish public seating, ensuring our benches remain safe, welcoming, and well-maintained for all.
- Spoken up for residents on key local issues, making representations to Kirklees Council, Metro, and other bodies on everything from speeding concerns to disappearing post boxes.
- Strengthened our team and brought new ideas into the Council by recruiting a new part-time Clerk to work alongside our part-time Administration Assistant, ensuring the Council runs smoothly and delivers for residents every day.

Actions of Meltham Town Council

- Provides regular events and activities and supports community groups in the provision of such events.
- Provides many allotments.
- Provides and maintains children's play areas.
- Provides and maintains park facilities, water features, playing fields and formal gardens.
- Provides and maintains public toilets.
- Provides and maintains sports facilities e.g., football pitches and tennis courts.
- Makes a significant contribution to the provision of library services in Meltham.
- Arranges for footpaths and public spaces to be cut back of vegetation and cleared of litter.
- Provides floral displays for the Town Centre
- Provides grants to improve shop frontages in the conservation area.
- Completed a major refurbishment programme of the Robert Ashton Park in Meltham, two phases completed – further phases in planning.
- Continues to deliver on the actions identified because of the Ask Meltham project which the Town Council led on, including committed yearly investment to youth provision.
- Provides capital grants to community groups in Meltham (or who provide services to Meltham residents) e.g., £10k for the renovation works of the Village Hall in Wilshaw – information about grants is published regularly in our newsletter.
- Provides smaller grants to community groups in Meltham (or who provide services to Meltham residents) e.g. grants to the Friends of Robert Ashton Park to lay on events or grants to provide a Carols in the park event – information about grants is published regularly in our newsletter.
- Provides and maintains public seating, boundary markers and adopted telephone boxes.
- Employs a Clerk/RFO, an Advisor to the Council and a toilet cleaner.
- Lays on civic events, supports the Remembrance Day event and rewards the contribution of local people with the Council's Pride of Meltham Award.
- Communicates effectively with our residents via a website and 3 newsletters per year delivered to all households.
- Complies with statutory and legal requirements e.g., the requirement to be internally and externally audited.
- Provides local historical / archive information on its website 'Meltham in focus'.
- Runs annual campaigns on issues of concern to residents such as road safety, litter, dog fouling.
- Supports national initiatives such as Road Safety Week in local primary schools.

Actions of Mirfield Town Council

- £12,000 - Admin Expenses covers our website hosting, room hire, insurance, ICO, YLCA fees etc
- £38,000 - Clerk Salary including pension and £10k contingency for locum clerk to cover absence
- £1000 - Chair Expenses
- £1500 - Eastthorpe Gardens these gardens in the centre of town in the old Eastthorpe school grounds
- £21,000 - Christmas Lights the Town Council provide the Christmas Tree, the annual light display and the switch on event including Makers Market and entertainment
- £25,000 - Civic & Cultural - This includes the Civic Service, Civic Dinner but the majority is for the annual Remembrance Event which is one of the largest parades outside of Westminster and is a Civic event that the council fully fund, in addition last year we held a Party in the Park to commemorate VE Day and as it was such a success will be planning another one this was a totally free event with entertainment, music and children's rides and inflatables
- £35,000 - Grants & match funding. Town Council match funds defibrillators with groups and has approx 11 around the town and also match funds benches again we have approx. 26 benches around the town. We also provide grants to local groups including 868 Squadron, Upper Hopton Community Association and an annual amount of £15,000 to Mirfield In Bloom
- £25,000 - Annual Community Events - This includes paying for the main marquee at a cost of £13,429 plus VAT, fireworks for Mirfield Bonfire £9000 inc VAT and Upper Hopton fete £1416 for PA, First aid and gazebos that the fete retains for future years
- £6000 Community Fund - This cover hanging baskets, although due to supplier issues 2026 may not be able to deliver, defibrillators and benches that the council buy and defibrillator parts in addition to the match funding, signage and welcome to Mirfield boards
- £20,000 - Regeneration 2025 funding included a match with Kirklees for the Knowle Skatepark of £26,000, it also included costs for consultants that we may need to fight planning applications or controversial applications. In addition, the funding can be used for the clearing of the riverbank which we paid out £10,000 a few years back to clear the land bordering the Lowlands allotments. It may cover any cost if the council wanted to bid on Community Right to Bid so is always a column in the budget for this reason
- £62,000 - Road Safety the council set up a committee last year following from various serious accidents in Mirfield. We have already paid out £6500 on speed surveys, the budget will pay for Operation Trimberg which is additional policing around Mirfield at key times to avoid accidents along with money set aside for a Community Warden to help with road safety and issue fines to illegally parked cars, especially around schools.
- **Reserves Total** **£155,000**
 - Election £40,000
 - Regen Reserves £20,000
 - Civic Reserves £15,000
 - General Reserves £40,000
 - Road Safety Reserves £40,000

Where your council's budget comes from

Table 4: Where your council's budget comes from

Budget	2026/27 Net Expenditure £m	2025/26 Net Expenditure £m
Gross expenditure	1139.2	1098.8
Income:		
Dedicated schools grant and other school grants	316.6	316.3
Housing related grants	59.5	58.2
Other government grants	107.5	160.4
External income	188.3	176.6
Kirklees approved budget	467.3	387.3
Funded from:		
Retained Business Rates	73.0	64.1
Government Funding	144.2	82.4
Collection fund balances	-3.2	-3.8
Transfer to/from reserves	-14.4	-8.3
Council Tax requirement	267.7	252.9

Where your council's money goes

The amounts that the council intends to spend on the various services that it provides are shown below. The figures are adjusted for capital charges.

Table 5: Where your council's money goes

Services	2026/27 Gross £m	2026/27 Net £m	2025/26 Gross £m	2025/26 Net £m
Children & Families	457.6	95.2	448.8	87.4
Adults & Health	294.8	171.0	281.2	109.0
Place	113.2	60.6	105.6	5.0
Public Health & Corporate Resources	186.8	59.5	185.3	59.4
Central	86.8	81.0	77.9	74.7
Total expenditure (excluding precepts)	1139.2	467.3	1098.8	387.3
Parish Council precepts	1.40	1.40	1.20	1.20
Total expenditure (including precepts)	1140.6	468.7	1100.0	388.5

Our performance and achievements for 2025/26

- We launched an improved missed bin reporting online system
- We have completed an extensive customer mapping process for our Highways Services, so we are better able to understand the customer journey, and we have developed several recommendations to take forward so we are able to make changes to the customer journey
- On the 9 September, Cabinet agreed our 'Simpler Recycling' plan – a waste and recycling collection model which will be in line with new legislative requirements
- In October, we published the latest update on support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), called the [Big Plan Part 3](#) and we launched a pilot service of eight in-house minibuses to transport children with SEND from their home to their place of education.
- In September, a brand-new Extra Care housing scheme opened in Ashbrow, Huddersfield
- Work has continued on 'Year 1' of the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy action plan through development of cross-organisation anti-racism resources, as well as of new process for creating employee networks alongside refreshed high level support for the networks
- The Council is well-advanced with plans to implement training, upskilling and communications to comply with the Renters' Rights Act, key provisions of which are due to come into force in May 2026
- We continue to work closely with partners and practitioners to co-design the Kirklees approach for implementing the Families First programme. Our established governance arrangements are guiding the design process, ensuring alignment with national priorities and local needs
- Safer Kirklees and the Community Safety Partnership delivered a comprehensive Bonfire Plan, involving multi-agency planning, visual audits of bonfires, and targeted work with trading standards and businesses on fireworks sales
- Water safety risk assessments are now complete, with 99.76% conducted on-site and all rated low risk.
- Significant progress has been made on damp, mould, and condensation compliance following Awaab's Law (Oct 2025)
- Ward councillors allocated £34,440 in grants, unlocking £52,561 in match funding and 7,324 volunteer hours, delivering £115,946 in social value and benefiting 56,474 individuals
- Libraries delivered a wide range of activities, including preparations for the National Year of Reading 2026, author visits, creative workshops, and themed events such as World Book Day.
- Through our Skills Bootcamps, we have supported 69 employees in the textiles and advanced manufacturing sector, with AW Hainsworth showcasing the impact of this training in a video case study
- Construction activity continues at Heckmondwike Bus Hub with the shell of the new building and bus stand nearing completion which will be followed by external cladding and internal finishes, anticipated end Spring/ Summer 2026.

- At Dewsbury Bus Station, demolition works have concluded and new steelwork for the new retail units and entrance mall has now been installed. Full renovation increasing accessibility, providing cycle parking and improving energy savings is expected to be complete summer 2027
- The Sustainable Travel project on Bond Street in Dewsbury completed in early Summer 2025
- We continue to focus our efforts on strategic acquisitions, negotiations, progress planning and development on our key housing sites at Dewsbury Riverside, and Bradley Park, ultimately delivering around 3,000 units for Riverside and 473 units for the first phase at Bradley
- The number of adults aged 18–64 supported in community settings continues to reflect growing demand, increasing complexity, and a sustained commitment to helping people live independently
- The number of smoking referrals has managed to achieve a 6% increase in verification rate on quarter 2 2025/15, sitting at 61% during quarter 3 2025/26
- 50.8% of Education, Health and Care Plans were finalised within 20 weeks during calendar year 2025, a significant improvement compared to 22.9% in 2024
- The number of open Education, Health and Care Plans assessments is 354 at the end of December 2025, a 26% increase compared to the end of September 2025
- There has been a decrease in placement stability with 71.6% of looked after children who have been in the same placement for 2 or more years in quarter 3 2025/26, compared to 72.7% in quarter 3 2024/25
- There were 450 business births in Kirklees in quarter 2 2025/26 an increase on the previous quarter's figure of 445
- At the end of quarter 3, all 837 residential blocks had a Fire Risk Assessment (FRA), 39 commercial Fire Risk Assessments had also been completed

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Council Tax Information 2026/27

Revenue Budget 2026/27

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA) has agreed a £5 precept increase on the fire and rescue service council tax precept for 2026. The decision at the Full Authority meeting on February 26th will allow the Service to support essential investment, maintain frontline services and meet ongoing cost pressures.

For a Band D property, the change means an annual charge of £89.49 for fire and rescue services. This is a slight increase of £5 per year and less for those in bands A to C.

Table 6 The precepts for 2026/27:

Band	Precept 2026/27	Annual Increase from 25/26
Band A	£59.66	£3.34
Band B	£69.60	£3.89
Band C	£79.55	£4.44
Band E	£89.49	£5.00
Band F	£129.26	£7.22
Band G	£149.15	£8.34
Band H	£178.98	£10.00

Despite the rise, West Yorkshire continues to be the fourth lowest fire and rescue precept per head of population in England.

Cllr Darren O'Donovan, Chair of the WYFRA says "We remain committed to delivering the best possible fire and rescue service for the people of West Yorkshire while managing our finances carefully. Rising costs and the need to invest in new buildings, technology and equipment mean that this increase is necessary to protect the service the public relies on.

"We do not take any rise lightly. This decision ensures that we can continue to make essential improvements across our estate and infrastructure and continue to provide an excellent service for the people of West Yorkshire."

Chief Fire Officer John Roberts said "Like many organisations, we are managing the impact of higher costs, but our commitment to providing excellent value for money remains unchanged.

"We are grateful for the continued support of the public and will keep working hard to deliver a high-quality, efficient and forward-looking fire and rescue service."

What will the Fire and Rescue Service Cost?

Table 7: Effect on Council Tax bands A-D £5 increase

Band	Annual	Per Month	Per Week	Increase from 25/26
Band A	£59.66	£4.97	£1.15	£3.34
Band B	£69.60	£5.80	£1.34	£3.89
Band C	£79.55	£6.63	£1.53	£4.44
Band D	£89.49	£7.46	£1.72	£5.00

Table 8: Council Tax requirement

Description	2025-26 £	2026-27 £	Per Head £
Gross Expenditure	120,085	126,067	-
Contributions to/from Reserves	0.00	0.00	-
Income	-2,889	-2,899	-
Budget Requirement	117,196	123,168	52.41
Revenue Support Grant	-21,137	-30,405	-12.94
Pension Grant	-2,977	-2,977	-1.27
Top Up Grant	-18,703	-16,068	-6.84
Business Rates	-8,492	-11,318	-4.82
Collection Fund	466	448	0.19
National Insurance Grant	-699	0.00	0.00
Section 31 Grants	-6,883	0.00	0.00
Recruitment Reserve	-188	0.00	0.00
Council Tax Requirement	58,584	62,848	26.74

Table 9: Budget requirement

Description	2025/26 £	2026/27 £
Previous Years' Budget	112,904	117,196
Inflation	3,238	4,150
Changes in Service Provision	866	1,822
Changes in use of Reserves	188	0.00
Budget Requirement	117,196	123,168



As part of my role as Mayor of West Yorkshire, I am responsible for setting our police budget.

This relates to the 'police precept' - which is the part of your council tax bill that funds policing in our region.

West Yorkshire currently has the fourth-lowest Police Band D precept level in England and Wales, yet operational policing continues to face increasing pressures.

People have told us that they value the work of West Yorkshire Police and want to see more visible policing in our communities.

Following an extensive consultation with the public, the majority of people (57%) supported an increase to the police precept.

Against this backdrop, the decision has been made to increase the police section of council tax to ensure vital investment for the Force.

This will result in a very small increase. Around 80% of the region's taxpayers live in households that are bands A, B, and C, which will see an increase of between 19 pence and 26 pence per week.

This increase to the police precept will significantly reduce West Yorkshire Police's funding gap and move us toward a more sustainable financial position.

This will also enable the ongoing delivery of the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan for 2024-28, which sets out joint ambitions and priorities for policing and community safety.

I appreciate the public's support for strengthening frontline policing, as it helps us continue working together towards a safer and fairer West Yorkshire.

I've also been working closely with the police, partner agencies, and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE, over the last year to make our region a safer and better place. Over the past year we have:

- Launched our second Police and Crime Plan, building on West Yorkshire's innovative work to improve the safety of women and girls, and to tackle gangs, drugs, and knife crime.
- Continued the vital work of our Women's Safety Unit, which drives change through partnership, raises awareness, and focuses on preventing violence against women and girls.
- Supported more than 8,000 young people under 24 and almost 500 adults through the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership since April 2025, helping to address knife crime and serious violence across the region.
- Awarded over £4.4 million through the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund since 2021, directing money taken from criminals to 460 local projects dedicated to making West Yorkshire safer.
- Launched our new People's Fund, part of our commitment to co-producing a serious violence strategy. Up to £100,000 will be made available in each district, with local groups able to bid for up to £10,000. Residents will then decide which projects receive funding.
- Continued to work towards achieving West Yorkshire Vision Zero, reducing all road death and serious injury in the county to zero by 2040. Over the last year the number of those killed and seriously injured has fallen with a host of initiatives covering education and enforcement as well as road design and support for victims.

You can find out more about our work and contact us on:

0113 251 7272 | Mayoral.Enquiries@westyorks-ca.gov.uk | www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk

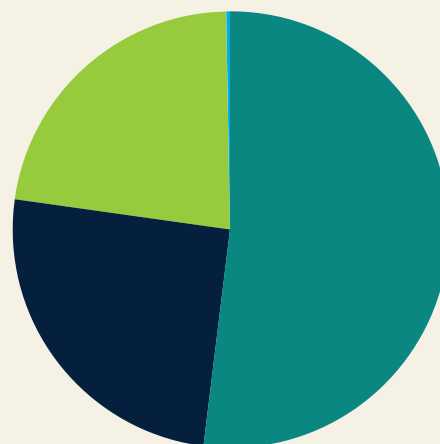
Budget	2025-2026	2026-2027
	£m	£m
Gross Expenditure	828,180	866,304
Council Tax Requirement	182,554	195,433

West Yorkshire continues to have the fourth lowest Precept in England & Wales.

Note. The note above assumes all forces will increase CT to the maximum allowed – annual increase of £15 for band D properties

Where the money came from 2026–27

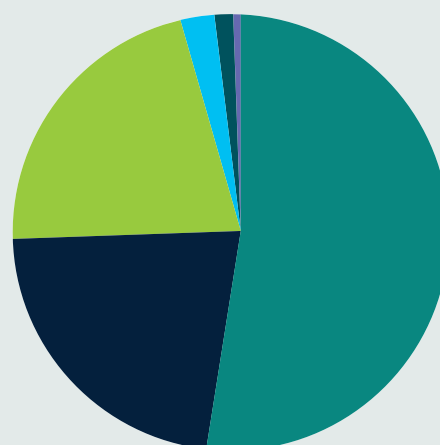
- Government grant 52.1%
- Income 25.2%
- Precept 22.6%
- Other 0.1%



What the money is spent on 2026–27

- Police officers 53.5%
- Police staff 21.9%
- Running costs* 20.4%
- PCSOs 2.2%
- Borrowing 1.1%
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority 0.8%

* Running costs e.g. premises and vehicles



There will be 5.7% increase to the annual police Council Tax.

Council Tax Band	2025-26 cost per year £	2026-27 cost £	Annual increase £	Per week increase £
A	175.52	185.52	10.00	0.19
B	204.77	216.44	11.67	0.22
C	234.02	247.36	13.34	0.26
D	263.28	278.28	15.00	0.29
E	321.78	340.12	18.34	0.35
F	380.29	401.96	21.67	0.42
G	438.77	463.80	25.03	0.48
H	526.56	556.56	30.00	0.58

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is committed to creating a brighter region that works for all, alongside our partner local authorities (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield).

The Transport Levy

Across West Yorkshire, each of our five partner local authorities contributes to a collective budget for transport services, known as the **Transport Levy**. This funding is used to fund concessionary fares and support bus routes and services that aren't covered by commercial providers.

In 2026-27, the total Transport Levy will be **£100 million** and contributions from each local authority will be:

Local authority	Population*	Transport Levy (£m)	% of total Levy
Bradford	563,605	23.1	23%
Calderdale	210,929	8.6	9%
Kirklees	447,847	18.4	18%
Leeds	845,189	34.7	35%
Wakefield	367,666	15.1	15%
TOTAL	2,435,236	99.9	100%

* Source: ONS Data on 30th July 2025

This funding covers the delivery of the following transport services and functions:

Expenditure

Budget spending	2025/2026 £m	2026/2027 £m
Concessions for elderly and disabled people	40	45
Young Person's concessions	11	11
Accessible transport	4	4
Subsidised bus services	26	28
Assets and Facilities	7	8
Corporate Support Costs	6	5
Financing Costs	12	12
TOTAL Expenditure	106	113

In 2026/27, we will commit £45 million to funding concessionary travel schemes for older and disabled people, £11m on concessions for young people and £28 million on subsidised bus services.

Where the funding comes from

Funding source	2025/2026 (£m)	2026/2027 (£m)
Reserves	8.1	13.5
Funded by the Levy	97.9	99.9

Coming next

In April 2027, we will be launching the Weaver Network – an integrated public transport system that will bring the first franchised buses to the streets of West Yorkshire. Our vision for the Weaver Network is to create an integrated and sustainable system which works for everyone - making journeys easier and faster whether you use public transport or walk, wheel or cycle.

To find out more about the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, please visit our website: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority website.](#)