

South Kesteven

A Guide To Your Council Tax

2025-2026



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

The Police and Crime Commissioner
for Lincolnshire

Contacting your authorities

We can provide the information in this booklet in Braille, large type or other languages if required. Please contact South Kesteven District Council at:


South Kesteven District Council

Council Offices, The Picture House, St Catherine's Road, Grantham, NG31 6TT


General enquiries:

 01476 40 60 80


Council Tax enquiries:

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/counciltaxportal


Business rates enquiries:

 ndr@southkesteven.gov.uk

Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support:

 benefits@southkesteven.gov.uk

Payment line: 0330 088 6753


 www.southkesteven.gov.uk

Customer Service offices

Grantham: Council Offices, The Picture House, St Catherine's Road, Grantham, NG31 6TT.

Bourne: South Kesteven Community Point & Library, 3 Abbey Road, PE10 9EF

Please call or check website for opening times

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk

Enquiries

All enquiries regarding your Council Tax Bill should be made through the Council Tax Self Service Portal.

Please visit **www.southkesteven.gov.uk/counciltaxportal** where you will need to register for a Citizens Access account.

Once registered, you will be able to see:

- ✓ What your Annual charge is
- ✓ What payments you need to make
- ✓ What payments you have already made
- ✓ Details of other properties where you are/were liable for Council Tax


You will be able to carry out transactions such as:


- ✓ Register for E-Billing
- ✓ View your council tax bills & other notices
- ✓ Make a payment
- ✓ Set up or amend an existing direct debit
- ✓ Apply for or Cancel a Single Person Discount
- ✓ Apply for SMI discount
- ✓ Apply for Student Discount
- ✓ Upload requested evidence/documents
- ✓ Tell us you have moved properties
- ✓ Contact us with a general enquiry about your account

Benefit Fraud

We take the prevention and detection of fraud very seriously. You will be committing fraud if you make a false statement, or knowingly fail to tell us about any changes to:

- ✓ Money held in bank accounts, savings and investments
- ✓ Income you receive
- ✓ People living in your household and their circumstances


It is essential that you tell us immediately if you have a change of circumstances by emailing  benefits@southkesteven.gov.uk

If you suspect fraud is being committed please telephone: Housing Benefit – National Benefit Fraud Hotline  **0800 854 4400**.


Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Deepdale Lane, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2LT

 01522 94 71 92


 Lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.police.uk

Lincolnshire Police General Enquiries

 01522 212351 (your call may be recorded)

 **Emergencies:** 999 and ask for police

 **Minicom/textphone:** 18001101

 www.lincs.police.uk

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL


General enquiries: 01522 55 22 22

 customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Minicom service: 01522 55 20 55

 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

If you would like any more information on the County Council's budget for 2025/26

 finance@lincolnshire.gov.uk or visit

 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Your Council Tax explained

Where does your Council Tax go?

South Kesteven District Council collects the Council Tax. However, we keep less than one tenth of it. The rest is transferred to Lincolnshire County Council, the Police Authority and Parish and Town Councils, as detailed on pages 11 to 20.

What is Council Tax and who has to pay?

Council Tax is a tax based on the value of residents' homes. Council and police services are paid for by income from Government grants, Council Tax, fees and other charges.

Owner-occupiers and their partners usually have to pay the Council Tax bill. Where homes are rented, the tenants and their partners will have to pay. In the case of empty homes, it's normally the owner who has to pay.

The owners of these properties also have to pay:

- Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels, and
- Those occupied by a minister of religion or a religious community; more than one household or resident, staff or asylum seekers

Please contact us if you have been

made the liable person, but you believe this is incorrect.


What are valuation bands - can you appeal?



The Valuation Office, an executive agency of HM Revenue and Customs, has given each property a valuation band, between A and H, according to its market value in April 1991. If your property was built after April 1991, it will be valued as if it had existed then.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) values domestic properties for Council Tax. This valuation is used to set your Council Tax band. You might need to contact the VOA 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-council-tax-band. If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay Council Tax at your current band until your appeal is decided.

Band	Market value (at April 1991)
A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 - £52,000
C	£52,001 - £68,000
D	£68,001 - £88,000
E	£88,001 - £120,000
F	£120,001 - £160,000
G	£160,001 - £320,000
H	More than £320,000

Can I appeal against my property's valuation?

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) values all business properties for business rates. The valuation is based on information the VOA holds about your property. You can view and update this information at  gov.uk/voa/valuation.

You can contact the VOA at  gov.uk/contact-voa. If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on  **03000 501 501**

In common with all local authorities, South Kesteven District Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers. We are required to participate in data matching exercises, carried out by the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative, to prevent and detect fraud.

Council Tax discounts

If the property remains empty after two years, then a charge of 200% of the Council Tax will be payable on the two year anniversary date, if the property has been unoccupied for more than five years, then a charge of 300% of the Council Tax will be payable. If a property has been empty more than ten years, then a charge of 400% of Council Tax will be payable.

An unoccupied dwelling which requires major structural alterations or repairs, may be awarded a discount of 25% after eligibility has been assessed. This discount will be awarded for up to 12 months.

You can get a 25% discount on your bill if there is only one person aged 18 or over living in your home. People under 18, or in one of the groups listed below, are NOT included when counting the number of people living in your home for Council Tax purposes:

- Most full-time students, student nurses and some apprentices
- The partner of a student or the dependant of a student who is not a British citizen and is not allowed to work in this country or claim benefits
- People who are long-term patients in hospital or who live in care homes
- People who are severely mentally impaired
- 18 and 19 year-olds still eligible for child benefit
- School and college leavers (from April to October if they are under 20 years-old)
- Low-paid care workers
- Residents of homeless hostels or night shelters
- Carers looking after someone who is not their partner and not a child of their own who is under 18 years-old
- Members of religious communities

- Members of visiting armed forces and international institutions
- Diplomats
- People who have been detained (except for those in prison for non-payment of fines or Council Tax)
Please contact us if:
- You think you should be getting a discount
- You are getting a discount and your circumstances have changed so that you should no longer get it

Council Tax exemptions

Generally, you don't have to pay Council Tax on the classes of property listed in the two sections that follow because they are exempt. Some classes do have time limits though and you may have to pay a charge after the exemption runs out. Please note that time limits run from when the circumstances of the exempt class first started to apply, and they don't restart if the property changes hands.

Classes of exempt EMPTY property:

- Class B** - owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months only)
- Class D** - the taxpayer has been detained (except for those in prison for non-payment of fines or Council Tax)
- Class E** - the taxpayer has left the property to live in a care home
- Class F** - the taxpayer has died (exempt for up to six months after probate granted)
- Class G** - can't be lived in by law
- Class H** - held for a minister of

religion

Class I - the taxpayer has gone to live elsewhere to receive personal care

Class J - the taxpayer has gone to live elsewhere to provide personal care

Class K - left empty by a student

Class L - the mortgagee has possession

Class Q - the taxpayer is trustee to a bankrupt

Class R - unused caravan pitch or boat mooring

Class T - unoccupied annexe to occupied property

Classes of exempt OCCUPIED property:

Class M - student halls of residence

Class N - all occupiers are students, school or college leavers or non-British dependants or partners of students

Class O - UK armed forces accommodation

Class P - visiting forces accommodation

Class S - all occupiers are under 18

Class U - all occupiers are severely mentally impaired

Class V - main residence of a person with diplomatic privilege or immunity

Class W - the annexe to a property occupied by a dependant relative

Penalties

You must notify us of a change in circumstances within 21 days. Failure to do so could result in a penalty of £70 being imposed.

People with disabilities

You can get your bill reduced by one valuation band if you have a second kitchen or bathroom/wet room; solely used by the disabled person, a special room adapted for the use of the disabled person, usually a sensory room for a disabled child; a sterile room for dialysis; a room filled with hospital equipment, bed, machinery, hoists etc.; or if the disabled person needs to use a wheelchair permanently, inside or outside the house, and the property has been adapted to allow this. Stairlifts, hand rails and ramps are not a qualifying criteria.

Second Home Premiums

The discount on furnished properties, which are no one's sole or main residence is 10%. In certain circumstances this discount is 50%.

From 1 April 2025, we will be introducing a 100% Council Tax Premium charge to those properties which are currently furnished and being used as a Second Home. (Exceptions apply).

Unless you fall into one of the Exception Categories, you will lose the current discount of 10% (or in some cases 50%) and you will be charged 200% Council Tax after 1 April 2025. Please see our website for further information.

Empty Home Premiums

You may be able to get a discount if your property is unoccupied and unfurnished. A discount of 100% will be awarded for one month on any unoccupied and unfurnished property, followed by a 25% discount for a further five months. After this, a full 100% charge applies if it remains unoccupied and unfurnished.

If the property remains empty after two years, premium charges will be applicable. A charge of 200% of the Council Tax will be payable on the two year anniversary date, if the property has been unoccupied for more than five years, then a charge of 300% of the Council Tax will be payable. If a property has been empty more than ten years, then a charge of 400% of Council Tax will be payable.

In November 2024, the Government introduced exceptions to these premium charges. These come into force on 1 April 2025. Please check our website for further information to see if your property falls into one of the exception categories.

Claiming Council Tax Support

Don't pay more Council Tax than you need to. Council Tax Support can reduce your bill by as much as 100% if one of these applies:

- You have reached the qualifying age for state pension
- You are disabled, a carer, or a war pensioner
- Your savings and investments are valued below £16,000
- The income we have to take into account is low enough for you to qualify

Most working age claimants can only receive Council Tax Support up to 80% of their Council Tax bill. Even if you own your own home and are working you may still be able to get this support.

And even if you don't qualify for any help in your own right, you may be able to get another type of reduction. This is where someone on a low income is living with you, who is over 18 and not your partner or paying rent to you. This is called Second Adult Rebate.

Help with your rent

If you rent your home and have a low income, you may be eligible to claim Universal Credit to help pay your rent. Please visit


 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/Benefits-And-Support

You can also visit


 www.gov.uk/universal-credit

which includes a benefits calculator to indicate whether you may qualify for assistance.

Alternatively, if you are in temporary or supported accommodation, a pensioner, or pay ground rent, the quickest way to make a claim is online at

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/benefits/housing-benefits-and-council-tax-support

How to claim Council Tax Support

The quickest way to claim Council Tax Support or Second Adult Rebate is online at  www.southkesteven.gov.uk/benefits/housing-benefits-and-council-tax-support

Are you finding it hard to pay?

This booklet contains information about many discounts, exemptions, banding reductions and benefits that can help to reduce your bill. We can advise further on any of these schemes.

If you don't qualify or are already receiving some help, and are still finding it hard to pay, contact us as soon as possible to discuss your payments. Citizens Advice (CA) gives free impartial advice to people struggling with various debts.

The free CA Advice Line is:


 **0808 278 7996**

Texphone: 0800 144 8884

Monday - Friday (10.00-16.00)


 www.citizensadviceSouthlincs.org.uk

The Council has the discretion to give Council Tax hardship discounts. These are given in cases of severe financial hardship. If you think this might apply to you, please contact us for more information on

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/DHP

Cost of Living help and support

To ensure that residents have access to all the information they need, SKDC is sharing facts and pointers on a wide range of help and support available that could benefit them, a relative, friend or neighbour.

Information can be found here on our website:  www.southkesteven.gov.uk/cost-living-help-and-support

Parish and Town Council Information

Bourne Town Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Bourne (1) or Bourne (2).

Information regarding the Bourne Town Council precept is included on the Councils website.

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/Bourne%20Precept%202025-26.pdf

Deeping St James Parish Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Deeping St James.

Information regarding the Deeping St James Parish Council precept is included on the Councils website.

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/Deeping%20St%20James%20Precept%202025-26.pdf

Grantham Town Council

For 2024/25, the Town Council charge was £3.96 (for a Band D property) for the year. For 2025/26, this has increased to £12.06 (for a Band D property).

The amount will vary depending on the Band of the property, as follows:

- Band A = £8.04
- Band B = £9.38
- Band C = £10.72

- Band D = £12.06
- Band E = £14.74
- Band F = £17.42
- Band G = £20.10
- Band H = £24.12

The total Grantham Town precept levied in 24/25 was £46,010 with a Band D at £3.96. The precept levied for 25/26 is £138,559 with a Band D at £12.06.

Market Deeping Town Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Market Deeping.

Information regarding the Deeping St James Parish Council precept is included on the Councils website.

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/Market%20Deeping%20Precept%202025-26.pdf

Stamford Town Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Stamford (1), Stamford (2), Stamford (3).

Information regarding the Deeping St James Parish Council precept is included on the Councils website.

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/Stamford%20Precept%202025-26.pdf

Council Tax explained

Your Council Tax for 2025/26

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
COUNTY	£1,083.90	£1,264.55	£1,445.20	£1,625.85	£1,987.15	£2,348.45	£2,709.75	£3,251.70
POLICE	£212.10	£247.45	£282.80	£318.15	£388.85	£459.55	£530.25	£636.30
DISTRICT	£118.20	£137.90	£157.60	£177.30	£216.70	£256.10	£295.50	£354.60
TOTAL	£1,414.20	£1,649.90	£1,885.60	£2,121.30	£2,592.70	£3,064.10	£3,535.50	£4,242.60

In addition to the above charges you may receive a charge for Parish/ Town Council expenses and Special Expenses incurred in Grantham and Langtoft. Please see the back page of this leaflet for the additional charges.

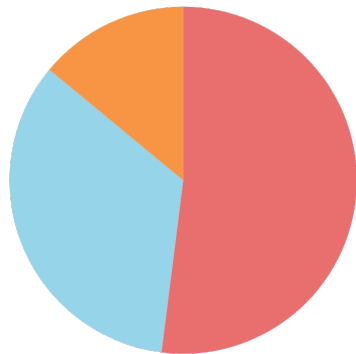
The council has taken the decision to increase its portion of the Council Tax including special expenses by £5.48.

This increase will contribute towards

the funding of frontline services and enable investment in the delivery of the priorities.

The financial outlook remains very challenging and the council is focused on continuing to drive out savings, deliver efficiencies and introduce new ways of working to reduce costs and generate new income streams alongside the landscape of Local Government Reorganisation.

Where the money comes from



- Council Tax 52%
- Business Rates 34%
- Government Grants 14%

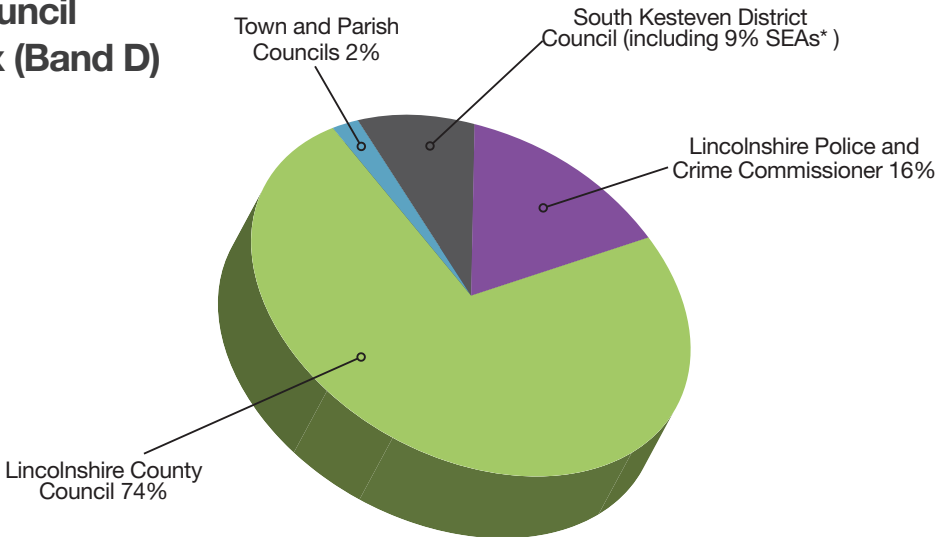


Total Council Tax budget requirement

2024/25		2025/26
Net Expenditure £ 000		Net Expenditure £ 000
11,539	District Council Tax Requirement	12,182
78,477	Lincolnshire County Council Tax Requirement	81,521
15,122	Police & Crime Commissioner Lincolnshire Requirement	15,952
105,138	Total cost met by Council Taxpayers	109,655
147,093	Population	148,564
£646.04	Total cost per head	£738.10

What does your Council Tax pay for?

Average Council Tax (Band D)



*SEAs Special Expense Areas are a mechanism to charge elements of Council Tax to a specific area

Town and Parish Precepts

Town or Parish	2025/26 Parish Precept	Band D equiv.	Town or Parish	2025/26 Parish Precept	Band D equiv.
Town and Parish Councils	£	£		£	£
Grantham	138,599	12.06	Harlaxton	23,041	65.88
Stamford	852,860	114.21	Heydour	7,950	50.31
Bourne	280,911	44.01	Honington	0	-
Market Deeping	267,734	113.94	Horbling	6,472	39.69
Allington	30,100	84.78	Hougham	4,510	53.73
Ancaster	32,250	54.00	Hough-on-the-Hill	10,941	61.74
Aslackby & Laughton	6,500	55.80	Ingoldsby	8,038	65.88
Barholm & Stowe	0	-	Irnham	2,140	19.89
Barkston & Syston	10,600	41.40	Kirkby Underwood	3,450	42.12
Barrowby	68,500	77.04	Langtoft	35,600	45.27
Baston	25,740	41.76	Lenton, Keisby & Osgodby	1,000	14.49
Belton & Manthorpe	2,729	13.23	Little Bytham	2,500	20.34
Billingborough	19,500	39.33	Little Ponton & Stroxton	7,250	106.38
Bitchfield & Bassingthorpe	0	-	Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without	34,000	19.71
Boothby Pagnell	750	11.34	Long Bennington	54,500	54.18
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe	3,093	21.87	Marston	6,100	37.62
Burton Coggles	600	14.58	Morton & Hanthorpe	16,000	18.45
Careby, Aunby & Holywell	0	-	Old Somerby	3,950	43.29
Carlby	11,162	52.92	Pickworth	3,250	39.87
Carlton Scroop & Normanton	9,000	71.28	Pointon & Sempringham	18,270	92.43
Castle Bytham	18,559	56.34	Rippingale	21,450	61.29
Caythorpe	36,993	69.75	Ropsley,Humby,Braceby & Sapperton	14,250	42.21
Claypole	32,338	61.83	Sedgebrook	13,490	89.19
Colsterworth, Gunby, Stainby & North Witham	43,558	57.60	Skillington	5,360	37.98
Corby Glen	19,000	42.03	South Witham	26,000	55.08
Counthorpe & Creeton	0	-	Stoke Rochford & Easton	6,000	76.32
Deeping St James	248,324	93.96	Stubton	1,617	20.43
Denton	6,500	53.91	Swayfield	3,550	23.49
Dowsby	2,250	41.31	Swinstead	3,363	41.31
Dunsby	800	14.76	Tallington	9,250	25.11
Edenham	3,200	26.82	Thurlby	21,191	25.74
Fenton	1,000	16.56	Toft,Lound & Manthorpe	0	-
Folkingham	14,369	50.04	Uffington	6,300	20.16
Foston	14,500	64.35	Welby	1,688	21.15
Fulbeck	10,120	45.63	Westborough & Dry Doddington	2,700	18.72
Greatford	4,360	33.12	West Deeping	11,500	97.11
Great Gonerby	41,610	52.74	Witham -on-the-Hill	3,714	37.62
Great Ponton	12,730	98.82	Woolsthorpe	13,000	86.67
Haconby & Stainfield	1,864	9.36	Wyville-cum-Hungerton	400	19.62
Sub Total	2,272,703		Total	2,686,489	

Meeting the challenge

Lincolnshire County Council

Meeting the challenge

This year, the council is planning to use a net budget of over £690m to continue providing its wide range of vital services, including adult care, children's services, highways and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

The proposals also include the creation of a new £1m emergency flood response reserve, to help support those affected by flooding.

This remains a challenging time for the council financially, with rising demand for services and growing costs resulting from inflation and increases in the national living wage and employers' national insurance contributions.

In addition, the government is no longer providing the council's £9m Rural Services Delivery Grant, designed to help cover some of the additional costs when providing services in a sparsely populated area. It has been replaced by a new Recovery Grant, but Lincolnshire will not receive any of this funding.

To help protect frontline services, there will be a 2.99% increase in the authority's share of the council tax. This is below the 4.99% increase allowed by the government, with the council instead choosing to use nearly £8m of its reserves to balance the books.

You can find further details of the council's spending plans for the 2025/26 financial year online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/budget

Council tax

The authority's funding comes from a combination of council tax, business rates and government grants.

In light of increasing costs and demand for services, the council will increase its share of the council tax by 2.99% this year.

The increase is shown on your bill and will generate an extra £11.7m for the council. For a property in council tax band A, the increase would be the equivalent of an extra 60p per week.

Lincolnshire is still expected to have one of the lowest council tax rates of all 26 English shire counties.



Changes in budget requirement

Lincolnshire County Council

Reasons for change in budget requirement and effect on council tax		£m
Budget requirement 2024/25		652.5
Changes to gross expenditure	Children's Social Care pressures	12.8
	Adult Social Care pressures	21.7
	Highways Contract cost increases	0.0
	Transport pressures	9.0
	Pay Award inflation	7.9
	Other pressures	34.0
Changes to gross income	Waste Management savings	-2.0
	Energy savings	-2.5
	Other Service savings and increased income	-26.1
	Increase in Service grants	-6.1
Total change in services		48.8
Decrease in use of reserves		-7.8
Budget requirement 2025/26		693.5
Changes to funding	Increase in business rates funding	-3.2
	Increase in government grants	-20.4
	Increase in council tax	-17.4
Total change in funding		-41.0
Council tax increase of 2.0% (Adult social care precept) to support adult social care pressures		
Council tax increase of 1.0% (general) to support other service net pressures		
Total council tax increase of 3.0% (2.99%)		

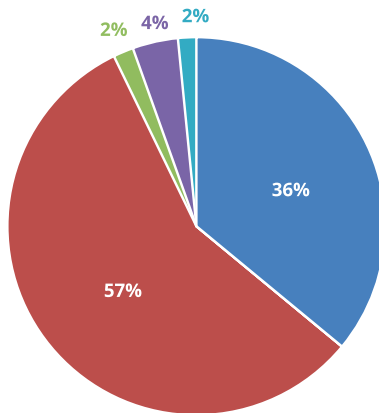
Note: The use of a minus (-) in front of a figure shows that either additional income will be received or that reserves will be used to support our spending.

Capital investment & net budget spend 2025/26

Lincolnshire County Council

2025/26 Capital Investment £236m

- Children's Services - £85.28m, 36%
- Place - £136.44m, 57%
- Fire and Rescue - £4.13m, 2%
- Resources & Corporate - £9.18m, 4%
- Adult Care & Community Wellbeing - £1.46m, 2%

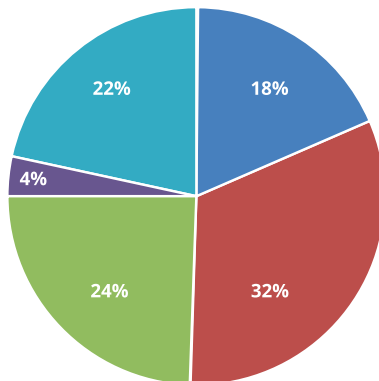


Place includes: Highways, Flood and Water Risk Management and Waste.

Resources and Corporate includes: Property Refurbishment and Information Technology.

2025/26 Net Budget Spend £694m

- Children's Services - £130.2m, 18%
- Adult Care and Community Wellbeing - £226.2m, 32%
- Place - £166.9m, 24%
- Capital Financing Charges - £25.6m, 4%
- Other Services - £144.6m, 22%



Children's Services includes: Children's Social Care and Children's Education.

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing includes: Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions, Adult Specialties, Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Public Protection.

Place includes: Communities (which includes Cultural Services, Waste Management, Environment and Flood Management, Transport (including Home to School/College), Sustainable Planning), Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Growth and Highways.

Other Services includes: Fire and Rescue; Resources; Corporate Services; Other Budgets: Contribution from Reserves.

Our share of the council tax

Lincolnshire County Council

The table below shows the amount you pay towards Lincolnshire County Council's services. (This does not include the amounts you pay for District Councils, Parish Councils or the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire).

	Amount 2024/2025	Amount 2025/2026
Band A	£1052.46	£1,083.90
Band B	£1,227.87	£1,264.55
Band C	£1,403.28	£1,445.20
Band D	£1,578.69	£1,625.85
Band E	£1,929.51	£1,987.15
Band F	£2,280.33	£2,348.45
Band G	£2,631.15	£2,709.75
Band H	£3,157.38	£3,251.70

Flood defence

The Environment Agency is responsible for protecting people and property against flooding from sea and rivers. The majority of its funding comes from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), but Lincolnshire County Council is also making a contribution of £0.705m for 2025/26 (£0.687m for 2024/25).

Funding and spending in 2025/26

Lincolnshire County Council

Services	Gross £m	Income £m	Net £m	Cost per Resident £
Children's Services	1,074.5	944.2	130.2	165.4
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	423.1	196.9	226.2	287.3
Place	215.5	48.6	166.9	212.0
Capital Projects Charges	25.9	0.3	25.6	32.5
Other Services	185.1	32.8	152.4	193.5
Total planned spending	1,924.1	1,222.8	701.3	890.7
Contributions to/-from reserves	0.0	7.8	-7.8	N/A
Budget requirement	1,924.1	1,230.7	693.5	890.7
Resourced by:				
Business Rates Local Retention			155.8	
Revenue Support Grant			28.9	
Other Grants			103.1	
County Precept			405.7	
Total Funding			693.5	

Children's Services includes: Children's Social Care and Children's Education.

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing includes: Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions, Adult Specialties, Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Public Protection.

Place includes: Communities (which includes Cultural Services, Waste Management, Environment and Flood Management, Transport (including Home to School/College), Sustainable Planning), Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Growth and Highways.

Other Services includes: Fire and Rescue; Resources; Corporate Services; Other Budgets, Contribution from Reserves.

Funding and spending in 2024/25

Lincolnshire County Council

Services	Gross £m	Income £m	Net £m	Cost per Resident £
Children's Services	974.8	861.1	113.7	144.4
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	396.6	191.0	205.6	261.2
Place	203.5	43.8	159.7	202.8
Capital Projects Charges	43.4	0.3	43.1	54.7
Other Services	161.9	29.9	132.0	167.7
Total planned spending	1,780.1	1,126.0	654.1	830.8
Contributions to/-from reserves	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
Budget requirement	1,780.1	1,126.0	654.1	830.8
Resourced by:				
Business Rates Local Retention			152.7	
Revenue Support Grant			26.4	
Other Grants			86.8	
County Precept			388.3	
Total Funding			654.1	

This year, the council is planning to use a net budget of over £690m to continue providing its wide range of vital services, including £226m for adult care and community wellbeing, £130m for children's services and around £28m for the fire service.

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

The offer has been extended to cover the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Your police Council Tax explained

2025



Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

How your Council Tax will be spent on fighting crime and keeping communities safe

Police and Crime Commissioner Marc Jones and Chief Constable Paul Gibson explain how the extra Council Tax raised this year will be spent to keep you and your community safe.



Success Lincolnshire Police will seek to maintain

- Answering 999 calls quickly. Last year Lincolnshire Police were top of a national league table – answering more calls within 10 seconds (96.9%) than any other force.
- Tackling theft and property crime. Burglary was reduced by 22% last year – much better than the national average of -4%. Theft offences were down 9% while the national average was up by 2%.
- Efficient management of the circa 55,000 lawfully held shotguns and firearms in Lincolnshire. Consistently one of the best forces in this area leading to safer communities.
- Quality victims' services. The PCC's in-house service Victim Lincs has recently been praised by assessors for being "a remarkable example of best practice".



Improvements Lincolnshire Police need to focus on

- Improving how it allocates, supervises and carries out investigations to build on their already better than average 'outcomes' for crime.
- Understand demand better and improve the quality of data so the Force can prioritise and deploy resources into supporting the most vulnerable people and targeting those offenders who pose the greatest risk to the public.
- Further improve how the risks posed by registered sex offenders are managed to keep communities feeling and being safe.
- Manage and deploy officers and staff efficiently and effectively including management of those on restricted duties and long-term sick.



The financial challenge facing Lincolnshire Police this year cannot be underestimated.

For a generation Lincolnshire Police have been at the bottom of the league for Government funding – and while the gaps have been plugged using reserves for years, that may not be an option in the future.

That means, including public support through Council Tax, the budget for Lincolnshire Police is £190.3m for 2025/26.

Although this is an increase on the previous year, costs have risen more quickly than funding, compounded by financial pressures such as pay awards and National Insurance increases. This will require the Force to find and implement significant savings unless Government support is forthcoming

As a consequence, the Chief Constable is facing some tough choices about where services may have to be streamlined and how and where to deploy falling officer numbers.

Yet there is room for optimism.

Lincolnshire has spent so long as one of the lowest funded forces in the UK that it has built an enviable reputation for innovation.

Harnessing new technology and creativity to create the most effective and efficient services has been a cornerstone of the force's approach for years.

That is why, despite financial restrictions, Lincolnshire has been a pioneer in new technology, developed services that punch well above their weight and built operational teams that have driven down crime.

In the last 12 months, Lincolnshire has been amongst the best in the UK for dealing with 999 and 101 calls, processing firearms licensing and driving out hare coursers.

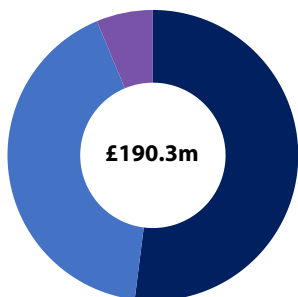
In addition, crime has been driven down. In the 12 months up to September 2024, overall crime was down by more than 3%, residential burglary was down 22%, vehicle offences down by 14% and drug trafficking offences down 9%.

The challenges are many but we have had decades of managing low funding to get the very best results for residents and every penny that comes from your Council Tax will be spent wisely.

In the meantime the fight for fairer funding will continue until every avenue for a solution has been explored.

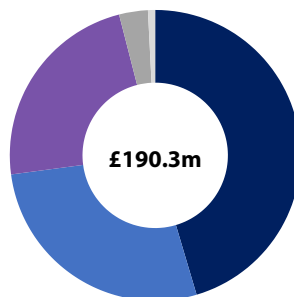
What money do we receive and how is it spent?

INCOME



- Government grants** £99m (52%)
- Council Tax** £79.4m (41.7%)
- Contribution from reserves and other income** £11.9m (6.3%)

EXPENDITURE



- Police officers** £86.3m (45.4%)
- Police staff and PCSOs** £52.4m (27.5%)
- Other costs*** £44m (23.1%)
- Capital financing** £6m (3.2%)
- Office of the PCC**** £1.5m (0.8%)

**including custody, fleet, premises and regional collaboration*

***including funding services for victims of crime*

Property band	Cost last year (£)	Increase this year (£)	Cost this year (£)	Cost per week this year (£)	Increase per week (pence)
A	202.80	9.30	212.10	4.08	18
B	236.60	10.85	247.45	4.76	21
C	270.40	12.40	282.80	5.44	24
D	304.20	13.95	318.15	6.12	27
E	371.80	17.05	388.85	7.48	33
F	439.40	20.15	459.55	8.84	39
G	507.00	23.25	530.25	10.20	45
H	608.40	27.90	636.30	12.24	54

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