

We are...

WYCHAVON

Information and services 2024/25

Celebrating **50** years of **making a difference**

Supporting people



Investing in our places



Enhancing our environment



Your Council Tax bill explained



During 2024/25 we will spend about £13.3 million providing services to you. Most of this money comes from Council Tax and Business Rates as well as government grants.

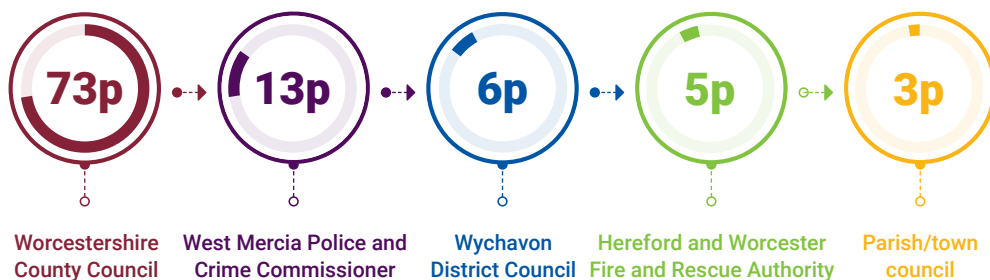
To help protect the services you rely on, and so we can continue to go on improving our district and investing in the things that make a difference to you, from April we are increasing our share of the Council Tax bill by **£5***. This means the average band D bill for Wychavon will be **£125.08***.

Our part of the Council Tax bill will still be the lowest in Worcestershire and one of the lowest in the country.

Your overall Council Tax bill increase will be higher because you pay Council Tax to five separate organisations – Worcestershire County Council, Wychavon, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and usually a town or parish council.

Each organisation charges a different amount of money based on what they need to run their services and can increase their share of the bill, which affects the total amount you pay.

Rather than send you five different bills, we send you one bill on behalf of everyone, collect the money and then send it on to those organisations. The graphic on this page shows how much in every pound you pay to each organisation.



* based on a Band D property before special expenses. Figures accurate at time of going to print.

Just **6p** in every pound you pay in Council Tax is kept by us, to run everything from rubbish collections to supporting the local economy.

Adult social care charge

Adult social care authorities, in our case Worcestershire County Council, are able to increase their share of the Council Tax bill by an extra amount without holding a referendum. For Worcestershire in 2024/25 this is **2%** and is specifically to fund the cost of adult social care and is on top of any increase to fund the day-to-day running of services.

Just **£2.41*** a week gets you

- **Five** award-winning parks to spend time in
- Your waste or recycling bin **emptied every week**
- **Festivals**, events and activities to enjoy
- Award-winning **public toilets** for when nature calls
- Backing for businesses to grow and create **jobs**
- Schemes to give our **young people** the best start in life
- Funding and support to improve the **energy efficiency** of your home
- Schemes to help **protect your home** from criminals
- Free and fair **elections** so you can have your say on who represents you
- Projects to help tackle **climate change**
- Investment in new **community and sports facilities**
- Advice and funding to help you through the **cost of living** crisis
- People dedicated to helping prevent **homelessness** and helping people off our streets
- Support for our **wildlife** to help it grow and thrive
- A team to tackle **fly-tipping**, littering and other environmental crimes
- Proper planning to balance the **social, environmental and economic needs** of the district
- **Proper licensing** of pubs, taxis and other activities to keep you and your loved ones safe
- Support to create beautiful, **well-designed neighbourhoods**



All this and much, much more!

The Home Upgrade Grant is ready

Not on mains gas for heating your home?
Is your household income less than
£31,000 a year?

You may qualify for free improvements to make
your home warmer and reduce energy bills



Find out more
www.wychavon.gov.uk/energy-efficiency

Struggling with your energy bills?



Get free advice on dealing with energy bill debt, ways to reduce your heating bills and funding for energy efficient improvements to your home.



0800 988 2881
www.actonenergy.org.uk

Go paperless

Get your
Council Tax bill
by email



It's more convenient and means an end to searching for bits of paper when you need to look at your bill.

Sign up now at
www.wychavon.gov.uk/ebilling



Cost of living *support*

Find out where to go for advice on everything from support accessing food to dealing with debt at:

www.wychavon.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support



A range of free advice is also available from South Worcestershire CAB

**10am – 4pm
Monday to Friday**

0808 278 7891

Are you *Voter ID* ready?

You will need to show accepted photo ID at polling stations to vote in May's **Police and Crime Commissioner election** and this year's expected **General Election**.

Find out more at

www.wychavon.gov.uk/elections



Sign up for

email updates

Get the latest news and alerts from us direct to your inbox:

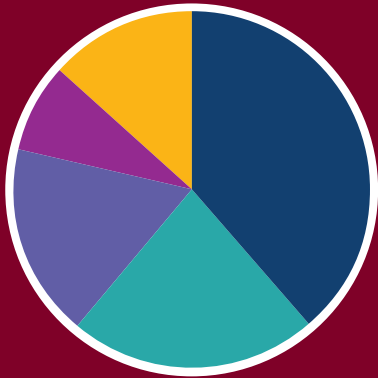
- Weekly planning lists
- Waste and recycling information
- Events and activity updates and much more.

Sign up at

www.wychavon.gov.uk/email-alerts



Worcestershire County Council Budget 2024/25



2024/25 expenditure

- Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities (**£168m**)
- Children's Services (**£97m**)
- Economy, Infrastructure and Environment (**£76m**)
- Home to School Transport (**£35m**)
- Support Services including Finance and Legal (**£57m**)

Total: **£433m Net budget**

We also have a capital programme and continue to invest in what you have told us is important:

A total of **£34m** to improve roads and **£6m** to improve pavements this year.



£78.8m on improving and building new schools including Foxlydiate in Redditch.

£20.2m on walking and cycling improvements include Hampton and Kepax bridges.



£53m on cutting congestion and infrastructure improvements including A38 in Bromsgrove.



£17.3m to improve rail station facilities.



£4.6m to continue with our street light improvement programme.



I know the last year has been a difficult one for many. The Council has faced similar challenges too from the impact of inflation on costs and increasing demand for services which have added significantly to our budget pressures.

With more vulnerable people needing our support, and with the cost of this care increasing significantly, we have needed to increase our budget this year to ensure we can continue to provide these essential services.

The Government is providing additional funding and we are reforming the way we work to deliver savings and efficiencies. However, this is not enough to meet the budget pressures and therefore we need to increase Council Tax to be able to adequately fund these services.

Our Council Tax will though remain one of the lowest of any comparable County Council in the country.

The additional funding will mean we can continue to deliver vital children's and adult social care to protect the most vulnerable in our society, on which we now spend over 70% of our revenue budget.

It will also enable us to maintain our commitments to invest in the priorities that you have told us are most important. These include better roads and pavements, tackling congestion and improving public transport alongside investments in the economy, environment and extra school places.

Kind regards,
**Councillor Simon Geraghty, Leader of
Worcestershire County Council**

With a gross budget from Council Tax, Government Grants and other income we will be spending a record amount to help protect the most vulnerable people in our communities:






£295m for those who need Adult Social Care in 24/25



£177m to improve the lives of Children and Young People



£91m to support people to live independently for longer through Public Health and Communities

-  www.worcestershire.gov.uk
-  /YourWorcestershire
-  @worccsc and @worccstravel
-  @YourWorcestershire
-  Search Worcestershire County Council

WYCHAVON

Garden Waste Collection Service

- Fortnightly collections throughout the year
- Easy and convenient
- Turn your garden waste into compost to be used locally

Let us do the hard work for you

Sign up online

www.wychavon.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Let us look after your **bulky waste**

We'll collect from the kerbside:

- Washing machines
- Cookers
- Carpets
- Fence panels
- Mattresses
- Radiators and more...

Book online at:

www.wychavon.gov.uk/bulky

* Extra large items, such as pianos, may cost more.

£21
for up to
two items*