

# Your Guide to Council Tax in 2025/26

## What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is a local tax set by local councils to help pay for local services. All homes have to pay Council Tax - the amount you pay will depend on the valuation band your home has been placed in by the Valuation Office Agency.

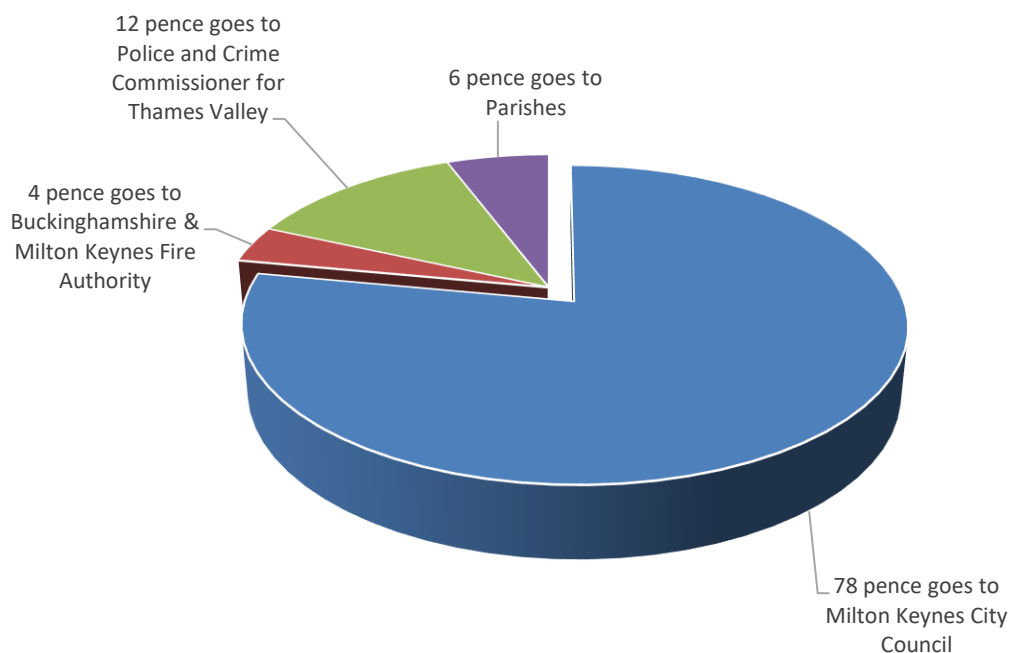
Details on how to pay your Council Tax are on our website, [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/council-tax/pay-council-tax](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/council-tax/pay-council-tax) and on the back of your bill.

## What does it pay for?

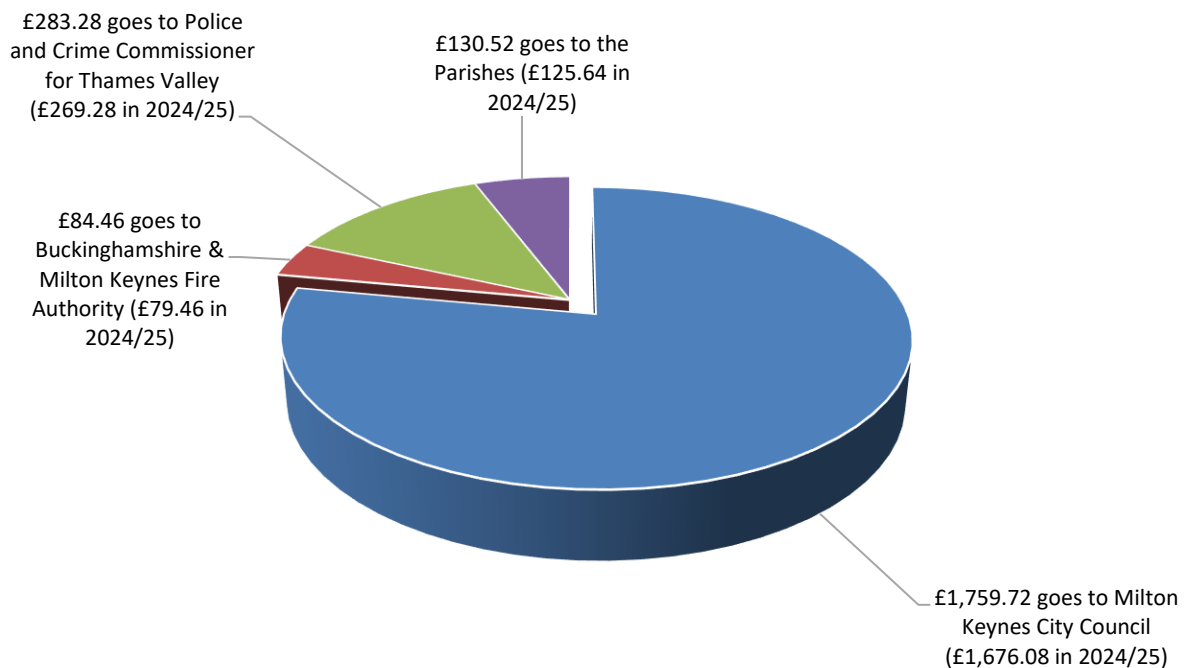
We collect your Council Tax and put it into a separate fund called the Collection Fund.

This year, we need to collect £224.973 million through Council Tax. Out of each Pound we collect, 78 pence will go to Milton Keynes City Council to pay for things such as education, social services, libraries, leisure services, refuse collection, street cleansing and parks and open spaces; 12 pence will go to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley ; 4 pence will go to Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority; and 6 pence will go to Parish and Town councils (on average).

## For every £1 we collect...



## For every average Band D Council Tax we collect



## How has the Council Tax charge changed this year?

Your Council Tax contributes to the funding of the following bodies; Milton Keynes City Council, your parish or town council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority. The amount of money each of these authorities require from Council Tax payers is known as a 'precept'.

Milton Keynes City Council has chosen to increase the precept it charges to fund its own expenditure requirement by 4.99%, 2.00% of which is an Adult Social Care levy. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority have increased their precept by £5 (an increase of 6.29%) and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley have increased their precept by £14 (an increase of 5.20%).

Your individual parish or town council will have set its precept based on local decisions; therefore this element of your Council Tax bill may have changed from last year depending upon the parish in which you live. A small number of parishes have chosen not to set any precept and therefore a charge will not appear on you bill if you live in one of these parishes.

## Council Tax calculation and precepts

The calculation of the Council Tax for each precepting authority is determined by dividing the net precept requirement by the Council Tax Base of **99,634.75**. The Council Tax base is worked out using the number of domestic properties in Milton Keynes and the discounts and exemptions they receive.

The calculations determines the Band D Council Tax Amount.

	Net Precept Requirement £'000	Council Tax Band D £
<b>Milton Keynes City Council</b>	175,329	1,759.72
<b>Buckinghamshire &amp; Milton Keynes Fire Authority</b>	8,415	84.46
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley</b>	28,225	283.28
	<b>211,969</b>	<b>2,127.46*</b>

\*Add to this figure the appropriate Parish amount shown in the below precept table (relevant figure in the *Parish Precept Band D Equivalent* column below). Note, 3 parishes have chosen not to set a precept and therefore this amount is £0.

The amount of Council Tax in each Band/Parish is shown in the following table.

2024/25		2025/26		2025/26							
Parish	Area	Parish	Parish								
Purposes	Area	Purposes	Precept								
	Key: PC/TC are Parish/Town Councils; PM are Parish Meetings		Band D								
		Equivalent	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
35,000	Abbey Hill (PC)	100,310	68.70	1,464.10	1,708.11	1,952.13	2,196.16	2,684.20	3,172.23	3,660.26	4,392.32
9,030	Astwood & Hardmead (PC)	9,522	66.12	1,462.38	1,706.12	1,949.84	2,193.58	2,681.04	3,168.51	3,655.96	4,387.16
1,234,427	Bletchley & Fenny Stratford (TC)	1,326,614	207.21	1,556.44	1,815.85	2,075.26	2,334.67	2,853.49	3,372.30	3,891.11	4,669.34
48,209	Bow Brickhill (PC)	57,378	176.11	1,535.71	1,791.66	2,047.61	2,303.57	2,815.48	3,327.38	3,839.28	4,607.14
219,343	Bradwell (PC)	219,415	77.33	1,469.85	1,714.84	1,959.81	2,204.79	2,694.74	3,184.70	3,674.64	4,409.58
406,578	Broughton & Milton Keynes (PC)	424,390	61.98	1,459.62	1,702.90	1,946.16	2,189.44	2,675.98	3,162.53	3,649.06	4,378.88
0	Calverton (PM)	0	0.00	1,418.30	1,654.69	1,891.07	2,127.46	2,600.23	3,073.00	3,545.76	4,254.92
893,963	Campbell Park (PC)	939,755	228.86	1,570.87	1,832.69	2,094.50	2,356.32	2,879.95	3,403.58	3,927.19	4,712.64
40,307	Castlethorpe (PC)	42,677	91.23	1,479.12	1,725.65	1,972.16	2,218.69	2,711.73	3,204.78	3,697.81	4,437.38
175,181	Central Milton Keynes (TC)	130,007	34.92	1,441.58	1,681.85	1,922.11	2,162.38	2,642.91	3,123.44	3,603.96	4,324.76
500	Chicheley (PM)	1,220	29.99	1,438.28	1,678.02	1,917.73	2,157.45	2,636.87	3,116.32	3,595.73	4,314.90
8,101	Clifton Reynes & Newton Blossomville (PC)	8,101	40.58	1,445.35	1,686.25	1,927.14	2,168.04	2,649.83	3,131.62	3,613.39	4,336.08
0	Cold Brayfield (PM)	0	0.00	1,418.30	1,654.69	1,891.07	2,127.46	2,600.23	3,073.00	3,545.76	4,254.92
19,423	Emberton (PC)	20,000	67.90	1,463.56	1,707.49	1,951.42	2,195.36	2,683.22	3,171.08	3,658.92	4,390.72
104,403	Fairfields (PC)	128,094	99.56	1,484.67	1,732.13	1,979.57	2,227.02	2,721.91	3,216.81	3,711.69	4,454.04
2,000	Gayhurst (PM)	2,000	24.80	1,434.83	1,673.98	1,913.12	2,152.26	2,630.55	3,108.83	3,587.09	4,304.52
732,244	Great Linford (PC)	768,961	120.60	1,498.70	1,748.49	1,998.27	2,248.06	2,747.63	3,247.20	3,746.76	4,496.12
153,787	Hanslope (PC)	128,194	95.31	1,481.84	1,728.82	1,975.79	2,222.77	2,716.72	3,210.67	3,704.61	4,445.54
27,045	Haversham & Little Linford (PC)	31,593	95.61	1,482.04	1,729.05	1,976.06	2,223.07	2,717.09	3,211.10	3,705.11	4,446.14
173,095	Kents Hill, Monkston & Brinklow (PC)	180,613	66.71	1,462.77	1,706.57	1,950.37	2,194.17	2,681.76	3,169.35	3,656.94	4,388.34
1,000	Lathbury (PM)	1,000	17.12	1,429.71	1,668.01	1,906.29	2,144.58	2,621.15	3,097.73	3,574.29	4,289.16
42,720	Lavendon (PC)	44,518	62.58	1,460.02	1,703.36	1,946.70	2,190.04	2,676.72	3,163.39	3,650.06	4,380.08
16,490	Little Brickhill (PC)	20,300	101.12	1,485.71	1,733.34	1,980.95	2,228.58	2,723.82	3,219.06	3,714.29	4,457.16
104,272	Loughton & Great Holm (PC)	104,272	45.77	1,448.81	1,690.29	1,931.75	2,173.23	2,656.16	3,139.10	3,622.04	4,346.46
7,858	Moulsoe (PC)	8,760	46.81	1,449.51	1,691.10	1,932.68	2,174.27	2,657.44	3,140.61	3,623.78	4,348.54
80,212	New Bradwell (PC)	80,395	85.33	1,475.19	1,721.06	1,966.92	2,212.79	2,704.52	3,196.25	3,687.98	4,425.58
1,147,157	Newport Pagnell (TC)	1,238,930	233.14	1,573.73	1,836.02	2,098.31	2,360.60	2,885.18	3,409.76	3,934.33	4,721.20
22,203	North Crawley (PC)	28,167	79.87	1,471.55	1,716.81	1,962.07	2,207.33	2,697.85	3,188.37	3,678.88	4,414.66
375,000	Olney (TC)	394,621	127.70	1,503.43	1,754.01	2,004.58	2,255.16	2,756.31	3,257.46	3,758.59	4,510.32
28,453	Old Woughton (PC)	28,000	65.91	1,462.24	1,705.95	1,949.66	2,193.37	2,680.79	3,168.20	3,655.61	4,386.74
11,100	Ravenstone (PC)	11,250	89.94	1,478.26	1,724.64	1,971.02	2,217.40	2,710.16	3,202.91	3,695.66	4,434.80
998,595	Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe (PC)	1,066,086	110.00	1,491.63	1,740.25	1,988.85	2,237.46	2,734.67	3,231.89	3,729.09	4,474.92
396,430	Shenley Church End (PC)	402,925	82.00	1,472.97	1,718.47	1,963.96	2,209.46	2,700.45	3,191.44	3,682.43	4,418.92
38,000	Sherington (PC)	39,000	83.06	1,473.67	1,719.29	1,964.90	2,210.52	2,701.75	3,192.98	3,684.19	4,421.04
52,800	Simpson & Ashland (PC)	47,000	80.77	1,472.15	1,717.51	1,962.87	2,208.23	2,698.95	3,189.67	3,680.38	4,416.46
486,400	Stantonbury (PC)	506,849	149.65	1,518.07	1,771.08	2,024.09	2,277.11	2,783.14	3,289.16	3,795.18	4,554.22
24,000	Stoke Goldington (PC)	26,600	96.24	1,482.46	1,729.54	1,976.62	2,223.70	2,717.85	3,212.01	3,706.16	4,447.40
295,964	Stony Stratford (TC)	305,464	115.85	1,495.53	1,744.80	1,994.05	2,243.31	2,741.82	3,240.34	3,738.84	4,486.62
1,800	Tyringham & Filgrave (PM)	1,800	16.07	1,429.02	1,667.19	1,905.35	2,143.53	2,619.87	3,096.21	3,572.54	4,287.06
490,393	Walton (PC)	494,205	109.23	1,491.12	1,739.65	1,988.16	2,236.69	2,733.73	3,230.78	3,727.81	4,473.38
0	Warrington (PM)	0	0.00	1,418.30	1,654.69	1,891.07	2,127.46	2,600.23	3,073.00	3,545.76	4,254.92
155,100	Wavendon (PC)	185,320	66.47	1,462.61	1,706.39	1,950.15	2,193.93	2,681.47	3,169.01	3,656.54	4,387.86
1,228,760	West Bletchley (PC)	1,290,198	182.24	1,539.79	1,796.43	2,053.06	2,309.70	2,822.97	3,336.24	3,849.49	4,619.40

Parish Purposes	Area	Parish Purposes	Parish Precept									
	Key: PC/TC are Parish/Town Councils; PM are Parish Meetings		Band D									
			Equivalent	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	
£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
11,360	Weston Underwood (PC)	11,860	90.61	1,478.71	1,725.16	1,971.61	2,218.07	2,710.98	3,203.88	3,696.78	4,436.14	
152,051	Whitehouse (PC)	209,150	91.71	1,479.44	1,726.02	1,972.59	2,219.17	2,712.32	3,205.47	3,698.61	4,438.34	
166,660	Woburn Sands (TC)	186,800	125.99	1,502.29	1,752.68	2,003.06	2,253.45	2,754.22	3,254.99	3,755.74	4,506.90	
780,707	Wolverton & Greenleys (TC)	863,190	222.40	1,566.57	1,827.67	2,088.76	2,349.86	2,872.05	3,394.24	3,916.43	4,699.72	
813,612	Woughton (PC)	888,385	344.07	1,647.68	1,922.30	2,196.91	2,471.53	3,020.76	3,569.99	4,119.21	4,943.06	
	AVERAGE AMOUNT			<b>1,505.32</b>	<b>1,756.21</b>	<b>2,007.09</b>	<b>2,257.98</b>	<b>2,759.75</b>	<b>3,261.53</b>	<b>3,763.30</b>	<b>4,515.96</b>	
<b>12,211,734</b>	TOTAL	<b>13,003,889</b>										

## The Adult Social Care precept

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 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 government has now allowed Councils to increase their Council Tax by a further 2% in 2025/26. Milton Keynes City Council approved an increase of 2% on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The income generated from this charge is ring-fenced, meaning it can only be used for adult social care services.

## Percentage increases shown on your bill

The Council has increased its total share of Council Tax by 4.99% for 2025/26. This is split between the main element (2.99%) and the Adult Social Care Precept (2.0%).

The Government sets out how the percentage increases of both elements should be shown on Council Tax Bills and there has been a regulation change to the presentation of the adult social care precept on bills from 2025/26. The Regulations require billing authorities, with Adult Social Care responsibilities, to adjust the presentation of the council tax charge on the bills to show a single line for its total charge and annual increase, with one cash figure and one percentage figure. There will be no requirement to show separate information about the Adult Social Care precept. Therefore, there will be a single line for Milton Keynes City Council’s share showing a 4.99% increase.

## Property Band Variations

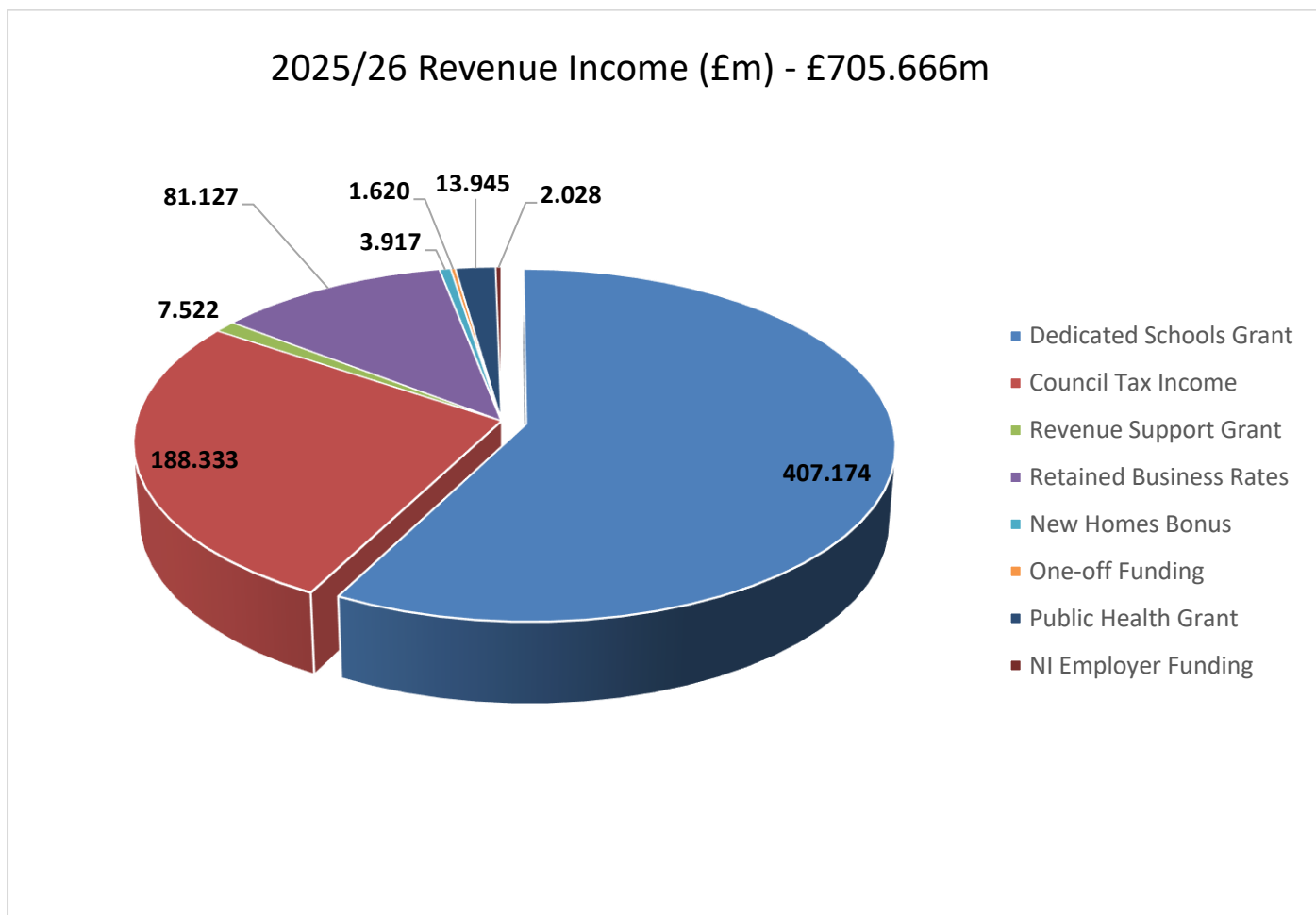
The table on pages 4 and 5 shows how much Council Tax you have to pay, depending on where you live and which valuation band your home is in. Parish and Town Councils need extra money to pay for things like community centres, footpaths and extra street lighting.

Please contact your parish council for further information.

## Funding the 2025/26 Budget

Council tax is only one part of the Council's income.

This chart shows how Milton Keynes City Council's expenditure is funded.



## Council Tax Requirement

Council Tax Income is broken down in the table below.

	2024/25	2025/26
	<b>Council Tax Requirement £m</b>	<b>Council Tax Requirement £m</b>
<b>Milton Keynes City Council</b>	162.906	175.329
<b>Parish Councils</b>	12.212	13.004
<b>Total Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>175.118</b>	<b>188.333</b>

## The Changes Explained

The changes in the Councils budget from 2024/25 to 2025/26 have been analysed below.

	£m
<b>Total Budget 2024/25</b>	<b>652.52</b>
<b>Total Budget 2025/26</b>	<b>705.66</b>
<b>Variation:</b>	
Inflationary Increases & Other Base Budget Changes	10.2
Demographic Growth	8.2
Other Pressures	15.8
Budget Reductions/Income Proposals	(9.5)
Increase in Use of One-off Funding	(2.0)
Increase in Grant-Funded Spend including Education & Social Care	29.6
Increase in Parish Costs	0.8
<b>Total Changes Explained</b>	<b>53.1</b>

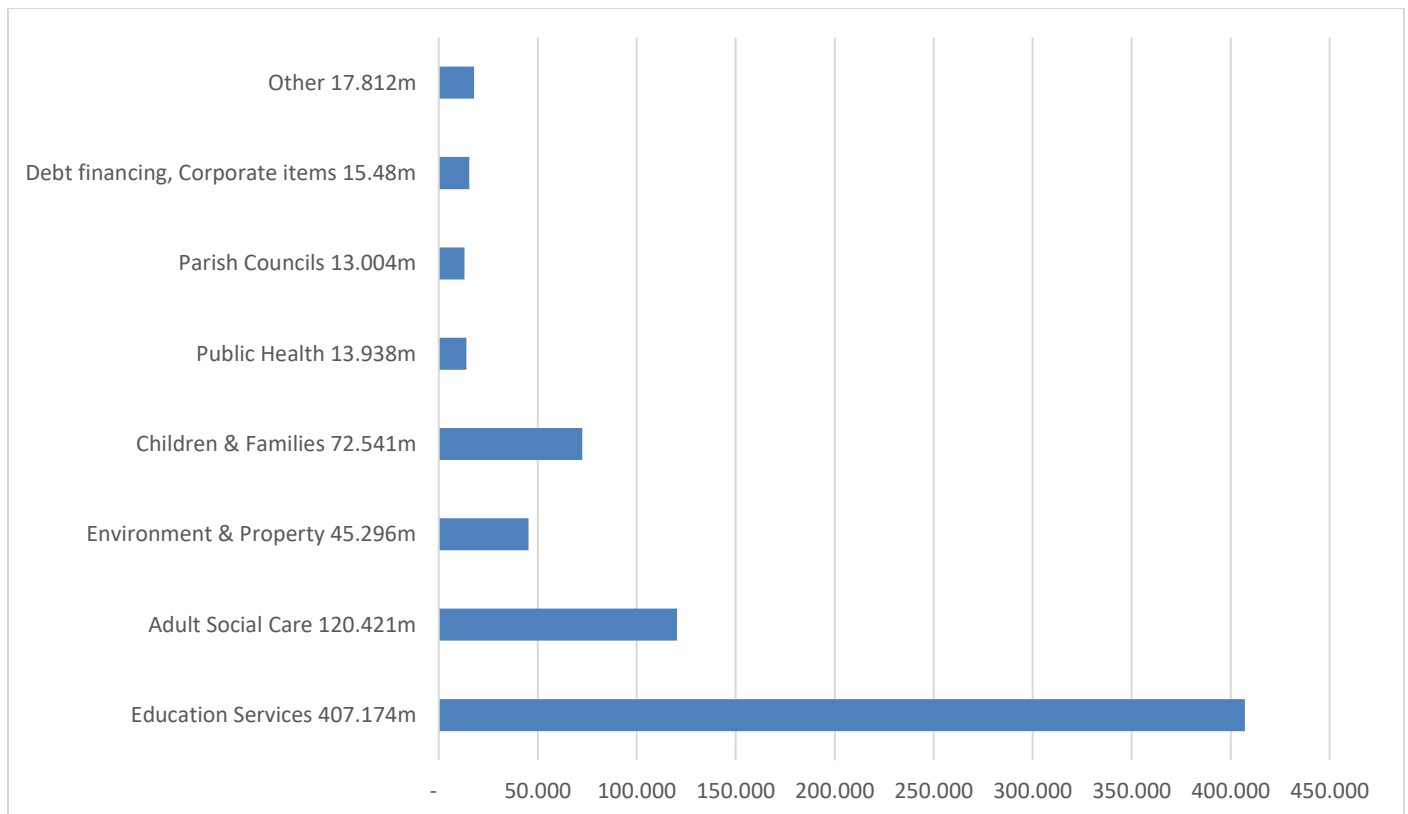


## What we will spend it on

The Councils net 2025/26 budget is £705.666 million, which includes Dedicated Schools Grant funded expenditure of £407.174 million.

The Council provides more than 200 services for the people of Milton Keynes. The graph below shows the cost of the major services in 2025/26.

Milton Keynes City Council gross expenditure 2025/26 is estimated to be £933.085 million including schools.



Breakdown of Other Services	Amount (£m)
Customer and Community Services	7.241
Resources	5.339
Planning and Placemaking	2.776
Law & Governance	2.455
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.812</b>

## Parish Precepts Collected through your Council Tax Bill

In accordance with Government guidelines, your parish council precept is shown separately on the front of your bill. We are required to detail parish precepts exceeding £140,000. These are shown on the next table.

Parish Council	2024/25	2025/26				
	Total for own purposes	Gross Spend	Gross Income	Reserve movement	Total for own purposes	Band D charge
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Bletchley &amp; Fenny Stratford</b>	1,234,427	1,681,510	(354,896)	0	1,326,614	207.21
<b>Bradwell</b>	219,343	266,300	(46,885)	0	219,415	77.33
<b>Broughton and Milton Keynes</b>	406,578	526,303	(101,913)	0	424,390	61.98
<b>Campbell Park</b>	893,963	952,875	(13,120)	0	939,755	228.86
<b>Great Linford</b>	732,244	959,447	(187,289)	(3,197)	768,961	120.60
<b>Kents Hill</b>	173,095	302,535	(31,922)	(90,000)	180,613	66.71
<b>Newport Pagnell</b>	1,147,157	1,341,781	(104,468)	1,617	1,238,930	233.14
<b>Olney</b>	375,000	598,264	(123,643)	(80,000)	394,621	127.70
<b>Shenley Brook End &amp; Tattenhoe</b>	998,595	1,283,642	(196,532)	(21,024)	1,066,086	110.00
<b>Shenley Church End</b>	396,430	535,073	(131,750)	(398)	402,925	82.00
<b>Stantonbury</b>	486,400	695,050	(58,201)	(130,000)	506,849	149.65
<b>Stony Stratford</b>	295,964	417,366	(111,902)	0	305,464	115.85
<b>Walton</b>	490,393	731,336	(36,342)	(200,789)	494,205	109.23
<b>Wavendon</b>	155,100	262,055	(70,000)	(6,735)	185,320	66.47
<b>West Bletchley</b>	1,228,760	1,545,348	(231,934)	(23,216)	1,290,198	182.24
<b>Whitehouse</b>	152,051	265,730	(58,920)	2,340	209,150	91.71
<b>Woburn Sands</b>	166,660	311,200	(89,400)	(35,000)	186,800	125.99
<b>Wolverton &amp; Greenleys</b>	780,707	1,036,136	(172,947)	0	863,190	222.40
<b>Woughton</b>	813,612	1,312,496	(424,110)	0	888,385	344.07

For further commentary on individual parish or town councils budgets please contact them directly.

## Other Precepts collected through your Council Tax Bill

Precepting Body	2024/25	2025/26	
	Total Precept	Total Precept	Band D Charge
	£m	£m	£
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley	26.173	28.225	283.28
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority	7.723	8.415	84.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.896</b>	<b>36.640</b>	<b>367.74</b>

Further financial information in respect of the Fire and Police Authorities is included in the leaflets provided by those bodies.

## Levies paid to other organisations by Milton Keynes City Council

Levying body	2024/25		2025/26	
	Levy	Gross expenditure	Levy	Budgeted Gross expenditure
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Environment Agency (Anglian Region) - Flood Defence	0.174	18.876*	0.179	29.562
Buckingham & River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	0.434	1.195	0.419	1.245
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.608</b>	<b>20.071</b>	<b>0.598</b>	<b>30.807</b>

\*Amended from 2024/25 leaflet for actual gross expenditure.

**Flood Defence:** Changes in the Gross Budgeted Expenditure between the years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

**Drainage Board:** Gross budgeted expenditure reflects the continuation of the Board's strategic management programme of both Maintenance and Capital Works to improve the condition of watercourses, flood storage assets and flood defence structures, prioritised by level of risk.