

Your Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council

Your guide
to how we will
spend your
Council Tax
2025/26

We are

Hertfordshire County Council



Hertfordshire



Welcome to Your Hertfordshire

Find out more about our wide range of services at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/weare

Our 1.2 million residents are at the heart of everything we do. Every day we work hard to deliver high-quality services that improve your lives and the place you call home. From delivering care to the most vulnerable to maintaining our popular libraries, in the next year we'll be spending over a billion pounds to deliver these vital services.

Around half of our budget will be spent providing support to help adults live well and for longer. We'll also stand by our promise to pay care staff a decent living wage. In addition, we'll be able to launch a new supported living programme and invest in a new carers' hub designed to support the army of unsung heroes across the county who look after friends and family.

We're investing an additional £28m to help children in

our care and children with disabilities, as well as prioritising a range of programmes to improve our offer to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We've also budgeted for areas that we know really matter to you. Over £100m will be spent to improve the condition of our roads and we are committed to investing in

flood prevention. To ensure that we can balance our budget we'll have to use some of our reserves, once again make significant savings, and take the very difficult decision to raise our portion of your Council Tax by 4.99%, an increase of £1.62 per week for a Band D property.

When times are hard and finances are stretched, we do not take this decision lightly, but it is necessary to ensure that we continue delivering your vital services and responding to issues on your behalf.



Richard Roberts
Leader of
Hertfordshire County Council

Open to see how your Council Tax is spent



We are

your helping hand

Hertfordshire County Council



We all need help from time to time. To get the latest information on support available locally and from central government visit:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving

For money and debt advice call Citizens Advice on **0800 144 8848**.

If you're unable to access information online or are unsure what support is available, you can call HertsHelp on **0300 123 4044** and their friendly advisors will support you.

Find service information and answers to your most frequently asked questions on our website at: **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk** or call **0300 123 4040**.

Residents with hearing loss can use Textphone/minicom: **18001 01992 934 479** (through Text Relay). If you'd like this publication in an alternative format, please email: **corporate.communications@hertfordshire.gov.uk**

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How is my Council Tax spent?

£77.2m Keeping Hertfordshire moving



We look after 3,200 miles of roads, carrying out more than 1,000 maintenance and improvement schemes annually. Last year we resurfaced one million square miles of roads to help prevent potholes forming. Our HertsLynx on-demand bus service has served over 120,000 residents in three years, while we continue to construct and improve active travel routes to help residents walk, cycle or wheel safely.

£527.3m Caring for adults



Your money helps us provide essential care and support to over 30,000 adults every year. We've assisted over 18,000 residents to leave hospital this year and we've invested £30m to fund an uplift in care provider fees. This investment allows over 9,000 residents to stay safe and independent at home for longer.

£55.7m Keeping residents healthy

Our services help people to make healthy choices and lifestyle changes, reducing their risk of long-term illness and helping them to live a long life well. This includes checking the weight and development of every child born in the county and providing services that help residents to quit smoking and to access support for alcohol and substance misuse.

£60.5m A cleaner and greener county



We fund the treatment and disposal of 500,000 tonnes of waste each year, and more than half of the county's household waste is recycled. We maintain over 2,000 miles of footpaths, bridleways and byways, and improve over 100 green spaces, nature reserves, rivers and woodlands each year. We're also helping to plant and establish 1.8 million trees and working to make our operations carbon neutral by 2030.

£21.9m Community services for every stage of life



Our libraries continue to see an increase in visitors, who borrow over six million items each year. We register 3,500 civil marriages and partnerships and almost 18,000 births and deaths each year.

£289.2m Supporting children and young people



We provide education to over 200,000 children and young people and we're currently supporting 12,500 children with education, health and care plans. Nearly 1,000 children and young people are in our care at any one time, and we've also developed pioneering safeguarding models to return many of them safely to their families.

£45.1m Protecting our communities

We provide a fire and rescue service that responds to 11,000 emergency calls each year, and a resilience team that prepares us for major incidents. Our Trading Standards team supports our business community and deals with around 6,000 complaints about dodgy dealers, counterfeit products and scams annually.



In 2025/26 we will spend **£1.1 billion** on hundreds of services benefiting every resident, business and community in Hertfordshire, including...