



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



Council Tax for 2023/24

What you pay and what we provide

www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax

WDCWHEALZ

Foreword



The last year has been really difficult for many residents across Watford. The cost of living emergency has affected household budgets. It has had an impact on the council too, with the cost of services and projects increasing.

Given these financial difficulties, we need to prioritise what we can deliver over the next year. That is why we have put these issues at the top of our agenda:

- Supporting residents through the cost of living emergency.
- Protecting frontline local services.
- Delivering on our promise to be a net zero carbon borough by 2030.

To help with the cost of living emergency, last year we set up 21 welcoming spaces. These are places where residents can be in a warm place without worrying about heating bills and spend time with others. We will continue to provide concessionary rates for services and a council tax reduction scheme for low income households. I am pleased that we will also provide our great programme of free public events, ensuring that all residents of Watford can meet publicly and have fun with their friends and family, no matter what their financial situation.

Climate change is a real threat and we need to do our part to reduce our carbon emissions to protect our planet. However, our drive to reach net zero will also help us financially. Our investment in the Town Hall and Colosseum, which will make the buildings more energy efficient, will save taxpayers up to £300k per year in running costs.

Last year we were awarded 17 green flags for our parks - more than anywhere else in Hertfordshire. We were also proud when three of our fantastic parks were named in the top 10 in the country. I have promised to continue investment in our green spaces and this is just what we will do. For example, at Woodside Playing Fields we will refurbish buildings that house the boxing club and the cricket club and will also build a "changing places" bathroom which will increase accessibility to the park for those with physical disabilities. At other parks we will be improving footpaths, creating new habitats for wildlife and installing new water fountains.

This budget means that we can continue to deliver excellent services for every resident in Watford, support those in financial difficulty and protect our environment for future generations.

As ever, if you have any issue that you think I can help with, please contact me at themayor@watford.gov.uk or by phone on **01923 278371**.

Peter Tofer

Elected Mayor of Watford
www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor

How to pay your council tax

There are a number of different ways to pay your council tax.



Direct Debit - Take the hassle out of paying - visiting www.watford.gov.uk/directdebit



Online - Pay for it online using the online payment facility at www.watford.gov.uk/pay



Telephone - Use our 24 hour payment line on **01923 278989**

For more information about council tax visit www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax



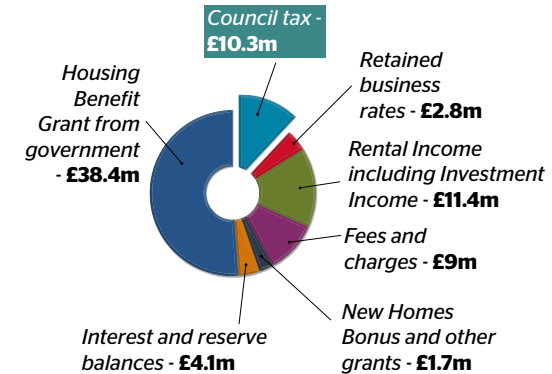
You may be entitled to a discount on your council tax. Anyone who has been medically certified as having a permanent severe mental impairment such as dementia, and who is entitled to a disability benefit eg attendance allowance, personal independence payment or disability living allowance, could be entitled to a council tax reduction or exemption. For more information visit: dementiauk.org/council-tax-discounts or www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax

What you pay

Where your money goes



Where our money comes from Total £77.7m



How much council tax will I pay?

The council tax you pay depends on the valuation band your property is in and the number of adults living in your home. Your council tax bill, which came with this leaflet, tells you which band you are in and the amount of tax you have to pay. The property band is determined by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). If you think that your council tax band is wrong, you can contact the VOA on **0300 0501 501** or visit voa.gov.uk.

Band	Hertfordshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council (Adult Social Care)	Police & Crime Commissioner	Watford Borough Council	Total
A	£929.57	£140.85	£158.67	£193.90	£1,422.99
B	£1,084.50	£164.32	£185.11	£226.22	£1,660.15
C	£1,239.43	£187.80	£211.56	£258.53	£1,897.32
D	£1,394.36	£211.27	£238.00	£290.85	£2,134.48
E	£1,704.22	£258.22	£290.89	£355.48	£2,608.81
F	£2,014.08	£305.17	£343.78	£420.12	£3,083.15
G	£2,323.93	£352.12	£396.67	£484.75	£3,557.47
H	£2,788.72	£422.54	£476.00	£581.70	£4,268.96
% increase	2.99%	2.00%	6.73%	2.99%	4.90%

For questions relating to Hertfordshire County Council's figures, please visit hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax email contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk or phone 0300 123 4040.

What we provide

What we delivered in the last financial year

What we spend our money on

Total £77.7m

 <p>Housing Benefit - £38.4m (funded by Housing Benefit grant from government)</p>	 <p>Housing and tackling homelessness - £1.8m</p>
 <p>Parks and Open Spaces, Cultural Services and community events - £4.6m</p>	 <p>Planning, Economic Development, Property Management, Transport and Parking - £6.9m</p>
 <p>Waste Services, Street Cleaning, Environmental Health and Licensing - £8.2m</p>	 <p>Elections - £0.2m</p>
 <p>Day to day running of the council, Legal and Democracy (including managing council meetings) and Customer Services - £17.6m</p>	

 <p>11,000 Our Centenary celebrations saw over 11,000 people attend various events around the town</p>	 <p>Local Plan approved</p>
 <p>21 welcoming spaces opened in the town</p>	 <p>15,000 trees have been planted around the borough</p>
 <p>Over 160 free events were staged around the town</p>	 <p>Cost of living hub opened</p>
 <p>Whippendell Woods restoration project completed</p>	 <p>3 Watford parks ranked in the top ten in the UK</p>
 <p>Green Flag Award</p> <p>17 Green Flag awards received for our parks and open spaces</p>	 <p>Market Street makeover completed</p>
 <p>3 new murals installed in the borough</p>	 <p>New memorial garden opened at North Watford Cemetery</p>

What's coming up in the next financial year

Summer vibes in Watford

All events are either free or low-cost! Keep an eye on watfordbigevents.co.uk for updates.

- More support for residents during the cost of living crisis** (Icon: People with a gear)
- Upgrading play areas around the borough** (Icon: Playground equipment)
- Tree planting around the town** (Icon: Tree and shovel)
- Restoring the River Colne project** (Icon: People and water)
- Opening new crematorium** (Icon: Crematorium building)
- Creating Woodside Sports Village** (Icon: Sports field)
- Maintaining our Green Flag Parks** (Icon: Park with flag)
- Investing in Watford's shopping parades** (Icon: Shopping bags)
- Updating Cassiobury Park tennis courts** (Icon: Tennis racket)
- Improving Queens Road** (Icon: Road and buildings)
- Improving transport and infrastructure** (Icon: Bus)
- Restoring Cassiobury Wetlands** (Icon: Wetland landscape)
- Installing more electric vehicle charging points** (Icon: EV charging station)
- Town Hall Quarter regeneration project** (Icon: Town hall building)

- WATFORD JAZZ JUNCTION 18-21 MAY** (Image: A man playing a saxophone)
- BIG SCREEN 24 JULY - 6 AUGUST** (Image: A large outdoor cinema screen showing a movie)
- JIVESWING FESTIVAL 30 JULY** (Image: A group of people dancing outdoors)
- BIG BEACH AUGUST (DATES TBC)** (Image: Colorful inflatable beach toys)
- HERTS PRIDE 19 AUGUST** (Image: A large crowd of people at a Pride event)
- COLOURSCAPE 19-28 AUGUST** (Image: People walking through colorful, illuminated tunnels)



Cost of living

we're here to help



We understand that you may be struggling to make ends meet at the moment and are worrying about the future.

Watford Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council and a range of voluntary and community groups across the town are offering support and advice in the following areas:



Energy bills



Housing and accommodation



Employment



Food and essential supplies



Debt and money management



Health and wellbeing

If you'd like to donate to our Community Fund to support local charities helping people through the cost of living emergency, please visit watfordcommunityfund.com



www.watford.gov.uk/cost-living-support