

# Council Tax explained

**2023-24**

## Dear resident

Thank you. Together we are navigating through a national cost of living crisis, following on from the immense challenges of a pandemic, and in response we have an incredible shared effort from neighbours looking out for each other, key workers, council staff, volunteers, community groups and many others all pulling together.

Given the increased costs on household budgets I realise that nobody likes to receive this bill. Bradford's council tax remains among the lowest in West Yorkshire, although I understand that this is little consolation. Like the vast majority of councils, we have increased our council tax in line with the government's expectations because of the massive shortfall in funding for the local services that we provide after more than a decade of national austerity cuts. Our annual budget for all the services we provide has been reduced by more than £310 million since 2011. The council is also badly impacted by rising costs, as we have been forced to allocate £58.4m of the coming year's budget just to meet the costs of inflation and before any increased demands for services are taken into account.

The sheer breadth of important services that the council provides to you continues to be a responsibility we take very seriously, such as the household waste and recycling collections, street cleansing, road improvements and gritting. Last year we upgraded more than 25,000 street light columns to LED – we are currently replacing on average 100 columns per week. On average we treat the road network with grit 68 times a year, which equates to 48,000 miles. We have ensured there are 176 warm spaces across the district for residents struggling with heating bills. But there are also many less visible council services for anyone who needs them at different times in our lives, wherever we live in the district. For example, about three quarters of

the council's budget is devoted to care and support services for children and adults and education services.

We are also investing in a better future. These are exciting times for the Bradford district. Plans are underway for a spectacular year as UK City of Culture 2025, which will bring new jobs, opportunities and experiences with a lasting legacy for residents in all parts of the district. We are also delivering regeneration schemes at pace with Darley Street Market, One City Park, Bradford Live and substantial investment in Keighley and Shipley to build the strongest possible economic recovery. As the UK's youngest city, we are focusing smart investment on high-tech and low carbon jobs and skills to support the next generation to fulfil their vast potential and that of our district at the heart of the North's resurgence in the years ahead.

As we move forward to a better future we remain acutely aware of the need to invest taxpayers' money wisely and well. Benchmarking studies have shown that most of the council's services are relatively low cost and high performance compared to similar councils. This is vital as we continue to face great funding restrictions combined with the need to invest in good quality services we can all rely on. With continued funding pressures, staying still is not an option and the council and place will have to transform to meet our future challenges and to achieve our shared ambitions for this great district. Thank you.



Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, Leader of Bradford Council

## What is Council Tax?

Council Tax helps to pay for Council services which are used by residents of the Bradford District, such as refuse collection, highways maintenance, child protection, social care and street cleaning. It helps us to pay for services which deliver the Council's priorities. These are:

- Better skills, more good jobs and a growing economy
- Decent homes that people can afford to live in
- A great start and good schools for all our children
- Better health, better lives
- Safe, clean and active communities
- A well-run council, using all our resources to deliver our priorities

All domestic properties, whether they are owned or rented, are usually subject to Council Tax. The amount of Council Tax charged will depend on the valuation band that the property falls into and the circumstances of the property and/or its occupants.

Your Council Tax bill also includes charges (called precepts) which we collect on behalf of West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and West Yorkshire Police. The council does not set these amounts but collects them as part of your bill. We also collect money on behalf of West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Environment Agency. Depending on where you live in the District, you may also be required to pay a Parish or Town council precept. This amount is set by your local Parish or Town council and collected by Bradford Council on their behalf.

## How much is Council Tax this year?

This year Council Tax for Bradford Council will rise by a total of 4.99% compared to last year's bill to support council services as a whole. The increase is made up of two elements, a core Council Tax Increase of 2.99% and The Adult Social Care Precept of 2%. The Adult Social Care Precept is further explained below.

Government regulations require us to show the total Adult Social Care precept separately from the remaining 2023-24 Council Tax charge attributable to Bradford Council and to display the charge for 2023-24.

Your bill will show the exact amount of Council Tax you need to pay according to your property and your personal circumstances.

The maximum amount for occupied properties is shown in the table below (excluding parish precepts but including West Yorkshire Police Authority and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority). You may pay less than this if you qualify for a discount or Council Tax Reduction. You may pay more if your property has been vacant (unoccupied and unfurnished) for two years or more and has become subject to premium charge.

### Council Tax bands and amounts

This table shows the Council Tax amounts for each property band for 2023 to 2024

Band	Range of values	Annual Payable (£)
A	Up to £40,000	1,289.62
B	£40,001 - £52,000	1,504.57
C	£52,001 - £68,000	1,719.49
D	£68,001 - £88,000	1,934.44
E	£88,001 - £120,000	2,364.31
F	£120,001 - £160,000	2,794.19
G	£160,001 - £320,000	3,224.06
H	Over £320,000	3,868.88

### Adult Social Care Precept

In relation to the year beginning in 2020 and any subsequent year, 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.



## How is the valuation band decided?

The band for each property is set by the Valuation Office Agency (part of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs) according to what the value of the property would have been on the open market on 1 April 1991. The valuation band the property falls into is shown on your bill.



If you disagree with the band that the property has been given and:

- you have been the Council Tax payer for less than six months
- the property has been demolished or split into separate units
- physical changes in the neighbourhood have reduced the value
- the valuation band of the property has changed in the last six months
- the valuation band of a similar property in your area has been changed in the last six months

You should contact the Valuation Office Agency at [www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals](http://www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals) or telephone them on **03000 501501**.

**Even if you disagree with your band, you must pay your bill as it stands. Should your valuation band be changed at a later date then your bill will be amended and you will be refunded any excess credit.**

## Discounts and exemptions

### Occupied properties

The full Council Tax bill is based on a property being occupied by two or more adults. If you are the only adult resident and you occupy the property as your main residence, you can qualify for a single person discount, which reduces your Council Tax charge by 25%. You can find out more about this by following this link: **Single Person Discount Information** (<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/council-tax/apply-for-discounts-reductions-and-exemptions/information-about-council-tax-discounts-reductions-and-exemptions/>)

There are some unoccupied properties that are exempt from council tax such as those that are left unoccupied by people in detention or where the resident is in care or hospital. Please visit [www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax) for a full list.

Some adults qualify for an exemption or discount, such as full time students or the severely mentally impaired.

If all but one adult qualifies for a Council Tax disregard, then the household will qualify for a discount of 25%. If all the adults in a property qualify to be disregarded, then either a 50% discount or a full Council Tax exemption may be granted. You can find out more about this on our website at <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/council-tax/app>

### Disabled Band Reduction

Where a member of the household is disabled (whether an adult or a child) and the property has an extra bathroom, an extra kitchen or other room set aside to accommodate the needs of their disability, or if that person uses a wheelchair indoors, your bill may be reduced. You can find out more at [www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax)

### Council Tax Reduction scheme

The Council Tax Reduction scheme helps those people living on a low income to pay their bill. The scheme allows for a maximum reduction of 100% of the net Council Tax bill (after discounts) for persons of pension age. Working age recipients can receive a maximum reduction of 70% of the net Council Tax bill for a band A property.

If you are of pension age and your income is too high for the Council Tax Reduction scheme, you may still be entitled to second adult rebate. This is a reduction of up to 25% of your Council Tax bill if there is another adult who is on a low income who lives in your household, who is not your partner.

You can find out more details at [www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits) or by calling **01274 432772**.

### Special Rules for Annexes

Where an annexe is used by the resident of the other part of the property as part of their home, or is occupied by a relative as their home then an additional 50% discount of the net bill may be applied to that part. An application for this discount is available at [www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax)

### Care leavers

From 1st April 2018, young people who were being looked after by Bradford Council at the point they turned 18 can be exempt from paying Council Tax, up to the end of the financial year in which the care leaver reaches the age of 21. Further, care leavers are disregarded (not counted) for the purpose of assessing the number of adult residents in a property for the calculation of Council Tax which could result in a discount being applicable. This disregard applies up to the end of the financial year in which the care leaver reaches the age of 25. These exemptions/discounts can only be applied from 1st April 2018 and not to any prior periods. You can find out further information from your Through Care Key Worker.



## Empty Properties

### Discounts

Properties that are vacant (unoccupied and unfurnished) and undergoing major repair or structural alteration qualify for a 100% discount for the first month.

A 50% discount applies to unoccupied caravans and houseboats.

A 50% discount may also apply where a person is responsible for two properties where one of those properties is job related.

### Premiums

Properties that have been vacant, meaning both unoccupied and unfurnished, for two years or more are subject to an additional 100% premium on the Council Tax charge.

Properties that have been vacant five years or more will be subject to an additional 200% premium.

With effect from 1st April 2021 any properties that have been vacant for ten years or more will be subject to an additional 300% premium.

This measure has been introduced to discourage people from leaving properties unoccupied and unfurnished. You can find out more about how we are tackling empty homes in the district on our website at [www.bradford.gov.uk/housing](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/housing)

Exceptions to this are:

- where the property is an annexe and the owner of the property occupies the remainder of the property
- where the property is left vacant by someone who is occupying a property provided by the Ministry of Defence.

You can find out more details at [www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax).

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## Appeals

You can appeal if you disagree with Bradford Council's decision as to whether you should be liable to pay the Council Tax bill or with regard to any decisions that are made in relation to discounts, exemptions, premiums or penalties. You also have a right of appeal if you disagree with the way that any entitlement under the Council Tax Reduction scheme has been calculated.

To make an appeal you must give, in full, your reasons for disagreeing with your Council Tax bill. You can make an appeal online or in writing:

**Online:** go to [www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax) > General Council Tax information > Making an appeal.

**In writing:** send your appeal letter to Council Tax, PO Box 1242, Bradford, BD1 9YN.

**Even if you disagree with how your bill has been calculated you must pay your bill as it stands. If your bill is then changed at a later date you will be refunded any excess credit.**

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## What if my household gets a Single Person Discount, Exemption or Disabled Relief and the household circumstances change?

If you know there has been a change which means you will no longer qualify for a discount, relief or exemption you must let us know immediately. You can do this online at [www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax), or by writing to:

**Council Tax  
PO Box 1242  
Bradford  
BD1 9YN**

We have a duty to periodically review discounts for households where only one adult (a person over the age of 18) is resident

or where a disabled relief or Council Tax disregard or exemption is being allowed. This would include written requests for information, telephone contact, visits to your home or data matching to check the information that you have provided remains correct.

If you do not respond to such a request or fail to supply accurate information, you could lose your discount. This will increase your bill. You could also face a penalty of £70 and prosecution.

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## What if I get a Council Tax Reduction and my circumstances change?

If you are getting a benefit or reduction and you have a change in your household's circumstances, you must tell the Revenues and Benefits Service immediately. For more information on the types of change that need to be notified then visit [www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits) or telephone **01274 432772**.

## Data protection

The council collects, uses and shares information about you where it is necessary and lawful to do so.

To learn more about what we collect and how we use and share it, go to [www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/data-protection/revenues-and-benefits-privacy-notice/](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/open-data/data-protection/revenues-and-benefits-privacy-notice/)

## How do I pay my bill?

Your annual Council Tax bill will normally be issued with 10 monthly instalments unless you pay by direct debit. You may request that your payment be extended over the additional two months of the year. To do this, you must contact the council before 1 April 2023. For our contact details, look at [www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax) or use the address given under the appeals heading above.

The easiest way to pay your bill is by Direct Debit. You can:

- Spread the cost over 10 or 12 months
- Pay on either the 5th, 10th, 15th, or 28th of each month (whichever suits you best)
- No more bill reminders!

To do this, visit

[www.bradford.gov.uk/directdebit](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/directdebit)

For other ways to pay see the back of your bill.



## Paperless bills

Join an increasing number of households who get their Council Tax bill by email:

- cuts out the clutter – less paperwork for you to store or shred
- available to all, no matter how you pay your bill
- better for the environment
- saves the council money, which can be spent on other essential services

Sign up at [www.bradford.gov.uk/paperlessbills](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/paperlessbills)



## Payment difficulties

If you have genuine problems making your payments then you should contact us immediately on **01274 437792**. Contacting us early means we can do our best to help you. If we do not receive your payment on time and you haven't contacted us, we have to start recovery proceedings.

If payments remain outstanding you may receive a summons to appear at court and the costs (which can end up being considerable) will be added to your bill.

If payment is still not made, further action, including enforcement agent visits, attachment of earnings/benefits, insolvency and committal to prison, will be taken to enforce collection of the outstanding amount.

## Parish & Town Councils

Parish and town councils are separate legal bodies, responsible for their own finances. They receive their funding by making an annual charge, called a precept. This means that Council Tax bills for residents who have a parish or town council in their area will include an amount for running them.

However, residents will not receive separate bills as Bradford Council collects the money on their behalf.

The 2023-24 approved Parish and Town council precept payable by local residents is shown in the table below.

Parish and Town Councils	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Addingham	37.51	43.76	50.01	56.26	68.76	81.26	93.77	112.52
Baildon	32.56	37.98	43.41	48.83	59.68	70.53	81.39	97.66
Bingley	18.50	21.58	24.66	27.74	33.90	40.06	46.24	55.48
Burley	58.67	68.45	78.22	88.00	107.55	127.11	146.67	176.00
Clayton	18.22	21.25	24.29	27.32	33.39	39.46	45.54	54.64
Cullingworth	22.93	26.75	30.57	34.39	42.03	49.67	57.32	68.78
Denholme	30.00	35.00	40.00	45.00	55.00	65.00	75.00	90.00
Harden	38.67	45.11	51.56	58.00	70.89	83.77	96.67	116.00
Haworth, Crossroads and Stanbury	29.68	34.63	39.57	44.52	54.41	64.30	74.20	89.04
Ilkley	36.22	42.26	48.29	54.33	66.40	78.47	90.55	108.66
Keighley	35.00	40.84	46.67	52.50	64.16	75.83	87.50	105.00
Menston	36.00	42.00	48.00	54.00	66.00	78.00	90.00	108.00
Oxenhope	26.67	31.11	35.56	40.00	48.89	57.77	66.67	80.00
Sandy Lane	12.27	14.31	16.36	18.40	22.49	26.57	30.67	36.80
Shipley	23.34	27.22	31.11	35.00	42.78	50.55	58.34	70.00
Silsden	19.14	22.32	25.51	28.70	35.08	41.45	47.84	57.40
Steeton with Eastburn	32.31	37.69	43.08	48.46	59.23	69.99	80.77	96.92
Wilsden	36.01	42.01	48.01	54.01	66.01	78.01	90.02	108.02
Wrose	10.34	12.06	13.78	15.50	18.94	22.38	25.84	31.00

The money raised from precepts will be used to run the parish or town council and to enhance services to local communities. To find out more about your local Parish council, visit [www.bradford.gov.uk/parish](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/parish)



## Where will the money come from in 2023-24 to pay for Bradford Council services?

In 2023-24 the Council intends to spend £453.2m on the various services that it provides.

There are large elements of the gross budget which are provided by the Government for specific purposes and over which the Council has no control, for example money for schools. The gross budget also includes spending on services that recover their costs by charging customers.

When Councils calculate what money they need to deliver services in the next financial year, they exclude fees and charges and the income over which they have no control. The remaining income is known as the Council's net budget and this is used as the starting point for working out the budget and Council Tax for the next year.

Bradford Council's net budget for 2023-24 is £453.2 million. It is funded through income provided by the Government, Council Tax and Business Rates.

### Where the money will come from

This chart shows where the money will come from to pay for Bradford Council services in 2023 to 2024.

Amount (£million)	Amount (£million)
Government grant	40.3
Business Rates	131.0
Council Tax	233.3
Council Reserves	48.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>453.2</b>

You can see how this money is allocated to different services, and comparisons to last year's spending, in the table below.

### Spending plan for 2023 to 2024

This table shows how much the council plans on spending in each service in 2023 to 2024

Services	2022-23		2023-24	
	Gross £m	Net £m	Gross £m	Net £m
Children's Social Services	120.8	87.3	189.9	174.3
Education Services	397.2	26.7	407.9	27.5
Waste, Fleet & Transport Services	46.3	30.2	49.0	31.9
Economy and Development	12.8	2.7	13.3	4.7
Sport & Culture	23.4	4.5	25.3	4.4
Neighbourhoods & Customer Services	24.7	16.5	25.6	16.9
Planning, Transportation & Highways	22.8	15.1	28.1	16.8
Revenues and Benefits	119.5	4.7	133.1	4.8
Corporate Resources and General Fund	112.0	23.5	111.0	-20.3
Adult Social Care	197.2	116.7	233.8	136.2
Public Health	50.1	1.0	50.8	1.1
Chief Executive	5.1	4.7	5.2	4.8
<b>(sub-total)</b>	<b>1,131.9</b>	<b>333.6</b>	<b>1,273.0</b>	<b>403.1</b>
Capital financing	32.5	32.5	27.0	27.0
Passenger Transport Levy	22.4	22.4	23.1	23.1
<b>Bradford Council Budget</b>	<b>1,186.8</b>	<b>388.5</b>	<b>1,323.1</b>	<b>453.2</b>
Central Government Revenue Support Grant		-35.9		-40.3
Top-up Grant		-69.3		-75.0
Retained Local Business Rates		-57.1		-56.0
Use of Reserves		-3.6		-48.6
Collection Fund surplus		-1.2		0.0
<b>BRADFORD COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>		<b>221.4</b>		<b>233.3</b>
Parish/Town Council Precepts		2.9		3.1
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>		<b>224.3</b>		<b>236.4</b>



## What did we spend in 2022-23?

The base budget for 2022-23 was £388.5 million.

To this figure provision for the following has been added:

- £58.5m for cost pressures and inflation
- £2.6m for demographic growth and previously approved investments
- £62.0m for pressures in Children and Adults social care



## What else has changed for 2023-24?

- £13.9m service related savings as approved for 2023-24
- £22.4m non-service related financing savings
- £22.1m net increase in other funding grants receivable

This means that the total cost of providing services in 2023-24 is £453.2 million.

## Environment Agency



### The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

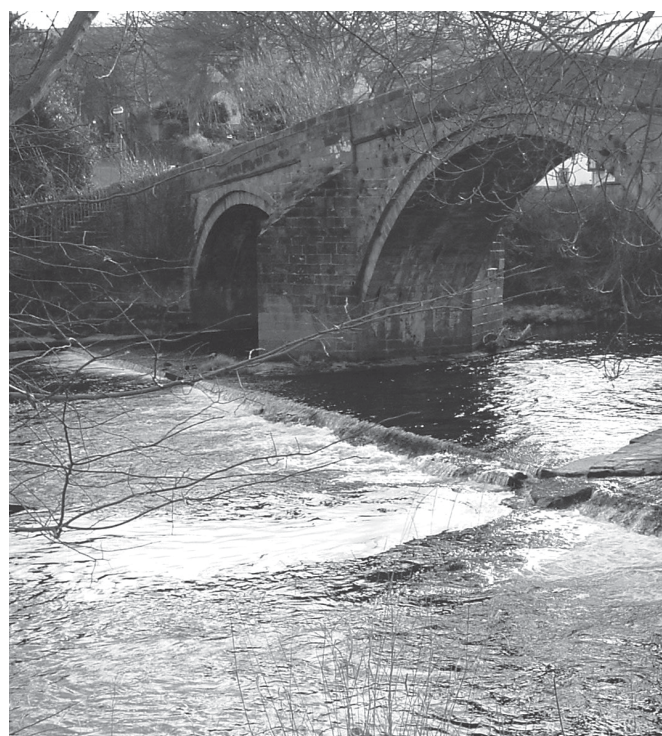
The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 2292 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

	Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	
	2022-23 £'000	2023-24 £'000
Gross Expenditure	£98,232	£118,709
Levies Raised	£2,750	£2,833
<b>Total Council Tax Base</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>1,560</b>

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 3.0%

**The total Local Levy raised has increased from £2,750,172 in 2022/2023 to £2,832,677 for 2023/2024.**





## West Yorkshire Police Council Tax Information 2023-24



### West Yorkshire: Safe. Just. Inclusive.

As Mayor of West Yorkshire, I oversee our police budget, which includes setting part of your Council Tax.

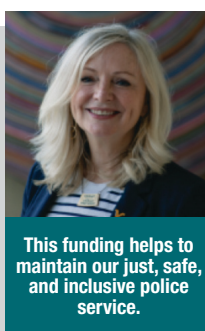
The Government have slashed funding for policing yet again. At a time when inflation is at record highs, we've seen a 20% reduction over 10 years.

The positive response to my precept survey made it clear just how much you value the police, but to maintain this service, I've reluctantly had to increase the police section of your council tax by 6.78%.

It means most will pay between 19p and 26p extra per week, with the majority in West Yorkshire being in Council Tax Bands A, B or C.

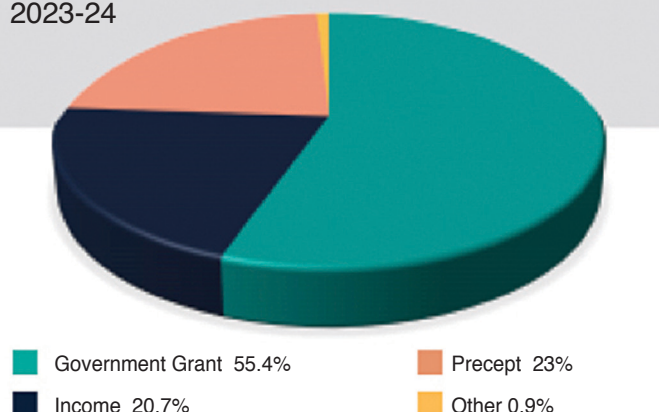
It will all help to maintain the just, safe, and inclusive police service that the region needs. Without this, we would face more severe pressures, forcing cuts across policing operations.

**Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire**

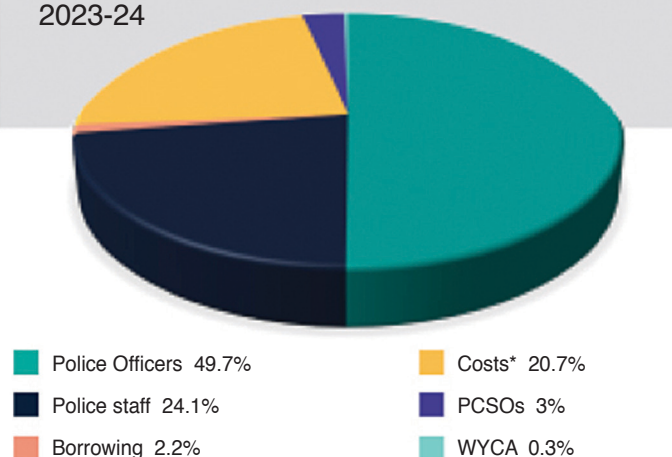


This funding helps to maintain our just, safe, and inclusive police service.

### Where the money came from 2023-24



### What the money is spent on 2023-24



\* Running costs eg. premises and vehicles

### West Yorkshire continues to have the fourth lowest Precept in England and Wales

Budget	2022-23 £m	2023-24 £m
Gross Expenditure	649.293	694.040
Council Tax Requirement	147.863	195.533

I've been working with the police, our partners and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE, to make the region a better place:

- My Police and Crime Plan means we are focusing on the issues that matter most to you. It has seen us recruit more frontline police officers, who reflect our diverse and vibrant communities.
- We are also supporting victims of crime with more money and capacity for services like the new Stalking Advocacy Service.

Likewise, over £1 million taken from criminals has been shared across 173 local projects as part of my Mayor's Safer Communities Fund.

- Incredibly close to my heart is the ongoing efforts to increase the safety of women and girls, particularly across our parks and on nights out.
- There is also crucial work to tackle knife crime and serious violence, alongside our dedicated Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).



To find out more about our work and contact us, please see details below.

### Contact

**0113 251 7272**

**Mayoral.Enquiries@westyorks-ca.gov.uk**  
**www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk**

Twitter: @MayorOfWY

Facebook: @MayorOfWY



## West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority 2023-24



West Yorkshire  
Fire & Rescue

### Cost of living increases sees Council Tax precept rise

High inflation and rising energy bills have led to an increase in this year's Council Tax precept for fire.

The West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority has approved a slight rise in its portion of council tax. Compared to the previous year, the rise will be six pence per week for Band A taxpayers, and 10p per week for Band D taxpayers.

However, despite the rise, the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority precept remains the fourth lowest cost-per-head-of-population in the country.

The authority took this decision following a survey earlier this year, where members of the public were asked if they would be prepared to pay the slight increase to help keep communities in West Yorkshire safe. Nearly 80 percent of respondents agreed with this.

Chair Cllr Darren O'Donovan said: "Over the last few years we have been able to invest in our staff and services through careful financial management and planning. This is despite the

impact of austerity and the fact the authority has not received capital funding - to pay for assets like fire stations - from the Government since 2014.

"Our prudence has allowed us to maintain equipment, invest in new technology, improve training, and modernise our buildings – making us one of the most effective and efficient fire and rescue services in the country.

"While I understand it's a difficult ask that we are making of local taxpayers, this increase will help us maintain our services and continue to provide the excellent fire and rescue service that our community deserves."

Chief Fire Officer John Roberts added: "The rising cost of living is having an impact across the board, including at the fire and rescue service. High inflation rates and vastly increased energy bills could mean less for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority to spend next year.

"This slight rise will allow the service to be able to keep its current commitments, all aimed at making West Yorkshire safer for all who live, work, and visit it."



### What will the Fire and Rescue Authority cost?

	2022-23 £'000	2023-24 £'000	Per head £
Gross Expenditure	98,084	106,785	
Contributions to/from Reserves	0	0	
Income	- 2,433	- 2,485	
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>95,651</b>	<b>104,300</b>	£44.72
Revenue Support Grant	- 14,047	- 15,472	- £6.63
Pension Grant	- 4,286	- 4,285	- £1.84
Top Up Grant	- 16,922	- 17,737	- £7.60
Business Rates	- 7,226	- 7,590	- £3.25
Collection Fund	760	200	£0.09
Service Grant	- 1,700	- 1,001	- £0.43
Section 31 Grants	- 3,998	- 6,304	- £2.70
<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>48,232</b>	<b>52,111</b>	£22.34

### What are the changes from last year?

	2022-23 £'000	2023-24 £'000
<b>Previous Years' Budget</b>	<b>89,348</b>	<b>95,651</b>
Inflation	2,591	7,436
Changes in Service Provision	3,712	1,213
Changes in use of Reserves	0	0
<b>Budget Requirement</b>	<b>95,651</b>	<b>104,300</b>

## West Yorkshire Combined Authority 2023-24



As Mayor of West Yorkshire and Chair of the Combined Authority, I want West Yorkshire to be the best place to live, to work, to learn, to start a business and to raise a family. A region that is prosperous, well connected, safe, inclusive and a hotbed of creativity and sustainability.

Where equality, diversity and inclusion is central to everything we do and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Alongside the five West Yorkshire local authorities – Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield – and the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, we deliver services and investments that directly benefit the people of West Yorkshire: transforming lives, boosting opportunity, connecting people and communities.

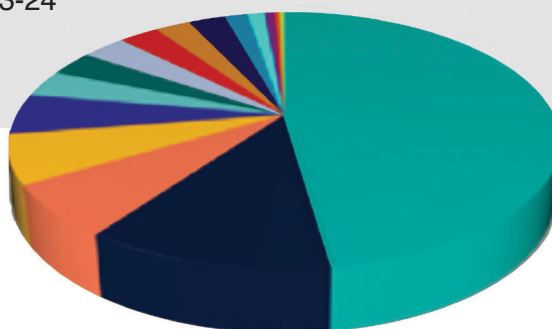
In 2023/24 we are committed to tackling the cost of living and doing business, improving lives by investing in our transport system, supporting people to grow businesses, create jobs and develop skills, and tackling the climate emergency.

### Where the money came from 2023-24



<span style="color: #008080;">■</span>	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement	28.5%
<span style="color: #000080;">■</span>	Transport Levy	15.7%
<span style="color: #FF4500;">■</span>	Education & Skills Funding Agency	12.7%
<span style="color: #FFD700;">■</span>	Local Transport Capital Funding	10.6%
<span style="color: #800080;">■</span>	Transport Fund	8.6%
<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span>	Other	6.8%
<span style="color: #008000;">■</span>	Transforming Cities Fund	6.0%
<span style="color: #9370DB;">■</span>	Gainshare	5.8%
<span style="color: #FF0000;">■</span>	Brownfield Housing Fund	4.3%
<span style="color: #FF8C00;">■</span>	Local Enterprise partnership Funding	0.7%
<span style="color: #483D8B;">■</span>	Police Precept	0.3%

### What the money is spent on 2023-24



<span style="color: #008080;">■</span>	Infrastructure for growth (Transport)	47.7%
<span style="color: #000080;">■</span>	Adult Education	12.2%
<span style="color: #FF4500;">■</span>	Corporate services	6.6%
<span style="color: #FFD700;">■</span>	Concessionary travel (senior, blind and disabled)	6.1%
<span style="color: #800080;">■</span>	Infrastructure for growth (Housing and Regeneration)	5.0%
<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span>	Subsidised bus services	3.4%
<span style="color: #008000;">■</span>	Skilled people, better jobs	3.2%
<span style="color: #9370DB;">■</span>	Education transport	3.1%
<span style="color: #FF0000;">■</span>	Passenger services	3.0%
<span style="color: #FF8C00;">■</span>	Energy and environmental resilience	2.6%
<span style="color: #483D8B;">■</span>	Growing businesses	2.6%
<span style="color: #008080;">■</span>	Concessionary travel (young people)	1.8%
<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span>	Finance charges	1.2%
<span style="color: #800080;">■</span>	Economic and transport policy and delivery	0.7%
<span style="color: #FF0000;">■</span>	Police & Crime Commissioner	0.4%
<span style="color: #9ACD32;">■</span>	Other corporate projects	0.3%





## West Yorkshire Combined Authority 2023-24 (continued)

The largest portion of our annual revenue income comes from the transport levy, which our partner councils in West Yorkshire collect through council tax.

Gross revenue expenditure for 2023-24 will **increase** from **£156.5 million** to **£193.7 million**: funding discounted travel and subsidised bus services for children, young people, older people and communities, as well as travel information, bus stations, stops and shelters.

In addition, there is budgeted revenue expenditure of **£71.9 million** for **Adult Education** in 2023-24, funding which was secured as part of the devolution deal.

We manage the Metro-branded network of bus stations, travel centres and public transport information across West Yorkshire. The **transport levy** remains at the same level as last year: **£92.2 million**. This enables a similar level of funding to be directed to protect front line services, particularly on bus services and concessionary travel as the industry enters a recovery phase.

We continue to seek to make savings across all our service areas that offset unavoidable increases in our running costs due to rising inflation and businesses rates.

The Combined Authority **capital programme** is forecast to spend over **£300 million** in 2023-24 with the majority of this (89%) on transport infrastructure improvements.

The Mayor also oversees the police budget, which includes setting part of your Council Tax. This funding helps to maintain our just, safe and inclusive police service.



Find out more information on our website:

**westyorks-ca.gov.uk** or by calling **0113 251 7272**.

All information and/or documents will be provided in braille, large type or another language on request.



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- Pay your bill, including setting up a Direct Debit
- Check your Council Tax account and balance
- Apply for discounts, reductions and exemptions
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Visit **www.bradford.gov.uk/counciltax** for more information

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