

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2025/26



THIS IS HOW MUCH WE SPEND PER DAY ON SOME OF THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

Adult Social Care



£2,456,606
per day

(2024/25 **£2,218,389**)

Schools



£1,564,594
per day

(2024/25 **£1,551,296**)

Children's Services



£668,914
per day

(2024/25 **£521,012**)

Early Years & Child Care



£664,499
per day

(2024/25 **£455,600**)

Environment & Waste



£249,520
per day

(2024/25 **£253,538**)

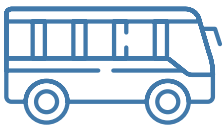
Public Health



£207,175
per day

(2024/25 **£196,574**)

Home to School Transport



£150,767
per day

(2024/25 **£139,485**)

Highways and Infrastructure



£135,153
per day

(2024/25 **£107,951**)

Library Services



£44,558
per day

(2024/25 **£43,504**)

Concessionary Fares



£42,431
per day

(2024/25 **£44,623**)

Economic Development



£25,384
per day

(2024/25 **£18,276**)

Coroner's Services



£17,044
per day

(2024/25 **£16,636**)

Country Parks



£10,617
per day

(2024/25 **£10,296**)

Registrar Services



£10,543
per day

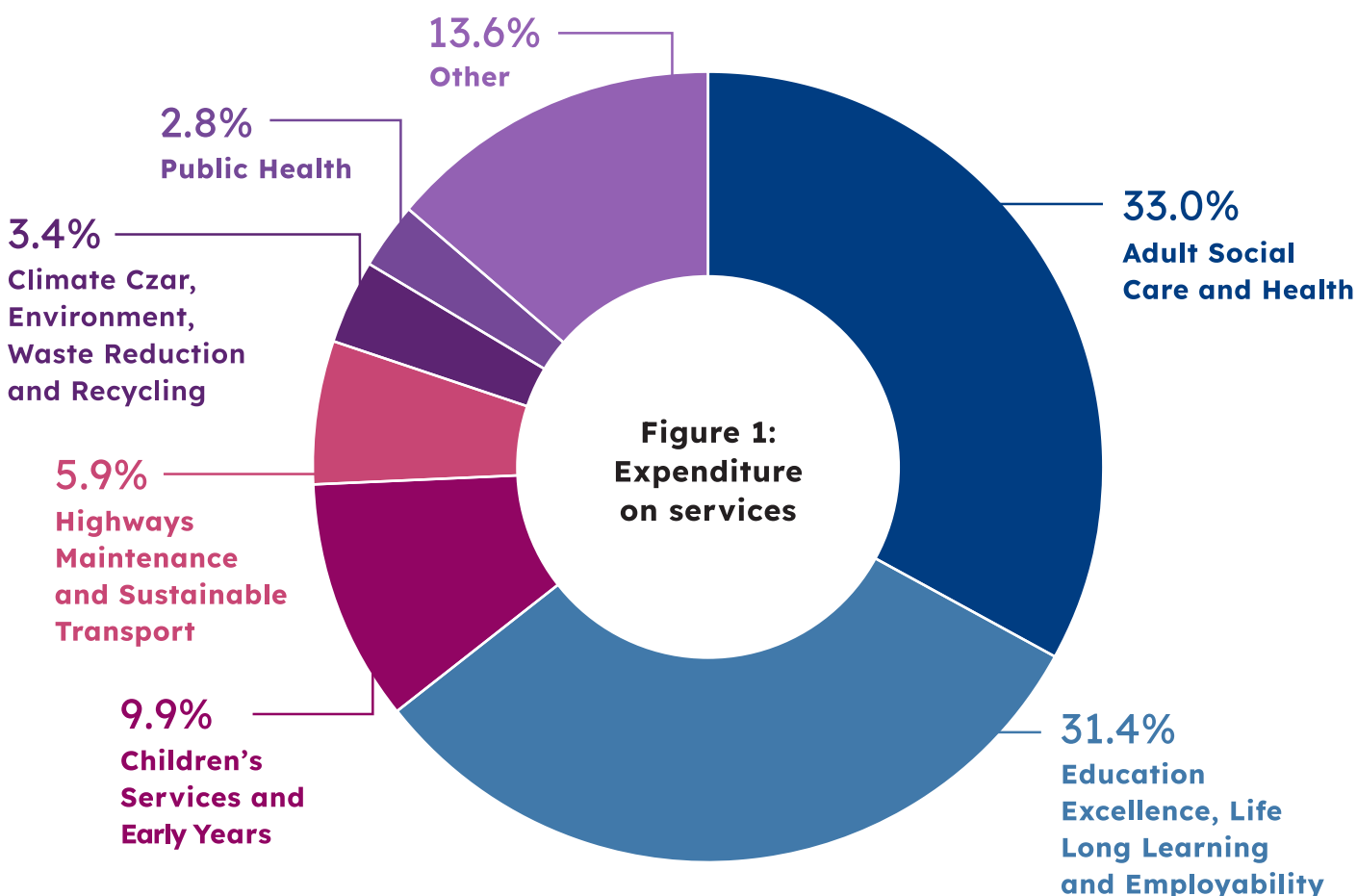
(2024/25 **£9,347**)

Expenditure on services

The Council has committed to spending:

- £897 million on services supporting vulnerable adults
- £853 million on Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability
- £269 million on services supporting Children’s Services and Early Years

Expenditure on Services	£m
Adult Social Care and Health	896.7
Education Excellence, Life Long Learning and Employability	853.3
Children’s Services and Early Years	268.5
Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	160.6
Climate Czar, Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	93.0
Public Health	75.6
Other, which includes services such as Libraries, Coroners, Registrars and Country Parks	370.6
Total	2,718.2





**Councillor
Kevin Bentley**
Leader, Essex County Council

PROTECTING SERVICES NOW AND INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

This year we have set one of the most ambitious budgets Essex has seen.

We have put people and businesses at its heart, protected essential services and committed to investing in the Essex of tomorrow.

It is an exciting time for our county and we will continue to work hard to improve people's lives and make sure the county remains a great place to live and work.

We will do this by continuing to listen to what is important to you.

Our budget for the new financial year has been set against a national backdrop of challenges, including persistent inflation and the increasing costs of providing essential services.

This means our responsibility to set a budget for Essex which will enable us to continue to meet those challenges while investing in the county – now and in the future – has never been more important.

Equally, we will only take from taxpayers what we absolutely need – which is why this year, we have limited the county council's Council Tax increase to 3.75%. This is among the lowest of any county council.

Our annual plan sets out the commitments we have made to you over the next financial year. Key infrastructure such as Beaulieu Park station and the Chelmsford north-east bypass, as well as investments in our ambitious capital programme and commitment to building new schools, will enable us to future-proof the county and unlock its full potential.

We are an experienced council with a strong track record of delivery. We never forget the responsibility we hold and the importance of living up to the expectations of the people we serve. Residents can trust us to deliver as we have shown them time and again that we can. Our experience has already seen us save over £1 billion in the last 15 years – money we re-invest in the county.

This experience will be vital to enabling us to seize opportunities now and in the future. As we look ahead to the benefits that devolution and local government reorganisation will bring, I know will be best placed to meet these challenges. Our priority remains the people and businesses of Essex, now and in the future.

Listening to you

During November and December 2024, we carried out a budget consultation and you told us that:

- The strain on National Health Service/Healthcare was the most important issue facing Essex today, followed by the condition of the roads and pavements, the pressure on social care provision, and Crime/Community Safety
- Priorities for immediate action include Developing Essex infrastructure; Supporting those who care for the sick or vulnerable children; Securing high standards in education

Investing

On your list of priorities was supporting those who care for the sick or vulnerable people. We are investing an additional £85m combined in Adults and Children's social care in 2025/26, supporting over 16,500 adults in long term care every day, as well as impacting the lives of many other people on a short-term or regular basis, and 5,500 children in care or in need.

We are also continuing to invest in the maintenance of our 5,100 miles of roads, 4,000 miles of footways and 1,600 structures, with an additional £8m of revenue funding.

Alongside our revenue budget, we need to ensure effective services not just for today, but for the future. We have ambitious plans for our capital investment - a capital programme of £367 million for 2025/26. This includes investments such as Beaulieu station and Chelmsford North-East bypass, the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package and the A127 / A130 Fairglen Interchange.

Saving

Recent years have seen significant increases in our costs driven by demand and high inflation, outstripping growth in local authority grants. In 2025/26 alone we are anticipating new pressures of £135m across the Council, while government funding is increasing by only £58m. Therefore, we have had to cut our cloth accordingly, so over the past four years, we have saved £150 million.

In 2025/26, we will deliver a further £43 million savings by continuation of existing programmes within Adult Social Care, making more efficient use of our buildings and make better use of technology and digitisation across the Council.

**OVER THE PAST
FOUR YEARS,
WE HAVE
SAVED £150
MILLION**



SPENDING AND CHARGES EXPLAINED

There is always a balance between investing in and protecting services and asking people to pay a little more.

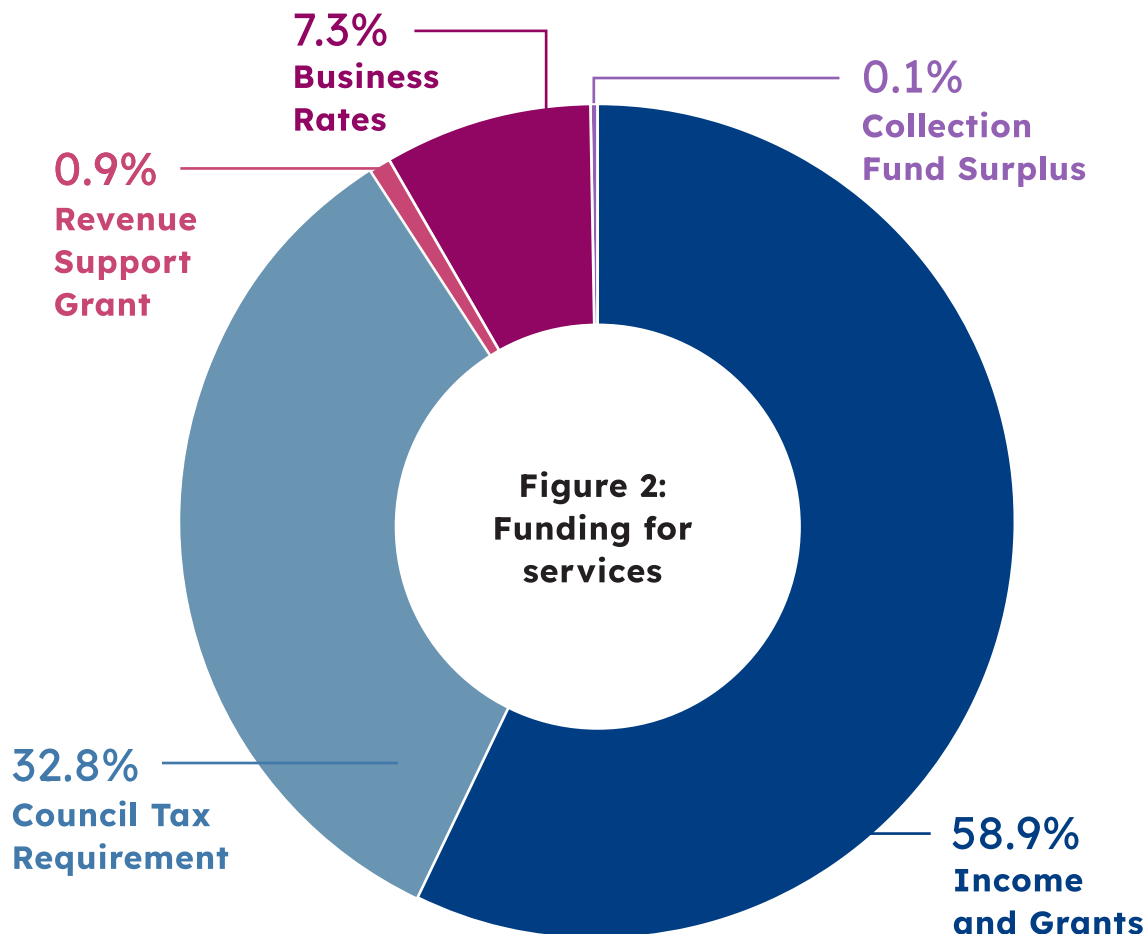
This year we are increasing council tax by a total of 3.75%. This is made up of a 1.75% general council tax precept and a 2% adult social care precept, as set out by Government for 2025/26. This will result in an increase in council tax for a band D property of £1.09 per household per week, taking the Band D charge to **£1,579.59**.

The following table shows the Council tax charge by band.

Band	Council tax charge £000
A	1,053.06
B	1,228.57
C	1,404.08
D	1,579.59
E	1,930.61
F	2,281.63
G	2,632.65
H	3,159.18

The 2025/26 budget sets out the financial resources that the Council has available to deliver the Annual Plan.

Financial overview	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	Change £m
Total expenditure	2,507.6	2,718.2	210.6
Income and grants	(1,434.4)	(1,600.9)	(166.5)
Budget requirement	1,073.2	1,117.3	44.1
This is paid for by:			
Collection fund surplus	(7.2)	(2.1)	5.1
Business rates	(195.0)	(198.6)	(3.6)
Revenue support grant	(22.7)	(24.9)	(2.2)
Council tax requirement	(848.3)	(891.6)	(43.3)
Total funding	(1,073.2)	(1,117.3)	(44.1)



This information is issued by:
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