



# Council Tax for 2024/25

What you pay and what we provide

[www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax)



**WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

WATKENDOZ



# Foreword



It is a challenging time for councils across the UK but also for our residents. Government cuts, the cost-of-living crisis and higher interest rates are impacting us all. We have put Watford in a good position, with the recent 'Corporate Peer Challenge' looking at our performance highlighting our "proven record of good financial stewardship". This is essential as we tackle the challenges of the day head-on and make the difficult decisions needed to:

- help residents through the cost-of-living crisis
- protect frontline services for our community
- improve our local environment and transport
- support local businesses and attract more investment to Watford

By supporting Citizens' Advice Watford, reducing council tax for low-income households and protecting frontline services, we are making a real difference to people's lives. Wellbeing remains a priority too, and we are proud to manage some of the best parks in the country, host a variety of free and low-cost events, and provide fantastic local leisure centres. To keep us on the path to net zero, we are expanding the Beryl Bike scheme, as well as introducing a new EV Car Club and Shopper Bus service. We have planted 20,000 trees in the town, are cleaning up the River Colne and delivering the wildlife-focused Cassiobury Wetlands restoration.

To support jobs and keep our town thriving, we have invested in the state-of-the-art Watford Business Park, home to more than 1,100 employees and still growing. Our groundbreaking Town Hall Quarter programme will soon see the fully refurbished Watford Colosseum opening its doors to showcase a mix of world class acts and grass roots entertainment.

Through careful planning we have seen the town continue to flourish, culminating in Watford's number one spot in the UK Vitality Index and marking it out as the best place in the UK to live and do business. The plans we have in place will ensure our town remains vibrant, with something for everyone - the goal which continues to be top of my agenda.

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

*Peter Tofer*

**Elected Mayor of Watford**  
[www.watford.gov.uk/electedmayor](http://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](http://www.watford.gov.uk/directdebit)



**Online** - Pay for it online using the online payment facility at [www.watford.gov.uk/pay](http://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](http://www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax)



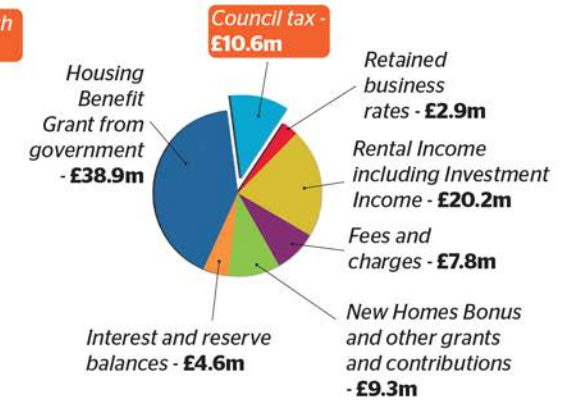
You may be entitled to a discount on your council tax. Anyone who has been medically certified as having a permanent severe mental impairment such as dementia, and who is entitled to a disability benefit eg attendance allowance, personal independence payment or disability living allowance, could be entitled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

# What you pay

## Where your money goes



## Where our money comes from Total £94.3m



## 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 0501501 or visit [voa.gov.uk](http://voa.gov.uk).

Band	Hertfordshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council (Adult Social Care)	Police & Crime Commissioner	Watford Borough Council	Total
A	£961.58	£162.25	£167.33	£199.70	£1,490.86
B	£1,121.84	£189.30	£195.22	£232.98	£1,739.34
C	£1,282.11	£216.34	£223.11	£266.27	£1,987.83
D	£1,442.37	£243.38	£251.00	£299.55	£2,236.30
E	£1,762.90	£297.46	£306.78	£366.12	£2,733.26
F	£2,083.42	£351.55	£362.56	£432.68	£3,230.21
G	£2,403.95	£405.63	£418.33	£499.25	£3,727.16
H	£2,884.74	£486.76	£502.00	£599.10	£4,472.60
% increase	2.99%	2.00%	5.46%	2.99%	4.77%

For questions relating to Hertfordshire County Council's figures, please visit [hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax) email [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or phone 0300 123 4040.



## What we provide

### What we spend our money on

Total **£94.3m**



Housing Benefit  
- **£38.5m**  
(funded by  
Housing Benefit  
grant from  
government)



Housing  
and tackling  
homelessness -  
**£3m**



Parks and Open  
Spaces, Cultural  
Services and  
community  
events - **£5.6m**



Planning,  
Economic  
Development,  
Property  
Management,  
Transport and  
Parking - **£21m**



Waste Services,  
Street Cleaning,  
Environmental  
Health and  
Licensing -  
**£10.6m**



Elections -  
**£0.2m**



Day to day running of the council, Legal and  
Democracy (including managing council meetings)  
and Customer Services - **£15.4m**

## What we delivered in the last financial year



**20,000**



trees have been planted around the borough



**53**

local causes supported  
by Watford Community  
Lottery



New  
crematorium  
opened



Over **150**

events were staged  
around the town



Watford  
Business Park  
transformed



**102**

EV charging points installed



Green  
Flag  
Award

**17**

Green Flag awards  
received for our parks  
and open spaces



**40**

grants given  
to community  
causes



**700**

homes now insulated saving **£200k** a year on bills





# Watford: #1 for vitality

The 2024 UK Vitality Index ranked Watford number 1 for living, business and a bright future. Here are some of the important projects we are delivering for the community to keep our town on top.

## The future is green

Our ambitious Environmental Strategy is putting us on the path to net zero by 2030. We are:

- Restoring the River Colne as part of our 10-year project.
- Revitalising the wetlands and watercress beds in Cassiobury Park.
- Transforming how we travel around the town with Beryl Bikes, a new electric car club and electric vehicle chargers.
- Planting record numbers of trees.

## Culture, creativity and entertainment

The council's groundbreaking Town Hall Quarter programme will see the area around the Town Hall transformed into a vibrant cultural hub for the community:

- A totally revamped Watford Colosseum is reopening its doors soon, managed by global entertainment powerhouse AEG Presents.
- Our historic Town Hall is undergoing a special makeover, geared towards enriching the lives of future generations. It will soon house Watford Museum and support an innovation business hub, promising to be a hotspot for creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.



## Improving lives and empowering the community

Watford is a place where everyone can thrive. We are supporting residents and the community to face down the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis and homelessness:

- By partnering with West Herts Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and making their ambitions possible, we have helped secure full funding for a new hospital which will revolutionise healthcare services locally.
- Our grants programme is empowering community groups around Watford to make a real difference to people's lives.
- Through our cost of living hub, we're helping residents to access the support they are entitled to.
- Our groundbreaking Single Homelessness Pathway is getting people the right help at the right time, so that they can get off the streets for good.
- The winter shelter has protected 80 people from freezing conditions over the last year.

# GOOD VIBES ONLY

## SUMMER IS COMING

Get ready for a summer of excitement with our fantastic line-up of free and low-cost events. From the Big Screen, creating a unique and unforgettable cinematic experience in some of Watford's iconic locations, to the Big Beach, a chance to escape to the sand and sun right here in the town centre.



**1 to 12 April**  
**'Wat's On'**  
Easter sessions



**20 April**  
**The Sound of Watford**  
Various locations



**12 to 19 May**  
**Watford Jazz Junction**  
Various locations



**25 May to 2 June**  
**Steven's Fun Fair**  
Cassiobury Park



**29 June**  
**Taste of the Caribbean**  
Food & Drink Festival  
Cassiobury Park



**28 July**  
**Big Jiveswing Festival**  
Cassiobury Park



**5 to 11 August**  
**Big Screen**  
Town centre



**12 to 18 August**  
**Big Screen**  
Knutsford Playing Field

[watfordevents.com](http://watfordevents.com)



**16 to 30 August**  
**Big Beach**  
Town centre



**17 to 26 August**  
**Colourscape**  
Cassiobury Park



**31 August**  
**Herts Pride**  
Cassiobury Park



**4 to 5 October**  
**Hertfordshire Oktoberfest**  
Cassiobury Park



# We're here to help with the cost of living

Scan the QR code for help with:

- Energy bills
- Food and essential supplies
- Housing and accommodation
- Employment
- Debt and money management
- Health and wellbeing



[www.watford.gov.uk/cost-living-support](http://www.watford.gov.uk/cost-living-support) | 01923 226400



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