

Council Tax 2026/27

What you pay and what we provide



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL

www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax

WATGUITARZ

Forward



Watford Council's 2026 budget focuses on keeping costs down and making this a better town for everyone. Highlights include:

- Freezing Watford Council's share of council tax.
- More funding to tackle fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling.
- Investing in improvements to our parks, leisure centres and community shopping parades.

To make our parks even better, we will be planting more trees, installing new litter bins and water fountains, improving footpaths and making our playgrounds more accessible so that more children can enjoy them.

We will continue to reduce council tax bills for households on low incomes and work with local charities to help people experiencing homelessness.

To support the local economy, we will open a new Innovation Hub in the Town Hall, funded by the central government, and upgrade local shopping parades including Vicarage Road Precinct (the Hornets Gyratory) and Queens Road.

Making sure that residents have the best possible services, and that we keep our bills as low as possible, is not always easy. Over the years Watford Council has prioritised the services that residents most value and made sure that we deliver good value for money.

Our efforts were recognised with Watford winning Council of the Year in 2025 at the iESE Awards. On top of this, Watford was once again ranked among the top three towns in the UK to bring up a family or start a business in the Vitality Index.

This budget supports local residents with the cost-of-living crisis, delivers investment in important services, and will ensure Watford remains a thriving town for everyone.

As always, 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**.



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 - visit 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**

Chatbot & Live Chat - Our website's AI chatbot, 'WatBot', is available 24/7 to help with council tax enquiries, providing instant responses and multilingual support. It can also assist with questions about elections, parking and waste services. If you need further help, our live chat is available during council office hours. For more information visit www.watford.gov.uk/counciltax

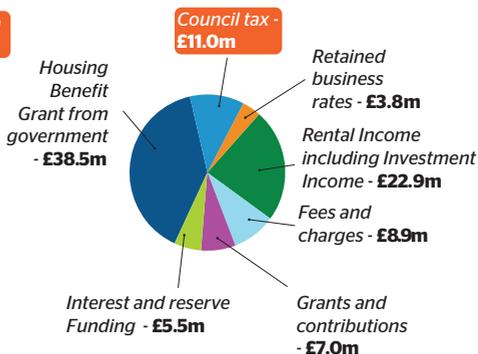
 You may qualify for a council tax discount if you have a permanent severe mental impairment, such as dementia, and receive a disability benefit. Learn more at: dementiauk.org/council-tax-discounts or watford.gov.uk/counciltax.

What you pay

Where your money goes



Where our money comes from Total £97.6m



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 | Watford Borough Council | Hertfordshire County Council | Police & Crime Commissioner | Total |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| A | 205.67 | 1,238.79 | 186.67 | 1,631.13 |
| B | 239.95 | 1,445.26 | 217.78 | 1,902.99 |
| C | 274.23 | 1,651.73 | 248.89 | 2,174.85 |
| D | 308.51 | 1,858.19 | 280.00 | 2,446.70 |
| E | 377.07 | 2,271.12 | 342.22 | 2,990.41 |
| F | 445.63 | 2,684.05 | 404.44 | 3,534.12 |
| G | 514.18 | 3,096.98 | 466.67 | 4,077.83 |
| H | 617.02 | 3,716.38 | 560.00 | 4,893.40 |

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 spend our money on

Total £97.6m



Housing Benefit
- £39.3m
(funded by a grant from central government)



Housing and tackling homelessness - £6.1m



Parks and Open Spaces, Cultural Services and community events - £7.2m



Planning, Economic Development, Property Management, Transport and Parking - £19.5m



Waste Services, Street Cleaning, Environmental Health and Licensing - £9.9m



Elections - £0.3m



Day to day running of other council services - £15.3m



What's coming up this year

This year we're stepping up our focus on the basics that matter most.

- ◆ More action on fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling
- ◆ Increased funding to keep every neighbourhood looking its best

Investing in the places people love

- 🌳 More tree planting, litter bins and water fountains
- 🚶 Improved footpaths in Cassiobury Park
- 🌸 Enhancements to our cemeteries, alongside support for Hertsmeare's new cemetery, which will also serve Watford residents.

Better spaces for families

- 🌱 Reprovision of Cherry Tree Allotments
- 🛝 Targeted playground upgrades across the borough, making them more inclusive, accessible and fun for all.

Upgrading our leisure offer

- 🏊 Woodside Leisure Centre: Equipment and aesthetic improvements
- 💪 Watford Central Leisure Centre: Significantly expanded state-of-the-art gym, high-quality new studios, improved accessibility changing facilities

Building for the future

- 🌐 Progress towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2030
- 🚲 Better cycle and road infrastructure
- 🏠 Upgraded neighbourhood parades – including Vicarage Road



Healthy hub

Watford

Free health
and wellbeing
support

Healthy Hub is a one-stop shop providing information, advice, and support to improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

The Hubs will provide FREE lifestyle support for individuals and their families covering mental wellbeing, getting fitter and healthier, weight management, financial advice, food bank voucher referrals, quitting smoking, NHS health checks, nutritional advice and sexual health testing kits and much more.

Drop-in face-to-face services are available at the following location:

Watford Town Hall

Hempstead Road
Watford
WD17 3EX

Wednesdays 10am to 2pm

Cussans House

(The Conservatory)
13 Cussans House
Croxley View
WD18 6PJ

Tuesdays 10am to 2pm

Meriden Foodbank

Meriden Community Centre
Garsmouth Way
WD25 9ET

Fridays 9am to 1pm



For more information visit www.watford.gov.uk/healthy-hub
Contact the Healthy Hub team today on **01923 278445** or email
healthyhub@watford.gov.uk



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



Healthy
hub
Watford



We are your helping hand

There's lots of support, advice, and services available to help you stay safe and well and manage the cost of living.

If you need help and don't know where to turn, contact Watford Borough Council on **01923 226400** between 8.45am and 5.15pm weekdays (4.45pm Friday)

For more information and additional support, please **scan the QR code** or visit **watford.gov.uk/cost-of-living**.



Housing and money

Support services for residents having difficulties with housing, housing costs or paying Council Tax

Call Watford Council: 01923 226400

Online contact form via:
www.watford.gov.uk

HertsHelp

Trained advisers offering free, confidential advice on local services and support

Call: 0300 123 4044
Email: info@hertshelp.net

www.hertshelp.net

Housing and money

Support services for residents having difficulties with housing, housing costs or paying Council Tax

Call Watford Council: 01923 226400

Online contact form via:
www.watford.gov.uk

Local food support

Information on food support available in Watford

For details call Watford Council:
Monday to Friday 8.45am to 5.15pm on
01923 226400

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

Citizens Advice Watford

Free, local and confidential advice on benefits, money, housing, energy, employment and family issues

Call: 0800 144 8848
Drop-in: Mon to Thurs, 9.30am to 12.30pm,
St Mary's Churchyard Watford WD17 2BE

www.cawatford.org.uk

What's On in Watford

Enjoy an exciting array of council-funded, vibrant, diverse, cultural experiences. Most of them are FREE!
watfordactually.com

Wat's On Easter Programme April | July and August | Various locations

Fun-filled holiday activities for ages 5-15, including stage school, sports, adventure play and arts and crafts.



Free Gym and Swim 30 March-10 April | 27 July-28 August | Watford Leisure Centres

Watford residents aged 19 and under can swim and use council gyms (Central and Woodside) for free during the school holidays.



Big Bandstand June to September | Cassiobury Park

Free live music every weekend (3pm-5pm), near the Tea Pavilion, from jazz and ukulele to classic brass bands.



Big Jiveswing Festival 26 July | Cassiobury Park

One of the UK's biggest free jazz festivals, with live music, dance classes and family activities.



Big Screen 3-9 August | Watford Town Centre 10-16 August | Woodside Playing Fields

Outdoor cinema nights showing classic favourites and new blockbuster films.



Big Beach 14 to 30 August | Town Centre

A pop-up sandy beach with summer games and activities for all ages.



Colourscape 22 to 31 August | Cassiobury Park

A magical maze of colour, light, music and performance to explore

