

# Your Guide to Council Tax in 2026/27

## What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is a local tax set by local councils to help pay for local services. All homes have to pay Council Tax - the amount you pay will depend on the valuation band your home has been placed in by the Valuation Office Agency.

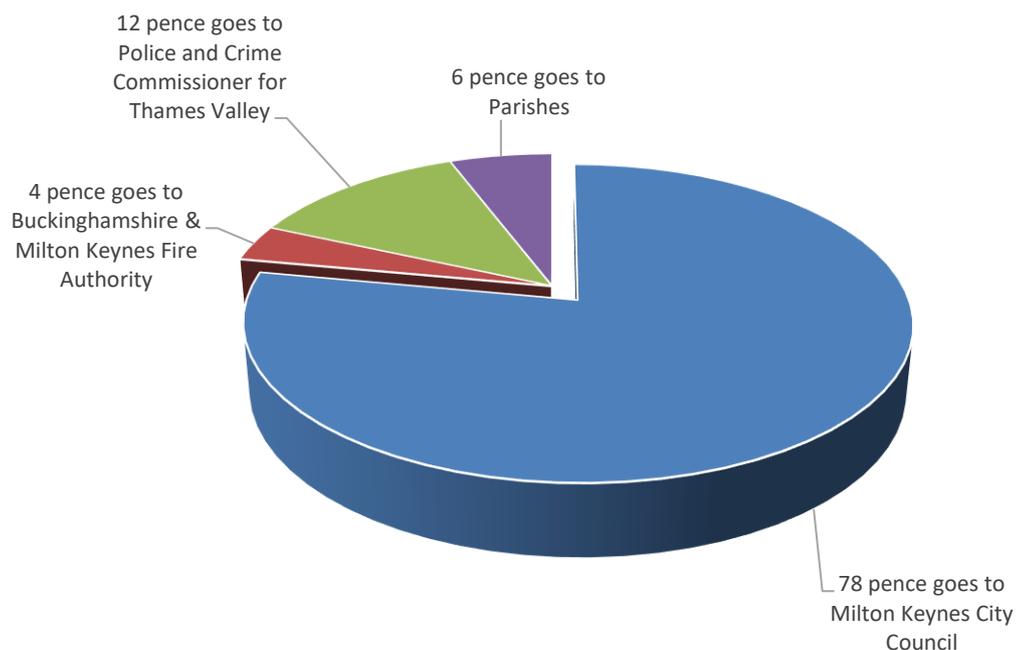
Details on how to pay your Council Tax are on our website, [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/council-tax/pay-council-tax](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/council-tax/pay-council-tax) and on the back of your bill.

## What does it pay for?

We collect your Council Tax and put it into a separate fund called the Collection Fund.

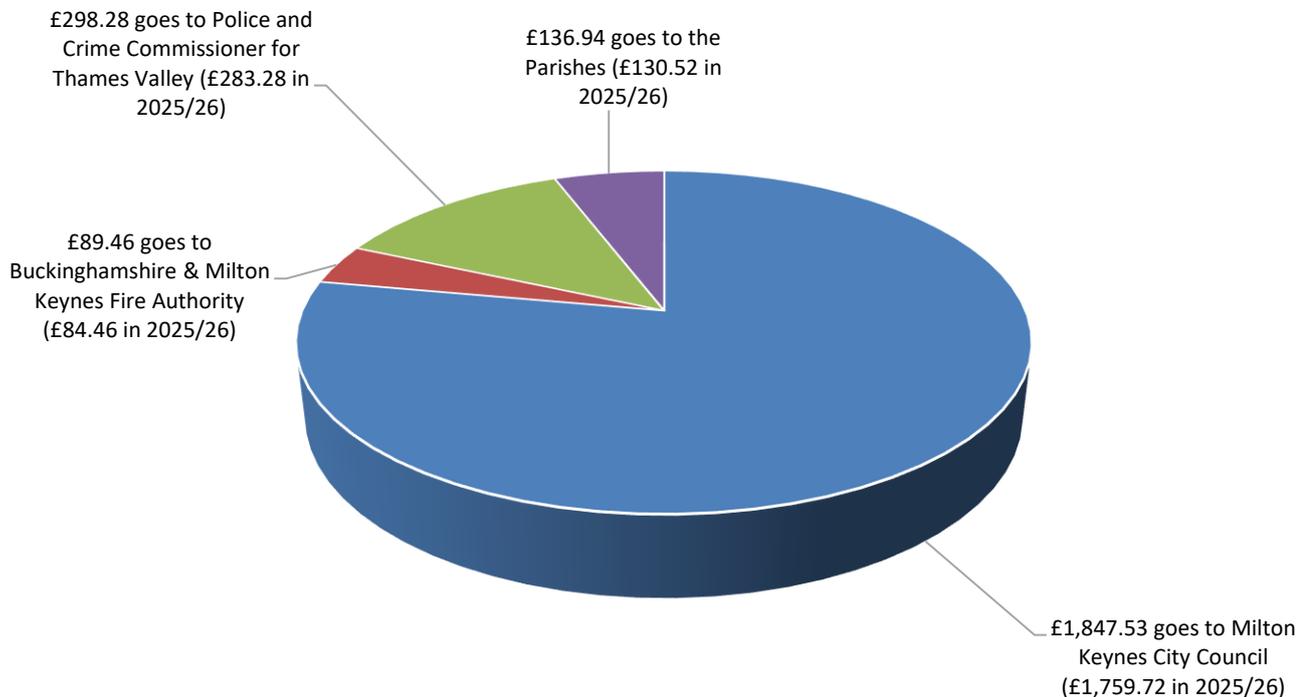
This year, we need to collect £241.555 million through Council Tax. Out of each Pound we collect, 78 pence will go to Milton Keynes City Council to pay for things such as education, social services, libraries, leisure services, refuse collection, street cleansing and parks and open spaces; 12 pence will go to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley ; 4 pence will go to Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority; and 6 pence will go to Parish and Town councils (on average).

## For every £1 we collect...



## For every average Band D Council Tax we collect

For every average Band D Council Tax we collect...



## How has the Council Tax charge changed this year?

Your Council Tax contributes to the funding of the following bodies; Milton Keynes City Council, your parish or town council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority. The amount of money each of these authorities require from Council Tax payers is known as a 'precept'.

Milton Keynes City Council has chosen to increase the precept it charges to fund its own expenditure requirement by 4.99%, 2.00% of which is an Adult Social Care levy. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority have increased their precept by £5 (an increase of 5.92%) and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley have increased their precept by £15 (an increase of 5.30%).

Your individual parish or town council will have set its precept based on local decisions; therefore this element of your Council Tax bill may have changed from last year depending upon the parish in which you live. A small number of parishes have chosen not to set any precept and therefore a charge will not appear on you bill if you live in one of these parishes.

## Council Tax calculation and precepts

The calculation of the Council Tax for each precepting authority is determined by dividing the net precept requirement by the Council Tax Base of **101,826.87**. The Council Tax base is worked out using the number of domestic properties in Milton Keynes and the discounts and exemptions they receive.

The calculations determines the Band D Council Tax Amount.

	Net Precept Requirement £'000	Council Tax Band D £
<b>Milton Keynes City Council</b>	188,128	1,847.53
<b>Buckinghamshire &amp; Milton Keynes Fire Authority</b>	9,109	89.46
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley</b>	30,373	298.28
	<b>277,611</b>	<b>2,235.27*</b>

\*Add to this figure the appropriate Parish amount shown in the below precept table (relevant figure in the *Parish Precept Band D Equivalent* column below). Note, 3 parishes have chosen not to set a precept and therefore this amount is £0.

The amount of Council Tax in each Band/Parish is shown in the following table.

2025/26 Parish Purposes	Area	2026/27 Parish Purposes	2026/27 Parish Precept Band D Equivalent	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
100,310	Abbey Hill (PC) [[Two Mile Ash WEF 1 April 26]	105,325	71.82	1,538.05	1,794.40	2,050.73	2,307.09	2,819.77	3,332.46	3,845.14	4,614.18
9,522	Astwood & Hardmead (PC)	9,451	66.12	1,534.25	1,789.98	2,045.67	2,301.39	2,812.80	3,324.23	3,835.64	4,602.78
1,326,614	Bletchley & Fenny Stratford (TC)	1,425,407	216.73	1,634.65	1,907.11	2,179.55	2,452.00	2,996.88	3,541.77	4,086.65	4,904.00
57,378	Bow Brickhill (PC)	58,985	179.21	1,609.64	1,877.93	2,146.20	2,414.48	2,951.02	3,487.58	4,024.12	4,828.96
219,415	Bradwell (PC)	231,794	79.72	1,543.31	1,800.55	2,057.76	2,314.99	2,829.42	3,343.87	3,858.30	4,629.98
424,390	Broughton & Milton Keynes (PC)	437,145	61.98	1,531.49	1,786.76	2,041.99	2,297.25	2,807.74	3,318.25	3,828.74	4,594.50
0	Calverton (PM)	0	0.00	1,490.17	1,738.55	1,986.90	2,235.27	2,731.99	3,228.72	3,725.44	4,470.54
939,755	Campbell Park (PC)	983,802	235.73	1,647.32	1,921.89	2,196.44	2,471.00	3,020.10	3,569.22	4,118.32	4,942.00
42,677	Castlethorpe (PC)	45,658	95.78	1,554.02	1,813.05	2,072.04	2,331.05	2,849.05	3,367.07	3,885.07	4,662.10
130,007	Central Milton Keynes (TC)	133,180	34.92	1,513.45	1,765.71	2,017.94	2,270.19	2,774.67	3,279.16	3,783.64	4,540.38
1,220	Chicheley (PM)	1,000	24.72	1,506.64	1,757.78	2,008.87	2,259.99	2,762.19	3,264.43	3,766.63	4,519.98
8,101	Clifton Reynes & Newton Blossomville (PC)	17,296	84.68	1,546.61	1,804.40	2,062.17	2,319.95	2,835.49	3,351.04	3,866.56	4,639.90
0	Cold Brayfield (PM)	0	0.00	1,490.17	1,738.55	1,986.90	2,235.27	2,731.99	3,228.72	3,725.44	4,470.54
20,000	Emberton (PC)	20,795	70.43	1,537.12	1,793.32	2,049.50	2,305.70	2,818.07	3,330.46	3,842.82	4,611.40
128,094	Fairfields (PC)	156,860	119.21	1,569.64	1,831.27	2,092.86	2,354.48	2,877.69	3,400.91	3,924.12	4,708.96
2,000	Gayhurst (PM)	2,000	24.80	1,506.70	1,757.84	2,008.95	2,260.07	2,762.31	3,264.55	3,766.77	4,520.14
768,961	Great Linford (PC)	844,544	131.52	1,577.85	1,840.84	2,103.81	2,366.79	2,892.73	3,418.69	3,944.64	4,733.58
128,194	Hanslope (PC)	140,343	102.78	1,558.69	1,818.49	2,078.26	2,338.05	2,857.61	3,377.18	3,896.74	4,676.10
31,593	Haversham & Little Linford (PC)	33,416	99.42	1,556.45	1,815.87	2,075.27	2,334.69	2,853.50	3,372.32	3,891.14	4,669.38
180,613	Kents Hill, Monkston & Brinklow (PC)	204,937	74.76	1,540.00	1,796.69	2,053.35	2,310.03	2,823.36	3,336.70	3,850.04	4,620.06
1,000	Lathbury (PM)	1,000	17.27	1,501.68	1,751.99	2,002.25	2,252.54	2,753.09	3,253.67	3,754.22	4,505.08
44,518	Lavendon (PC)	45,000	64.70	1,533.30	1,788.87	2,044.41	2,299.97	2,811.07	3,322.17	3,833.27	4,599.94
20,300	Little Brickhill (PC)	22,360	111.32	1,564.38	1,825.13	2,085.85	2,346.59	2,868.05	3,389.52	3,910.97	4,693.18
104,272	Loughton & Great Holm (PC)	109,485	47.66	1,521.94	1,775.62	2,029.26	2,282.93	2,790.23	3,297.55	3,804.87	4,565.86
8,760	Moulsoe (PC)	13,474	46.81	1,521.38	1,774.96	2,028.51	2,282.08	2,789.20	3,296.33	3,803.46	4,564.16
80,395	New Bradwell (PC)	80,395	85.50	1,547.17	1,805.05	2,062.90	2,320.77	2,836.49	3,352.22	3,867.94	4,641.54
1,238,930	Newport Pagnell (TC)	1,325,655	246.10	1,654.24	1,929.96	2,205.66	2,481.37	3,032.78	3,584.20	4,135.61	4,962.74
28,167	North Crawley (PC)	26,452	74.42	1,539.78	1,796.43	2,053.05	2,309.69	2,822.95	3,336.22	3,849.46	4,619.38
394,621	Olney (TC)	409,863	132.32	1,578.38	1,841.47	2,104.52	2,367.59	2,893.71	3,419.85	3,945.97	4,735.18
28,000	Old Woughton (PC)	17,000	39.72	1,516.65	1,769.44	2,022.20	2,274.99	2,780.53	3,286.09	3,791.64	4,549.98
11,250	Ravenstone (PC)	11,500	91.64	1,551.26	1,809.82	2,068.36	2,326.91	2,843.99	3,361.09	3,878.17	4,653.82
1,066,086	Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe (PC)	1,140,982	115.00	1,566.83	1,827.99	2,089.12	2,350.27	2,872.54	3,394.83	3,917.11	4,700.54
402,925	Shenley Church End (PC)	435,331	85.00	1,546.84	1,804.66	2,062.46	2,320.27	2,835.88	3,351.50	3,867.11	4,640.54
39,000	Sherington (PC)	46,800	99.47	1,556.48	1,815.91	2,075.32	2,334.74	2,853.57	3,372.40	3,891.22	4,669.48
47,000	Simpson & Ashland (PC)	42,000	68.20	1,535.64	1,791.59	2,047.52	2,303.47	2,815.35	3,327.23	3,839.11	4,606.94
506,849	Stantonbury (PC)	527,591	154.28	1,593.02	1,858.54	2,124.03	2,389.55	2,920.55	3,451.57	3,982.57	4,779.10
26,600	Stoke Goldington (PC)	28,000	101.56	1,557.88	1,817.54	2,077.18	2,336.83	2,856.12	3,375.42	3,894.71	4,673.66
305,464	Stony Stratford (TC)	318,561	119.56	1,569.87	1,831.54	2,093.18	2,354.83	2,878.11	3,401.42	3,924.70	4,709.66
1,800	Tyringham & Filgrave (PM)	1,860	16.67	1,501.28	1,751.51	2,001.71	2,251.94	2,752.36	3,252.79	3,753.22	4,503.88
494,205	Walton (PC)	475,000	107.89	1,562.09	1,822.46	2,082.80	2,343.16	2,863.85	3,384.56	3,905.25	4,686.32
0	Warrington (PM)	0	0.00	1,490.17	1,738.55	1,986.90	2,235.27	2,731.99	3,228.72	3,725.44	4,470.54

<b>2025/26 Parish Purposes</b>	<b>Area</b> <i>Key: PC/TC are Parish/Town Councils; PM are Parish Meetings</i>	<b>2026/27 Parish Purposes</b>	<b>2026/27 Parish Precept Band D Equivalent</b>	<b>Band A</b>	<b>Band B</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Band E</b>	<b>Band F</b>	<b>Band G</b>	<b>Band H</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
185,320	Wavendon (PC)	266,150	86.41	1,547.77	1,805.76	2,063.70	2,321.68	2,837.60	3,353.53	3,869.45	4,643.36
1,290,198	West Bletchley (PC)	1,354,708	189.98	1,616.82	1,886.31	2,155.77	2,425.25	2,964.19	3,503.14	4,042.07	4,850.50
11,860	Weston Underwood (PC)	12,360	94.44	1,553.13	1,812.00	2,070.85	2,329.71	2,847.42	3,365.13	3,882.84	4,659.42
209,150	Whitehouse (CC)	234,831	91.71	1,551.31	1,809.88	2,068.42	2,326.98	2,844.08	3,361.19	3,878.29	4,653.96
186,800	Woburn Sands (TC)	201,000	131.50	1,577.83	1,840.82	2,103.78	2,366.77	2,892.71	3,418.66	3,944.60	4,733.54
863,190	Wolverton & Greenleys (TC)	967,975	244.00	1,652.84	1,928.33	2,203.79	2,479.27	3,030.21	3,581.16	4,132.11	4,958.54
888,385	Woughton (PC)	977,319	368.15	1,735.60	2,024.89	2,314.14	2,603.42	3,181.95	3,760.49	4,339.02	5,206.84
	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT</b>			<b>1,581.47</b>	<b>1,845.05</b>	<b>2,108.63</b>	<b>2,372.21</b>	<b>2,899.37</b>	<b>3,426.53</b>	<b>3,953.68</b>	<b>4,744.42</b>
<b>13,003,889</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,944,589</b>									

## The Adult Social Care precept

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 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.

The government has now allowed Councils to increase their Council Tax by a further 2% in 2026/27. Milton Keynes City Council approved an increase of 2% on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The income generated from this charge is ring-fenced, meaning it can only be used for adult social care services.

## Percentage increases shown on your bill

The Council has increased its total share of Council Tax by 4.99% for 2026/27. This is split between the main element (2.99%) and the Adult Social Care Precept (2.0%).

The Government sets out how the percentage increases of both elements should be shown on Council Tax Bills and there has been a regulation change to the presentation of the adult social care precept on bills from 2025/26. The Regulations require billing authorities, with Adult Social Care responsibilities, to adjust the presentation of the council tax charge on the bills to show a single line for its total charge and annual increase, with one cash figure and one percentage figure. There will be no requirement to show separate information about the Adult Social Care precept. Therefore, there will be a single line for Milton Keynes City Council’s share showing a 4.99% increase.

## Property Band Variations

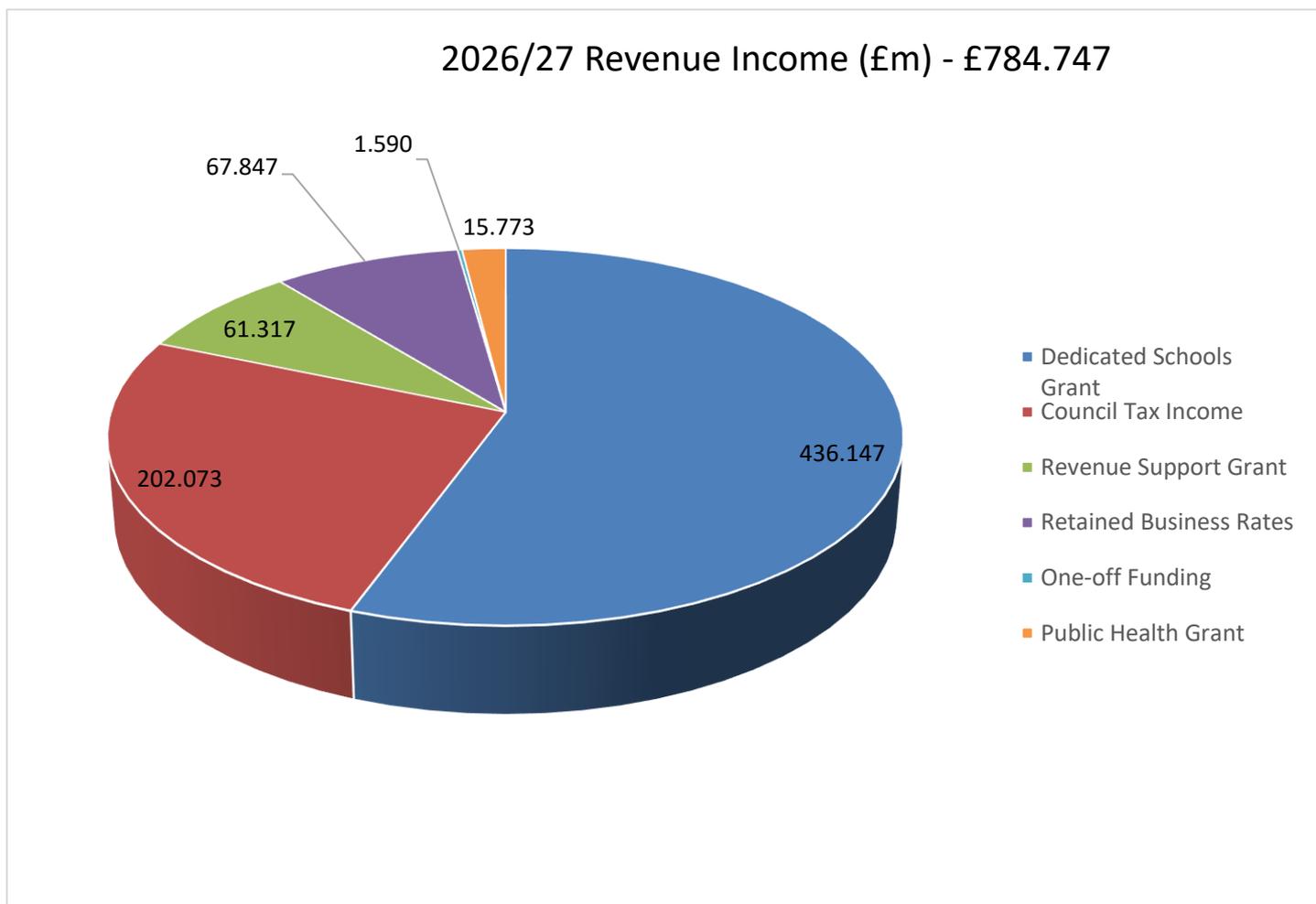
The table on pages 4 and 5 shows how much Council Tax you have to pay, depending on where you live and which valuation band your home is in. Parish and Town Councils need extra money to pay for things like community centres, footpaths and extra street lighting.

Please contact your parish council for further information.

## Funding the 2026/27 Budget

Council tax is only one part of the Council's income.

This chart shows how Milton Keynes City Council's expenditure is funded.



## Council Tax Requirement

Council Tax Income is broken down in the table below.

	2025/26	2026/27
	<b>Council Tax Requirement £m</b>	<b>Council Tax Requirement £m</b>
<b>Milton Keynes City Council</b>	175.329	188.128
<b>Parish Councils</b>	13.004	13.945
<b>Total Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>188.333</b>	<b>202.073</b>

## The Changes Explained

The changes in the Councils budget from 2025/26 to 2026/27 have been analysed below.

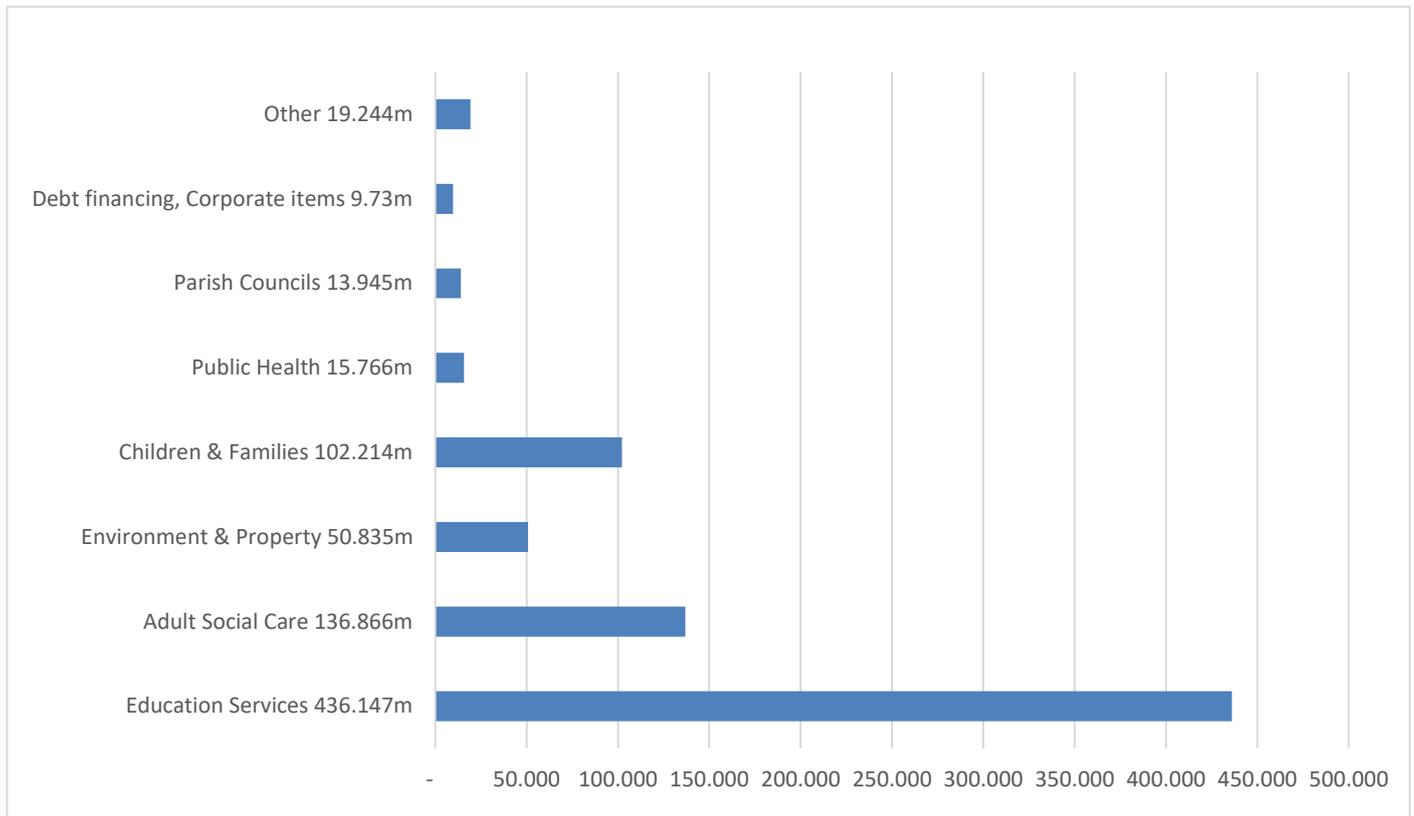
	£m
<b>Total Budget 2025/26</b>	<b>705.664</b>
<b>Total Budget 2026/27</b>	<b>784.747</b>
<b>Variation:</b>	
Inflationary Increases & Other Base Budget Changes	12.123
Demand Pressures	14.589
Other Pressures	6.940
Budget Reductions/Income Proposals	(8.861)
Increase in Use of One-off Funding	(0.030)
Increase in Grant-Funded Spend including Education & Social Care	53.381
Increase in Parish Costs	0.941
<b>Total Changes Explained</b>	<b>79.083</b>

## What we will spend it on

The Councils net 2026/27 budget is £784.747 million, which includes Dedicated Schools Grant funded expenditure of £436.147 million.

The Council provides more than 200 services for the people of Milton Keynes. The graph below shows the cost of the major services in 2026/27.

Milton Keynes City Council gross expenditure 2026/27 is estimated to be £1,033.639 million including schools.



Breakdown of Other Services	Amount (£m)
Customer and Community Services	7.088
Resources	6.942
Planning and Placemaking	2.478
Law & Governance	2.736
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.244</b>

## Parish Precepts Collected through your Council Tax Bill

In accordance with Government guidelines, your parish council precept is shown separately on the front of your bill. We are required to detail parish precepts exceeding £140,000. These are shown on the next table.

	2025/26	2026/27				
Parish Council	Total for own purposes	Gross Spend	Gross Income	Reserve movement	Total for own purposes	Band D charge
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Bletchley &amp; Fenny Stratford</b>	1,326,614	1,812,162	(386,755)	0	<b>1,425,406.84</b>	216.73
<b>Bradwell</b>	219,415	276,078	(44,284)	0	<b>231,794.00</b>	79.72
<b>Broughton and Milton Keynes</b>	424,390	600,126	(108,267)	(54,714)	<b>437,144.97</b>	61.98
<b>Campbell Park</b>	939,755	996,923	(13,121)	0	<b>983,802.00</b>	235.73
<b>Fairfields</b>	128,094	148,137	(3,650)	12,373	<b>156,860.00</b>	119.21
<b>Great Linford</b>	768,961	1,023,058	(175,317)	(3,197)	<b>844,543.52</b>	131.52
<b>Hanslope</b>	128,194	181,599	(25,456)	(15,800)	<b>140,343.00</b>	102.78
<b>Kents Hill</b>	180,613	331,771	(26,834)	(100,000)	<b>204,937.00</b>	74.76
<b>Newport Pagnell</b>	1,238,930	1,476,349	(153,040)	2,346	<b>1,325,655.00</b>	246.10
<b>Olney</b>	394,621	609,055	(199,192)	0	<b>409,863.00</b>	132.32
<b>Shenley Brook End &amp; Tattenhoe</b>	1,066,086	1,359,581	(186,532)	(32,067)	<b>1,140,982.00</b>	115.00
<b>Shenley Church End</b>	402,925	627,372	(144,328)	(47,713)	<b>435,331.00</b>	85.00
<b>Stantonbury</b>	506,849	688,661	(51,070)	(110,000)	<b>527,591.44</b>	154.28
<b>Stony Stratford</b>	305,464	433,224	(114,663)	0	<b>318,561.00</b>	119.56
<b>Walton</b>	494,205	755,125	(51,840)	(228,285)	<b>475,000.00</b>	107.89
<b>Wavendon</b>	185,320	355,770	(80,000)	(9,620)	<b>266,150.00</b>	86.41
<b>West Bletchley</b>	1,290,198	1,626,553	(249,589)	(22,256)	<b>1,354,708.00</b>	189.98
<b>Whitehouse</b>	209,150	395,407	(75,898)	(84,678)	<b>234,831.00</b>	91.71
<b>Woburn Sands</b>	186,800	339,798	(103,798)	(35,000)	<b>201,000.00</b>	131.50
<b>Wolverton &amp; Greenleys</b>	863,190	1,185,438	(217,463)	0	<b>967,974.71</b>	244.00
<b>Woughton</b>	888,385	1,370,005	(392,686)	0	<b>977,318.72</b>	368.15

For further commentary on individual parish or town councils budgets please contact them directly.

## Other Precepts collected through your Council Tax Bill

	2025/26		2026/27	
Precepting Body	Total Precept	Total Precept	Band D Charge	
	£m	£m	£	
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley	28.225	30.373	298.28	
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority	8.415	9.109	89.46	
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.640</b>	<b>39.482</b>	<b>387.74</b>	

Further financial information in respect of the Fire and Police Authorities is included in the leaflets provided by those bodies.

## Levies paid to other organisations by Milton Keynes City Council

	2025/26		2026/27	
Levying body	Levy	Gross expenditure	Levy	Budgeted Gross expenditure
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Environment Agency (Anglian Region) - Flood Defence	0.179	23.739*	0.1863	21.086
Buckingham & River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	0.419	1.245	0.474	1.328
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.598</b>	<b>24.984</b>	<b>0.657</b>	<b>22.414</b>

\*Amended from 2025/26 leaflet for actual gross expenditure.

**Flood Defence:** Changes in the Gross Budgeted Expenditure between the years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

**Drainage Board:** Gross budgeted expenditure reflects the continuation of the Board's strategic management programme of both Maintenance and Capital Works to improve the condition of watercourses, flood storage assets and flood defence structures, prioritised by level of risk.