

A GUIDE TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX BILL



Rotherham Council delivers a wide range of services across the Borough. This leaflet tells you how we spend the money raised and other important information.

*Based on a Council Tax Band A property for services provided by Rotherham Council.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/counciltax

Receipt:
Your Rotherham Council
services for 2025/26

- 2,500 adults supported to live safely in their homes
- Over 2,800 families helped by our Family Help services
- 37,000 streetlights kept in good repair
- 14 urban parks, 3 country parks, and 37 play areas maintained
- 42.68km of roads resurfaced
- 15 libraries
- 4 leisure centres
- 4 Household Waste Recycling Centres
- 155,272 bins collected every week
- 2,500 public litter bins maintained across the Borough
- And much more...

All for around
£3.42* per day*

FOREWORD

Over the past months, we've consulted extensively with people across Rotherham. We've listened carefully to your concerns and priorities, and those conversations have shaped our budget for the upcoming year. And under the new government Rotherham is benefiting from £14 million in additional funding – among the highest increases anywhere.

That's part of the reason why for the second year running we're delivering the lowest council tax increase anywhere in Yorkshire. In fact, over the last 6 years by keeping council tax below the government's limit we've saved Rotherham families more than £200 each.

Residents have told us that keeping communities safe is a top priority. So, one of our first steps is to launch our brand-new 'Street Safe Team'. The team will use local insights to address issues, tackle littering and dog fouling, and give residents a familiar, reassuring presence in their communities in our town centre and the principal towns of Dinnington, Maltby, Swinton, and Wath.

We're creating a new dedicated roadside cleaning team, adding again to our investments to improve the appearance of our communities, and directing more cash to improve our roads and pavements.

And we're making permanent our Employment Solutions team which will help more than 1,000 people back into work or training over the next three years.

Along with these new programmes, of course we're also keeping our commitments to improve Adults and Children's Social Care, which together require more than half of the Council's budget.

We're forging ahead, confident that with your continued input and support, we can continue to make our communities better places for all of us.



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council

YOUR COUNCIL TAX IN ACTION

Our aim: **Every neighbourhood thriving**

Ensuring every neighbourhood can thrive is at the heart of what we do.

Investing in our roads

We'll invest £8.4m in the next 12 months to resurface and improve the quality of our roads. An **extra £2 million** in government funding will further enhance roads and pavements, plus an additional **£100,000** to refresh road markings on main roads and estates – making our streets safer and more accessible for everyone.

Our teams keep essential systems working smoothly across the borough, including:

- **740 miles of roads.**
- **1,300 miles of footways, footpaths, and public rights of way.**
- **Street lighting, road markings, traffic management systems, drainage, and bridges.**

Libraries and Neighbourhood Hubs

Last year we opened the new **Swinton Library** and we'll keep investing in these spaces, providing you with a wide range of physical and digital books, magazines, and audiobooks on your doorstep.

Our teams will continue running heritage activities at Clifton Park Museum, Keppel's Column, Waterloo Kiln, and Catcliffe Glass Cone – ensuring our town's history is celebrated for generations to come.

Our Places Fund

After the success of the Towns and Villages Fund, we've committed **£4 million** to the **Our Places** fund. This will help improve public spaces and foster a strong sense of pride in local areas. We've already asked for your views so you can shape your community, and our teams are working hard to incorporate your ideas.

Improving Community Safety

Residents told us feeling safe is a top priority, so we've allocated £570,000 to launch a new Street Safe Team – a uniformed team for Rotherham town centre, Dinnington, Wath, Maltby, and Swinton.

Using local insights, the team will address issues on the ground and offer a reassuring presence. They'll focus on tackling littering and anti-social behaviour to help keep our communities clean and welcoming.





Our aim: **People are safe, healthy, and live well**

We want to help everyone in Rotherham live a safe and healthy life, which is why we're committed to providing support where and when it's needed. This year, **£126 million** has been allocated to our Adult Social Care services, allowing us to continue supporting over **3,700 adults** – including more than **2,500** residents who receive support in their own homes.

Adult Social Care: Our biggest investment

Adult Social Care remains our single largest area of expenditure, helping residents aged 18 and over with a variety of needs, from assistance to live independently to around-the-clock care. Whether it's for older adults or those of working age with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, neurodiversity, or mental health challenges, our dedicated teams stand ready to offer help and advice to you and your family.

A new chapter for Castle View

Part of our commitment to better support involves investing in **13 new accessible Council homes** alongside a brand new day centre at Canklow, designed for residents with complex needs who want to live independently. Construction started in October 2024, and we expect to finish by spring 2026.

Keeping council homes in good condition

For our Council Homes tenants, we're focused on cutting repair waiting times and maintaining high standards. In the last year alone, our partners and contractors have completed over **71,000 repairs** and **23,000 gas servicing visits** across **19,934 Council homes**.

Building more homes across Rotherham

Since 2018, we've built over **640** new Council homes for people in Rotherham, providing modern, good-quality, and affordable houses, bungalows, and flats across the borough. And we've increased investment to tackle homelessness, keep rough sleepers off our streets and to bring empty homes back into use.

Our aim: **Every child able to fulfil their potential**

We want every child in Rotherham to have the best possible start in life so they can fulfil their potential. Our dedicated teams work with children, young people, and families, tailoring support to meet everyone's needs.

Supporting Our most vulnerable children

For children living in the Council's care, we remain committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment where they can grow and thrive.

The Council has dedicated **£69.5 million** to protect and support our most vulnerable children and families. Between April and December 2024, our Family Help services supported 7,000 families through engagement sessions, providing advice, or one-to-one support.

And from this April, every newborn baby in Rotherham will be entitled to a baby pack of free essential items, so that no local child goes without.

SEND Services Rated Outstanding

Last year, independent inspectors from Ofsted and the CQC awarded our services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) the highest rating possible. We've increased investment in specialist and mainstream schools, creating more SEND places so children can learn closer to home. We've allocated **£2.5 million** to Newman School, boosting places for children aged 0 to 19 with special education needs from **160 to 195**. We will continue working with partners like Rotherham Parent Carers' Forum to ensure the highest quality of provision.

More spaces to play and grow

Alongside school and care services, we're also investing in upgrading play parks and play areas to reduce antisocial behaviour and support children's wellbeing, including in places like Thrybergh, Dinnington and Rother Valley.

After consulting with parents, carers, and families about the new Clifton Park Water Splash facility, we're now investing **£885,000** this year to enhance its features – providing a fun and welcoming space for everyone.





Our aim: **Expanding economic opportunity**

We're committed to building a strong, competitive economy in Rotherham – one where everyone has access to training and employment opportunities.

Growing opportunities in the town centre

Over the past year, our flagship **Forge Island** development has created new jobs for local people with the opening of the Travelodge and Arc Cinema. Even more opportunities will arrive in **Spring 2025** when new restaurants open. Meanwhile, work on **Rotherham Markets** and our new **Central Library** continues which will generate even more training and employment opportunities for residents.

Investment beyond the town centre

Outside the town centre, we're pressing ahead with two **£20 million** regeneration projects in Dinnington and at Wath Library where planning applications have now been submitted. In **Dinnington**, the project includes new commercial units, a landscaped town square, and better pedestrian access. Over at **Wath Library**, we'll create a state-of-the-art building with enhanced public spaces, improved car parking, and a prime commercial unit.

Supporting residents into work and training

Our teams have been working hard to connect people with training and job opportunities. Since launching in 2020, the Council's **Employment Solutions** team has supported over **1,250 residents** into work or training. We're now investing **£718,000** in this programme to secure it for the long-term, so more people can benefit.

For younger residents, the Children's Capital of Culture offers training and mentorship for **193 young artists**, **110 paid traineeships**, and **235 Arts Award qualifications** – all designed to help the next generation develop valuable skills for the future.

Our aim: **A cleaner, greener local environment**

Our local environment plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our community, and we're committed to keeping Rotherham clean and green.

Introducing a new Roadside Cleansing Team

After listening to your feedback, we're investing **£307,000** in a dedicated team for additional roadside cleansing. They'll focus on busy routes and key gateways, increasing maintenance and cleaning road signs – so our roads look their best all year round.

We know how important it is to keep neighbourhoods free from fly-tipping and other environmental crimes. Our approach includes:

- **Responding** quickly to fly-tipping reports
- **Preventing** future incidents through proactive measures
- **Enforcing** actions against those who break the law

We also maintain and empty **2,534 public litter bins** across the borough. Each week, we collect over **155,000 household waste bins**, and in the past year alone, **34,933 tonnes** of waste were recycled – diverting it away from landfill. We also operate four Household Waste Recycling Centres, which recycle an additional **12,675 tonnes** of waste a year.

Caring for green spaces

We're proud to maintain **14 urban parks**, **3 country parks**, and **37 playparks** across Rotherham. Over the next year, we're investing in significant regeneration projects at **Rother Valley Country Park** and **Thrybergh Country Parks**, bringing modern facilities to these much-loved sites.

Protecting our communities from flooding

We continue to invest in flood alleviation schemes in key areas. This includes **£6 million** for the **Catcliffe Village Flood Alleviation Scheme**, which will help reduce the risk of flooding from the River Rother.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

About your bill

The amount you pay in Council Tax is based on the band in which your property is classified.

Paying your bill

You can pay your Council Tax a number of ways, including:

- **One lump sum** (in April)
- **In two payments** (the first in April and the second in September)
- **Or, in weekly/fortnightly/monthly instalments.** If you are paying monthly, you have the choice of spreading your payments over 10 or 12 months for instalment plans that start in April. You can pay on the 6th, 13th, 20th or 27th of the month. However, if you wish to pay by 12 monthly instalments you must request this no later than the 9th April

If you have any outstanding balance from the previous year, the law does not allow us to include this within the instalments due for your new bill from April.

Any outstanding balance should be paid straight away, or a payment arrangement made by contacting us.

You still need to pay your Council Tax bill even if there are council-provided services that you don't use. If you do not pay your bill, the Council can take action to recover the money that is owed.

If you are not able to make a payment, then please contact the Council as soon as possible.

Moving house and empty properties

If you move house at any point during the year, then you should inform the Council as soon as possible. You may be able to get a refund on the council tax you have already paid or have it transferred to the bill for your new property if you are moving within the borough.

Council tax is still payable on an empty property. Full council tax is due on unoccupied properties, unless an exemption is applicable, see exempt dwelling section below. In addition, if a property has been unoccupied and unfurnished for one year, an additional 100 per cent premium is payable. If a property has been unoccupied and unfurnished for five years,

an additional 200 per cent premium is payable. If a property has been unoccupied and unfurnished for ten years or more, an additional 300 per cent premium is payable.

From 1st April 2025 there are a number of circumstances where a premium cannot be charged:

- Dwellings which are or would be someone's sole or main residence if they were not residing in job-related armed forces accommodation.
- Annexes forming part of, or being treated as part of, the main dwelling.
- Dwellings being actively marketed for sale (12 months limit).
- Dwellings being actively marketed for let (12 months limit).
- Unoccupied dwellings which fell within exempt Class F and where probate has recently been granted (12 months from grant of probate/ letters of administration).
- Empty dwellings requiring or undergoing major repairs or structural alterations (12 months limit).

If you have been charged a premium and you believe any of these exceptions apply, please contact the council tax team.

In addition to premiums on properties which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished, from 1st April 2025, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 gave local authorities the power to charge a premium on properties which are unoccupied and substantially furnished. For 2025/26 Rotherham have decided not to implement this premium, however, a premium for these properties will be implemented from 2026/27.

In accordance with S11B(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Rotherham Council will not apply the long-term empty premium to any class of dwelling prescribed by the Secretary of State as not subject to it. We are required by law to send a bill, even if the amount owed is zero.

Contacting the Council

If you have questions about your bill or need to update your details, visit the Council website at: **www.rotherham.gov.uk/counciltax**

You can access the Council website for free at your local library or neighbourhood hub.

COUNCIL TAX DEMAND NOTICE

EXPLANATORY NOTES

“**HOW THE TAX IS ARRIVED AT FOR BAND...**” shown on your bill, gives a percentage. The percentage (calculated to one decimal place) relates to the change in annual charge, for each element of the charge, compared to that of last year.

Council Tax Valuation Bands

Most dwellings are subject to Council Tax. There is one bill per dwelling, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette, mobile home or houseboat, and whether it is owned or rented.

Each dwelling has been allocated to one of eight bands according to its open market capital value at 1st April 1991.

Under the legislation, the billing authority, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, has to set a Council Tax for the financial year commencing 1st April 2025, for a Band D property (a Parish Precept may also be relevant along with the precepts for the Police & Crime Commission and Fire & Rescue Authority). Each other band charge is calculated as a ratio of a Band D Charge, as shown in the table below.

Valuation Band	Range of Values	Ratio of Payment to Band D Property
A	Up to and including £40,000	6:9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7:9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8:9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9:9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11:9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13:9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15:9
H	More than £320,000	18:9

Your Council Tax bill states which band applies to your dwelling.

Can I appeal against my property's valuation band?

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) values domestic properties for council tax. This valuation is used to set your council tax band. You might need to contact the VOA if you think your council tax band is wrong.

You can find out more about when you can challenge your band and what you need to do at www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band. If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay council tax at your current band until your appeal is decided.

You can contact the VOA at www.gov.uk/contact-voa. If you are unable to use the online service, you can also contact the VOA on 03000 501 501.

The grounds for appeal about banding are restricted to the following cases:

- where you believe that the banding should be changed because there has been a material increase or material reduction (this is explained below) in the dwelling's value
- where you start or stop using part of your dwelling to carry out a business, or the balance between domestic and business use changes
- where the Valuation Office Agency has altered a list without a proposal having been made by a taxpayer
- where you become the taxpayer in respect of a dwelling for the first time (your appeal must be made within six months, but if the same appeal has already been considered and determined by a Valuation Tribunal, it cannot be made again).

A material increase in value may result from building, engineering, or other work carried out on the dwelling. In these cases, revaluation does not take place until after a sale – so the person appealing would usually be the new owner or resident.

A material reduction in value may result from the demolition of any part of the dwelling, any change in the physical state of the local area or an adaptation to make the dwelling suitable for use by someone with a physical disability. In these cases, revaluation should take place as soon as possible.

Exempt dwellings – for which no Council Tax is payable for the period of exemption.

Dwellings owned by foreign diplomats, the Secretary of State for Defence and those working for certain international organisations.

OR

Occupied dwellings which are solely occupied:

- by students
- by a member of a visiting force and their family
- by a person or persons aged under 18
- by a person or persons who is or are severely mentally impaired
- by an elderly or disabled dependent relative in an annex.

OR

Vacant properties which:

- are left empty by someone who has moved in order to provide personal care to another person
- are waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted (and for up to six months after, unless there is a change of ownership)
- have been repossessed
- are the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee
- are empty because their occupation is forbidden by law
- are waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion
- are left empty by a student
- are annexed within the curtilage of an occupied dwelling
- are left empty by someone who has gone into prison, or who has moved to receive personal care in a hospital or a home or elsewhere
- are owned by a charity and immediately prior to becoming unoccupied have been utilised for charitable purposes (exempt up to six months)

If a dwelling consists of a pitch or a mooring which is not occupied by a caravan or, as the case may be, a boat, an exemption will apply.

If you think your property may be exempt, you should contact the Council Tax department on **01709 336007**.

Section 13A – Local Government Finance Act 1992

In certain, exceptional, circumstances the Local Authority may reduce the amount payable.

Appeals

You may appeal if you consider that you are not liable to pay Council Tax, for example, because you are not the resident or owner, or because your property is exempt; or that your billing authority has made a mistake in calculating your bill or your Council Tax Support. If you wish to appeal on these grounds you must do so in writing.

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of Council Tax owing in the meantime. If your appeal is successful, you will be entitled to a refund of any overpaid Council Tax.

Discounts

Discounts are available to Council Tax payers if they meet certain criteria. A Council Tax reduction of 25 per cent is available for adults who live alone in a dwelling (as their main home). Certain people will not be counted as adults resident in a dwelling if they are under the age of 18 or are:

- full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and Youth Training trainees
- a non British spouse, civil partner or dependent of a student
- patients resident in hospital
- people who are being looked after in care homes
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- people staying in certain hostels or night shelters
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at school / college
- 18 and 19 year olds for whom child benefit is in payment
- 18 and 19 year olds who leave school / college between 1st May and 31st October may be disregarded for this period
- care workers working for low pay, usually for charities
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not their spouse, partner or child under 18 years of age
- members of visiting forces and certain international institutions
- members of religious communities (monks and nuns)

- people in prison (except those in prison for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine)
- people who have immunity under either:
 - 1) The Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 or
 - 2) International Organisations Act 1968 or
 - 3) Commonwealth Secretariat Act 1996.

If you are liable for an Annexe you may qualify for a 50 per cent discount if you are:

- using the annexe as part of the main residence
- aged under 65 and a relative of the person who pays the Council Tax in the main house.

For more information on discounts and to make an application please visit:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/council-tax/apply-council-tax-discount/1

If your bill indicates that a discount has been allowed, you must tell us within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. If you fail to do so you may be required to pay a penalty.

People with disabilities

If you, or someone who lives with you, need a room, an extra bathroom or kitchen, or extra space in your property to meet special needs arising from a disability, you may be entitled to a reduced Council Tax bill. The bill may be reduced to that of a property in the band immediately below yours. If your home is in Band A your bill will be reduced by 1/9 of the Band D liability. These reductions ensure that disabled people do not pay more tax on account of space needed because of a disability.

Apply for disabled person's relief at:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/council-tax/apply-council-tax-discount/4

People on low incomes

You could be entitled to Council Tax Support if you are on a low income or in receipt of Income Support / Jobseekers Allowance / Pension Credit Guarantee Credit / Employment and Support Allowance / Universal Credit or other state benefits.

Get help to pay your Council Tax:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/council-tax/get-help-pay-council-tax/1

This Authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you provide for Council Tax purposes for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

Adult Social Care Precept 2025/26

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. 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.

The House of Commons has approved the Secretary of State’s renewal of the offer to social care authorities which are able to increase the Adult Social Care Precept by up to 2 per cent, for the financial year 2025/26.

In 2025/26 there is a 3.0 per cent increase in Council Tax, comprising a 1.0 per cent increase in the basic rate of Council Tax and a 2.0 per cent increase in the Adult Social Care Precept.

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

The Council Tax Guide is published on the Council’s website:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/counciltax

This provides details of how we work out your Council Tax and what your Council Tax pays for.

It also provides details of parish council precepts in the Borough. To request a paper copy free of charge contact Council Tax on 01709 336007.

For information about the statement of accounts and budget setting for the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority please visit: **www.rotherham.gov.uk/counciltax**

If you or someone you know needs help to understand or read this document, please ring 01709 336007.

FORGE ISLAND

A family friendly leisure destination
in the heart of Rotherham

NOW OPEN

Arc Cinema • Travelodge

COMING SOON

Vetro Lounge • Sygnature Dish



forgeisland.co.uk

#ForgingAhead

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

