

South Kesteven

A Guide To Your Council Tax

2024-2025



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

The Police and Crime Commissioner
for Lincolnshire

Contacting your authorities

We can provide the information in this booklet in Braille, large type or other languages if required. Please contact South Kesteven District Council at:


South Kesteven District Council

Council Offices, The Picture House, St Catherine's Road, Grantham, NG31 6TT


General enquiries:

 01476 40 60 80


Council Tax enquiries:

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/counciltaxportal


Business rates enquiries:

 ndr@southkesteven.gov.uk

Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support:

 benefits@southkesteven.gov.uk

Payment line: 0330 088 6753


 www.southkesteven.gov.uk

Customer Service offices

Grantham: Guildhall Arts Centre, St Peters Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ

Bourne: South Kesteven Community Point & Library, 3 Abbey Road, PE10 9EF

Please call or check website for opening times

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk

Enquiries

All enquiries regarding your Council Tax Bill should be made through the Council Tax Self Service Portal.

Please visit www.southkesteven.gov.uk/counciltaxportal where you will need to register for a Citizens Access account.

Once registered, you will be able to see:

- ✓ What your Annual charge is
- ✓ What payments you need to make
- ✓ What payments you have already made
- ✓ Details of other properties where you are/were liable for Council Tax


You will be able to carry out transactions such as:


- ✓ Register for E-Billing
- ✓ View your council tax bills & other notices
- ✓ Make a payment
- ✓ Set up or amend an existing direct debit
- ✓ Apply for or Cancel a Single Person Discount
- ✓ Tell us you have moved properties
- ✓ Contact us with a general enquiry about your account


Benefit Fraud

We take the prevention and detection of fraud very seriously. You will be committing fraud if you make a false statement, or knowingly fail to tell us about any changes to:

- ✓ Money held in bank accounts, savings and investments
- ✓ Income you receive
- ✓ People living in your household and their circumstances

It is essential that you tell us immediately if you have a change of circumstances by emailing  benefits@southkesteven.gov.uk


If you suspect fraud is being committed please telephone: Housing Benefit – National Benefit Fraud Hotline  **0800 854 4400**.

You can also report this online at:  www.gov.uk


Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner


Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Deepdale Lane, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2LT

 01522 94 71 92


 Lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.police.uk

Lincolnshire Police General Enquiries

 01522 212351 (your call may be recorded)

 **Emergencies:** 999 and ask for police


 **Minicom/textphone:** 18001101

 www.lincs.police.uk


Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL


General enquiries: 01522 55 22 22


 customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Minicom service: 01522 55 20 55

 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

If you would like any more information on the county council's budget for 2024/25

 finance@lincolnshire.gov.uk or visit

 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Your Council Tax explained

Where does your Council Tax go?

South Kesteven District Council collects the Council Tax. However, we keep less than one tenth of it. The rest is transferred to Lincolnshire County Council, the Police Authority and Parish and Town Councils, as detailed on pages 11 to 20.

What is Council Tax and who has to pay?

Council Tax is a tax based on the value of residents' homes. Council and police services are paid for by income from Government grants, Council Tax, fees and other charges.

Owner-occupiers and their partners usually have to pay the Council Tax bill. Where homes are rented, the tenants and their partners will have to pay. In the case of empty homes, it's normally the owner who has to pay.

The owners of these properties also have to pay:

- Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels, and
- Those occupied by a minister of religion or a religious community; more than one household or resident, staff or asylum seekers

Please contact us if you have been made the liable person, but you believe this is incorrect.

What are valuation bands - can you appeal?

The Valuation Office, an executive agency of HM Revenue and Customs, has given each property a valuation band, between A and H, according to its market value in April 1991. If your property was built after April 1991, it will be valued as if it had existed then.

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 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.

Band	Market value (at April 1991)
A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 - £52,000
C	£52,001 - £68,000
D	£68,001 - £88,000
E	£88,001 - £120,000
F	£120,001 - £160,000
G	£160,001 - £320,000
H	More than £320,000

Can I appeal against my property's valuation?

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) values all business properties for business rates. The valuation is based on information the VOA holds about your property. You can view and update this information at [gov.uk/voa/valuation](https://www.gov.uk/voa/valuation).

You can contact the VOA at [gov.uk/contact-voa](https://www.gov.uk/contact-voa). If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on **03000 501 501**

In common with all local authorities, South Kesteven District Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers. We are required to participate in data matching exercises, carried out by the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative, to prevent and detect fraud.

Council Tax discounts

You may be able to get a discount if no one lives in your property. The discount on furnished properties, which are no one's sole or main residence, is 10%. A discount of 100% will be awarded for one month on any unoccupied and unfurnished property, followed by a 25% discount for a further five months. After this a full 100% charge applies if it remains unoccupied and unfurnished.

If the property remains empty after two years, then a charge of 200% of the Council Tax will be payable on the two year anniversary date, if the property has been unoccupied for more than five years, then a charge of 300% of the Council Tax will be payable. If a property has been empty more than ten years, then a charge of 400% of Council Tax will be payable. If a property is unoccupied and requires major structural alterations or repairs, a discount of 25% will be awarded for up to 12 months.

You can get a 25% discount on your bill if there is only one person aged 18 or over living in your home. People under 18, or in one of the groups listed below, are NOT included when counting the number of people living in your home for Council Tax purposes:

- Most full-time students, student nurses and some apprentices
- The partner of a student or the dependant of a student who is not a British citizen and is not allowed to work in this country or claim benefits
- People who are long-term patients in hospital or who live in care homes
- People who are severely mentally impaired
- 18 and 19 year-olds still eligible for child benefit
- School and college leavers (from April to October if they are under 20 years-old)

- Low-paid care workers
 - Residents of homeless hostels or night shelters
 - Carers looking after someone who is not their partner and not a child of their own who is under 18 years-old
 - Members of religious communities
 - Members of visiting armed forces and international institutions
 - Diplomats
 - People who have been detained (except for those in prison for non-payment of fines or Council Tax)
- Please contact us if:
- You think you should be getting a discount
 - You are getting a discount and your circumstances have changed so that you should no longer get it

Council Tax exemptions

Generally, you don't have to pay Council Tax on the classes of property listed in the two sections that follow because they are exempt. Some classes do have time limits though and you may have to pay a charge after the exemption runs out. Please note that time limits run from when the circumstances of the exempt class first started to apply, and they don't restart if the property changes hands.

Classes of exempt EMPTY property:

- Class B** - owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months only)
- Class D** - the taxpayer has been detained (except for those in prison for non-payment of fines or Council

Tax)

Class E - the taxpayer has left the property to live in a care home

Class F - the taxpayer has died (exempt for up to six months after probate granted)

Class G - can't be lived in by law

Class H - held for a minister of religion

Class I - the taxpayer has gone to live elsewhere to receive personal care

Class J - the taxpayer has gone to live elsewhere to provide personal care

Class K - left empty by a student

Class L - the mortgagee has possession

Class Q - the taxpayer is trustee to a bankrupt

Class R - unused caravan pitch or boat mooring

Class T - unoccupied annexe to occupied property

Classes of exempt OCCUPIED property:

Class M - student halls of residence

Class N - all occupiers are students, school or college leavers or non-British dependants or partners of students

Class O - UK armed forces accommodation

Class P - visiting forces accommodation

Class S - all occupiers are under 18

Class U - all occupiers are severely mentally impaired

Class V - main residence of a person with diplomatic privilege or immunity

Class W - the annexe to a property occupied by a dependant relative

Penalties

You must notify us of a change in circumstances within 21 days. Failure to do so could result in a penalty of £70 being imposed.

People with disabilities

You can get your bill reduced by one valuation band if you have a second kitchen or bathroom/wet room; solely used by the disabled person, a special room adapted for the use of the disabled person, usually a sensory room for a disabled child; a sterile room for dialysis; a room filled with hospital equipment, bed, machinery, hoists etc.; or if the disabled person needs to use a wheelchair permanently, inside or outside the house, and the property has been adapted to allow this. Stairlifts, hand rails and ramps are not a qualifying criteria.

Claiming Council Tax Support

Don't pay more Council Tax than you need to. Council Tax Support can reduce your bill by as much as 100% if one of these applies:

- You have reached the qualifying age for state pension
- You are disabled, a carer, or a war pensioner
- Your savings and investments are valued below £16,000
- The income we have to take into account is low enough for you to qualify

Most working age claimants can only receive Council Tax Support up to 80% of their Council Tax bill.

Even if you own your own home and are working you may still be able to get this support.

And even if you don't qualify for any help in your own right, you may be able to get another type of reduction. This is where someone on a low income is living with you, who is over 18 and not your partner or paying rent to you. This is called Second Adult Rebate.

Help with your rent

If you rent your home and have a low income, you may be eligible to claim Universal Credit to help pay your rent. Please visit

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/Benefits-And-Support.

You can also visit

www.gov.uk/universal-credit which includes a benefits calculator to indicate whether you may qualify for assistance.

Alternatively, if you are in temporary or supported accommodation, a pensioner, or pay ground rent, the quickest way to make a claim is online at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/Turn2Us

How to claim Council Tax Support

The quickest way to claim Council Tax Support or Second Adult Rebate is online at

 <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/Counciltaxsupport>

Are you finding it hard to pay?

This booklet contains information about many discounts, exemptions, banding reductions and benefits that can help to reduce your bill. We can advise further on any of these schemes.

If you don't qualify or are already receiving some help, and are still finding it hard to pay, contact us as soon as possible to discuss your payments. Citizens Advice (CA) gives free impartial advice to people struggling with various debts.

The free CA Advice Line is:

 **0808 278 7996**

Texphone: 0800 144 8884

Monday - Friday (10.00-16.00)

 www.citizensadviceouthlincs.org.uk

The Council has the discretion to give Council Tax hardship discounts. These are given in cases of severe financial hardship. If you think this might apply to you, please contact us for more information on

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/DHP

Cost of Living help and support

To ensure that residents have access to all the information they need, SKDC is sharing facts and pointers on a wide range of help and support available that could benefit them, a relative, friend or neighbour.

Information can be found here on our website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk/costofliving

Our Cost of Living quick reference guide can be found on page 13.

Council Tax explained

Your Council Tax for 2024/25

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
COUNTY	£1,052.46	£1,227.87	£1,403.28	£1,578.69	£1,929.51	£2,280.33	£2,631.15	£3,157.38
POLICE	£202.80	£236.60	£270.40	£304.20	£371.80	£439.40	£507.00	£608.40
DISTRICT	£114.54	£133.63	£152.72	£171.81	£209.99	£248.17	£286.35	£343.62
TOTAL	£1,369.80	£1,598.10	£1,826.40	£2,054.70	£2,511.30	£2,967.90	£3,424.50	£4,109.40

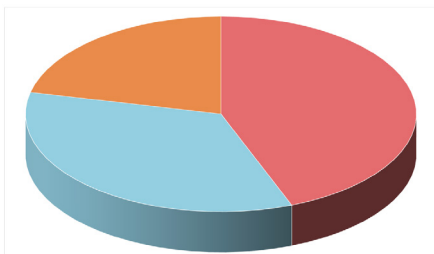
In addition to the above charges you may receive a charge for Parish/Town Council expenses and Special Expenses incurred in Grantham and Langtoft. Please see the back page of this leaflet for the additional charges.

The Council has taken the decision to increase its portion of the Council Tax including special expenses by £5.31.

This increase will contribute towards the funding of frontline services and enable investment in the delivery of the priorities.

The financial outlook remains very challenging and the Council is focused on continuing to drive out savings, deliver efficiencies and introduce new ways of working to reduce costs and generate new income streams.

Where the money comes from



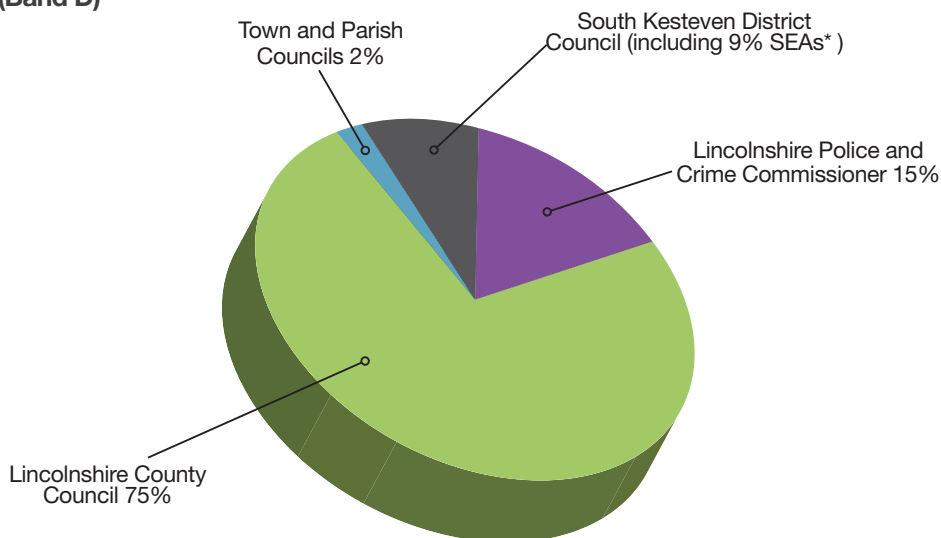
- Council Tax 44%
- Business Rates 35%
- Government Grants 21%

Total Council Tax budget requirement

2023/24		2024/25
Net Expenditure £ 000		Net Expenditure £ 000
10,882	District Council tax requirement	11,539
74,173	Lincolnshire County Council tax requirement	78,477
14,367	Police & Crime Commissioner Lincolnshire tax	15,122
99,422	Total cost met by Council Taxpayers	105,138
145,637	Population	147,093
682.67	Total cost per head	714.77

What does your Council Tax pay for?

Average Council Tax (Band D)



*SEAs Special Expense Areas are a mechanism to charge elements of Council Tax to a specific area




Town and Parish Precepts

Town or Parish	2024/25 Parish Precept	Band D equiv.	Town or Parish	2024/25 Parish Precept	Band D equiv.
Town and Parish Councils	£	£		£	£
Grantham	46,010	3.96	Harlaxton	20,840	59.94
Stamford	796,562	107.10	Heydour	7,500	48.33
Bourne	250,392	40.23	Honington	0	-
Market Deeping	267,734	114.03	Horbling	6,587	39.78
Allington	24,000	67.86	Hougham	4,100	48.51
Ancaster	30,471	51.48	Hough-on-the-Hill	8,526	48.69
Aslackby & Laughton	5,665	48.60	Ingoldsby	6,841	56.07
Barholm & Stowe	0	-	Irnham	2,000	18.99
Barkston & Syston	12,138	47.70	Kirkby Underwood	2,500	31.86
Barrowby	63,250	73.44	Langtoft	34,154	44.10
Baston	24,515	39.69	Lenton, Keisby & Osgodby	1,000	14.85
Belton & Manthorpe	2,675	12.87	Little Bytham	0	-
Billingsborough	17,750	35.91	Little Ponton & Stroxton	4,750	69.21
Bitchfield & Bassingthorpe	0	-	Londonthorpe & Harrowby Without	33,000	19.53
Boothby Pagnell	750	11.43	Long Bennington	54,000	54.27
Braceborough & Wilsthorpe	3,032	21.51	Marston	6,100	37.89
Burton Coggles	600	14.67	Morton & Hanthorpe	16,000	18.63
Careby, Aunby & Holywell	0	-	Old Somerby	3,760	41.49
Carby	10,490	48.96	Pickworth	3,250	39.60
Carlton Scroop & Normanton	9,000	70.11	Pointon & Sempringham	14,700	73.89
Castle Bytham	17,845	54.54	Rippingale	19,500	56.25
Caythorpe	36,091	68.49	Ropsley,Humby,Braceby & Sapperton	13,830	41.22
Claypole	24,314	46.98	Sedgebrook	13,090	86.67
Colsterworth, Gunby, Stainby & North Witham	41,687	54.99	Skillington	5,250	37.53
Corby Glen	17,000	39.78	South Witham	25,000	52.29
Counthorpe & Creeton	0	-	Stoke Rochford & Easton	5,500	74.79
Deeping St James	212,000	80.64	Stubton	1,540	19.35
Denton	6,000	49.95	Swayfield	3,500	22.95
Dowsby	2,250	41.94	Swinstead	3,363	41.13
Dunsby	800	15.39	Tallington	8,700	24.75
Edenham	3,060	25.56	Thurby	19,992	24.21
Fenton	1,000	16.83	Toft,Lound & Manthorpe	0	-
Folkingham	12,200	42.12	Uffington	4,800	15.39
Foston	13,400	59.85	Welby	1,650	20.34
Fulbeck	9,715	44.19	Westborough & Dry Doddington	2,700	18.45
Greatford	3,935	30.15	West Deeping	10,900	90.36
Great Gonerby	31,450	39.78	Witham -on-the-Hill	3,599	36.63
Great Ponton	12,124	94.68	Woolsthorpe	13,000	91.44
Haconby & Stainfield	1,810	9.09	Wyville-cum-Hungerton	400	19.26
Sub Total	2,011,715		Total	2,397,637	

Parish and Town Council Information


Bourne Town Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Bourne (1) or Bourne (2) Information regarding the Bourne Town Council precept is included on the Councils website.

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/council-tax/about-your-council-tax

Deeping St James Parish Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Deeping St James Information regarding the Deeping St James Parish Council precept is included on the Councils website.


 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/council-tax/about-your-council-tax

Grantham Parish Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Grantham (1), Grantham (2), Grantham (3), Grantham (4) Grantham Parish Council was formed on 1 April 2024.


Market Deeping Town Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Market Deeping Information regarding the Deeping St James Parish Council precept is included on the Councils website.

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/council-tax/about-your-council-tax

Stamford Town Council

This will be shown on your Council Tax Bill as Stamford (1), Stamford (2), Stamford (3) Information regarding the Deeping St James Parish Council precept is included on the Councils website.

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/council-tax/about-your-council-tax

Cost of Living - help for households

Are you in financial hardship? Are you just about managing? Has your income decreased or changed, and you are not sure what to do?

There are a number of schemes available for eligible residents struggling with cost of living challenges. There are also support groups and reliable experts you can contact to see what changes you can make to ease the burden of increased living costs. We realise some households will be struggling financially, so get in touch with us if you need support. On page 9, we list telephone numbers for those without online access or for those who can't easily navigate the internet. South Kesteven District Council is working with our partners to do all we can to give residents up-to-date information and support during what we know will be a difficult period for many. Visit www.southkesteven.gov.uk containing QR scan.

Health & wellbeing

- Support available from various voluntary sector providers including Here for You

Paying your rent, mortgage or council tax

- Check if you're eligible for SKDC's Council Tax Support Scheme
- Check if you're eligible for a payment from the Household Support Fund
- Use the calculator to see if you can get help to pay your rent
- Check if you can claim Support for Mortgage Interest

If you are married

- Check that you're claiming the Marriage Tax Allowance

If you care for someone

- Check if you're eligible to claim a Carer's Allowance

If you're unemployed or on a low income

- Apply for Jobseekers Allowance
- Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit

Maximising your income

- Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit
- If you're on the minimum wage, check you're getting the rate you're entitled to, and your tax code is correct

Dealing with debt

- Support available from various voluntary sector providers including StepChange and Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire

Your energy bills

- Energy Price Guarantee. The government is limiting how much energy companies can charge. This means a typical household on average usage would expect to pay around £2,500 per year and is in place until April 2023
- Energy Bill Discount of £400 for households with a gas or electric connection
- Check if you're eligible for support to pay your water/gas bill

Heating your home

- Check if you're eligible for a Warm Home Discount of £150
- 0% VAT on energy saving materials
- Check if you're eligible for a Help to Heat Energy Grant
- Check if you're eligible for the Energy Price Guarantee under the Boiler Upgrade Scheme

If you're a pensioner

- Pensioner Cost of Living Payment (Winter Fuel Payment)
- Winter Fuel Payment
- Check if you're eligible for Pension Credit
- Check if you're eligible for Housing Benefit
- Free TV Licence (over 75)
- Free bus pass (if over state pensionable age)

If you're living with a health condition or disability

- These vary according to individual circumstances but can include:
 - Universal Credit
 - Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment
 - Attendance Allowance
 - Discretionary Housing Payments
 - Check to see if you're eligible for Disability Cost of Living Payment

If you're entitled to benefits

- Cost of Living Payment (you claim certain means-tested benefits)
- Cad Weather Payment (only available in specific circumstances)
- Check if you can get any help with your energy bills
- Check if you're eligible for a Budgeting Loan
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Check if you're eligible for cheaper phone and broadband

If claiming Universal Credit

- Check if you can claim back costs of childcare
- Check if your child can get Free School Meals
- Access to free activities and food during school holidays if eligible for free school meals
- Check if you're eligible for Healthy Start Vouchers
- Check if you're eligible for the Sure Start Maternity Grant

Childcare costs

- 15 or 30 hours of free childcare per week for children aged 2, 3 and 4 (depending on eligibility)
- Claim Tax-Free Childcare

Cost of food

- Support available from voluntary sector providers, including Foodbanks in Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and Deepings; The Trussell Trust; Grantham Passage Day Centre, and Stamford Second Helpings



The Money Helper service is free, confidential and impartial: www.moneyhelper.org.uk
 Information and links for all your cost of living enquiries: www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/costofliving

Cost of living - Help for households

DEALING WITH DEBT

Support available from various voluntary sector providers

- 🔗 www.lpf1.nhs.uk/contact-us/
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/help-nhs-costs
- 🔗 [Wellbeing Lines:](http://www.welbeinglines.org/)
- 📞 0808 278 7996
- 📞 www.citizensadvice.org.uk/
- 📞 www.southlincs.org.uk/
- 📞 Service: 0800 138 777
- 🔗 www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en
- 📞 **Step Change:**
- 📞 0800 138 1111
- 🔗 www.stepchange.org/setting-expectations.aspx

MAXIMISING YOUR INCOME

Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit

- 📞 0800 328 8644
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-to-claim
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/claim
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/claim-getting-minimum-wage

IF YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED OR ON A LOW INCOME

Apply for New Style Jobseekers Allowance

- 🔗 www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/eligibility-for-universal-credit
- 📞 0800 1448444
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/universal-credit/how-to-claim

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Support available from various voluntary sector providers

- 🔗 [Connect to support:](http://www.connecttosupport.org/)
- 🔗 [lincslnshre.connecttosupport.org/](http://www.lincslnshre.connecttosupport.org/)
- 📞 **Mencap:**
- 🔗 www.mencap.org.uk/help-with-food-energy-and-money

NHS Lincolnshire Partnership:

🔗 www.lpf1.nhs.uk/contact-us/

Need help now

NHS Prescriptions and health costs:

- 🔗 www.gov.uk/help-nhs-costs
- 🔗 [Wellbeing Lines:](http://www.welbeinglines.org/)
- 📞 01522 782140
- 🔗 www.welbeinglines.org/

IF YOU CARE FOR SOMEONE

Check if you're eligible to claim a carer's allowance

- 🔗 www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

IF YOU'RE MARRIED

Check that you're claiming the Marriage Tax Allowance

- 🔗 www.gov.uk/marriage-allowance

PAYING YOUR RENT, MORTGAGE OR COUNCIL TAX

Check to see if you're eligible for SKDC's Council Tax Support Scheme

- 🔗 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/benefit-and-support/
- 🔗 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/apply-for-a-payment-from-the-household-support-fund
- 🔗 www.householdsupportfund.co.uk/

Use a benefits calculator to see if you can get help to pay your rent

- 🔗 www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legals/benefits-entitlements/benefits-calculator/
- 🔗 www.betteroffcalculator.co.uk/login
- 🔗 [Citizens Advice: introduction/what-benefits-can-i-get/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/benefits-introduction/what-benefits-can-i-get/)

🔗 www.enthlieto.co.uk/

Turn2Us:

🔗 www.turn2us.org.uk/

Check if you can claim Support for Mortgage Interest

🔗 www.gov.uk/support-for-mortgage-interest

CHILD CARE COSTS

15 or 30 hours of free childcare per week for children aged 2,3 and 4 (dependent on eligibility)

- 🔗 www.lincslnshre.gov.uk/early-years-education/help-childcare-costs
- 🔗 www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/free-childcare
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Child Benefit:

- 📞 0300 200 3100
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/child-benefit

IF CLAIMING UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Check if your child can get Free School Meals

- 📞 01522 782030

🔗 www.lincslnshre.gov.uk/school-pupil-support/apply-free-school-meals

Access to free activities and food during school holidays is eligible for

- 🔗 www.lincslnshre.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food-programme
- 🔗 www.healthystartnhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers
- 📞 0300 330 7010
- 🔗 www.healthystartnhs.uk/
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant

IF YOU'RE ENTITLED TO BENEFITS

Cost of Living Payment (if you claim certain means tested benefits)

Guidance on getting an extra payment to help with the cost of

living if you're entitled to certain benefits or tax credits

- 🔗 www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment

Cold Weather Payment:

only available in specific circumstances

- 🔗 www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/eligibility

Check to see if you can get any help with savings

Help to Save is a type of savings account. It allows certain people entitled to Working Tax Credit or receiving Universal Credit to get a bonus of 50p for every £1 they save over 4 years.

🔗 www.gov.uk/get-help-savings-low-income

Check to see if you're eligible for a **Budgeting Loan**.

🔗 www.gov.uk/budgeting-help-benefits

Discretionary Housing Payments: Go to "Council tax and benefits"

🔗 www.southkesteven.gov.uk/go-to-council-tax-and-benefits

🔗 www.gov.uk/discretionary-housing-payments

Check to see if you're eligible for **Compare the market:**

🔗 www.comparethemarket.com/broadband/packages/

🔗 www.moneysupermarket.com/broadband-and-phone/

🔗 www.uswitch.com/broadband/broadband-and-home-phone/

IF YOU'RE LIVING WITH HEALTH CONDITION OR DISABILITY

These vary according to an individual's circumstances

📞 0800 731 0122

🔗 www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance

Disability Cost of Living Payment - £150:

🔗 www.gov.uk/government/news/150-disability-cost-of-living-payments-begin-this-month

Employment and Support Allowance:

- 📞 0800 055 6688
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance
- 📞 0800 917 2222
- 🔗 www.gov.uk/psp

IF YOU'RE A PENSIONER

A Pensioner Cost of Living Payment An extra £300

🔗 www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#pensioner-cost-of-living-payment

Winter Fuel Payment: The full amount of Winter Fuel Payment you will get for winter 2022 to 2023 depends on your circumstances

🔗 www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#pensioner-cost-of-living-payment

Pension Credit:

📞 0800 731 0469

Free TV Licence: (Over 75's)

🔗 www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-when-you-need-one-for-your-home-aged-74-and-over-aud3

Free Bus Pass: (if over state pensionable age)

🔗 www.gov.uk/apply-for-elderly-person-bus-pass

Entitled To:

🔗 www.gov.uk/housing-benefit

Go to "Council tax and benefits"

The Warm Home Discount Scheme for Winter 2022 to 2023 will open in November 2022.

- 🔗 www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

0% VAT on energy saving materials

How to account for VAT if you're a contractor or subcontractor installing energy-saving materials and grant-funded heating equipment

🔗 www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-on-energy-saving-materials-and-heating-equipment-notice-7086

Check to see if you are eligible for a **Find to Heat Energy Grant**

🔗 www.gov.uk/government/collections/find-energy-to-heat-for-you-home-help-to-heat

Boiler Upgrade Scheme The government is providing grants to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS).

These grants can help property owners overcome the upfront cost of low carbon heating technologies.

🔗 www.gov.uk/eligibility-for-the-boiler-upgrade-scheme-from-april-2022

Energy Bill Discount of £400 to all households with a domestic electricity connection

Households will see a discount of £66 applied to their energy bills in October and November, rising to £67 each month from December through to March 2023

🔗 www.gov.uk/government/news/400-energy-bills-households-to-support

Check to see if you're eligible for support to pay your **water/gas** bill

You can have some of your bills (including rent, services charges, fuel or water bills) paid directly out of your benefits payments if you're having difficulties

🔗 www.gov.uk/bills-benefits

HEATING YOUR HOME

Check to see if you're eligible for a **Warm Home Discount** of £150

Investing in our communities

Lincolnshire County Council

Investing in our communities despite financial challenges

This year the council will spend around £650m on a wide range of vital services, including £206m for adult care and community wellbeing, £114m for children's services and around £25m for the fire service.

Following additional, one-off funding from the government, the authority recently announced a further £7.8m of investment in a number of priority areas, including £3.3m to better prepare and protect communities from flooding.

There's also £2.5m for additional highways maintenance, £1m for reducing anti-social behaviour and £1m for environment-related work.

The council faces £68m in additional cost pressures from rising prices and increased demand for services, such as adult care, child protection and school transport. This includes around £6m to fund an increase in the national living wage.

The authority has managed to find around £16m in savings. Although the extra one-off funding from the government has helped to balance the budget for 2024/25, the council still faces a projected funding shortfall over the next few years.

The council will continue to push government for long-term solutions to fairer funding, the resetting of business rates and the sustainability of adult care. It will also continue to work towards a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire, giving local areas more control over funding.

You can find full details on this year's budget on the council's website at

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/budget

Council tax

The authority's funding comes from a combination of council tax, business rates and government grants.

In light of increasing costs and demand for services, the council will increase its share of the council tax by 4.99% this year.

The increase is shown on your bill and will generate an extra £18.1m for the council. For a property in council tax band A, the increase would be the equivalent of an extra 96p per week.

Lincolnshire is still expected to have one of the lowest council tax rates of all 26 English shire counties.



Changes in budget requirement

Lincolnshire County Council

Reasons for change in budget requirement and effect on council tax		£m
Budget requirement 2023/24		604.3
Changes to gross expenditure	Children's Social Care pressures	13.3
	Adult Social Care pressures	32.7
	Highways Contract cost increases	3.0
	Transport pressures	3.2
	Pay Award inflation	8.8
	Other pressures	6.8
Changes to gross income	Waste Management savings	-1.6
	Energy savings	-4.5
	Other Service savings and increased income	-9.9
	Increase in Service grants	-10.3
Total change in services		41.5
Decrease in use of reserves		8.3
Budget requirement 2024/25		654.1
Changes to funding	Increase in business rates funding	-11.3
	Increase in government grants	-15.8
	Increase in council tax	-22.7
Total change in funding		-49.9
Council tax increase of 2.0% (Adult social care precept) to support adult social care pressures		
Council tax increase of 3.0% (general) to support other service net pressures		
Total council tax increase of 5.0% (4.99%)		

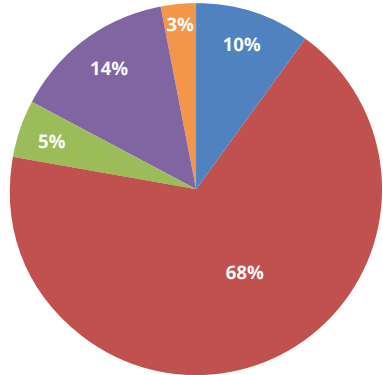
Note: The use of a minus (-) in front of a figure shows that either additional income will be received or that reserves will be used to support our spending.

Capital investment & net budget spend 2024/25

Lincolnshire County Council

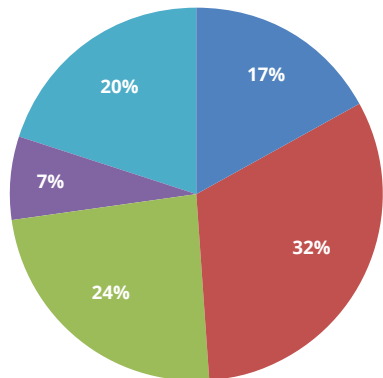
2024/25 Capital Investment £145m

- Children's Services - £13.93m, 10%
- Place - £98.70m, 68%
- Fire and Rescue - £7.68m, 5%
- Resources & Corporate - £19.97m, 14%
- New Developments - £4.43m, 3%



2024/25 Net Budget Spend £654m

- Children's Services - £113.7m, 17%
- Adult Care and Community Wellbeing - £205.6m, 32%
- Place - £159.7m, 24%
- Capital Financing Charges - £43.2m, 7%
- Other Services - £132m, 20%



Children's Services includes: Children's Social Care and Children's Education.

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing Includes: Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions, Adult Specialities, Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Public Protection.

Place includes: Communities, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Growth and Highways.

Other Services includes: Fire and Rescue, Resources, Corporate Services, Other Budgets.

Our share of the council tax

Lincolnshire County Council

The table below shows the amount you pay towards Lincolnshire County Council's services. (This does not include the amounts you pay for district councils, parish councils or the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire).

	Amount 2023/2024	Amount 2024/2025
Band A	£1,002.42	£1,052.46
Band B	£1,169.49	£1,227.87
Band C	£1,336.56	£1,403.28
Band D	£1,503.63	£1,578.69
Band E	£1,837.77	£1,929.51
Band F	£2,171.91	£2,280.33
Band G	£2,506.05	£2,631.15
Band H	£3,007.26	£3,157.38

Flood defence

The Environment Agency is responsible for protecting people and property against flooding from sea and rivers. The majority of its funding comes from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), but Lincolnshire County Council is also making a contribution of £0.687m for 2024/25 (£0.670m for 2023/24).

Funding and spending in 2024/25

Lincolnshire County Council

Services	Gross £m	Income £m	Net £m	Cost per Resident £
Children's Services	974.8	861.1	113.7	144.4
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	396.6	191.0	205.6	261.2
Place	203.5	43.8	159.7	202.8
Capital Projects Charges	43.4	0.3	43.1	54.7
Other Services	161.9	29.9	132.0	167.7
Total planned spending	1,780.1	1,126.0	654.1	830.8
Contributions to/-from reserves	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
Budget requirement	1,780.1	1,126.0	654.1	830.8
Resourced by:				
Business Rates Local Retention			152.7	
Revenue Support Grant			26.4	
Other Grants			86.8	
County Precept			388.3	
Total Funding			654.1	

Children's Services includes: Children's Social Care and Children's Education.

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing includes: Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions, Adult Specialties, Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Public Protection.

Place includes: Communities (which includes Cultural Services, Waste Management, Environment and Flood Management, Transport (including Home to School/College), Sustainable Planning), Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Growth and Highways.

Other Services includes: Fire and Rescue, Resources, Corporate Services, Other Budgets.

Funding and spending in 2023/24

Lincolnshire County Council

Services	Gross £m	Income £m	Net £m	Cost per Resident £
Children's Services	878.9	781.5	97.4	126.6
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	363.7	185.9	177.8	231.0
Place	183.0	39.7	143.3	186.2
Capital Projects Charges	43.4	0.3	43.1	56.0
Other Services	178.7	28.3	150.4	195.5
Total planned spending	1,647.6	1,035.7	612.0	795.2
Contributions to/-from reserves	-7.5	0.0	-7.5	N/A
Budget requirement	1,640.1	1,035.7	604.4	795.2
Resourced by:				
Business Rates Local Retention			141.4	
Revenue Support Grant			23.4	
Other Grants			74.0	
County Precept			365.6	
Total Funding			604.4	

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 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 offer has been extended to cover the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Your police Council Tax explained 2024



**Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**
SAFER TOGETHER

How your council tax will be spent on fighting crime and keeping communities safe



Police and Crime Commissioner Marc Jones and Chief Constable Paul Gibson explain how the extra council tax raised this year will be invested in front line policing to keep you and your community safe.

This extra money will be dedicated to:

- Maximising the number of police officers in the Force
- New approach to preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour to improve safety for all residents
- Explore and exploit emerging technologies such as facial recognition to identify and apprehend criminals faster than ever before
- Expand the successful Roads Policing “Operation Stronghold” – denying criminals use of the roads and keeping our communities even safer
- Develop and use targeted approaches and teams to tackle issues such as summertime demand, rural crime, burglary and retail crime
- Introduce rapid video technology – speeding up engagement with victims of crime, getting them the help they need even faster
- Transform availability and quality of crime prevention advice and guidance to help keep communities safe from crime
- Build on crime reduction results in local neighbourhoods, developing new ways to target organised criminality and drug supply in our communities



Great strides have been made in Lincolnshire to create a police force to be proud of; one that prevents and tackles crime and continues to evolve to meet new crime types and challenges to keep us all safe. A debt of gratitude is owed to county tax payers for supporting that development.

Without the financial backing of residents, prudent financial planning and investment in innovation and new technology we would not have the effective and efficient police force of today.

Last year that support meant the PCC funded the maximising of officer numbers, additional 999/101 call handlers, more specialists to tackle the worst of crimes and invest in a new deployment model, so more officers are available when they are needed most to tackle and reduce crime.

However, we must do more to protect and serve our communities.

The PCC has appointed a new Chief Constable, Paul Gibson, who is eager to build on current successes and make Lincolnshire communities even safer.

For next year the planned budget for the Chief Constable will be £160m – up from £146m the previous year.

The PCC and the Chief Constable both recognise the financial challenges ahead and are experienced in meeting them. They are committed to managing the Lincolnshire Police finances effectively and efficiently.

Government has committed to changing the national funding method for policing but it is unclear when any changes would take place.

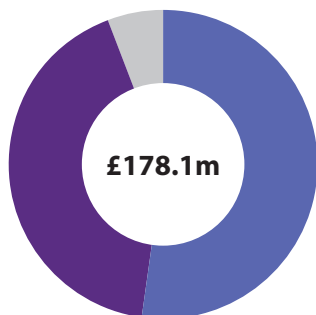
Any changes that are delivered would be phased over a number of years leaving the tough financial challenges still to be met and managed locally.

However, Lincolnshire has a history of meeting challenges head on with determination and innovation and the dedication to keeping the county's communities safe will continue.



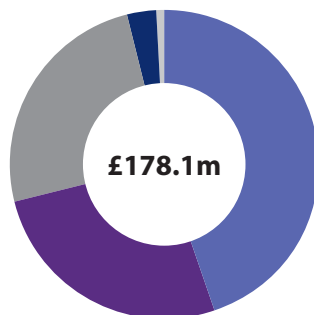
What money do we receive and how is it spent?

INCOME



- Government grants** £93.1m (52.3%)
- Council tax** £74.8m (42%)
- Contribution from reserves and other income** £10.2m (5.7%)

EXPENDITURE



- Police officers** £80m (44.9%)
- Police staff and PCSOs** £46.8m (26.3%)
- Other costs*** £44.6m (25%)
- Capital financing** £5.3m (3%)
- Office of the PCC** £1.4m (0.8%)

**including custody, fleet, premises and regional collaboration*

Property band	Cost last year (£)	Increase this year (£)	Cost this year (£)	Cost per week this year (£)	Increase per week (pence)
A	194.16	8.64	202.80	3.90	17
B	226.52	10.08	236.60	4.55	19
C	258.88	11.52	270.40	5.20	22
D	291.24	12.96	304.20	5.85	25
E	355.96	15.84	371.80	7.15	30
F	420.68	18.72	439.40	8.45	36
G	485.40	21.60	507.00	9.75	42
H	582.48	25.92	608.40	11.70	50

01522 212351

lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.police.uk

www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk



Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER
SAFER TOGETHER