Improving People's Lives

Your Local Council Tax Guide 2021 - 2022











Message from the Leader

Welcome to this year's guide to your local council's spending. This explains how we work out your Council Tax and how your money is spent.

It outlines Bath & North East Somerset Council's spending plans together with the charges for town and parish councils, the police and fire services and includes the Environment Agency's levy for flood protection.

This year the council faces a significant financial challenge due to the impacts of coronavirus and the continued loss of income from heritage and parking services and our commercial estate. We've had to make some difficult decisions, but I'm proud to say that we are continuing to invest in the future of our communities and our planet.



Your Council Tax will enable us to improve people's lives by tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency, improving local transport and helping the local economy recover. We will invest to create cleaner, greener communities with the introduction of liveable neighbourhoods and active travel schemes and support retail through the renewal of our high streets. We will fund renewable energy projects, tackle inequalities and respond to the increased demand for adult and children's services.

We didn't want to raise Council Tax, but we've had to do so to protect frontline services, especially for our most vulnerable, and keep the council's finances in balance. This year your Council Tax has risen by 1.99% and the adult social care portion of your bill has also risen by 3%. This represents a total increase of $\pounds72.69$ for a Band D property.

Over the past year we've made huge strides in ensuring you get a bigger say in what the council does and how your council tax money is spent. Hundreds of people have helped shape our plans by taking part in our online consultations and regular webinars. You'll find detailed information on how to get involved in this leaflet. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dine nome

Councillor Dine Romero, Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council

To improve people's lives our focus this year is to prepare for the future and stimulate recovery

Additional investment includes:

£13m + to improve transport - including

- the introduction of Liveable Neighbourhoods
- road maintenance
- improvements to traffic management and road safety
- repairs to Cleveland Bridge
- investment in footpaths and cycleways and active travel schemes



£9m + to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency - including:

- funding for renewable energy projects
- retrofitting the council's own energy plant
- support for Bath's River Line project
- installation of an energy capture scheme at the Roman Baths
- introduction of CO2 permit charging for residents' parking zones

£3.6m + to help the local economy recover - including:

- investment in our high streets
- support for businesses and individuals to upskill
- improvements to our commercial estate
- continued investment in Bath Quays and Bath Riverside
- development of a delivery plan to regenerate Twerton





What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is a property tax levy by local councils. It pays for local services provided by the council including education, highways, social care, public health, libraries, schools, recycling and waste collections, street lights and much more. The money you pay also funds the police and fire and rescue service and supports the work of parish and town councils.

Who pays Council Tax?

You'll usually have to pay Council Tax if you're 18 or over and own or rent a home. A full Council Tax bill is based on at least two adults living in a home. Spouses and partners who live together are jointly responsible for paying the bill.

How much will I pay?

Council Tax is charged on the household. The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on which property band your house is in and whether you are entitled to an exemption or discount.

Long-term empty properties

To encourage the owners of long-term empty properties to bring them back into use the council charges an additional levy for these properties. If a property has been empty and unfurnished for between two and five years the owner is charged an extra 100% Council Tax on top of the normal 100% Council Tax. Owners of homes that have been empty and unfurnished for five years or more, pay an additional 200% on top of their normal 100% Council Tax charge. As of 1 April 2021, the council is introducing an additional empty property levy. Owners of homes that have been empty and unfurnished for ten years or more, will pay an additional 300% on top of their normal 100% Council Tax charge.

Council Tax discounts

Your Council Tax bill is based on two or more adults living in a property. If you are the only adult living in your home, your bill may be reduced by 25%.

A discount may also apply if someone who lives with you is:

- a full-time student
- in prison
- a person who is severely mentally impaired
- a care leaver aged between 18 and 25
- a care worker, depending on certain conditions
- an 18-19 year old school leaver
- a religious community member
- a member of visiting armed forces

Foster carers & care leavers

If you are a foster carer, resident in B&NES and employed by Bath & North East Somerset Council, you may be entitled to a reduction. If you are a care leaver aged 18-25 you may be entitled to a reduction.

Family annexes

If you have an annexe which is lived in by a family member, you may be entitled to 50% discount for that annexe. The discount does not apply if a non-family member occupies the annexe.

Exemptions

Some properties are classed as exempt which means you will not have to pay any Council Tax. For example, properties occupied wholly by students or a property left empty following the death of a resident.

Reductions for people with disabilities

If you, or someone who lives with you needs extra space in your property to meet the special needs arising from a disability you might qualify for a reduction.

On a low income?

If you're on a low income, you might be entitled to some help towards paying your Council Tax. To apply, you'll need to give us information about your income and any savings, and details about who lives with you. If you're in receipt of Universal Credit, we'll use the information held on your Universal Credit claim to calculate the amount of Council Tax Support you are entitled to.

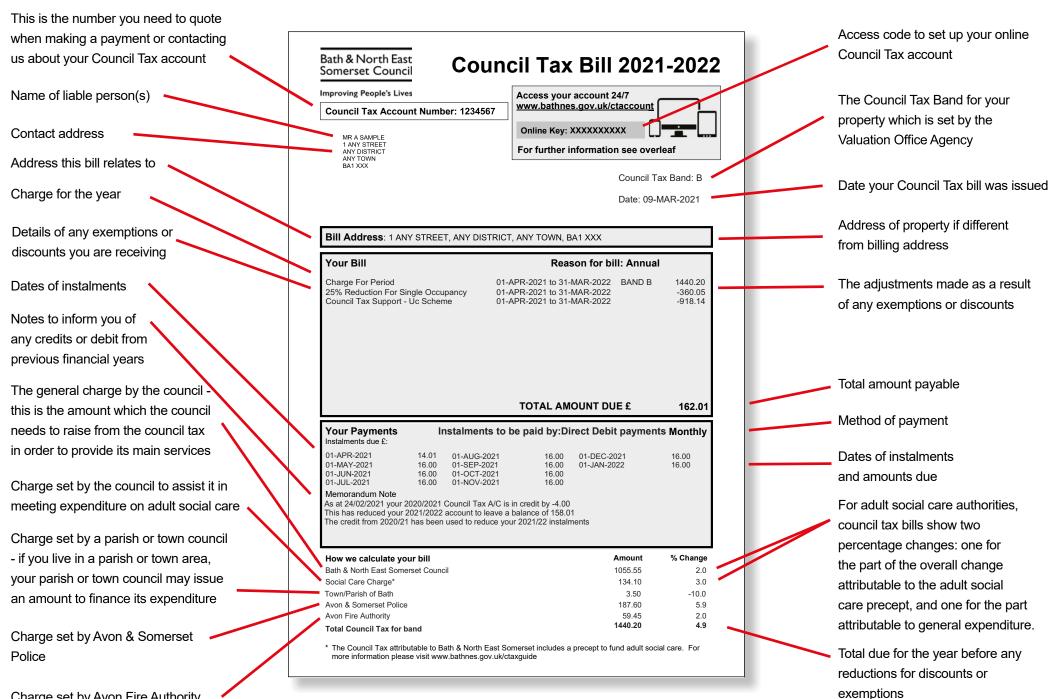
Further information visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/benefits

What if my circumstances change?

If you receive a discount, exemption or Council Tax Support, any change in your circumstances, including moving out of the property, could affect your entitlement. You have a legal duty to tell us within 21 days or you may incur a penalty charge. The council is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers and may use the information you provide 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.

For further information on all reductions available visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/counciltax

Your Council Tax bill explained



Charge set by Avon Fire Authority

Paying your Council Tax

Direct Debit

This is the quickest and safest way to pay your Council Tax - over 75% of B&NES residents have already made the switch.

To set up a Direct Debit please go to: www.bathnes.gov.uk/pay

Online

Pay by debit or credit card 24 hours a day, seven days a week either online at **www.bathnes.gov.uk/pay** or by telephone on 0300 456 0632. We don't accept American Express.

Online banking

Faster Payments or BACS. You must quote your Council Tax Account Number as the payment reference. If you don't, your payment may not reach your account. Sort Code: 56 00 34 Account Number: 57134510 Account Name: Bath & North East Somerset Council

For all other methods of payments please visit **www.bathnes.gov.uk/pay**

Pay over 12 months

If you haven't already asked us to spread your instalments over 12 months, your annual bill (issued in March) will show 10 instalments (April to January). If you would like to spread your instalments over 12 months, please contact us. We'll recalculate your bill to spread out the future instalments as much as possible, up to next March.

Problems paying?

If you're struggling to pay please contact us to discuss your options visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/contactus

Council Tax liability appeals

By law, you must continue to pay your Council Tax as normal until your appeal has been resolved. You can appeal your Council Tax if you think that:

- we have made a mistake in the calculation of your bill
- you think that you are not liable to pay the bill

To appeal please contact Council Tax: www.bathnes.gov.uk/contactus

Council Tax banding appeals

If you think your house is in an incorrect Council Tax band you should contact the Valuation Office Agency: www.gov.uk/government/ organisations/valuation-officeagency Full details of Council Tax banding are available by visiting: www.bathnes.gov.uk/ctax-bands

Switch to paperless billing

You can switch to paperless billing at www.bathnes.gov.uk/ctaccount

You'll be able to:

- Access your Council Tax account anytime, anywhere
- View and make payments, including Direct Debit
- · Change your address online
- Apply for discounts and exemptions









How we spend your money

The following information shows where every £1 of Bath & North East Somerset's Council Tax is spent. This is based on net spend after deducting income generated by services and grants including the Dedicated School Grant.

Adult Social Care 46.1p

Each year adult social services supports approximately 2,500 individuals with care packages in their own homes and in care home placements. 1,400 people are enabled to access a personal budget to give them choice over their care package and how this is provided. The council also directly runs three residential care homes and five extra care housing schemes. We also provide home improvement services, including adaptations (eg a downstairs toilet and level access shower) and aids (eg handrails) to enable people to continue to live as independently as possible in their own homes.

Refuse Collection & Disposal 11.4p

We provide one of the most comprehensive weekly kerbside recycling collections in the UK, collecting a wide range of recyclable materials including food, glass, paper, cardboard, plastics, and small electricals from households.

We collect rubbish every other week from the majority of households and provide a fortnightly collection of garden waste (for a charge). We operate three recycling centres and over 170 communal mini recycling centres for flats. We also provide a trade waste collection, recycling and disposal service. In 2020/21 we sent for re-use, recycling or composting more than 60% of all the household waste we dealt with.

Housing & Public Protection 5.7p

Each year our Housing team assists around 2,400 households; allocates approximately 650 social housing lettings and improves more than 500 properties. Over the past year we have prevented more than 600 cases of homelessness and licensed more than 2,300 HMOs (funded through licence fee). We have also delivered 1912 affordable homes since 2011.

Our Public Protection teams play a vital role in encouraging economic prosperity and community wellbeing by the provision of advice, education and enforcement of appropriate environmental and consumer legislation.

Children's Services 26.1p

The council ensures school places for around 25,000 pupils in 81 schools and academies locally and funds home to school transport and support services for schools. We assess, fund and commission a range of services to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities). We also fund and provide children's centre services plus the full range of social care services for more than 1,000 of our most vulnerable young people and care leavers. We commission support services across the third and voluntary sector to support the council in meeting the needs of our most vulnerable children, young people and families. We've developed the care leaver exemption and foster carer discount.

Highways, Transport, Planning & Economic Development 10.9p

We are responsible for more than 1,100 kilometres of highway and ensuring our network keeps moving. We develop, maintain and improve highway infrastructure, deliver sustainable transport solutions, improve safety and manage public rights of way. Each year we resurface miles of carriageway, ensure gullies are debris free, grit key routes across the district in the winter months and maintain traffic signals and streetlights. We also manage and enforce more 6,500 parking spaces and three Park & Ride sites. We provide safe transport for over 2500 school children and work with our partners in the West of England Combined Authority to fund non-commercial bus services, community transport schemes and shared-taxi schemes.

We deal with around 1,200 building regulations applications and 2600 planning and listed building applications each year. We develop the sub-regional spatial plan and new local plans for the district.

We promote the district as a great location for investment, encouraging regeneration and growth. We provide services to help people start and grow their business successfully and support residents to gain skills and progress their careers.

The balance of **-0.2p** includes significant income relating to the council's commercial estate and heritage services together with funding for services including libraries, cemeteries, recreation, tourism, cleansing and funding capital projects and charges.

Spending

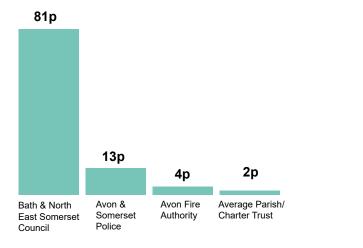
Bath & North East Somerset Council is required to set an annual balanced budget showing how its financial resources will be allocated and used over the coming year with regard to statutory services as well as key local priorities and objectives.

Why spending has increased/decreased

The Council has set its net revenue budget for 2021/22 at £130.072m This represents an increase of £12.465m, this includes budget adjustments for commercial income reductions due to Covid. The build up is shown below.

	£m
Net Revenue Base Budget rolled forward 2021/22	117.607
Income Rebasing & Budget Pressures	15.246
Contractual and Unavoidable Inflation	3.055
Demographic Growth & Increases in Service Volumes	3.851
New Homes Bonus Grant Pressure	2.624
Other (including capital financing)	3.156
Total including Growth	145.539
Savings & Income Proposals	-8.482
Increases in Grant Income (including Covid Support Grant)	-6.985
Council's Net Revenue Budget 2021/22	130.072

Where each £1 raised of your Council Tax goes in 2021 - 2022



Summary of average Band D Council Tax charge

	Band D	% increase
Bath & North East Somerset	£1,357.15	1.99%
- Adult Social Care*	£172.42	3.00%
Avon & Somerset Police Authority	£241.20	5.88%
Avon Fire Authority	£76.43	1.99%
Average Parish	£44.16	2.22%
Overall Average Band D	£1,891.36	4.91%

(Figures shown are for at least a **two person** household)

The council's Council Tax requirement (excluding Police, Fire and Parishes) for 2021/22 is £102.040m and including Parishes is £104.986m

* "The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities1.

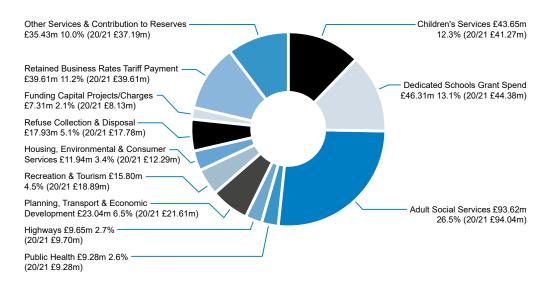
The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to an including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

Further information on Council Tax charges, including the calculation of the Adult Social Care Precept percentage increase, is available on our website at www.bathnes.gov.uk/counciltax

1 "Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, districts 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.

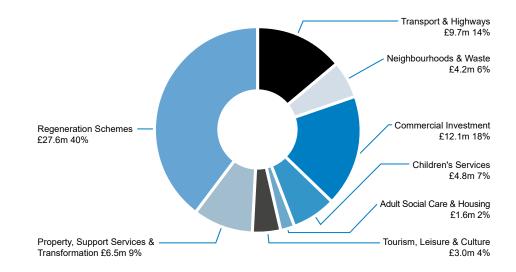


£354m gross spend before taking account of income



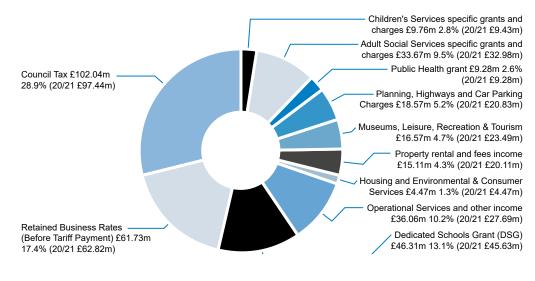
Capital budget 2021-22

Total fully approved spend £69.5m



Where does the money come from?

£354m

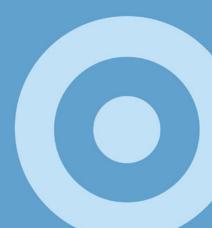


For further information

If you have questions on the 2021/22 budget for Bath & North East Somerset Council please write to:

Director of Finance, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Guildhall, High Street, Bath, BA1 5AW

or email: **finance@bathnes.gov.uk** or visit: **www.bathnes.gov.uk**



Parish & Town Councils – Precepts

The Council Tax charges shown below relate to the charge for the Parish Council, Town Council or Charter Trustee element only

2020/21 Precept £	2021/22 Precept £	Parish	Band D £
160,741	143,754	Bath	4.50
23,000	23,000	Bathampton	30.49
50,400	52,770	Batheaston	46.79
22,485	25,230	Bathford	30.69
18,410	19,699	Camerton	76.81
4,600	5,000	Charlcombe	22.65
1,100	2,700	Chelwood	43.75
34,500	36,000	Chew Magna	55.84
20,000	21,000	Chew Stoke	45.02
2,500	2,500	Claverton	34.97
49,908	51,588	Clutton	85.00
9,220	9,000	Combe Hay	103.27
12,641	13,291	Compton Dando	45.24
18,000	18,000	Compton Martin	74.84
9,923	10,219	Corston	52.78
8,674	8,674	Dunkerton & Tunley	36.20
14,000	15,152	East Harptree	47.81
7,879	8,667	Englishcombe	63.77
21,000	21,000	Farmborough	41.31
12,700	12,700	Farrington Gurney	39.03
31,746	32,024	Freshford	107.76
35,500	35,500	High Littleton	43.18
8,900	9,000	Hinton Blewett	64.78
13,866	14,282	Hinton Charterhouse	60.95
2,500	2,500	Kelston	29.20
607,778	628,364	Keynsham	94.98
6,875	7,365	Marksbury	39.34
388,156	408,675	Midsomer Norton	102.73
8,668	9,368	Monkton Combe	53.33

Parish & Town Councils – Precepts (continued)

2020/21 Precept £	2021/22 Precept £	Parish	Band D £
4,100	4,100	Nempnett Thrubwell	41.05
7,000	7,350	Newton St. Loe	105.50
0	0	North Stoke	0.00
4,000	4,000	Norton Malreward	35.59
246,632	244,632	Paulton	121.26
251,452	251,452	Peasedown St. John	118.76
6,700	6,700	Priston	53.54
15,777	17,300	Publow with Pensford	35.45
265,294	262,508	Radstock	154.31
34,838	38,322	Saltford	21.08
10,522	10,522	Shoscombe	62.07
12,858	14,358	South Stoke	58.99
750	750	St. Catherine	18.45
18,025	18,385	Stanton Drew	56.18
23,625	24,625	Stowey Sutton	36.43
3,000	3,700	Swainswick	28.33
27,140	30,396	Temple Cloud with Cameley	55.97
69,000	75,000	Timsbury	81.44
13,860	14,414	Ubley	82.95
16,037	16,040	Wellow	64.32
8,500	8,750	West Harptree	38.07
207,100	207,650	Westfield	110.62
37,000	38,000	Whitchurch	56.07
2,888,880	2,945,976	TOTAL	

For information on calculating the charge for different property bands visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/ctax-bands

If your parish precept is £140,000 or above in 2021/22, a leaflet which includes details about how the parish money is spent in your area is also available online at **www.bathnes.gov.uk/ctaxguide**

Make a difference

We can all make small changes to improve our lives by helping to tackle the Climate & Ecological Emergency:

- walk, cycle and use public transport; use your car less
- recycle, repair, reuse or share
- avoid food waste
- buy local and seasonal food when you can
- buy less, borrow more, make it last and eliminate single use plastics
- · avoid palm oil in ultra-processed food, cleaning products and toiletries
- switch to a green energy supplier
- get home energy advice via the council's Energy at Home helpline
- when restrictions allow take part in local litter picks
- · volunteer to support environmental projects
- share ideas with friends, neighbours and your community

For more information about what the council is doing to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/climate-emergency

Change a life

We need more foster carers. If you are interested or would like to find out more visit: **fostering.bathnes.gov.uk** or call our Family Placement Team on 01225 394949

Get involved

We want you to have a bigger say in what we do and how we do it.

Webinars:

Over the past year we've held regular webinars on key issues and hundreds of residents have taken part. It's a fantastic opportunity to put your questions directly to us and share your views on the issues that matter to you.

To find out more about upcoming webinars and to register to take part visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/webinars

You can also look back on all our previous webinars by visiting our Youtube channel: **youtube.com/BathnesCouncil**

Consultations:

Feedback from consultations helps inform our decision making. So, your views really do matter. You can take part in all our consultations online just visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/have-your-say

Keep up to date

Social media:

The best way to keep up to date with the very latest news in your community and important updates from the council is to follow us on social media.

You'll find us on Twitter @bathnes, Facebook (search for Bath and North East Somerset Council), Instagram @bathnescouncil and YouTube. We also regularly post on **nextdoor.co.uk**

E-connect:

Our weekly e-newsletter is packed with news, the latest local Covid-19 updates, useful information on where to find help and support and a regular column from the council Leader.

To subscribe to e-connect just visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/econnect

Explore the city

While we are currently unable to issue Discovery Cards, once restrictions are lifted, residents will still get free entry to the Roman Baths, Fashion Museum, Victoria Art Gallery and partner offers with proof of ID and address. For details visit: **www.bathnes.gov.uk/discoverycard**

Contact the council

Council Tax and Benefits

For Council Tax enquiries including exemptions and discounts, visit: **www.bathnes.gov.uk/counciltax**

For any Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit queries please visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/benefits

Reporting suspicions of benefit fraud

All reports are treated confidentially. Call the National Benefit Fraud hotline on 0800 854 440 (or textphone 0800 328 0512). You may also make a report it online at **www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud**

Report it online

Use our web forms, including our Fix My Street service, to report issues about litter, graffiti, potholes, missed waste collections and more. Go to: www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit

This Council Tax guide can be made available in a range of languages and accessible formats (e.g. large print, Braille). If you would like to request an alternative format visit: **www.bathnes.gov.uk/contactus** Bath & North East Somerset Council will not use or disclose your Council Tax information for a purpose that falls outside the limits of its statutory responsibility, unless you give consent. The only exception to this is where the disclosure of Council Tax information is required or permitted by law.





AVON & SOMERSET POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

YOUR POLICING POUNDS

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 2813 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

	Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	
	2020/2021 '000s	2021/2022 '000s
Gross Expenditure	£34,776	£76,119*
Levies Raised	£3,782	£3,857
Total Council Tax Base	1,038	1,036

*Please note that the gross expenditure figure of £76,119k includes capital expenditure including grant-aided works and non grant-aided works, as well as maintenance works.

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 2.0%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £3,781,599 in 2020/2021 to £3,857,231 in 2021/2022.



I know that any increase in bills is felt by households and, after this extraordinary year, this rise is an even bigger ask. The decision to raise the policing part of the council tax by 5.88% (£13.39 a year for Band D households) has not been taken lightly.

With the Home Office having frozen the policing grant for 2021/22 and requiring PCCs to increase the policing part of the council tax in order to keep pace with inflation in the budget as a whole, I have the unenviable job of deciding how we balance the threat from criminality and the safety of residents. In order to improve visibility and results, we need to have resources. I'm committed to working closely with the Chief Constable to keep our communities safe and work towards our vision of excellent victim services, better policing, and fairer criminal justice services for all."

Sue Mountstevens - Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Police Officers, Staff and PCSOs:	£279m	
Running Expenses:	£71 m	
Capital Funding:	£18m	
Office of the PCC:	£1.7 m	
PCC victim and crime related services:	£3.5m	

RECRUIT 70 ADDITIONAL OFFICERS ENHANCE INVESTIGATIONS CAPACITY TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR VICTIMS









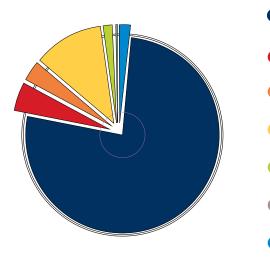
Your fire and rescue service

Avon Fire & Rescue Service (AF&RS) protects the communities of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

For 2021/22, this service will cost Band D council tax payers £76.43 which is an increase of 1.99%.

We continue to provide this vital service to keep you and your family safe, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at cost of around 10p a day for each of the 1.1 million people who live in our area.

Where does each pound go?



- Employees (including pension cost) 76.4%
- Premises 4.9%
- Transport 2.8%
- Supplies and Services 11.2%
- Capital Financing 1.5%
- Other 0.9%
- Investment in Service Developments and Cost Pressures 2.2%



Spending plans

	2020/21 (£M)	2021/22 (£M)
Total fire expenditure	50.433	49.980
Income	-5.071	-5.421
Net budget before use of reserves	45.362	44.560
Use of reserves	-1.636	0.000
Net budget	43.726	44.560
Funding: Central Government		
Revenue Support Grant	5.116	5.144
Business rate - Top-up	6.136	6.136
Local funding		
Locally retained business rates	4.635	4.616
Council tax	27.831	28.664
Total	43.718	44.560

The main changes in spending from 2020/21 to 2021/22 are shown below.

Main changes in net expenditure	
2020/21 Budget	43.718
Inflationary pressures	0.752
Other	0.090
2021/22 Budget	44.560

E Annual budget

Avon Fire Authority has set its net budget for 2021/22 at £44.560 million. This represents a Council Tax level of £76.43 a year for a Band D property, an increase of 1.99%.

The Government's funding assessment for Avon Fire Authority has been increased by $\pounds 0.139m$ (0.9%) to $\pounds 16.162m$ for 2021/22. The impact of this is that the funding provided by Central Government is increased by $\pounds 0.38m$ (0.4%) to $\pounds 11.280m$.

For more information visit www.avonfire.gov.uk



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For further information please contact: Avon Fire & Rescue Service,

Police & Fire Headquarters, PO Box 37, Valley Road, Bristol, BS20 8JJ

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