YOUR Council Tax guide 2022/23

INCLUDING POLICE AND FIRE BUDGETS



Open your own self-service account today to manage and view your council tax online. Register at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/myaccount



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Council documents can be made available in large print, audio, easy read and other formats. Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For more information call **01934 888 144**

This guide provides information about the budgets for local public services for the year ahead and explains your council tax bill.

Your council is committed to protecting vital services and investing an extra £40m in long-term local projects that will improve services for children, green initiatives and local facilities.

We are:

- Backing our children and young people
- Delivering better basic services
- Investing in our communities
- Tackling the climate emergency.

This money is on top of the £300m already committed for long-term investment in local projects.

Residents will continue to get good services from the council with key services like social care, recycling and waste and roads and pavement maintenance protected.

The budget protects local people from the impact of cuts, and increases in fees and charges are being kept to a minimum.

Council tax will increase by 2.99 per cent. This increase is driven by social care pressures and won't even cover the gap in costs to provide these services. This increase includes a 1 per cent increase specifically to support adult social care services.

Almost every council in the country will be increasing council tax at this rate.

We are determined to making North Somerset open, fairer and greener and the budget for the year ahead supports our commitment.

You can read more about our ambitions for the area in our corporate plan www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corporateplan

Explore Council tax and housing benefits digitally

The council tax and benefit service is an online service. To access these services you must register and create an account. Registration is quick, easy and secure and will allow you to apply for benefits, discounts and exemptions. You can also let us know about a change of circumstances or a change of address, set up a direct debit or just view your account balance.

Going digital means we can process many of your requests earlier and provided any additional documents are submitted with your application, you may receive your benefit earlier. For those customers who may have difficulty getting online or have additional needs, support is available. Please contact us on 01934 888 144 and one of our customer service advisers will assist you.

What does your council tax pay for?

North Somerset Council provides a wide range of services including education, planning, transport, highways, social care, public health, libraries, leisure and recreation, recycling and waste collection, environmental health and trading standards among many others. The money you pay also funds the police and fire and rescue service, as well as supporting work in your local parish or town.

Parish and town councils raise their money primarily from a levy called a precept.

We collect the precept on behalf of town and parish councils and pass it on to them.

The table below shows how the money spent relates to the average council tax bill.

Service	Share of Band D £
Adult Social Services	650.50
Children's Services	233.59
Schools Budgets (entirely Government funded)	0.00
Place	258.96
Corporate Services	238.46
Public Health & Regulatory Services	11.89
Capital Financing and Interest	97.00
Other	59.63
Net North Somerset Requirement	1,550.03

Where does the money go?

£27.5m

Corporate services

including registration of births, deaths and marriages, legal, democratic and electoral services, council tax collection and benefits



£6.9m

including non-service items and contingency, plus items in your council tax provided by others, for example, magistrates courts, coroners service, Environment Agency and drainage boards

£75.2m

Adult Social Services

including residential care, community meals, services for people with learning difficulties, tackling homelessness and adult education



including looking after children at risk, adoption, fostering and care leavers



£29.9m

including maintaining over 680 miles of roads, collecting household waste, recycling, parks, libraries, economic development, public transport and environmental health



infrastucture projects, new buildings and refurbishment, for example, schools and play areas

£1.4m

including trading standards, scientific services, food & safety, pollution, licensing, and control of dogs

Help with your bill

Council tax support

If you are on a low income and currently pay council tax, you may be eligible for council tax support even if you receive other benefits or council tax discounts.

Please visit our website to register for MyAccount and make your application online. If you are unable to get online or have additional needs please contact us on **01934 888 144** and one of our customer service advisers will assist you.

You can also visit any of our libraries and use one of the public access computers to make your application.

If you receive council tax support an amount will be taken off the total council tax you owe for the year and this is shown on the front of your bill.



What to do if your circumstances change

If your circumstances change you must tell us as soon as the changes happen. It is an offence not to tell us about any change in your circumstances that affects your support and could result in a fine of £70 or prosecution. Don't rely on someone else to pass the message on. Examples of changes in circumstances are:

- you move home
- your rent changes
- any changes to the income or circumstances of anyone who lives with you
- someone moves into or out of your home
- you're going to be away from your home for more than four weeks.

If the change in your income affects your entitlement to council tax support a revised bill will be issued.

You can request a written statement of your entitlement, within one month of the decision being made, by contacting the council. If you want to appeal, this should be in writing within two months of the decision, to the council, who will review the decision. If you remain dissatisfied

a further appeal can be made to the Valuation Tribunal. Details of how you can appeal can be found at www.

n-somerset.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport



More help with your bill

Discounts

You can claim a discount if there are less than two adults living in the property. For council tax purposes we will not count the following groups of people when we assess the number of adults who live in the property.

- People who you receive child benefit for.
- Full-time students, apprentices and people on youth training schemes.
- Husbands, wives/dependants of students not allowed to take a job or claim benefits.
- People under 20 who are still at school or college studying a full-time course of further education.

- People under 20 who have left school between 30 April and 1 November.
- People who are severely mentally impaired and entitled to certain state benefits.
- Patients who live in hospital.
- Patients in nursing homes, residential care homes, hospices and hostels.
- People staying in certain hostels and night shelters who would otherwise have no home at all.
- People in prison or on remand.
 This includes people held under the Mental Health Act 1983.
- Care workers introduced by an official or charitable body.
- People who care for someone in the property with a disability who is in receipt of certain state benefits.
- Members of religious communities who receive no income.
- People with diplomatic immunity.
- People who are members of a visiting force.
- Members of international headquarters and defence organisations.

Other discounts available

 Unoccupied, unfurnished properties which are being or have recently been altered or repaired, maximum of 12 months.

Exempt dwellings

We will not charge council tax on the following:

- Unoccupied charitable properties for up to six months.
- Properties left unoccupied by prisoners.
- Properties left unoccupied by people in hospital, care home, hostel, etc.
- Properties left unoccupied when a person dies until, and up to six months after probate.
- Unoccupied properties whose occupation is prohibited by law.
- Unoccupied properties being held for a minister of religion.
- Properties left empty by people who are receiving residential care.
- Properties left empty by people providing care elsewhere.
- Properties left empty by students.
- Unoccupied properties that have been repossessed.
- Student halls of residence.
- Properties that only students live in.
- Armed forces' barracks, messes and married quarters.
- Visiting armed forces accommodation.
- Unoccupied properties held by trustees in bankruptcy.
- Empty caravan pitches and boat moorings.
- Properties that are only lived in by people who are under 18.

- Properties that have an empty annex.
- Properties that are lived in by one or more people that are severely mentally impaired.
- Properties where at least one of the liable people is a diplomat.
- Properties with elderly or disabled people living in separate accommodation with families.

If your property falls into one of these categories then you may qualify for an exemption. Please contact us to discuss this further. If you are in any doubt as to your eligibility to a discount or exemption more information and details of how to apply can be found at: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/counciltaxforms

Disabled relief

If anyone in your household needs a devoted room, or an extra bathroom or kitchen, or extra space for wheelchair use indoors, in order to receive care or treatment arising from a substantial and permanent disability, you may be entitled to a reduction off your council tax.

For more information and details of how to apply visit **www.n-somerset. gov.uk/counciltaxforms**

You can also reduce the amount you pay each month by extending your payments into March.

Long-term empty properties

Since 2013/2014 local authorities have had the discretion to charge a premium for properties that are classed as long-term empty. Until 2020/21, we were one of a small number of councils that chose not to charge a premium.

However, in light of increased budgetary pressure and the need to bring empty properties back in to use, it was necessary to review this decision.

From 1 April 2020, we introduced a premium for any property that has been classed as empty for more than two years. The amount of the premium payable is as follows:

Properties that have been empty for over two years will be charged a premium of 100%. Properties that have been empty for over five years will be charged a premium of 200%.

From 1 April 2021 the premium for properties that have been empty for over ten years was increased to 300%. For example, if you were paying £1,000 per year before the premium, you will now be paying £4,000.



North Somerset Council's 2022/23 budget

	2021/22		2022/23	
-	Net exp £000	Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net exp £000
Adult Social Services	67,905	113,918	(38,760)	<i>7</i> 5,158
Children's Services	26,512	37,182	(10,193)	26,989
Schools Budgets (entirely Government funded)	0	53,786	(53,786)	0
Place	29,496	56,537	(26,617)	29,920
Corporate Services	25,729	80,194	(52,642)	27,552
Public Health & Regulatory Services	911	16,037	(14,663)	1,374
Capital Financing and Interest	10,674	15,189	(3,982)	11,207
Other, including Non Service & Contingency	9,143	7,233	(1,297)	5,936
GROSS EXPENDITURE	170,370	380,076	(201,940)	178,136
Special Expenses	79	69		69
Levy - Environment Agency	293	300		300
Special Levy - Drainage Boards	575	585		585
NORTH SOMERSET REQUIREMENT	171,317	381,030	(201,940)	179,090
Parish Precepts	6,106	6,385		6,385
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	177,423	387,415	(201,940)	185,475
To be funded by:				
Government Grant - Business Rates grants	(7,307)		(12,185)	(12,185)
Government Grant - Social Care grants	(5,807)		(8,719)	(8,719)
Government Grant - Other grants	(8,748)		(4,521)	(4,521)
Business Rates Income	(31,262)		(28,480)	(28,480)
Other - Collection Fund surplus, deficit and reserve transfers	312		(1,297)	(1,297)
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	124,611	387,415	(257,142)	130,273

Places with budgets more than £140,000

Seven councils in North Somerset raise more than £140,000 each through council tax contributions.

Local council	Where the money goes	2021/22	2022/23
Clevedon	Recreation	46,350	32,900
Town Council	Highways	15,850	16,850
	Other	310,561	322,005
	Contingency/balances	0	2,473
	o ,,	372,761	374,228
Long Ashton	Recreation	106,950	67,900
Parish Council	Highways	21,598	22,150
	Other	102,655	120,822
	Contingency/balances	(43,953)	(15,872)
		187,250	195,000
Nailsea	Recreation	109,145	99,028
Town Council	Highways	16,130	20,040
	Other	399,765	448,500
	Contingency/balances	0	0
		525,040	567,568
Portishead	Recreation	99,500	86,000
Town Council	Highways	65,000	75,000
	Other	710,790	1,019,068
	Contingency/balances	(100,000)	(359,205)
		775,290	820,863
Weston-super-Mare	Recreation	435,511	465,177
Town Council	Highways	67,217	80,533
	Other	2,085,255	2,085,675
	Contingency/balances	0	0
		2,587,983	2,631,385
Winscombe and	Recreation	55,805	80,068
Sandford	Highways	15,850	13,750
Parish Council	Other	124,279	134,252
	Contingency/balances	(40,934)	(54,070)
		155,000	174,000
Yatton	Recreation	75,200	<i>7</i> 2,125
Parish Council	Highways	9,500	10,000
	Other	188,237	207,624
	Contingency/balances	(46,123)	(51,595)
		226,814	238,154



LOCAL POLICE TAXHOW WILL WE SPEND IT?



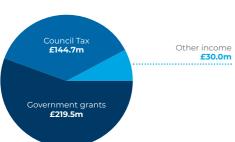
As your PCC, I am responsible for setting the amount of money you contribute to local policing through the council tax.

As PCC, I have to balance the challenges facing policing with local people's views in order to best resource an efficient and effective police service that can keep people safe. The increase will help Avon and Somerset Police to deliver my Police & Crime Plan and will mean that any savings that need to be made in future will have less of an impact on frontline services."

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



OUR PRIORITIES



Preventing and fighting crime



Engaging, supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations



Leading the police to be efficient and effective



Increasing the legitimacy of, and public confidence in, the police and criminal justice system











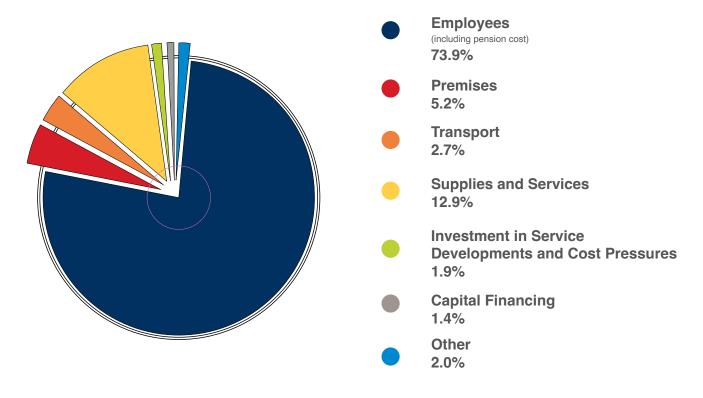
Your fire and rescue service

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

For 2022/23, this service will cost Band D council tax payers £77.95 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?



£ Annual budget

Avon Fire Authority has set its net budget for 2022/23 at £44.560 million. This represents a Council Tax level of £77.95 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 £0.047m~(0.3%) to £16.208m for 2022/23. The impact of this is that the funding provided by Central Government is increased by £0.103m (0.9%) to £11.383m.



Spending plans		
openanty plans	2021/22 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)
Total fire expenditure	49.980	52.418
Income	-5.421	-6.660
Net budget before use of reserves	44.560	45.758
Use of reserves	0.000	0.000
Net budget	44.560	45.758
Funding:		
Central Government		
Revenue Support Grant	5.144	5.247
Business rate - Top-up	6.136	6.136
Local funding		
Locally retained business rates	4.616	4.925
Council tax	28.664	29.450
Total	44.560	45.758

The main changes in spending from 2021/22 to 2022/23 are shown below.

Main changes in net expenditure	(£m)
2021/22 Budget	44.560
Inflationary pressures	0.917
Other	0.281
2022/23 Budget	45.758

For more information visit www.avonfire.gov.uk







O @AvonFireRescue



Adult social care precept

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government previously made an offer to councils with responsibilities for adult social care.

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. It was originally made in respect of the financial years 2016/17 up to and including 2019/20 and again in 2021/22.

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.

In relation to 2022/23 the Secretary of State renewed this offer to adult social care authorities subject to a limit of 1%.

For councils with responsibilities for adult social care, council tax demand notices show two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept, and one for the part attributable to general expenditure.

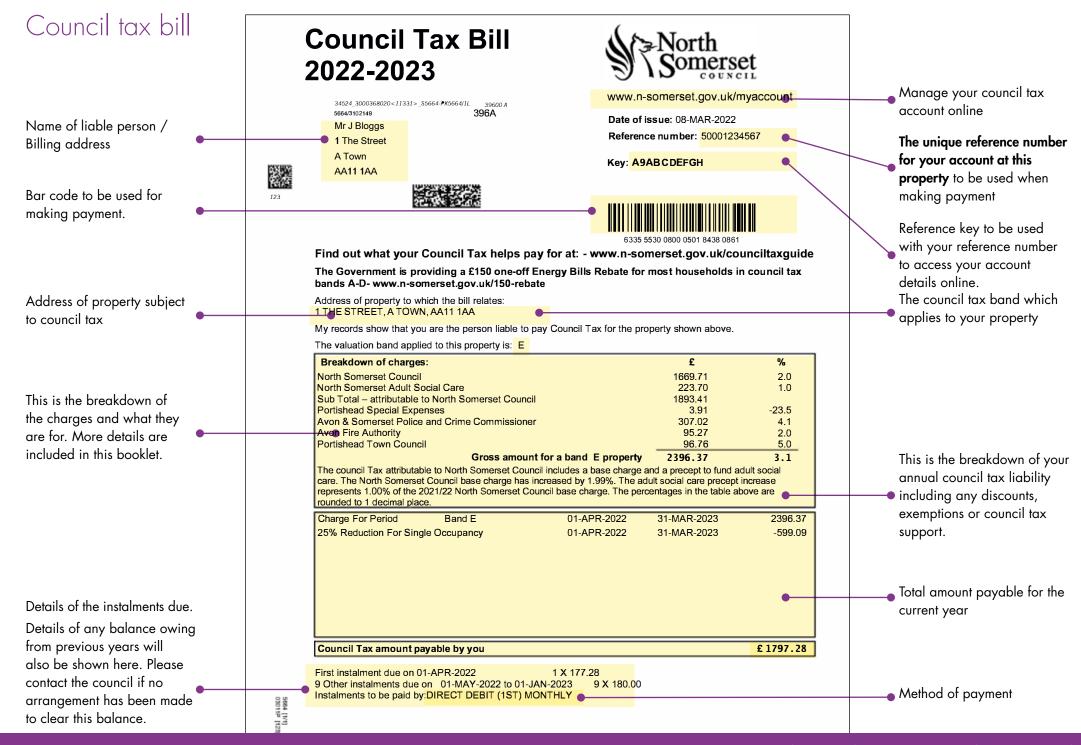
Council tax summary 2022/23

The information below shows the amount needed to fund public services in North Somerset – not just those of the council but also the police, fire and rescue service, parish and town councils.

Service	Last year 2021/22 £000	Coming year 2022/23 £000
North Somerset Council needs:		
North Somerset Council (inc. Adult Social Care precept)	170,370	178,136
Special Expenses	79	69
Levy - Environment Agency	293	300
Special Levy - Drainage Boards	575	585
Parish & Town Council precepts	6,106	6,385
North Somerset's Budget requirement	177,423	185,475
less:		
Government Grant - Business Rates grants	(7,307)	(12,185)
Government Grant - Social Care grants	(5,807)	(8,719)
Government Grant - Other grants	(8,748)	(4,521)
Business Rates Income	(31,262)	(28,480)
Other - Collection Fund surplus, deficit and reserve transfers	312	(1,297)
Council Tax Bill		
North Somerset's precept	124,611	130,273
Police & Crime Commissioner of Avon & Somerset precept	18,992	20,078
Avon Fire Authority precept	6,018	6,230
	149,621	156,581

The average Band D council tax for North Somerset 2022/23 will be as follows:

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
North Somerset Council	1,337.05	1,367.00
Adult Social Care precept	167.98	183.03
Average Parish/Town Council	77.55	79.88
Police and Crime Commissioner of Avon and Somerset	241.20	251.20
Avon Fire Authority	76.43	77.95
	1,900.21	1,959.06



How much will you pay?

Abbots Leigh 31,550.00 30,570.00 72.35 1,300.44 1,517.19 1,733.92 1,950.66 2,384.13 2,817.62 3,251.	
	F 2 002 10
Backwell 136,715.00 134,035.00 68.24 1,297.70 1,514.00 1,730.27 1,946.55 2,379.10 2,811.68 3,244.5	
Banwell 110,785.00 93,908.00 85.91 1,309.48 1,527.74 1,745.97 1,964.22 2,400.70 2,837.20 3,273.	
Barrow Gurney 13,500.00 13,500.00 59.24 1,291.70 1,507.00 1,722.27 1,937.55 2,368.10 2,798.68 3,229.5	
Blagdon 44,221.00 42,000.00 85.68 1,309.33 1,527.56 1,745.77 1,963.99 2,400.42 2,836.87 3,273.	2 3,927.98
Bleadon 54,000.00 50,000.00 97.39 1,317.14 1,536.67 1,756.18 1,975.70 2,414.73 2,853.78 3,292.8	
Brockley 5,555.00 5,500.00 39.59 1,278.60 1,491.71 1,704.80 1,917.90 2,344.09 2,770.30 3,196.	
Burrington 6,250.00 3,000.00 24.33 1,268.43 1,479.84 1,691.24 1,902.64 2,325.44 2,748.25 3,171.0	
Butcombe 3,600.00 3,150.00 29.56 1,271.92 1,483.91 1,695.89 1,907.87 2,331.83 2,755.81 3,179.	
Churchill 82,565.00 69,022.00 75.45 1,302.51 1,519.60 1,736.68 1,953.76 2,387.92 2,822.09 3,256.50	73,907.52
Clapton-in-Gordano6,600.006,500.0035.111,275.621,488.231,700.821,913.422,338.612,763.823,189.00	
Cleeve 16,656.00 16,655.95 43.72 1,281.36 1,494.92 1,708.47 1,922.03 2,349.14 2,776.26 3,203.	
Clevedon 374,228.00 372,761.00 47.67 1,287.06 1,501.59 1,716.08 1,930.59 2,359.59 2,788.63 3,217.00	
Congresbury 124,000.00 115,726.81 84.68 1,308.66 1,526.78 1,744.88 1,962.99 2,399.20 2,835.43 3,271.00	
Dundry 12,465.00 12,160.00 31.84 1,273.44 1,485.68 1,697.91 1,910.15 2,334.62 2,759.10 3,183.	93,820.30
Flax Bourton 28,000.00 28,904.22 76.57 1,303.26 1,520.47 1,737.67 1,954.88 2,389.29 2,823.71 3,258.	4 3,909.76
Hutton 104,016.00 99,063.00 92.52 1,313.89 1,532.88 1,751.85 1,970.83 2,408.78 2,846.75 3,284.75	3,941.66
Kenn 7,000.00 6,000.00 35.12 1,275.62 1,488.24 1,700.83 1,913.43 2,338.62 2,763.84 3,189.0	
Kewstoke 50,000.00 46,000.00 73.38 1,301.13 1,517.99 1,734.84 1,951.69 2,385.39 2,819.10 3,252.	
Kingston Seymour 11,460.00 11,320.00 62.28 1,293.73 1,509.36 1,724.97 1,940.59 2,371.82 2,803.07 3,234.5	2 3,881.18
Locking 113,000.00 106,000.00 86.07 1,309.59 1,527.86 1,746.12 1,964.38 2,400.90 2,837.43 3,273.9	7 3,928.76
Long Ashton 195,000.00 187,250.00 70.12 1,298.96 1,515.46 1,731.94 1,948.43 2,381.40 2,814.39 3,247.3	9 3,896.86
Loxton and Christon 4,500.00 3,500.00 45.55 1,282.58 1,496.35 1,710.10 1,923.86 2,351.37 2,778.90 3,206.	3,847.72
Nailsea 567,568.00 525,040.00 91.43 1,313.16 1,532.03 1,750.88 1,969.74 2,407.45 2,845.18 3,282.9	
Pill and Easton-in-Gordano 111,902.00 107,202.00 62.67 1,293.99 1,509.66 1,725.32 1,940.98 2,372.30 2,803.63 3,234.93	7 3,881.96
Portbury 29,500.00 28,905.50 66.19 1,296.34 1,512.40 1,728.45 1,944.50 2,376.60 2,808.72 3,240.40	4 3,889.00
Portishead 820,863.00 775,290.00 79.17 1,307.12 1,524.99 1,742.82 1,960.68 2,396.37 2,832.09 3,267.10	0 3,921.36
Puxton 9,366.00 8,432.00 62.90 1,294.14 1,509.84 1,725.52 1,941.21 2,372.58 2,803.97 3,235.3	
St. Georges 28,100.00 18,165.00 25.01 1,268.88 1,480.37 1,691.84 1,903.32 2,326.27 2,749.24 3,172.5	
Tickenham 9,354.03 8,503.66 20.28 1,265.73 1,476.69 1,687.64 1,898.59 2,320.49 2,742.40 3,164.5	2 3,797.18
Walton-in-Gordano 5,583.00 5,556.00 40.78 1,279.40 1,492.64 1,705.86 1,919.09 2,345.54 2,772.01 3,198.	9 3,838.18
Weston-in-Gordano 7,000.00 6,500.00 47.43 1,283.83 1,497.81 1,711.77 1,925.74 2,353.67 2,781.62 3,209.	
Weston-super-Mare 2,631,385.00 2,587,982.00 100.17 1,318.99 1,538.83 1,758.65 1,978.48 2,418.13 2,857.80 3,297.4	
Wick St. Lawrence 21,500.00 17,000.00 38.81 1,278.08 1,491.11 1,704.11 1,917.12 2,343.13 2,769.17 3,195.5	
Winford 28,500.00 27,500.00 28.54 1,271.24 1,483.12 1,694.98 1,906.85 2,330.58 2,754.33 3,178.0	9 3,813.70
Winscombe and Sandford 174,000.00 155,000.00 80.25 1,305.71 1,523.34 1,740.94 1,958.56 2,393.78 2,829.03 3,264.5	7 3,917.12
Wraxall and Failand 46,417.00 44,631.00 39.80 1,278.74 1,491.88 1,704.99 1,918.11 2,344.34 2,770.60 3,196.	
Wrington 119,481.00 107,000.00 94.83 1,315.43 1,534.68 1,753.90 1,973.14 2,411.60 2,850.09 3,288.	
Yatton 238,154.00 226,814.00 78.81 1,304.75 1,522.22 1,739.66 1,957.12 2,392.02 2,826.95 3,261.8	

Data Protection

North Somerset Council is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office for the purposes of processing personal data. The council tax service is administrated on behalf of North Somerset Council by our partner Liberata UK Ltd, 5th Floor, Knollys House, 17 Addiscombe Road, Croydon CRO 6SR.

The information you provide will be held and used in accordance with the requirements of UK and European data protection law. The information will form part of your council tax account and held for six years after the closure and final action on that account.

Unless otherwise agreed with you, we will only collect the minimum personal data required to deliver the service, which includes your name, address, email address and contact telephone number(s). It does not include any special category personal information. The information will be used for the administration of council tax; our statutory duty under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. We will not use your personal information in a way that may cause you unwarranted nuisance. Failure to provide the information could result in the incorrect administration of your council tax account.

We may lawfully disclose information to public sector agencies to prevent or detect fraud or other crime, or to support the national fraud initiatives and protect public funds under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Under the conditions of the Digital Economy Act 2017, we may also share personal data provided to us with other public authorities as defined in the Act, for the purposes of fraud or crime detection or prevention, to recover monies owed to us, to improve public service delivery, or for statistical research. In addition we may also disclose information to a third party where we are satisfied that the party has both a legitimate interest in the information and that it would be fair to do so, in accordance with UK and European data protection law. We do not share the information with other organisations for commercial purposes.

If you have any questions or concerns about the way we process your personal data, our Data Protection Officer can be contacted at DPO@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Would you like to help shape how the council does things in the future?

If you're over 18 and live in North Somerset, have your say on local issues and council services.

Join our Citizens' Panel: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/citizenspanel



NORTH SOMERSET

North Somerset Council's digital digest

