

YOUR council tax guide

2016-2017 – including police and fire budgets



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



Your guide to council tax

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

Depending on your household income, you may be eligible for help with paying your bill (see page 11 for more information).

In North Somerset we pride ourselves on our low council tax levels and have frozen council tax for three out of the last four years while also saving £55m from the council's overall expenditure since 2010. However, recent changes brought in by central government mean that there will be a council tax increase for the year ahead.

The change in government policy for the funding of social care has led to a 1.99 per cent levy being applied to council tax bills. Also, the grant that has been paid to councils in recent years, so that they can freeze their council tax, is no longer available. There has also been a significant reduction in the amount of funding the council receives from central government.

Therefore, for the year ahead, council tax will increase by 1.75 per cent.

We remain committed to providing excellent value for money through the services we deliver, and to maintaining an affordable level of council tax.

We will continue to do our best to keep council tax in North Somerset well-below average. Keep reading North Somerset Life for regular updates about our budget setting process.

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 contact: 01934 888 144

Sometimes it's good to be part of a crowd



Almost 70% of households in North Somerset pay their council tax by Direct Debit meaning they never put themselves in danger of missing a payment.

Set up a Direct Debit and join the crowd today. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/counciltax or call **01934 888 144**.



What is council tax?

It's a local property tax levied by councils to top up central government funding of the local services they provide.

What does it 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.

Who decides how much I have to pay?

Council tax is based on property value. Every property is put into a banding and charged accordingly after certain other factors are taken into account.

If you think your house is in an incorrect council tax band, you can appeal in writing to:

VOA South West and West Midlands, Overline House, Central Station, Blechynden Terrace, Southampton, SO15 1GW

or visit: www.gov.uk/voa/contact
or call: **03000 501 501**

Where does the money go?

The table below shows how the money will be spent on services and how that relates to the average council tax bill.

Service	Money spent £ millions	Share of Band D £
People and communities – including educating 28,000 pupils, 74 schools (including academies), pre-school provision, children at risk, adoption and fostering, residential care, community meals, services for people with learning difficulties, tackling homelessness and adult education	91.3	726.72
Development and environment – including maintaining 684 miles of roads, collecting household waste, recycling, parks, libraries, economic development, public transport and environmental health	33.3	264.85
Corporate services – including registration of births, deaths and marriages, legal, democratic and electoral services, council tax collection and benefits administration	7.7	61.49
Capital financing – infrastructure projects, new buildings and refurbishment e.g. schools and play areas	15.2	121.26
Contingency	2.7	21.40
Non-service items – included in your council tax and provided by others, e.g. magistrates courts, coroners service	0.8	5.97
Special expenses	0.1	0.56
Levy – Environment Agency	0.3	2.12
Special levy – drainage boards	0.5	4.03
Net North Somerset requirement	151.9	1,208.40

Proposed budget for 2016/2017

2015/2016		2016/2017		
Net exp £000		Gross exp £000	Income £000	Net exp £000
90,327	People and communities	219,497	-128,157	91,340
34,528	Development and environment	46,503	-13,214	33,289
8,100	Corporate services	114,812	-107,083	7,729
14,987	Capital financing and interest	17,651	-2,410	15,241
1,967	Contingency	2,690	0	2,690
733	Non-service items	940	-190	750
150,642	Gross expenditure	402,093	-251,054	151,039
91	Special expenses	178	-108	70
261	Levy – Environment Agency	267	0	267
503	Special levy – drainage boards	506	0	506
151,497	North Somerset requirement	403,044	-251,162	151,882
3,880	Parish precepts	4,205	0	4,205
155,377	Budget requirement	407,249	-251,162	156,087
To be funded by:				
-30,508	National non-domestic rates	0	-32,885	-32,885
-26,488	Revenue support grant	0	-19,199	-19,199
0	Transitional Grant	0	-953	-953
-953	Council tax freeze grant	0	0	0
-5,530	New homes bonus	0	-6,583	-6,583
-1,135	Net collection fund adjustment	0	-1,737	-1,737
-689	Use of reserves	1,111	-271	840
90,074	Council tax requirement	408,360	-312,790	95,570

The collection fund adjustment is the difference between the amount the council expects to raise from the council tax and business rates and the amount which is actually collected.

Council tax summary 2016/2017

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, and parish and town councils.

2015/2016 £000		2016/2017 £000
150,642	North Somerset Council	149,287
	0 Adult Social Care precept	1,752
	91 Special expenses	70
	261 Levy - Environment Agency	267
	503 Special levy - drainage boards	506
	3,880 Parish and town council precepts	4,205
155,377	North Somerset's budget requirement less:	156,087
-30,508	National non-domestic rates	-32,885
-26,488	Revenue support grant	-19,199
0	Transitional Grant	-953
-953	Council tax freeze grant	0
-5,530	New homes bonus	-6,583
-1,135	Net Collection fund adjustment	-1,737
-689	Transfers to / from Reserves	840
90,074	North Somerset's precept	95,570
	Avon and Somerset Police and	
12,933	Crime Commissioner precept	13,478
4,928	Avon Fire Authority precept	5,136
107,935		114,184

The average Band D council tax for North Somerset will be:

2015/2016 £		2016/2017 £
174.78	Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner	178.26
66.60	Avon Fire Authority	67.93
1,164.84	North Somerset Council	1,185.22
	0 Adult Social Care precept	23.18
52.44	Average parish/town council	55.62
1,458.66		1,510.21

Parish councils

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

Local council	2015/2016	How much needed	2016/2017
Clevedon Town Council	55,014	Recreation	45,210
	24,500	Highways	25,800
	210,318	Other	248,499
	6,430	Contingency/balances	11,430
	296,262		330,939
Long Ashton Parish Council	71,117	Recreation	64,808
	15,098	Highways	31,098
	106,011	Other	96,790
	-47,226	Contingency/balances	-45,296
	145,000		147,400
Nailsea Town Council	147,919	Recreation	177,962
	43,750	Highways	59,614
	263,937	Other	218,344
	2,000	Contingency/balances	1,686
	457,606		457,606
Portishead Town Council	138,946	Recreation	150,068
	0	Highways	3,000
	158,967	Other	140,497
	-40,000	Contingency/balances	-40,578
	257,913		252,987
Weston-super-Mare Town Council	586,761	Recreation	573,979
	0	Highways	0
	42,485	Other	34,779
	760,150	Contingency/balances	1,028,332
	1,389,396		1,637,090
Yatton Parish Council	38,800	Recreation	48,850
	6,300	Highways	11,200
	152,403	Other	158,430
	-2,503	Contingency/balances	-23,480
	195,000		195,000

How much will you pay?

Local council	2016/2017 precept £	2015/2016 precept £	Parish precept amount for Band D	Band A £
Abbots Leigh	28,000.00	26,000.00	66.49	1,014.06
Backwell	126,018.00	125,808.96	65.45	1,013.36
Banwell	77,651.00	74,729.00	72.12	1,017.81
Barrow Gurney	7,000.00	7,500.00	33.78	992.25
Blagdon	38,250.00	37,555.00	75.91	1,020.34
Bleadon	38,000.00	38,000.00	73.22	1,018.54
Brockley	4,100.00	3,500.00	31.37	990.64
Burrington	3,000.00	3,000.00	11.60	977.46
Butcombe	1,800.00	1,600.00	17.09	981.12
Churchill	57,717.55	57,146.55	63.50	1,012.06
Clapton-in-Gordano	3,700.00	3,700.00	19.97	983.04
Cleeve	14,330.00	13,905.00	39.52	996.08
Clevedon	330,939.00	296,262.00	43.12	1,001.63
Congresbury	105,533.00	101,831.00	77.12	1,021.14
Dundry	8,651.00	8,663.26	23.15	985.16
Flax Bourton	22,000.00	22,000.00	63.66	1,012.17
Hutton	72,240.00	65,085.00	66.93	1,014.35
Kenn	11,000.00	5,500.00	59.91	1,009.67
Kewstoke	42,000.00	42,000.00	63.88	1,012.32
Kingston Seymour	10,700.00	10,700.00	59.54	1,009.42
Locking	71,000.00	61,000.00	64.99	1,013.06
Long Ashton	147,400.00	145,000.00	57.00	1,007.73
Loxton and Christon	2,500.00	2,500.00	26.88	987.65
Nailsea	457,606.00	457,606.00	75.22	1,019.88
Pill and Easton-in-Gordano	96,066.66	91,700.00	54.76	1,006.24
Portbury	19,607.00	19,630.00	44.90	999.66
Portishead	252,987.00	257,913.00	25.00	988.59
Puxton	6,360.00	6,360.00	50.12	1,003.14
St. Georges	16,335.00	16,335.00	14.61	979.47
Tickenham	7,004.00	6,800.00	15.51	980.07
Walton-in-Gordano	3,800.00	4,107.00	27.16	987.84
Weston-in-Gordano	6,000.00	5,000.00	41.12	997.14
Weston-super-Mare	1,637,090.00	1,389,396.00	66.57	1,014.11
Wick St. Lawrence	11,500.00	10,000.00	20.95	983.70
Winford	22,500.00	21,000.00	22.94	985.02
Winscombe and Sandford	125,000.00	122,000.00	64.99	1,013.06
Wraxall and Failand	34,200.00	34,200.00	30.03	989.75
Wrington	90,713.00	90,025.00	76.37	1,020.64
Yatton	195,000.00	195,000.00	74.40	1,019.33

Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
1,183.06	1,352.06	1,521.08	1,859.10	2,197.11	2,535.14	3,042.16
1,182.26	1,351.14	1,520.04	1,857.82	2,195.61	2,533.40	3,040.08
1,187.44	1,357.07	1,526.71	1,865.98	2,205.24	2,544.52	3,053.42
1,157.62	1,322.99	1,488.37	1,819.12	2,149.86	2,480.62	2,976.74
1,190.39	1,360.44	1,530.50	1,870.61	2,210.72	2,550.84	3,061.00
1,188.30	1,358.04	1,527.81	1,867.32	2,206.83	2,546.35	3,055.62
1,155.75	1,320.84	1,485.96	1,816.17	2,146.38	2,476.60	2,971.92
1,140.37	1,303.27	1,466.19	1,792.01	2,117.83	2,443.65	2,932.38
1,144.64	1,308.15	1,471.68	1,798.72	2,125.76	2,452.80	2,943.36
1,180.74	1,349.40	1,518.09	1,855.44	2,192.79	2,530.15	3,036.18
1,146.88	1,310.71	1,474.56	1,802.24	2,129.92	2,457.60	2,949.12
1,162.09	1,328.09	1,494.11	1,826.13	2,158.15	2,490.19	2,988.22
1,168.56	1,335.49	1,502.43	1,836.30	2,170.17	2,504.06	3,004.86
1,191.33	1,361.51	1,531.71	1,872.09	2,212.47	2,552.85	3,063.42
1,149.36	1,313.54	1,477.74	1,806.12	2,134.51	2,462.90	2,955.48
1,180.86	1,349.55	1,518.25	1,855.64	2,193.02	2,530.42	3,036.50
1,183.41	1,352.45	1,521.52	1,859.63	2,197.75	2,535.87	3,043.04
1,177.95	1,346.21	1,514.50	1,851.05	2,187.61	2,524.17	3,029.00
1,181.03	1,349.74	1,518.47	1,855.91	2,193.34	2,530.79	3,036.94
1,177.66	1,345.88	1,514.13	1,850.60	2,187.07	2,523.55	3,028.26
1,181.90	1,350.73	1,519.58	1,857.26	2,194.94	2,532.64	3,039.16
1,175.68	1,343.63	1,511.59	1,847.50	2,183.40	2,519.32	3,023.18
1,152.26	1,316.85	1,481.47	1,810.68	2,139.90	2,469.12	2,962.94
1,189.85	1,359.82	1,529.81	1,869.77	2,209.72	2,549.69	3,059.62
1,173.94	1,341.64	1,509.35	1,844.76	2,180.17	2,515.59	3,018.70
1,166.27	1,332.87	1,499.49	1,832.71	2,165.93	2,499.15	2,998.98
1,153.34	1,318.10	1,482.87	1,812.40	2,141.92	2,471.46	2,965.74
1,170.33	1,337.51	1,504.71	1,839.09	2,173.47	2,507.85	3,009.42
1,142.71	1,305.95	1,469.20	1,795.69	2,122.17	2,448.67	2,938.40
1,143.41	1,306.75	1,470.10	1,796.79	2,123.47	2,450.17	2,940.20
1,152.47	1,317.10	1,481.75	1,811.03	2,140.30	2,469.59	2,963.50
1,163.33	1,329.51	1,495.71	1,828.09	2,160.47	2,492.85	2,991.42
1,183.13	1,352.13	1,521.16	1,859.19	2,197.23	2,535.27	3,042.32
1,147.64	1,311.58	1,475.54	1,803.44	2,131.33	2,459.24	2,951.08
1,149.19	1,313.35	1,477.53	1,805.87	2,134.21	2,462.55	2,955.06
1,181.90	1,350.73	1,519.58	1,857.26	2,194.94	2,532.64	3,039.16
1,154.71	1,319.65	1,484.62	1,814.53	2,144.45	2,474.37	2,969.24
1,190.75	1,360.84	1,530.96	1,871.17	2,211.38	2,551.60	3,061.92
1,189.22	1,359.09	1,528.99	1,868.76	2,208.54	2,548.32	3,057.98

Sometimes it's good to be part of a crowd



Almost 70% of households in North Somerset pay their council tax by Direct Debit meaning they never put themselves in danger of missing a payment.

Set up a Direct Debit and join the crowd today. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/counciltax or call **01934 888 144**.



Council tax and housing benefits have gone digital

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 visit us at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, visit one of our libraries or call us on **01934 888 144** and one of our customer service advisers will assist you.

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 self-serve and make your application online. If you are unable to get online or have additional needs please visit us at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare or call 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.

More help with your bill

Even if you are not eligible for council tax support based on your income and savings there are other ways to reduce your bill:

- **Exemptions**

Some properties will be exempt from council tax altogether, for example if you are living elsewhere to receive personal care, or if you have gone to live in a care home.

- **Disability reduction scheme**

Your property may be placed in a lower band if it has features such as extra space for a wheelchair.

- **Discounts**

Some bills can be reduced by up to 50 per cent. There is a 25 per cent discount for all properties where only one person is liable to pay council tax.

For more details visit our website or call **01934 888 144**.



Avon and Somerset covers more than 1,855 square miles and is home to around 1.6 million people. There are over 5,000 police officers and staff working hard to keep you safe and to make sure that Avon and Somerset remains a safe place to live and work. Crime and the risk of crime is below the national average and public confidence in policing remains amongst the highest nationally.

SPENDING PLANS	2015/16	2016/17
Gross expenditure	£302m	£306m
Specific grants and other income	£29m	£30m
Nat Budget requirement	£273m	£276m



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?	2015/16	2016/17
Funding from central government	£179m	£178m
Amount paid by council tax	£94m	£98m
Total income	£273m	£276m



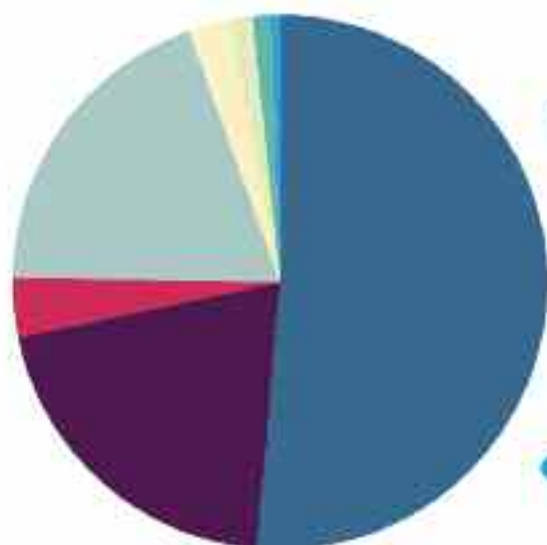
CHANGES IN SPENDING

The net expenditure for the police will be £3m higher in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16 following a 0.6% reduction in central government funding offset by a rise in council tax funding. The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) has taken the decision to increase the policing part of the council tax by £3.48 a year for the average band D household. This follows extensive consultation with over 3,000 residents. Although inflation and other unavoidable spending pressures will increase costs by £11m, savings have been agreed to balance the budget. This means that the average band D precept will be £178.26.

The PCC also receives £1.8 million funding for victims services from the Ministry of Justice and this has been retained at the same level as 2015/16 alongside a small increase to fund services for victims of child sexual abuse.

HOW WE SPEND THE BUDGET 2016/17

The chart below shows where the budget goes:



- Police Officers - £142.2m
- Police Staff - £56m
- Community Support Officers - £10.3m
- Running Expenses - £52.5m
- Police Pensions - £7m
- Capital Funding Costs - £4.2m
- Community Safety Fund - £2.6m
- Office of the PCC - £1.4m

AVON & SOMERSET POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER *Election 2016*

In May, there will be an election for the next Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset. Every resident who is registered to vote can do so on Thursday, May 5 at their local polling station.

A Police and Crime Commissioner has the statutory duty to set the police budget and the priorities for the police in consultation with residents. A new Police and Crime Plan setting out the policing priorities for the year ahead will be published this summer.



**AVON &
SOMERSET**
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Remember call **101** in a non-emergency and
always dial **999** in an emergency.
01257 816377 | www.avonandsomerset.pcc.gov.uk
pcc@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

[AvonSPCC](#) [Avonpcc](#)



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.



This service costs the average Band D household £67.93 a year – or around £1.31 a week.

This year we have increased the precept, or the amount we ask for from the average home, by a total of £1.33 or less than 3p per week. Despite this rise, Avon Fire & Rescue Service's precept remains among the lowest in the country.

We also receive around a third of our funding from central Government. The grant we receive has fallen in recent years and will continue to reduce.

As a result, savings of £5 million will need to be made over the next four years which means we will continue to implement plans to allow us to provide a first-class emergency service with a smaller budget.

To reduce our running costs we have closed Speedwell Fire Station, with cover now being provided from an extended station at Kingswood.

This year we will also open a new fire station at Hicks Gate which will take over the cover previously provided by Brislington and Keynsham fire stations.

Our Headquarters function is also due to move from the centre of Bristol and consideration is being given to relocating to the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Headquarters at Portishead.

Although we are making changes to the way we deliver our services, ensuring the safety of local people remains our focus.

If you would like fire safety advice about your home, or the home of a loved one, please call us on 0117 926 2061 or visit our website at www.avonfire.gov.uk

Where does each pound go?



Annual budget

Avon Fire Authority has set its net budget for 2016/17 at £42.794 million (m). This represents a Council Tax level of £67.93 a year for a Band D property, an increase of just below 2%.

The Government's funding assessment for Avon Fire Authority has been reduced to £18.629m for 2016/17, a reduction of £1.443m (7.14%). The impact of this is that the funding provided by Central Government has been reduced by £1.471m (9.54%), to £13.949m.

Spending plans

	2015/16 (£m)	2016/17 (£m)
Total fire expenditure	45,556	46,154
Income	-1,904	-1,861
Net budget before use of reserves	43,652	44,293
Use of reserves	-0,400	-1,499
Net budget	43,252	42,794
Funding:		
Central Government		
Revenue Support Grant	10,162	8,847
Business rate - Top-up	5,250	5,302
Local funding		
Locally retained business rates	1,660	1,881
Net collection fund surplus	0,343	0,223
Council tax	22,829	23,741
Total	43,252	42,794

Capital requirements

The capital programme for 2016/17, excluding any capital expenditure within the 2015/16 capital programme that may be delayed or slipped into 2016/17, is shown to the right:

The main changes in spending from 2015/16 to 2016/17 are shown below:

Main changes in net expenditure	(£m)
2015/16 Budget	43,252
Inflationary pressures	-0,467
Other	2,430
Use of reserves	-1,099
Savings	-2,256
2016/17 Budget	42,784

Savings

This year savings totalling around £2.3 million have been identified in the following areas:

Savings	2016/17 (£m)
Employees	-1,458
Running costs:	
Premises	-0,140
Transport	-0,047
Supplies and services	-0,111
Other	-0,495
Total	-2,256

	2015/16 (£m)	2016/17 (£m)
Premises	0,500	0,500
Investing for the Future programme	0,170	0,298
Vehicles and equipment	1,500	2,283
IT and communications	0,200	0,200
Total	10,370	12,262

For further information please contact: Avon Fire & Rescue Service,
A: Temple Back, Bristol, BS1 6EU **T:** 0117 926 2061 **W:** www.avonfire.gov.uk

Could you be a Shared Lives carer in North Somerset?



Would you like to make a real difference to people's lives?

Do you have enthusiasm, a willingness to support others and a spare room?

Shared Lives carers receive a fee for the support they provide.

To find out more call us on
01934 427 600 • www.ld4u.org.uk



North Somerset
Community Partnership
"Your Local Health Service"



North
Somerset
COUNCIL



North Somerset
Clinical Commissioning Group