

Your Council Tax 2025 to 2026



Cllr Ann-Marie Barker

Leader of Woking
Borough Council and
elected member for
Goldsworth Park

This year, Woking's share of Council Tax will increase by 2.99%, meaning an average Band D household will pay £298.11 per year – an increase of 17 pence a week - for essential services such as waste and recycling collections, planning services, parks and green spaces.

Woking's charge will be added to the amounts set by Surrey County Council (£1,846.35 for Band D households) and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner (£337.57 for Band D households). Combined it means Band D households will pay £2,482.03 in Council Tax during the forthcoming year.

Our budget

Our 2025 to 2026 budget supports the council's ongoing transition to a more efficient and financially sustainable organisation that operates within its financial means.

Crucially, it has enabled us to continue supporting communities by maintaining discretionary services and investing in social housing.

To support the delivery of a balanced budget, we have identified a further £2.5 million in efficiency savings to help protect frontline services during the next financial year. We have also reviewed fees and charges for discretionary services to ensure they remain fair, equitable, socially responsible and financially sustainable while continuing to support residents.

Approval of this budget was only possible due to exceptional financial support from Government. This ensures we can continue to service our £2.1 billion legacy debt without impacting essential services.

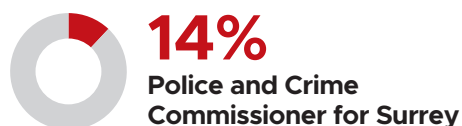
However, our long-term recovery depends on reducing this debt, rationalising our assets, and strengthening commercial governance, as outlined in our Improvement and Recovery Plan.

As Surrey explores local government devolution, we will work closely with our partners to ensure any changes benefit Woking's residents and businesses. Our priority remains delivering efficient, high-quality services while securing a stable financial future for our borough.

Shaping the **future**
of our borough



Who gets your Council Tax



Woking Borough Council's budget

Spending	Business as usual budget £m	Budget £m
Communities: delivering housing, homelessness, leisure and wellbeing services that enrich our communities.	5.5	5.5
Place: creating, maintaining and managing the environment in which we live.	3.7	3.7
Corporate Resources: includes Property Services/Estate Management and support functions such as IT, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance, Customer Services, Human Resources, Revenue and Benefits administration.	7.5	0.1
Financing and Corporate Costs: includes debt repayment costs and, for example, provisions for inflation and corporate contingencies.	6.9	174.3
Total	23.6	183.6

Funding	£m	£m
Council Tax	12.8	12.8
Business Rates	6	6
Government Grants	2	2
Total	20.8	20.8
Budget deficit funded from Government exceptional financial support	2.8	162.8
Total	23.6	183.6

What is the difference between the 'budget' and 'Business as Usual budget'?

The 'budget' reflects the council's actual financial position including full debt costs, commercial property income, and change management costs. In contrast, the 'BAU budget' presents a 'normal' position excluding historic debt burdens.

Housing Revenue Account

The council manages around 3,300 social housing homes through its ringfenced Housing Revenue Account (HRA). In 2025/26, the council expects to spend £22 million on management and maintenance, with a forecast income of £23 million, contributing £1 million to HRA reserves for future investment.

Changes to Council Tax

From 1 April 2025, second home premiums will be introduced and empty home premiums applied to properties that have been vacant for one year. Exemptions will apply. For more information, scan the QR code or visit woking.gov.uk/council-tax



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