

Your guide to council tax 2023/24



A guide to your 2023/24 council tax

The council tax you pay helps to provide local services Hampshire County Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority each receive a share of the council tax that you pay.

This booklet tells you more about the services Rushmoor Borough Council provides. We receive just under **12%** of the total council tax you pay and we spend this on services such as recycling and rubbish collections, street cleaning, planning, housing, environmental health, community and leisure facilities.

Almost three-quarters (**72%**) of your council tax goes to Hampshire County Council for services including roads and street lighting, support for children and families and services for older people and people with disabilities. You can find out more at www.bit.ly/hantsbudget23

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire receives just over **12%** of your council tax. The commissioner oversees and funds the work of Hampshire Constabulary to ensure effective and efficient policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. You can find more information at www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority receives just under **4%** of the council tax you pay. This money is spent on preventing fires and other risks, protecting life and property and for responding to emergencies. Visit www.hantsfire.gov.uk for more details.



This year, people who live in a property that is in Band D for council tax will pay £2,018.12

Providing local services, improving the quality of people's lives

We would like Rushmoor to be somewhere people choose to live, work and enjoy their leisure time.

To help achieve this, we provide more than 100 local services to residents and businesses in Aldershot and Farnborough. We believe that our residents deserve to live healthy lives in a place that is safe, clean and where they can have their needs met locally.

We need to target our services where they are needed most. This means working with other organisations, community groups and businesses to make the best use of the resources we have.

As well as focusing on commercial activities to generate additional income, we are developing a revised approach to our savings programme so we can balance the books in the coming years.

The council faces significant financial challenges over the coming year and we will be looking closely at how we can maintain our services in an ever-tighter financial environment due to changes in the way local government is financed, rising costs and inflation, and the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

We will continue to be financially sustainable, both in the short and medium term, through a number of projects and initiatives which will help us to modernise and improve the delivery of services and reduce costs.

We also have a significant projected funding gap of £3.2 million in 2023/24, which is forecast to increase further in future years.

We are using reserves to balance the budget in the short-term, with the aim of securing financial sustainability through continuing to deliver efficiencies and savings over the coming years.

In the last couple of years, we have already increased our income and made savings by reviewing the way we work and reducing our spending. We remain committed to providing good quality services that offer value for money. We will continue to protect our frontline services, which include:

- Collecting household recycling, food waste and rubbish,
- Regenerating our town centres, including Union Yard, Aldershot and the civic quarter, including a new leisure and cultural hub, in Farnborough

- Delivering services in a green and sustainable way so that we can become carbon neutral by 2030
- Providing and maintaining parks, playgrounds and natural open spaces
- Tackling littering, fly-tipping and graffiti
- Helping those most in need by providing housing benefit and council tax support
- Giving people the opportunity to live healthy and active lives by providing a range of leisure facilities, including the new field centre at Southwood Country Park
- Inspecting food premises and licensing premises and taxis
- Dealing with planning applications, helping to shape the future of the borough and encouraging business investment in Aldershot and Farnborough.

Looking further into the future, our long-time vision for 2030 includes creating vibrant and distinctive town centres; housing for every stage of life; strong communities; healthy and green lifestyles; opportunities for everyone and a growing local economy which is kind to the environment.

Rushmoor's council tax

This year we have increased our portion of the council tax by 2.99% for a Band D property. This means a rise of £6.56 a year, or around 13p a week.

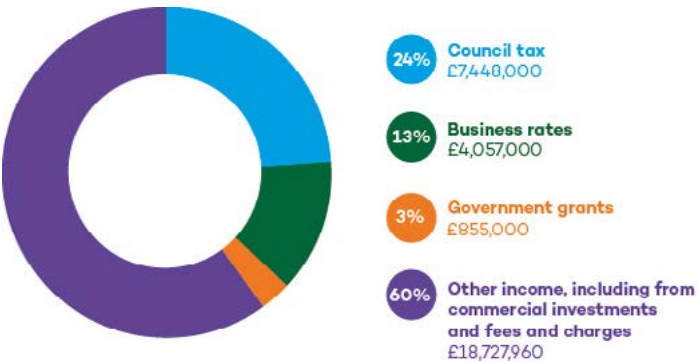
In 2023/24, a household living in a Band D council tax property will have a bill for £2,018.12. Out of this, we will receive £225.98, just over £4 a week, to provide its services. The rest will be allocated to Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

The share of council tax that we receive from residents who live in Rushmoor makes up 12% of our total income. We receive a further 53% of our income from government grant and business rates; 18% comes from fees and charges, 14% from rental income for property and 2% from interest we receive on investments.

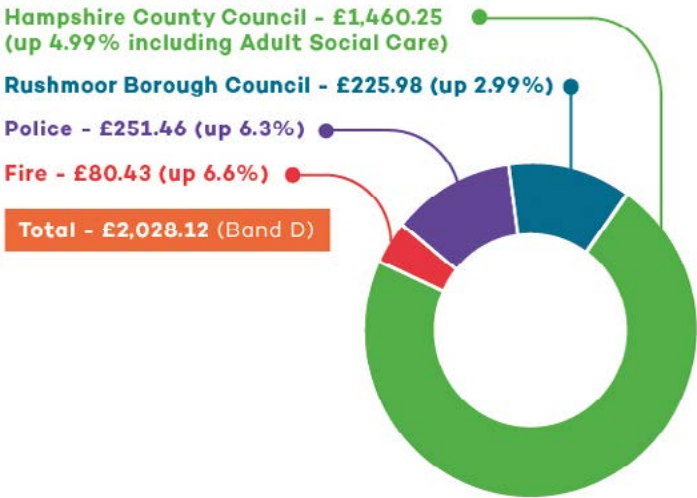


Food waste caddy

Where the money comes from for our services



Where your council tax goes



How we spend our budget

2022/23 (£000s)		2023/24 (£000s)
56,533	Gross expenditure	58,400
42,012	income from services	43,240
14,521	Spend on services	15,160

-2,901	Capital accounting and IAS 19 charges reversed	15,160
-1,250	Interest receipts	-2,901
3,907	Borrowing	4,607
-1,488	Planned budget savings	-2,309
-1,701	Contributions to/from reserves	-100
314	Collection and deficit	-10
442	Other adjustments	342
-617	Government grants	-855
-4,031	Business rates retention	-4,057
7,196	Council tax requirement	7,448

A negative number indicates an increase in income



The Wellington Statue, Aldershot

We collect council tax from residents who live in Aldershot and Farnborough. We pass on **88%** of it to Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

A person is holding a smartphone, displaying the Rushmoor Council website. The screen shows the 'Council tax account' section, which includes a list of services provided and a link to the personal data page. The website is titled 'RUSHMOOR COUNCIL' and 'counciltax.rushmoor.gov.uk'. The 'Council tax account' section lists services such as 'collection and payment', 'new and existing properties', and 'annual payment'. A link to 'View your personal data' is visible at the bottom of the screen.

For every **£1** collected, this is how it is distributed:

- 72p** to Hampshire County Council
- 12p** to the Police and Crime Commissioner
for Hampshire
- 12p** to Rushmoor Borough Council
- 4p** to the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority



How much council tax you will pay and who gets what

Band	Rushmoor	Hampshire	Police	Fire	Total
A	150.65	973.50	167.64	53.62	1,345.41
B	175.76	1,135.75	195.58	62.56	1,569.65
C	200.87	1,298.00	223.52	71.49	1,793.38
D	225.98	1,460.25	251.46	80.43	2,018.12
E	276.20	1,784.75	307.34	98.30	2,466.59
F	326.42	2,109.25	363.22	116.18	2,915.07
G	376.63	2,433.75	419.10	134.05	3,363.53
H	451.96	2,920.50	502.92	160.86	4,036.24

Major changes to budget requirement

Changes in budget	£000s
increases in inflation	817
planned savings	-2,309
increase in borrowing costs	700
increase in interest receipts	-1,179
reduction in reserves contributions	1,601

A negative number indicates an increase in income

What happened in 2022/23

- We successfully secured £20 million from the government's Levelling Up Fund towards a new leisure and cultural hub for Farnborough. The new hub will form an important part of our wider civic quarter regeneration scheme
- The civic quarter is key to regenerating, and providing a new heart to, Farnborough town centre. Working as part of the Rushmoor Development Partnership (RDP), we brought forward a masterplan for its redevelopment which was approved by the Development Management committee in February. This will form the basis for more detailed planning applications going forward



Civic quarter, Farnborough

- As a major boost to our plans to regenerate and improve Farnborough town centre we also agreed to buy The Meads and Kingsmead shopping centre. This puts us in a stronger position to deliver a vision for the town centre as an attractive destination where residents and visitors choose to go

- The redevelopment of Union Yard continued, with the concrete building frame now finished. When completed it will include flexible retail and commercial space as well as new town centre homes and accommodation for students



Union Yard, Aldershot

- We completed the rollout of our weekly food waste recycling service, with the service expanded to homes with shared rubbish and recycling bins
- We worked with The Shaviram Group, the owners of The Galleries in Aldershot, to help progress its redevelopment with the removal of the link bridge in Wellington Street and the stripping out of the interior of the former shopping centre
- We saw our recycling rates rise sharply thanks to the launch of the food waste recycling service and the efforts of residents. We are now recycling around 42% of Rushmoor's household waste (up from 32%), which is one of the highest across Hampshire

- The Queen's Baton Relay arrived in Aldershot in July – one of a select band of towns chosen to host the relay - on its way to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham
- We completed the building of a new, sustainable, Southwood Country Park field centre and café and a new play area



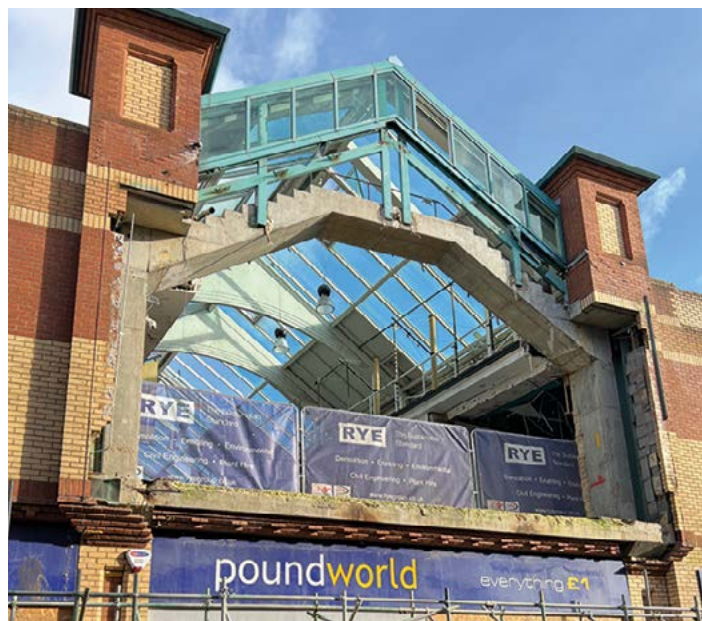
Southwood Country Park café and field centre

- Along with communities across Aldershot and Farnborough, we celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a number of events, including a beacon lighting, over the four-day bank holiday weekend in June
- We joined the nation in mourning the passing of our long-serving monarch Queen Elizabeth II, by opening a Book of Remembrance for residents. The Mayor of Rushmoor, Councillor John Marsh, also sent a letter to the royal family expressing his deep sadness on behalf of the council and the people of Aldershot and Farnborough
- We launched two new heritage trails for Farnborough, giving residents and visitors the opportunity to find out all about the town's rich history through a mobile app. These go with the six we already have for Aldershot
- The famous Farnborough International Airshow returned in July, showcasing the latest in global aerospace and aviation innovation
- With record high temperatures last summer, 72,765 visitors made the most of the swimming pool, flumes and lane-swimming sessions at Aldershot Lido
- We saw the Princes Hall bounce back after the pandemic, with ticket sales for professional shows back to pre-Covid levels. Once more, the panto 'Cinderella' was met with excellent reviews from customers and critics alike with around 19,500 people attending over the three-weeks
- We provided nearly £300,000 in rate and rent relief to nearly 100 local businesses to help them deal with rising costs and inflation
- We distributed ward and community grants totalling £32,256 and £23,464 from the Farnborough Airport Community Environmental Fund, which is a levy collected on flights into and out of the airport, to community organisations
- A total of £18,179 has also been distributed from the Rushmoor Lottery Community Fund, a fund collected from donations from every ticket sold
- We were successful in our bid to the government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which will see £1 million invested in our town centres over the next three years with a programme of arts, culture and heritage events aimed at maximising footfall to take advantage of our ambitious regeneration plans.

The year ahead

In 2023/24, we estimate that we will spend more than £66.6 million on providing services. These are some of our plans for the year ahead:

- The redevelopment of Union Yard will continue. When completed in the summer of 2024 it will include 100 new town centre homes and accommodation for students as well as flexible retail and commercial space
- We will work with The Shaviram Group to help progress the redevelopment of The Galleries site in Aldershot. When complete the development will provide new town centre homes, commercial space, a public square and a new 250-space public car park



The Galleries, Aldershot

- We will continue to provide weekly food waste recycling and fortnightly recycling and bin collections
- We will be welcoming back crowds to the Aldershot Lido for another action-packed summer season. As part of our preparation, we will be improving the toilet block
- Architects will be designing a major refurbishment of Aldershot Crematorium after we completed a comprehensive feasibility study considering the modernisation of the facility
- We will work with the police to help tackle crime and antisocial behaviour locally. As part of this, we will be looking to replace our CCTV cameras, which will be operated from a state-of-the-art control room at Runnymede Borough Council
- We will progress the purchase of The Meads and Kingsmead shopping centre, together with the car park and business centre, which supports our wider regeneration plans for the town centre and civic quarter
- We will continue to work on the approach, costs and early designs for a new leisure and cultural hub for Farnborough. Our vision is for a carbon net zero destination development that will provide new leisure facilities alongside library, cultural and community spaces, including a play area, skate park and parking

- Working as part of the Rushmoor Development Partnership (RDP) we will also begin to bring forward plans for the individual plots at the civic quarter
- We will work with Hampshire County Council on the re-design of Aldershot railway station forecourt and the surrounding roads. The famous field gun, which once stood outside the station, is being refurbished and will be moved to a new location at the bottom of Gun Hill, subject to planning approval, later this year
- We will organise a number of town centre events to help support our high streets, including our ever-popular Victoria Day in Aldershot on Saturday 10 June



Aldershot Christmas Cracker.

Photo by Paul Mannering

- We will work with partners to deliver the Rushmoor Cultural Strategy and build on Rushmoor's rich heritage to increase community pride and the visitor economy

- As part of the promotion of our area's unique heritages, we will launch three more heritage trails in Farnborough



The Farnborough centrifuge

- To meet new financial challenges brought on high inflation and rising costs, we will make additional savings of £2.3 million in 2023/24, rising to £2.5 million in 2024/25 out of our overall revenue budget of around £12.3 million
- We will work with public and voluntary sector partners to support residents through the cost-of-living crisis and also do what we can to help local businesses
- We will encourage more residents to be active and to lead healthier lifestyles
- We will continue progress towards our goal of becoming a carbon neutral council by 2030 through reducing emissions in our facilities and operations.

Contact

You can find out more about what we do, the services we provide and how to access them, on our website, www.rushmoor.gov.uk

You can also email us at customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk

or call us on **01252 398 399**

Monday to Thursday 9am - 5pm

Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Personal visits to the office 9am - 2pm.



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nextdoor



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www.rushmoor.gov.uk/news