

CITY OF LINCOLN COUNCIL

HOW YOUR COUNCIL TAX WILL BE SPENT ON SERVICES



2025-26

Council tax explained
Budget summary
Local Policing summary

About this booklet

We can provide the information in this booklet in Braille, large type or other languages if required. Please contact City of Lincoln Council at the address below.

City of Lincoln Council

City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln LN1 1DD

Website: www.lincoln.gov.uk

General Enquiries: 01522 881188

Automated Payment Line: 01522 873666

Minicom service(general): 01522 873693

Email: customer.services@lincoln.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council

County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL

General enquiries: 01522 552222

Fax: 01522 516137

Email:

customer_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Minicom service: 01522 552055

Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

If you want any more information on the county council's budget, please phone 01522 553648 and leave a message, email finance@lincolnshire.gov.uk or visit: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/finance

Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Deepdale Lane, Nettleham, Lincoln LN57PH

Tel: 01522 947192

Fax: 01522 558739

Email: Lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.pnn.police.uk

Lincolnshire Police General Enquiries

Tel: 101 (your call may be recorded)

Website: www.lincs.police.uk

Shared service

In June 2011 a shared service was formed for Revenues and Benefits Services between City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven District Council, to deliver improvements for customers and value for money. The shared service is hosted by City of Lincoln Council and therefore Revenues and Benefits work for the two partner authorities is carried out by staff employed by City of Lincoln Council. This service includes the collection of council tax.

Manage your account online

Introduced in 2023 – My Accounts

Mycounciltax and Mybusinessrates

You can view your council tax account and other services through your own personalised online account. You will need the registration code printed on your annual bill, and your council tax reference number and then you can register at:

www.lincoln.gov.uk/online/accounts

Contacting us about changes

If you need to change any details relating to your council tax bill, if your bill is wrong, or if you're moving house, you can contact us through **www.lincoln.gov.uk/online/accounts**, call us on **01522 873355** or email: **counciltax@lincoln.gov.uk**



Council Tax Explained

Who gets the council tax?

City of Lincoln Council collects the council tax. However, we keep less than 15 percent of it. We pay the rest to Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

What is council tax and who has to pay?

Council tax is a tax on people's homes. Council and police services are paid for by income from Government grants, council tax, business rates, fees and other charges.

Owner occupiers and their partners usually have to pay the council tax bill. Where homes are rented, the tenants and their partners will have to pay.

In the case of empty homes, it's normally the owner who has to pay.

The owners of these properties have to pay:

1. Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels or
2. Those occupied by:
 - a minister of religion or a religious community
 - more than one household or
 - resident staff or asylum seekers

Please contact us if you have been made the liable person, and you believe this to be incorrect.

What are valuation bands – can you appeal?

The Valuation Office, an executive agency of HM Revenue and Customs, has given each property a valuation band, between A and H, according to its market value in April 1991. If your property was built after April 1991, it will be valued as if it had existed then.

In common with all local authorities, City of Lincoln Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers.

We are required to participate in data matching exercises, carried out by the Audit Commission's National Fraud Initiative, to prevent and detect fraud.

Band	Market Value (at April 1991)
A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 - £52,000
C	£52,001 - £68,000
D	£68,001 - £88,000
E	£88,001 - £120,000
F	£120,001 - £160,000
G	£160,001 - £320,000
H	More than £320,000

You can appeal against the valuation band if:

It's within six months of you becoming the taxpayer or the value changes because of demolition work, a conversion, a change of use or any other physical change to the property's location. You must carry on paying your council tax while your appeal is being considered.

For more information about valuation bands or appeals, contact:

Online: gov.uk/contact-VOA

If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on:

Phone: 03000 501 501

Post: Valuation Office Agency, Durham Customer Service Centre, Wycliffe House, Green Lane, Durham DH1 3UW

If your initial appeal fails, you have further avenues of appeal, which will be explained to you by the Valuation Office.

Council Tax Explained

Council tax discounts

You may be able to get a discount or an exemption from your Council Tax under certain circumstances.

Any empty unfurnished property which is empty for less than a month will receive a 100% discount. If the property is still empty at the end of the month, then the full charge will become payable.

If it remains empty for more than 12 months then an additional charge of 100% will become payable, making the total charge 200%. After a property has been empty for 5 years a further additional 100% will become payable, and the premium will increase to 200%, making a total charge 300%.

After a property has been empty for 10 years a further additional 100% charge will become payable, and the premium will increase to 300%, making a total charge of 400%. Further details of Empty Homes premiums and exceptions to this charge can be found on our website at www.lincoln.gov.uk or by calling our council tax team on 01522 873217.

This is worked out from when the property became empty. Occupation of less than 6 weeks is not counted. There is no discount for any empty property which is furnished.

From 1 April 2025, a furnished property without a resident will be charged a 100% premium charge unless an exception to this charge can be applied. Please find further details on our website at www.lincoln.gov.uk or by calling our council tax team on 01522 873217.

Any vacant property which is undergoing structural or major repair may qualify for a 25% discount. People under the age of 25 who were in care when they were 18 may also qualify for a discount.

You can get a 25% discount on your bill if there is only one person aged 18 or over living in your home. People under 18, or in one of the groups listed below, are NOT included when counting the number of people living in your home for council tax purposes:

Full time students, student nurses and some apprentices and some partners of students:

- People resident in care homes
- People with a Severe Mental Impairment
- 18 and 19 year olds for whom child benefit is still being paid
- Some school and college leavers
- Some low paid carers

- Residents of religious communities and hostels
- Prisoners
- Diplomats and visiting forces personnel

You should contact the Council if you think you may qualify for a discount. If you are receiving a discount and your circumstances change you must let the Council know.

Generally, you don't have to pay council tax on the classes of property listed below, because they are exempt. Some classes do have time limits though and you may have to pay a charge after the exemption runs out. Time limits run from when the circumstances of the exempt class first started to apply, and they don't re-start if the property changes hands.

Classes of exempt EMPTY property:

Class B - owned by a charity (exempt for up to 6 months only)

Class D - the taxpayer is in prison (except for sentences for non-payment of fines or council tax)

Class E - the taxpayer has left it to go and live in a care home

Class F - the taxpayer has died (exempt for up to six months after probate granted although this may not apply in every case)

Class G - can't be lived in by law

Class H - held for a minister of religion

Class I - the taxpayer has gone to live elsewhere to receive personal care

Class J - the taxpayer has gone to live elsewhere to provide personal care

Class K - left empty by a student

Class L - the mortgagee has possession

Class Q - the taxpayer is trustee to a bankrupt

Class R - unused caravan pitch or boat mooring

Class T - unoccupied annex to occupied property

Classes of exempt OCCUPIED property:

Class M - student halls of residence

Class N - all occupiers are students, school or college leavers or non-British dependents or partners of students

Class O - UK armed forces accommodation

Class P - visiting forces accommodation

Class S - all occupiers are under 18

Class U - all occupiers are severely mentally impaired

Council Tax Explained

Class V - main residence of a person with diplomatic privilege or immunity or

Class W - the annex to a property occupied by a dependent relative.

(A 50% discount can also be granted in certain circumstances where an annex to a main dwelling is occupied by a relative of the person who pays the council tax on the main dwelling).

Please contact us if:

- You think your property should be exempt from council tax or
- Your circumstances have changed so that it should no longer be exempt.

Penalties

You must notify us of a change in circumstances within 21 days. Failure to do so could result in a penalty of £70 being imposed.

People with disabilities

You can get your bill reduced by one valuation band if you have a second bathroom; a second kitchen; a special room; or enough floor space to use a wheelchair indoors and the facility is necessary to meet the needs of anyone in the home who is disabled.

If you qualify for this reduction, you will have to renew your application annually.

Please contact us if:

- You think you should be getting a disabled band reduction or
- Your circumstances have changed so that you no longer need to receive the reduction

Claiming Council Tax Support

From April 2013 the national Council Tax Benefit scheme was abolished, and local councils have to decide what type of support scheme to replace it with. Every council has less funding from Central Government to pay for the scheme.

All councils need to decide whether to cut levels of Council Tax Support to match the reduced funding now provided, or to find money by increasing income in other areas or by reducing spending, to fund this cut.

What is City of Lincoln Council's scheme?

Don't pay more Council Tax than you need to. Council tax support is a means-tested discount that can reduce your bill by up to 100%.

However, the following restrictions apply to all working age customers except those on passported benefits, which means you will not qualify for the support:

If you have capital over £6,000

The following restrictions will also apply to all working age customers, which means you will get reduced support:

If your entitlement is less than £2 per week
Property banding capped at Band B - if you live in a Band C property or above, your support will be calculated on Band B liability

Backdating is restricted to one month

Temporary absence from home rules to be introduced

Contact City of Lincoln Council for further advice.

Housing Benefit (Help with your rent)

If you rent your home and have a low income, you may be eligible to claim Universal Credit to help pay your rent. Please visit: www.gov.uk/universal-credit

You can also visit www.lincoln.gov.uk and search for Council Tax Support and Housing benefits which explains who can claim and includes a benefit calculator to indicate if you qualify for assistance.

Are you finding it hard to pay?

This booklet contains information about many discounts, exemptions, banding reductions and benefits that can help to reduce your bill. We can advise further on any of these.

If you don't qualify or are already receiving some help, and are still finding it hard to pay, contact us as soon as possible to discuss your payments.

The Citizens Advice Bureau contacts are shown below:

Website: www.citizensadvice.lincoln.org.uk

Adviceline: 0808 278 7940

(9am- 5pm, Mon-Friday)

Universal Credit help to claim: 0800 144 8444

(8am - 6pm, Mon-Friday)

Migrant Worker Helpline: 0344 847 6128

The council has the discretion to give local council tax discounts. It is likely that this would only be used in very exceptional and deserving circumstances. If you think this might apply to you, please contact us for more information.

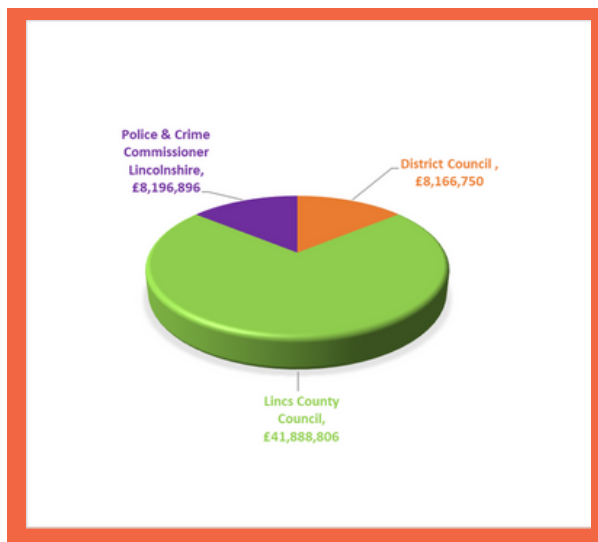
Council Tax Explained

This year the County Council increased its part of the council tax by 2.99%, the City Council has increased its part by 2.92% and the Police and Crime Commissioner has increased his portion by 4.59%.

Your Council Tax this year 2025/26

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
County	1083.90	1264.55	1445.20	1625.85	1987.15	2348.45	2709.75	3251.70
Police	212.10	247.45	282.80	318.15	388.85	459.55	530.25	636.30
City	211.32	246.54	281.76	316.98	387.42	457.86	528.30	633.96
Total	1507.32	1758.54	2009.76	2260.98	2763.42	3265.86	3768.30	4521.96

Money from council tax required to deliver services...



City of Lincoln Council collects all of the council tax for the city but only retains 14.02% of it.

This pie chart shows how the council tax collected is redistributed.

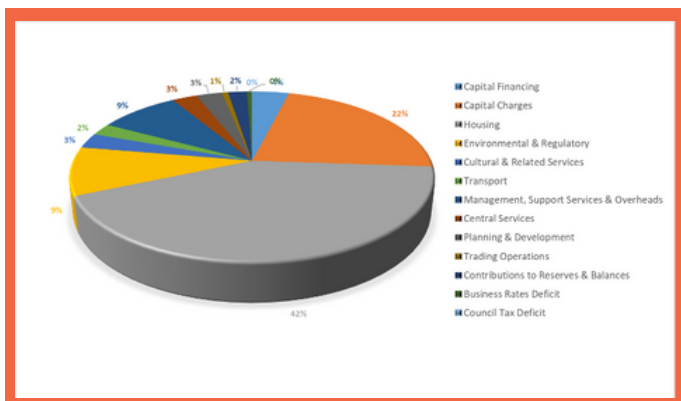
The council tax collected in Lincoln this year will be divided as follows:

£8,166,750 - City Council

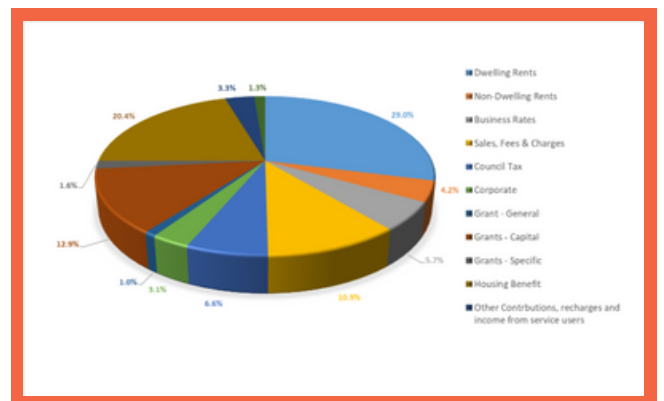
£41,888,806 - Lincolnshire County Council

£8,196,896 - Police and Crime Commissioner

Where the money is spent on services



Where the money comes from



City of Lincoln Council

The city council has set gross expenditure and income budgets of £124m and £116m respectively for 2025/26. The difference between the gross expenditure and income is raised through council tax; for 2025/26 this is £8.176m. This table shows where the budget is required within the council and how the cost is met through income.

2024/25 £'000	Service Related Expenditure	2025/26 £'000
47,629	Housing (including Housing Benefit	52,518
11,250	Environmental & Regulatory	11,372
3,528	Cultural & Related Services	3,600
2,676	Transport	2,850
9,953	Management, Support Services & Overheads	10,555
3,511	Central Services	3,286
4,612	Planning & Development	3,401
864	Trading Operations	807
84,023	Sub Total	88,389
4,842	Capital Financing	4,855
19,385	Capital Charges	27,484
1,625	Reserves and Balances	2,492
0	Business Rates	624
104	Council Tax	56
109,979	Gross Expenditure	123,901
	Income	
(34,798)	Dwelling Rents	(35,898)
(4,971)	Non-Dwelling Rents	(5,200)
(7,440)	Business Rates	(7,120)
(12,834)	Sales, Fees & Charges	(13,445)
(2,467)	Corporate	(3,883)
(1,225)	Grants - General	(1,187)
(4,922)	Grants - Specific	(2,001)
(3,175)	Grants - Capital	(16,036)
(22,405)	Housing Benefit	(25,292)
(6,479)	Other Contributions, Recharges & Income	(4,122)
(1,358)	Reserves & Balances	(1,551)
(102,074)	Gross Income	(115,734)
7,906	Council Tax Requirement	(8,167)

How annual changes in income and expenditure affects council tax.

City of Lincoln Council's income and expenditure changes each year and has an impact on council tax. This table shows how those annual changes affect council tax:

	Change in Exp and Income £000	Change in Council Tax (at band D) £	Change in Council Tax (at band A) £
Band D and Band A Equivalent 2024/25	7,906	307.98	205.32
Inflationary Costs – Pay	725	28.15	18.77
Inflationary Costs – General	352	13.68	9.12
Increase in National Insurance	390	15.12	10.08
Increase in Deficit on Collection Fund	1,044	40.52	27.01
Reduction in Contributions from Reserves	459	17.82	11.88
Reduction in Government Grants	177	6.86	4.57
Less:			
Increase in Retained Business Rates	(148)	(5.74)	(3.83)
Extended Producer Responsibility Income	(1,424)	(55.27)	(36.85)
Energy Price Reductions	(168)	(6.53)	(4.35)
Increase in Corporate Savings Target	(125)	(4.85)	(3.23)
Increase in Fees & Charges Income	(610)	(23.68)	(15.79)
Increase in Rental Income	(163)	(6.33)	(4.22)
Other changes in Net Cost of Services	(247)	(9.61)	(6.40)
Change in Band D Equivalent		(1.14)	(0.76)
Band D & Band A Equivalent 2025/26	8,167	316.98	211.32

Estimated financial reserves and liabilities

This table shows our estimated reserves and liabilities in comparison with last year:

Reserves and Balance	Balance at 1/4/25 £000	In Year Adjustments £000	Balance at 1/4/26 £000
Revenue:			
General Fund	2,539	129	2,668
Housing Revenue Account	1,030	112	1,142
Capital:			
General Fund	13,365	(11,694)	1,670
Housing Revenue Account	30,488	(1,220)	29,268
Total Reserves & Balances	47,422	(12,673)	34,749
External Borrowing Leases:			
Total Liabilities	107,520	3,432	110,952

City of Lincoln Council

Vision 2025

Our five priorities for the next four years and beyond
Our vision - together, let's deliver Lincoln's ambitious future - sets out what the city council wants to achieve for Lincoln and how we are going to achieve it.

The strategic priorities that support this vision are:

- Let's drive inclusive economic growth
- Let's reduce all kinds of inequality
- Let's deliver quality housing
- Let's enhance our remarkable place
- Let's address the challenge of climate change

These are underpinned by the One Council programme and reinforced by our core values which govern our approach to everything we do. Our three core values are;

- Let's be approachable
- Let's be innovative
- Let's be trusted to deliver



What you get for your money?

At Bands A and B - which make up 80% of homes in the city - City of Lincoln Council is charging £211.32 and £246.54 for the delivery of its services in Bands A and B. For this you receive:

- Refuse and recycling collections
- Street cleansing
- Planning
- Restaurant, pub and take-away food hygiene checks
- CCTV
- Economic promotion and support for regeneration
- Licensing of entertainment and alcohol provision
- Leisure facilities
- Upkeep of parks and green spaces
- Grounds maintenance
- Community centres
- Markets
- Heritage
- Arts
- Small business support
- Play areas
- Contribution to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit devising the Local Plan
- Advice on housing and homelessness
- Administration of council tax and housing benefits
- Organisation of elections
- Rate relief to organisations and businesses
- Action against anti-social behaviour
- Contribution to many community and partnership initiatives.... and much, much more

Who is Responsible?

In Lincoln, and throughout the county, the responsibility of providing services is shared between Lincolnshire County Council and district councils including City of Lincoln Council. The services below are the responsibility of Lincolnshire County Council:

- Adult care
- Blue badges
- Children's centres
- Community safety
- Concessionary bus passes
- Economic development - including tourism
- Emergency planning
- Family links scheme
- Fostering and adoption
- Heritage - Lincoln Castle, The Collection and Usher Gallery
- Highways and transportation
- Libraries
- Lifelong learning
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
- On-street parking
- Planning - county council projects, mineral extraction and waste
- Public health
- Recycling and waste disposal
- Registration and celebratory services (births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships)
- Schools (excluding academies)
- School admissions and transport
- Street services including looking after and maintaining traffic lights, traffic signs, road marking, street lighting and more
- Trading standards

Meeting the challenge

Lincolnshire County Council

Meeting the challenge

This year, the council is planning to use a net budget of over £690m to continue providing its wide range of vital services, including adult care, children's services, highways and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

The proposals also include the creation of a new £1m emergency flood response reserve, to help support those affected by flooding.

This remains a challenging time for the council financially, with rising demand for services and growing costs resulting from inflation and increases in the national living wage and employers' national insurance contributions.

In addition, the government is no longer providing the council's £9m Rural Services Delivery Grant, designed to help cover some of the additional costs when providing services in a sparsely populated area. It has been replaced by a new Recovery Grant, but Lincolnshire will not receive any of this funding.

To help protect frontline services, there will be a 2.99% increase in the authority's share of the council tax. This is below the 4.99% increase allowed by the government, with the council instead choosing to use nearly £8m of its reserves to balance the books.

You can find further details of the council's spending plans for the 2025/26 financial year online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/budget

Council tax

The authority's funding comes from a combination of council tax, business rates and government grants.

In light of increasing costs and demand for services, the council will increase its share of the council tax by 2.99% this year.

The increase is shown on your bill and will generate an extra £11.7m for the council. For a property in council tax band A, the increase would be the equivalent of an extra 60p per week.

Lincolnshire is still expected to have one of the lowest council tax rates of all 26 English shire counties.



Changes in budget requirement

Lincolnshire County Council

Reasons for change in budget requirement and effect on council tax		£m
Budget requirement 2024/25		652.5
Changes to gross expenditure	Children's Social Care pressures	12.8
	Adult Social Care pressures	21.7
	Highways Contract cost increases	0.0
	Transport pressures	9.0
	Pay Award inflation	7.9
	Other pressures	34.0
Changes to gross income	Waste Management savings	-2.0
	Energy savings	-2.5
	Other Service savings and increased income	-26.1
	Increase in Service grants	-6.1
Total change in services		48.8
Decrease in use of reserves		-7.8
Budget requirement 2025/26		693.5
Changes to funding	Increase in business rates funding	-3.2
	Increase in government grants	-20.4
	Increase in council tax	-17.4
Total change in funding		-41.0
Council tax increase of 2.0% (Adult social care precept) to support adult social care pressures		
Council tax increase of 1.0% (general) to support other service net pressures		
Total council tax increase of 3.0% (2.99%)		

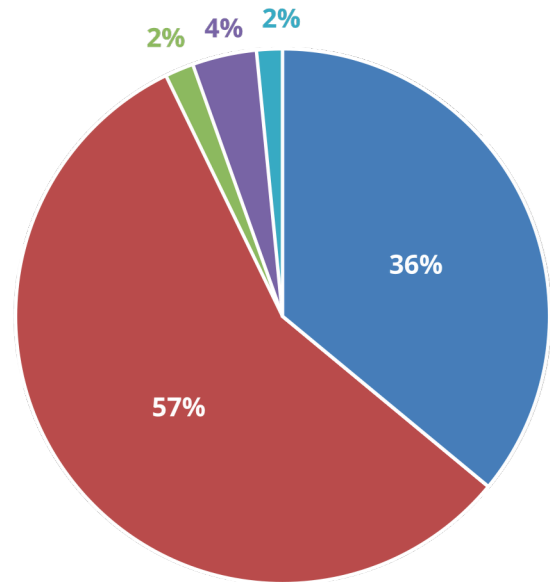
Note: The use of a minus (-) in front of a figure shows that either additional income will be received or that reserves will be used to support our spending.

Capital investment & net budget spend 2025/26

Lincolnshire County Council

2025/26 Capital Investment £236m

- Children's Services - £85.28m, 36%
- Place - £136.44m, 57%
- Fire and Rescue - £4.13m, 2%
- Resources & Corporate - £9.18m, 4%
- Adult Care & Community Wellbeing - £1.46m, 2%

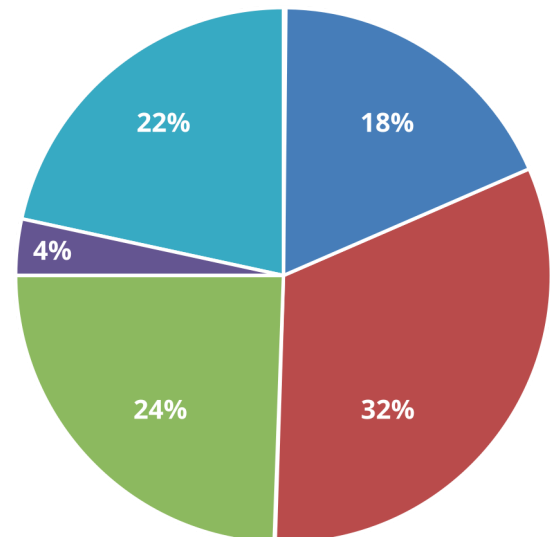


Place includes: Highways, Flood and Water Risk Management and Waste.

Resources and Corporate includes: Property Refurbishment and Information Technology.

2025/26 Net Budget Spend £694m

- Children's Services - £130.2m, 18%
- Adult Care and Community Wellbeing - £226.2m, 32%
- Place - £166.9m, 24%
- Capital Financing Charges - £25.6m, 4%
- Other Services - £144.6m, 22%



Children's Services includes: Children's Social Care and Children's Education.

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing includes: Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions, Adult Specialties, Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Public Protection.

Place includes: Communities (which includes Cultural Services, Waste Management, Environment and Flood Management, Transport (including Home to School/College), Sustainable Planning), Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Growth and Highways.

Other Services includes: Fire and Rescue; Resources; Corporate Services; Other Budgets: Contribution from Reserves.

Our share of the council tax

Lincolnshire County Council

The table below shows the amount you pay towards Lincolnshire County Council's services. (This does not include the amounts you pay for District Councils, Parish Councils or the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire).

	Amount 2024/2025	Amount 2025/2026
Band A	£1052.46	£1,083.90
Band B	£1,227.87	£1,264.55
Band C	£1,403.28	£1,445.20
Band D	£1,578.69	£1,625.85
Band E	£1,929.51	£1,987.15
Band F	£2,280.33	£2,348.45
Band G	£2,631.15	£2,709.75
Band H	£3,157.38	£3,251.70

Flood defence

The Environment Agency is responsible for protecting people and property against flooding from sea and rivers. The majority of its funding comes from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), but Lincolnshire County Council is also making a contribution of £0.705m for 2025/26 (£0.687m for 2024/25).

Funding and spending in 2025/26

Lincolnshire County Council

Services	Gross £m	Income £m	Net £m	Cost per Resident £
Children's Services	1,074.5	944.2	130.2	165.4
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	423.1	196.9	226.2	287.3
Place	215.5	48.6	166.9	212.0
Capital Projects Charges	25.9	0.3	25.6	32.5
Other Services	185.1	32.8	152.4	193.5
Total planned spending	1,924.1	1,222.8	701.3	890.7
Contributions to/-from reserves	0.0	7.8	-7.8	N/A
Budget requirement	1,924.1	1,230.7	693.5	890.7
Resourced by:				
Business Rates Local Retention			155.8	
Revenue Support Grant			28.9	
Other Grants			103.1	
County Precept			405.7	
Total Funding			693.5	

Children's Services includes: Children's Social Care and Children's Education.

Adult Care and Community Wellbeing includes: Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions, Adult Specialties, Public Health & Community Wellbeing, Public Protection.

Place includes: Communities (which includes Cultural Services, Waste Management, Environment and Flood Management, Transport (including Home to School/College), Sustainable Planning), Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Growth and Highways.

Other Services includes: Fire and Rescue; Resources; Corporate Services; Other Budgets, Contribution from Reserves.

Funding and spending in 2024/25

Lincolnshire County Council

Services	Gross £m	Income £m	Net £m	Cost per Resident £
Children's Services	974.8	861.1	113.7	144.4
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	396.6	191.0	205.6	261.2
Place	203.5	43.8	159.7	202.8
Capital Projects Charges	43.4	0.3	43.1	54.7
Other Services	161.9	29.9	132.0	167.7
Total planned spending	1,780.1	1,126.0	654.1	830.8
Contributions to/-from reserves	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A
Budget requirement	1,780.1	1,126.0	654.1	830.8
Resourced by:				
Business Rates Local Retention			152.7	
Revenue Support Grant			26.4	
Other Grants			86.8	
County Precept			388.3	
Total Funding			654.1	

This year, the council is planning to use a net budget of over £690m to continue providing its wide range of vital services, including £226m for adult care and community wellb eing, £130m for children's services and around £28m for the fire service.

The Secretary of State made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district 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.)

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 and including 2019-20. 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.

The offer has been extended to cover the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Your police Council Tax explained 2025



Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER





SAFER TOGETHER

How your Council Tax will be spent on fighting crime and keeping communities safe







Police and Crime Commissioner Marc Jones and Chief Constable Paul Gibson explain how the extra Council Tax raised this year will be spent to keep you and your community safe.

Success Lincolnshire Police will seek to maintain

- Answering 999 calls quickly. Last year Lincolnshire Police were top of a national league table – answering more calls within 10 seconds (96.9%) than any other force. 
- Tackling theft and property crime. Burglary was reduced by 22% last year – much better than the national average of -4%. Theft offences were down 9% while the national average was up by 2%. 
- Efficient management of the circa 55,000 lawfully held shotguns and firearms in Lincolnshire. Consistently one of the best forces in this area leading to safer communities. 
- Quality victims' services. The PCC's in-house service Victim Lincs has recently been praised by assessors for being "a remarkable example of best practice". 

Improvements Lincolnshire Police need to focus on

- Improving how it allocates, supervises and carries out investigations to build on their already better than average 'outcomes' for crime. 
- Understand demand better and improve the quality of data so the Force can prioritise and deploy resources into supporting the most vulnerable people and targeting those offenders who pose the greatest risk to the public. 
- Further improve how the risks posed by registered sex offenders are managed to keep communities feeling and being safe. 
- Manage and deploy officers and staff efficiently and effectively including management of those on restricted duties and long-term sick. 

The financial challenge facing Lincolnshire Police this year cannot be underestimated.

For a generation Lincolnshire Police have been at the bottom of the league for Government funding – and while the gaps have been plugged using reserves for years, that may not be an option in the future.

That means, including public support through Council Tax, the budget for Lincolnshire Police is £190.3m for 2025/26.

Although this is an increase on the previous year, costs have risen more quickly than funding, compounded by financial pressures such as pay awards and National Insurance increases. This will require the Force to find and implement significant savings unless Government support is forthcoming. As a consequence, the Chief Constable is facing some tough choices about where services may have to be streamlined and how and where to deploy falling officer numbers.

Yet there is room for optimism.

Lincolnshire has spent so long as one of the lowest funded forces in the UK that it has built an enviable reputation for innovation.

Harnessing new technology and creativity to create the most effective and efficient services has been a cornerstone of the force's approach for years.

That is why, despite financial restrictions, Lincolnshire has been a pioneer in new technology, developed services that punch well above their weight and built operational teams that have driven down crime.

In the last 12 months, Lincolnshire has been amongst the best in the UK for dealing with 999 and 101 calls, processing firearms licensing and driving out hare coursers.

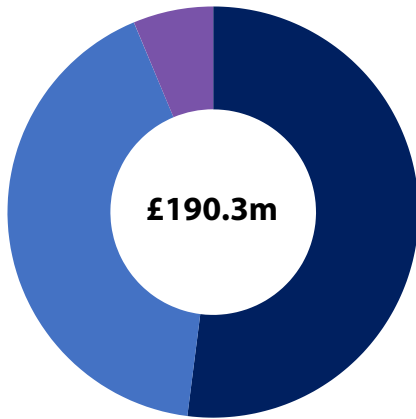
In addition, crime has been driven down. In the 12 months up to September 2024, overall crime was down by more than 3%, residential burglary was down 22%, vehicle offences down by 14% and drug trafficking offences down 9%.

The challenges are many but we have had decades of managing low funding to get the very best results for residents and every penny that comes from your Council Tax will be spent wisely.

In the meantime the fight for fairer funding will continue until every avenue for a solution has been explored.

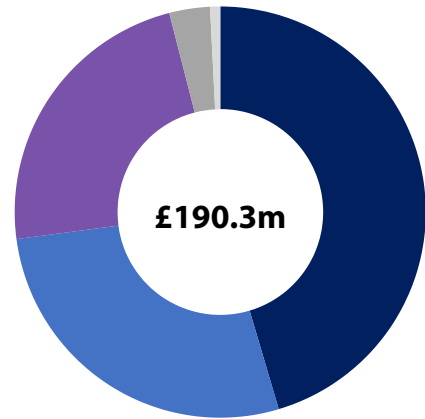
What money do we receive and how is it spent?

INCOME



- **Government grants** £99m (52%)
- **Council Tax** £79.4m (41.7%)
- **Contribution from reserves and other income** £11.9m (6.3%)

EXPENDITURE



- **Police officers** £86.3m (45.4%)
- **Police staff and PCSOs** £52.4m (27.5%)
- **Other costs*** £44m (23.1%)
- **Capital financing** £6m (3.2%)
- **Office of the PCC**** £1.5m (0.8%)

**including custody, fleet, premises and regional collaboration*

***including funding services for victims of crime*

Property band	Cost last year (£)	Increase this year (£)	Cost this year (£)	Cost per week this year (£)	Increase per week (pence)
A	202.80	9.30	212.10	4.08	18
B	236.60	10.85	247.45	4.76	21
C	270.40	12.40	282.80	5.44	24
D	304.20	13.95	318.15	6.12	27
E	371.80	17.05	388.85	7.48	33
F	439.40	20.15	459.55	8.84	39
G	507.00	23.25	530.25	10.20	45
H	608.40	27.90	636.30	12.24	54

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Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

Did you understand this booklet?

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Bulgarian

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Lithuanian

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Romanian

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