



# Core Council Tax frozen for 2026/27 Council Budget

## A message from the Leader of the Council

We recognise the continued financial pressures facing households, and that is why we have worked hard to keep Council Tax as low as possible. We are freezing Core Council Tax at its current rate for the next financial year.

Children's social care continues to account for a significant share of our overall spending. More children now require support than in previous years, and some need specialist placements costing over £10,000 per week. As a result, spending in this area has increased by over £20m in the last four years.

We have therefore, taken the difficult decision to raise the Adult Social Care precept by 1.98%. This increase will help the Council meet its statutory duties and continue providing essential care for our most vulnerable people.

This means Hartlepool residents will see the lowest increase in Council Tax in the north east and a rise of 53p a week for a Band A property.

Although recent national funding changes have led to a small increase in the level of Government financial support the Council receives, rising demand and higher service costs mean that pressures remain.

The Adult Social Care precept will contribute towards meeting these pressures in the year ahead, and we will continue to work with Government to lobby for more financial support to cover rising social care demand and costs.

I thoroughly believe Hartlepool is on the up, our regeneration programme is investing in our borough for the future, we are protecting our most vulnerable residents and together, we are putting the pride back into Hartlepool.

**Councillor Pamela Hargreaves**  
Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council

## What we are doing to balance the budget and keep council tax down

As our transformation and efficiency programme gathers pace, the following are some of the measures we are taking to balance the budget for 2026/27.



**Addressing demand and cost pressures in children's social care**  
£3m saving



**Improving back office efficiency**  
£140,000 saving



**Innovating with new technology**  
£250,000 saving



**Ensuring that those who can contribute, do so**  
£633,000 saving



**Improving recycling and reducing contamination**  
£100,000 saving



**Reviewing fees and charges**  
£377,000 additional income

## Progress is being made right across our borough including:



**Highlight Active Wellbeing Hub - opening in the coming weeks**



**Town centre regeneration - bringing the Binns building back into use and repurposing some empty units in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre**



**Expansion of The Northern Studios - construction has begun on expanding our film and tv studios and creating a production village**



**Skills academies - Skills academies in civil engineering and health and social care training local people with new skills to get into employment**



**Pride in Place Programme - our £20m Pride in Place programme starts in April, with a key focus on improving our neighbourhoods**



**Improving housing conditions - progress is being made to tighten controls for HMOs and consideration is being given to introducing a selective landlord licensing scheme**

# A band-by-band guide to Council Tax 2026/27

	Hartlepool Borough Council Basic Amount without parishes	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	Fire Authority	Total for areas without a Parish Council
🏠 Band A	1,416.46	221.82	66.31	1,704.59
🏠 Band B	1,652.54	258.79	77.36	1,988.69
🏠 Band C	1,888.61	295.76	88.41	2,272.78
🏠 Band D	2,124.69	332.73	99.46	2,556.88
🏠 Band E	2,596.84	406.67	121.56	3,125.07
🏠 Band F	3,069.00	480.61	143.66	3,693.27
🏠 Band G	3,541.15	554.55	165.77	4,261.47
🏠 Band H	4,249.38	665.46	198.92	5,113.76

If you live in an area with a parish council, there will be an additional small charge for services it provides

## Are you eligible for help paying your Council Tax?

### Discounts

Reductions are available if, for example, you're the only person in your household over the age of 18, a family member is disabled or severely mentally impaired or your partner is in a nursing home. Discounts depend on individual circumstances.

### Local Council Tax Support Scheme

You may be able to claim if you or your partner are on a low income, either in or out of work. The level of support depends on your income.

### Tackling Fraud

The Council is committed to tackling fraud. We have reduced Single Person Discount numbers by 1000 since 2024, generating at least £300,000 of on-going annual savings. **Please ensure your records are kept up to date.** Report fraud at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/report-fraud](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/report-fraud)

## Paying your Council Tax



**Direct Debit** - The easiest way to pay is by Direct Debit and we have made it as flexible as possible to help households. With Direct Debit you can choose what date you would like to pay monthly (on 1st, 10th, 20th or 28th), weekly or fortnightly Monday or Friday, and you can pay future bills over 12 months rather than 10.



### By Card

**0300 1230703** (charged at local rate) or online [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/paycounciltax](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/paycounciltax)



**Online Banking** - You can make payments online through your banking app. You must quote your council tax number as detailed on your bill so we know it is your payment.

**The Council's Bank:** Lloyds Bank plc  
**Account Name:** Hartlepool Borough Council  
**Sort Code:** 30-00-00  
**Account Number:** 00321168

To find out more about the Council's 2026/27 budget and Council Tax scan the QR code opposite

