



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION

2026/27

#LoveStHelens

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1. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET

Band	Values	Proportion of Band D
A	Up to £40,000	6/9
B	Up to £52,000	7/9
C	Up to £68,000	8/9
D	Up to £88,000	1
E	Up to £120,000	11/9
F	Up to £160,000	13/9
G	Up to £320,000	15/9
H	Over £320,000	2

The Council Tax you pay depends on the valuation your property has been given by the Valuation Office Agency. The amount payable is based on the market value of the property as of 1 April 1991.

Your Council Tax bill tells you which band applies to your home.

The amount of Council Tax charge for each band depends upon the tax set for band D and is calculated using the proportions shown.

	2025/26	2026/27	Increase
Amount met from Council Taxpayer	£101.050m	£106.729m	5.62%
Council Tax Base (Band D equivalents)	53,700	54,022	
Band D Council Tax	£1,881.75	£1,975.65	4.99%

If you live in a Parish that charges a precept, your Council Tax will be higher. Please see Section 2 for details.

THE BASIC COUNCIL TAX FOR A BAND D PROPERTY HAS BEEN SET AT:



Not all Council Tax collected pays for council services. It also supports Police, the Combined Authority and the Fire and Rescue Authority too.

BASIC COUNCIL TAX PAYABLE FOR 2026/27 (NON-PARISH)					
Band	St Helens (£)	Police (£)	Fire (£)	CA (£)	Total (£)
A	1,317.10	195.98	67.50	16.00	1,596.58
B	1,536.61	228.64	78.75	18.67	1,862.67
C	1,756.13	261.31	90.00	21.33	2,128.77
D	1,975.65	293.97	101.25	24.00	2,394.87
E	2,414.68	359.30	123.75	29.33	2,927.06
F	2,853.72	424.62	146.25	34.67	3,459.26
G	3,292.75	489.95	168.75	40.00	3,991.45
H	3,951.30	587.94	202.50	48.00	4,789.74

For 2026/27, the Government requires St Helens Borough Council to hold a referendum with local residents if it proposes to increase Band D Council Tax by 5% or more. Therefore, no referendum is required.

Revenue Spending 2026/27

Our total 2026/27 budget is **£567.1m** (Gross Revenue Expenditure).

In 2025/26 the equivalent amount was **£539.8m**.

The change in Gross Revenue Expenditure is due to a number of cost pressures, additional spend funded by non-Council Tax sources and savings made for 2026/27.

ADDITIONAL SPEND FUNDED BY GRANTS	£13.7M
DEMAND/COST LED PRESSURES	£5.5M
PAY INFLATION	£4.7M
PRICE INFLATION	£5.6M
SAVINGS	-£2.2M

2. COUNCIL TAX CHARGES

The table below shows the amount of Council Tax you will pay dependent on which area of the Borough you live in.

COUNCIL TAX CHARGES 2026/27								
Parts of the Council's Area	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bold	1,605.91	1,873.56	2,141.21	2,408.87	2,944.17	3,479.48	4,014.78	4,817.74
Rainford	1,624.74	1,895.52	2,166.32	2,437.11	2,978.69	3,520.27	4,061.85	4,874.22
Eccleston	1,611.21	1,879.73	2,148.27	2,416.81	2,953.88	3,490.95	4,028.02	4,833.62
Windle	1,605.88	1,873.52	2,141.17	2,408.82	2,944.11	3,479.41	4,014.70	4,817.64
Rainhill	1,609.83	1,878.12	2,146.43	2,414.74	2,951.35	3,487.96	4,024.57	4,829.48
Billinge	1,618.54	1,888.29	2,158.05	2,427.81	2,967.32	3,506.84	4,046.35	4,855.62
Seneley Green	1,633.25	1,905.45	2,177.66	2,449.87	2,994.28	3,538.70	4,083.12	4,899.74
All other parts of the council's area	1,596.58	1,862.67	2,128.77	2,394.87	2,927.06	3,459.26	3,991.45	4,789.74

3. MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING AND WASTE AUTHORITY (MRWA)

We are the public body responsible for dealing with household waste and recycling once it's been collected from your home.

We work hard to encourage Merseyside's householders to use less in the first place and, through our 16 Household Waste Recycling Centres and District Council kerbside collections, to recycle as much as they can.

Using the latest technology, we aim to make sure as much waste as possible is sustainably managed.

Our Energy from Waste facility in Wilton diverts the majority of Merseyside's non-recycled waste from landfill, whilst our two Materials Recovery Facilities sort and separate recycled materials where they then go on be processed into new items.

Last year, 35% of Merseyside's household waste was reused, recycled and composted. Recycling, alongside our waste prevention work and involvement with community projects, can help us all contribute to cutting waste levels and fighting climate change.

You can read more about our work at www.merseysidewda.gov.uk.

The Levy for St Helens Borough Council for 2026/27 will be £10,384,414.



For more information contact:
 Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority
 7th Floor
 No.1 Mann Island
 Liverpool
 L3 1BP
 Tel: **0151 255 1444**
 E-mail: enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk
 Web: www.merseysidewda.gov.uk
www.recyclerright.org.uk
www.zerowastelcr.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A comparison of Expenditure and Income for 2025/26 and 2026/27 is as follows.

	2025/26	2026/27
	£M	£M
Total Net Expenditure	74.762	83.917
Contribution to Reserves	8.730	1.662
Total Requirement	83.492	85.579
Use of Reserves	0	0
Levy	83.492	85.579
Levy per head (Merseyside)	£57.32	£57.99

4. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

	2025/26 '000s	2026/27 '000s
Gross Expenditure	£128,112	£162,983
Levies Raised	£4,681	£4,821
Total Council Tax Base	2,328	2,356

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 3.0%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £4,680,577 in 2025/2026 to £4,820,995 for 2026/2027.



5. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION - METRO MAYOR AND COMBINED AUTHORITY

Since 2014, St Helens has been part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. **But what does that actually mean for you and your family?**

Put simply, it means more decisions about everyday things like transport, housing, jobs and skills are being made locally, not just by the government in Westminster. It also means St Helens can access funding and investment that individual councils cannot secure on their own, helping to bring improvements directly into our communities.

Having a directly elected Mayor gives the city region a single, accountable voice working with St Helens Borough Council to stand up for local priorities - whether that's cheaper transport, better job opportunities or support with the cost of living.

Steve Rotheram has been Mayor of the Liverpool City Region since 2017. Since then, he's been working to build a fairer, more equal future for the 1.6 million people who live here - with a strong focus on making sure our area is the best place to grow up, grow a family and grow a business.

To help with the rising cost of living, the Mayor is freezing the Mayoral precept this year. In 2026/27, the precept remains £24.00 for a Band D property. Most households in St Helens will pay the Band A rate of £16.00 for the whole year - about £1.33 a month.

That contribution helps fund services and investment that benefit residents across St Helens and the wider city region.

Better homes, jobs and opportunities for local people

Thousands of households across the city region have already benefited from a £105 million programme to make homes warmer and more energy efficient - helping families cut energy bills, stay warm in winter and improve their quality of life.

A record £700 million has also been secured for social and affordable housing, meaning more people in St Helens can access a decent, secure home they can actually afford.

Alongside this, tens of thousands of jobs and apprenticeships have been created across the city region, backed by more than £50 million invested in schools, colleges and training - including St Helens College.

This support is helping people of all ages gain the skills employers need and access better-paid, more secure work.

For young people, this means clearer pathways into jobs, training and apprenticeships closer to home, rather than having to leave the area to get on in life. And through programmes like Households into Work, hundreds of long-term unemployed residents have been supported to rebuild confidence, gain new skills and move back into employment.

Together, this work is about making sure opportunity isn't determined by where you're born - and that both today's workforce and the next generation can build a future here in St Helens.



Transport that saves time and money

A £1.6 billion transport settlement is helping to create a public transport network that is cheaper, quicker and more reliable - making it easier to get to work, college, school and family.

This has included £2 single bus fares, capped fares for under-18s, new publicly owned trains and buses, and smart tap-and-go ticketing on the way - all designed to reduce costs and simplify journeys.

Plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail have also taken a major step forward, with £45 billion committed nationally and over £1 billion already agreed for early development. This will mean faster and more frequent trains between Liverpool and Manchester via Warrington, improving connections and opening up new job opportunities across the North - including for people living in St Helens.

Work is also expected to begin before the end of the decade on a new Merseyrail station at Carr Mill, reconnecting underserved communities with the wider network.

From this year, buses in St Helens will be brought back under local control for the first time in 40 years. Bus franchising will allow routes, fares and timetables to be planned around local needs, helping to

make services more reliable and better connected to jobs, schools, healthcare and town centres.

Over £70 million has been put into walking and cycling routes to make active travel safer and more convenient.

St Helens residents also benefit from one of the most generous concessionary travel schemes in the country. Free travel is available from age 60 - seven years earlier than the national scheme - supporting independence, access to work and training, and helping people stay connected to friends, family and essential services.

Local investment you can see

St Helens has already benefited from significant, visible investment - including £69 million for the regeneration of Earlestown and St Helens town centres, alongside investment in green space, active travel and new local jobs. Around £4 million has also been invested in repairing roads and potholes across the borough.

Additional funding is supporting projects like Glass Futures - a world-leading research facility in the borough, helping to decarbonise global glass production and create new opportunities for local people.

Cleaner energy, lower bills and a stronger future

The Liverpool City Region has committed to reaching net zero by 2035 - not just to cut carbon, but to help secure cleaner, cheaper and more reliable energy for local people.

This means focusing on creating skilled local jobs, reducing exposure to rising energy costs and protecting communities from the increasing impacts of extreme weather.

Projects like Mersey Tidal Power could eventually generate enough renewable electricity to power hundreds of thousands of homes, helping to build long-term energy security while supporting jobs and growth here in the region.



Steve Rotheram
Mayor of the
Liverpool City Region



METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

The 2026/27 council tax requirement is detailed below:

2025/26 £'000		2026/27 £'000
292,713	Gross Expenditure	349,370
(161,066)	Income and Specific Grants	(208,740)
(107,090)	Income from Levy	(110,303)
(14,098)	Contributions from Reserves	(19,667)
10,459	Council Tax Requirement	10,660
435,808	Tax Base	444,165
£24.00	Band D Equivalent	£24.00

The movement in the gross expenditure budget is detailed below.

	£'000
Gross Expenditure 2025/26	292,713
Additional reserves funded expenditure	5,569
Net Change in Revenue Grant Funded Activity	39,564
Inflationary and other cost pressures	5,079
Transport related cost pressures	6,445
Gross Expenditure 2026/27	349,370

For more information, visit: www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk



Transport Funding

The LCRCAs transport responsibilities are funded through transport levies across each of the six councils. This funds concessionary travel, subsidised bus services, the Mersey Ferries and a range of other services.

The transport levy 2026/27 for each of the Merseyside Councils within the LCRCAs is:

	Transport Levy 2025/26 £'000	Transport Levy 2026/27 £'000
Knowsley	11,708	12,152
Liverpool	37,036	38,047
Sefton	20,788	21,401
St Helens	13,674	14,118
Wirral	23,884	24,585
Total	107,090	110,303

Please note that, for historical and legal reasons, Halton Borough Council currently provide transport activities directly within the boundaries of the borough of Halton.

The orders that created the Combined Authority allowed for a differential levy recognising that Halton Borough Council remains responsible for transport in the Halton area, whereas the other areas of the Combined Authority remain the responsibility of Merseytravel. This levy will be £3.558m for 2026/27.



Mayor Steve Rotheram

Mayor of the Liverpool City Region



Mr John Fogarty, B.A. Hons, C.P.F.A.

Executive Director of Corporate Services:
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority



6. THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR MERSEYSIDE

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, my priority is simple: to make sure Merseyside Police has the resources, people and tools it needs to keep you safe.

Policing is changing all the time. New challenges and increasingly complex crime mean we must stay one step ahead. That's why the Chief Constable and I are focused on strengthening neighbourhood policing - the local,

community-focused approach you consistently tell me matters most.

I didn't take lightly the decision to ask local taxpayers to contribute a little more. I'm grateful for your support, and for the Police and Crime Panel's unanimous backing. Your contribution helps us maintain the visible policing presence and high-quality service you rightly expect.

HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

DESCRIPTION	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Police Officer Pay	£246.092	£253.054
Police Pensions	£72.099	£75.038
Police Staff Pay	£111.261	£116.246
Police Staff Pensions	£16.584	£8.250
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	£1.837	£1.900
PCC Controlled Expenditure	£10.156	£10.386
Other	£43.846	£62.222
Gross Expenditure	£501.875	£527.096

HOW OUR SPENDING HAS CHANGED:

Gross Expenditure 2025/26	£m 501.875
Part year effect of 2025 pay award above original budget	4.879
Impact of Price Inflation above 2025/26 contingency	0.413
Additional Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee target	1.666
Allowance for pay inflation	14.571
Allowance for price inflation	1.616
Net Committed Growth/(Savings)	2.076
Gross Expenditure 2026/27	527.096

Even with your support, we still face a significant budget gap. To close it, the Chief Constable has identified savings that protect frontline services wherever possible.

Every pound we spend is focused on delivering the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan:

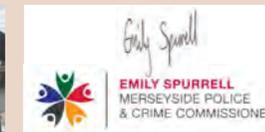
- Fighting crime and antisocial behaviour
- Supporting victims
- Preventing harm.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of officers, PCSOs, staff and partners, Merseyside continues to make positive progress in tackling crime and improving safety. We are committed to building on this momentum as we deliver the new force strategy and work towards our ambition for

Merseyside Police to be recognised as the best police force in the UK.

Last year, I secured nearly £8.5m in extra funding for projects to tackle serious violence, make our streets safe and protect victims. This work continues every single day, and I will keep fighting to bring as much investment as possible into our region.

Thank you for your support in helping us to protect our police service and our work to build a safer, stronger Merseyside.



WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

SOURCE	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Police General Grant	315.998	340.077
Council Tax Grants	15.641	15.641
Council Tax Requirement	111.273	119.660
Collection Fund Surplus	0.928	0.317
Net Contribution (-to) / from Reserves	4.116m	(-0.317)
Specific Government Grants	50.747	48.425
Income	3.172	3.293
Total Funding	501.875	527.096

Emily Spurrell
Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside
Mather Avenue Training Centre, 224 Mather Avenue, Liverpool
L18 9TG

Tel: 0151 777 5155

Email: info@merseysidepcc.info

www.merseysidepcc.info

THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR MERSEYSIDE

WHY HAS COUNCIL TAX CHANGED?

	£m
Council Tax Requirement 2025/26	111.273
Increase in tax base	2.281
Increase in Band D Equivalent	6.106
Council Tax Requirement 2026/27	119.660

2025/26		2026/27	INCREASE
398,872	Tax base (Band D equivalent properties)	407,050	8,178
£278.97	Band D Equivalent Charge	£293.97	£15.00

YOUR CONTRIBUTION 2026/27:

Tax Band A*	£195.98	*majority of taxpayers on Merseyside	£10.00
Tax Band B	£228.64		£11.67
Tax Band C	£261.31		£13.33
Tax Band D	£293.97		£15.00
Tax Band E	£359.30		£18.33
Tax Band F	£424.62		£21.67
Tax Band G	£489.95		£25.00
Tax Band H	£587.94		£30.00

INCREASE FROM 2025/26:



7. MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Precept Information 2026/27

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority has a strong track record of managing its budget effectively. Our investment decisions are guided by an understanding of community risk, demand, and vulnerability, we make every investment decision with a clear focus on the safety and needs of our communities, ensuring every pound is used to provide the best possible value for money.

We remain fully committed to delivering high-quality services and fast emergency response to keep you safe.

Our priority is always the “frontline.” This means making sure more firefighters and fire engines are available when you need them most, while also focusing on preventing fires before they start, through community education and safety checks. While we are proud of our progress, we are always striving to improve. Our vision is to be the best fire and rescue service in the UK - one team, putting our communities first.

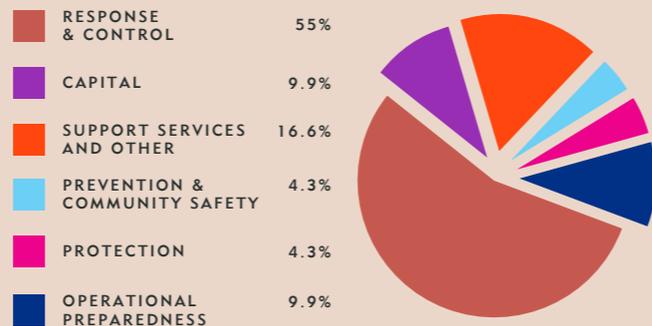
The 2026/2027 Budget continues to build on that strong foundation, with further prudent investment in the Service being proposed:

- Investment in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Updated PPE to keep our firefighters safe
- Modern Fleet & Equipment: New fire engines and specialist rescue tools to tackle evolving risks
- Expert Training: Ensuring our teams are trained to the highest standard
- Efficient Support: Staff and support services to work as effectively as possible

- Modern Facilities: Improving our digital systems and fire stations to be more efficient and eco-friendly.

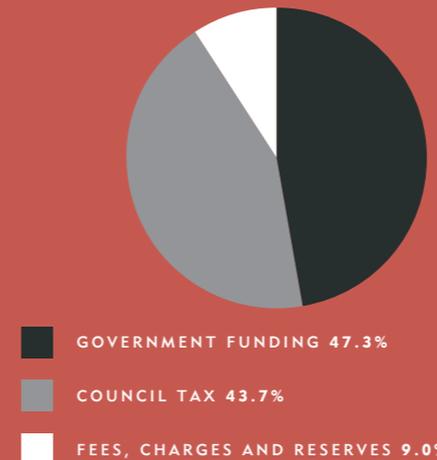
How The Money Is Spent

Approximately 73.5% of the Authority's 2026/2027 budget remains committed to delivering emergency response; plus services that help us prevent and prepare for emergencies and carry out our legal responsibilities relating to fire safety. We also know through consultation, that the public support our priorities. The costs associated with funding capital investment account for 9.9% of the Authority's budget and this relates to investment in frontline activities such as fire stations, fire engines and operational equipment. The remaining 16.6% is spent on support services, of which a significant proportion relates to essential frontline service support such as insurance of vehicles and premises, the vehicle maintenance workshop, and ICT costs.



How We Are Funded

The Authority's 2026/2027 Gross Budget is £94.5m and the graph below outlines how this is funded.



The Authority set a Council Tax requirement of £41.214m for 2026/2027 and a Council Tax for a Band D property of £101.25, a £5.00 increase on the 2025/2026 figure of £96.25. By increasing the council tax charge, it allows the Authority to maintain the investment in frontline services and fund the further investment planned in 2026/2027. Most council taxpayers in Merseyside will pay Band A Council Tax of £67.50 about 18p per day towards their Fire and Rescue Service.

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £41.214m, St Helens contribution to

COUNCIL TAX CHARGE

The Council Tax for a Band D property has been set at:

	£M	COUNCIL TAX FOR A BAND D PROPERTY
Gross Budget	94.584	
Income & Specific Grants	(8.969)	
Net Movement on Reserves	0.424	
Net Budget Requirement	86.039	
Government Settlement Funding (less Local Business Rates Adjustment)	(44.688)	
Council Tax/Business Rates Collection Fund Surplus	(0.137)	
Council Tax Requirement	41.214	
Tax Base		407,050.21
Band D Equivalent		£101.25

expenditure financed by precept is **£5.470m**, which represents **13.27%** of the total precept.

Contact Us

Mike Rea, B.A. (Hons), ACMA.
 Director of Finance and Procurement
 Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
 Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bridle Road, Bootle, Liverpool, L30 4YD
 Email: mikerea@merseyfire.gov.uk

8. HELP & SUPPORT

HELP KEEP COUNCIL COSTS DOWN



Manage your Council Tax online

Sign up for e-billing and help the council cut down on costly paperwork, visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/counciltax



Contact the council and make payments online

Online transactions are more efficient and cost effective for the council. The self-service section of our website is available for fast and easy access to council services, visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/pay



Recycle more

Recycling helps protect our environment and reduces costs. Find out more on: www.sthelens.gov.uk/recycling

WAYS WE CAN HELP



Work and Employment

If you are currently unemployed and would like advice or support about getting back into work. Please visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/waystowork or call the 'Ways to Work' team on: **01744 676131**.



Money Advice

If you are having problems paying your Council Tax contact us immediately. Please visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/counciltaxadvice or call us on: **01744 676789**.



Welfare Assistance Scheme

Find out what financial assistance and other support is available to residents at: www.sthelens.gov.uk/sthelenstogether



Reduce Your Bill

You could be eligible for help towards the cost of your Council Tax. For more information about the Council Tax Reduction scheme or other Council Tax discounts, exemptions and reliefs, please visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/3463/Reduce-your-bill



Energy Savings

Our Affordable Warmth team can help reduce your energy usage and save on your gas and electricity bills. Find out more at: www.sthelens.gov.uk/saveenergy

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION



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ST HELENS
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Please contact us to request translation of Council information into Braille, audio tape or a foreign language.

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