



Council Tax 2025/26

Facts and Figures on Finance



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

Foreword	3
----------	---

Facts and figures on finance

1 Council Tax helps pay for the following	4
2 Our spending plans	7
3 How we work out your council tax	8
4 Charges for other public services	11
5 Capital spending and loan debt	12

Foreword

Welcome from the Leader of the Council

This is my third budget as Leader of the Council. My plan remains; to develop our vision, ambitions and priorities while delivering a better and brighter future for Trafford. I know nobody likes receiving their Council Tax bill, especially in the current economic climate; but it is essential for funding local services.

Each year, the cost of the services we deliver rises at a significantly faster rate than our income, making managing the budget extremely difficult. In 2025/26 Trafford needed to address a budget gap of £28.6m, on top of already bridging budget gaps of £306m since 2010. The problem is compounded as Trafford is the lowest-funded metropolitan district in Greater Manchester and our Council Tax rate in 2024/25 for a Band D property is amongst the lowest of similar authorities (£1,602 compared to an average of £1,760).

In the face of this tough financial challenge, we have taken the considered and responsible decision to ask the government for help, known as Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).

Our request was agreed, resulting in a bespoke referendum principle meaning we can increase Council Tax by 7.49% for 2025/26.

I understand the financial pressures many Trafford residents are facing. We have not made the decision to seek to increase Council Tax lightly, but we have no option if we are to get on a firmer financial footing. We will do everything we can to support those facing financial hardship and encourage those who need it to access the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme (one of the most generous in Greater Manchester), Trafford Assist and Household Support Fund for debt and welfare rights advice.

Please know we are not alone in asking for EFS. A significant number of local authorities have made similar applications.

Rest assured, we will continue to generate alternative funding and income streams, including the regeneration of Stretford Mall, Stamford Quarter in Altrincham and Lumina Village in Old Trafford, which are real opportunities for the future.

Despite the challenges, this budget includes £10.4m investment in our social care services; safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and adults and supporting a sustainable care market. Nearly £16m will be spent on highways improving our roads and prioritising pothole repairs. £42m to modernise leisure and sports facilities, £11m on home adaptations for disabled people and £6m on parks and green spaces.

I will continue to lobby government for sufficient resources to meet the increasing need for our services.

Thanks for taking the time to read this leaflet.

Councillor Tom Ross

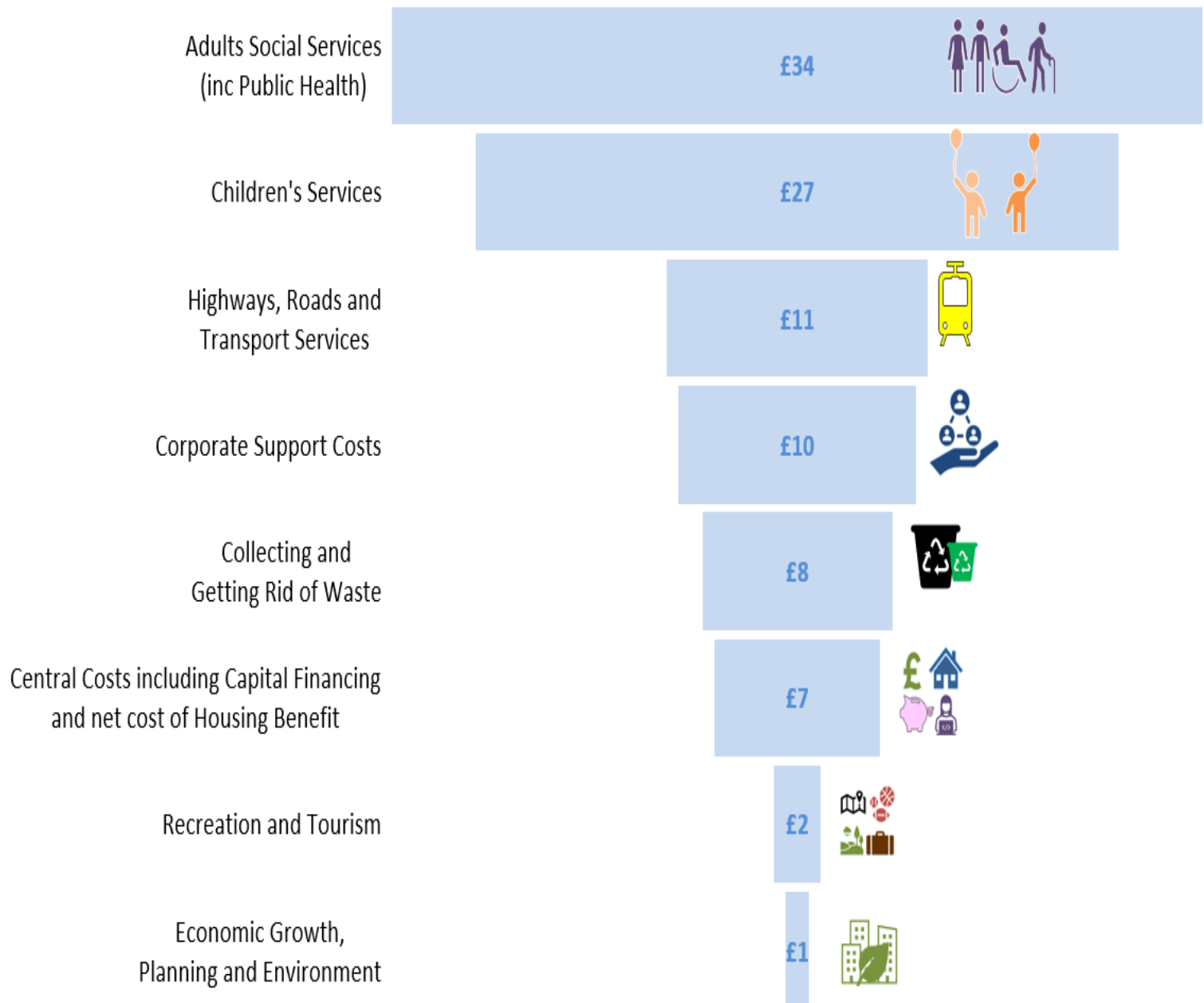
Leader of Trafford Council



**Councillor
Tom Ross**
Leader of
Trafford Council

1. Council Tax helps pay for the following

£100 a month of Council expenditure looks like:





2,831 children in receipt of children's safeguarding services
476 periods of children being in the care of the local authority
393 Child Protection plans



Supports 5,379 residents with a care package
Provides 8,074 services to service users
Provides 1,058,909 hours of external home care support
Supports 1,760 residents through Stabilise and Make Safe (reablement)
Supports 407 residents through Discharge to Assess (preventing Delayed Transfers from Acute Beds)



Maintains over 830km of roads, 1,190km of footpaths and cycle lanes and over 61,000 drainage gullies
Responsible for 22,000 highway trees and 60,000 trees within public parks and open spaces
Collects approximately 86,000 tonnes of waste from more than 100,000 households, undertaking over 10 million collections every year
Manages parking restrictions on street and off street across the borough
Over 300 residents supported with free Data SIM cards through the National Databank initiative
A laptop loan scheme which has seen 736 device loans to residents who don't have access to their own equipment



Prevents over 280 households from becoming homeless
Assists over 340 households to find and secure affordable housing through the Council's Housing Register
Granted permission for the development of 174 new affordable homes across the borough

The Council's customer contact service receives approximately 124,000 telephone enquiries a year. The Contact Centre target is to answer 70 per cent of telephone calls within 30 seconds.

Trafford Libraries welcomed over 580,000 visitors across the borough in 2023/24



Waterside, Trafford's award-winning destination for performance, culture and events, welcomed over 78,000 visitors in 2023/24

The authority has one crematorium and five cemeteries, and the service undertakes approximately 1,600 cremations and 600 burials per year

**We cover all these services in our
spending plans**

2. Our spending plans

During the financial year 2025/26 the Council plans to spend £659.8m on the provision of a wide range of services to Trafford residents. This includes £220.2m for schools which will be met by dedicated government grants, and £50.3m on the provision of Housing Benefit payments which is also met primarily from government grant income.

After taking account of specific grants and income from fees and charges the 2025/26 net revenue budget for Council services has been set at **£231.89m**.

This is planned to be spent on the following areas:



£63.08 Million
Children's and
Education
Services



£2.51 Million
Economic Growth,
Planning and
Environment



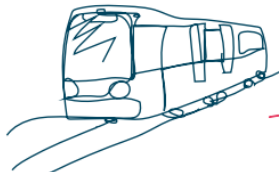
**£22.25
Million** Cost
of Supporting
Council Services



£78.21 Million
Adults Social
Services (inc
Public Helath)



£17.85 Million
Collecting and
Getting Rid of
Waste



£25.54 Million
Highways, Roads
and Transport
Services



£17.33 Million
Central Costs
including Capital
Financing and net
cost of Housing
Benefit



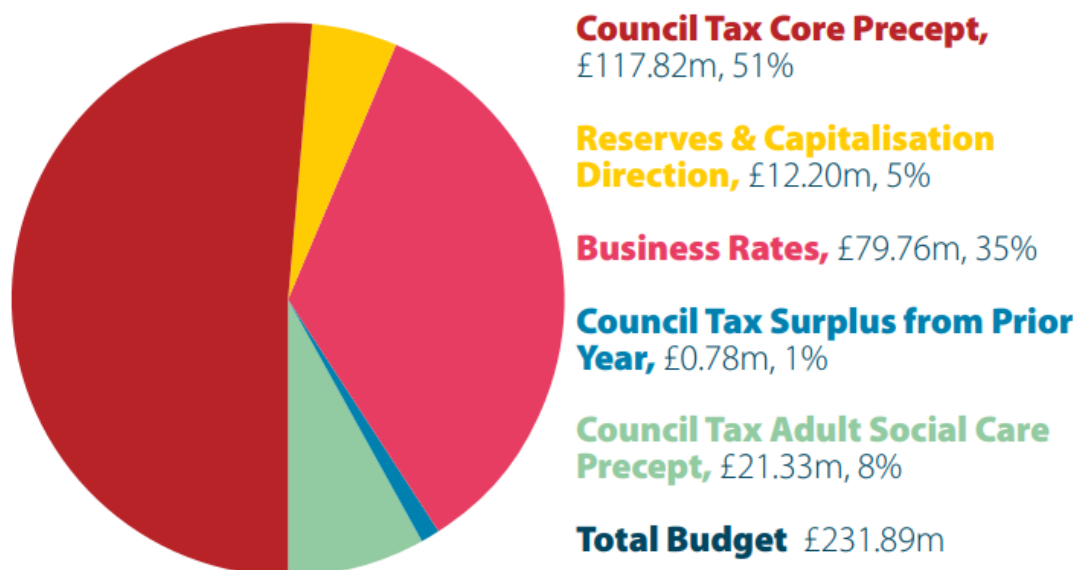
£5.12 Million
Recreation and
Tourism

Almost 61% of the Council's planned spend is on the provision of services supporting the most vulnerable residents living in the borough. Other significant planned spend includes £17.85m for waste collection and disposal services and £25.54m on Highways, Roads and public transport related services.

3. How is the Council funded and how do we work out your Council Tax

The total spending plan for the year is **£231.89m**, and this will be funded from a variety of income sources. These include the Council Tax Core Precept of £117.82m and the Adults Social Care Precept of £21.33m along with income from Business Rates and a contribution from reserves.

TRAFFORD COUNCIL'S FUNDING BY SOURCE 2025/26

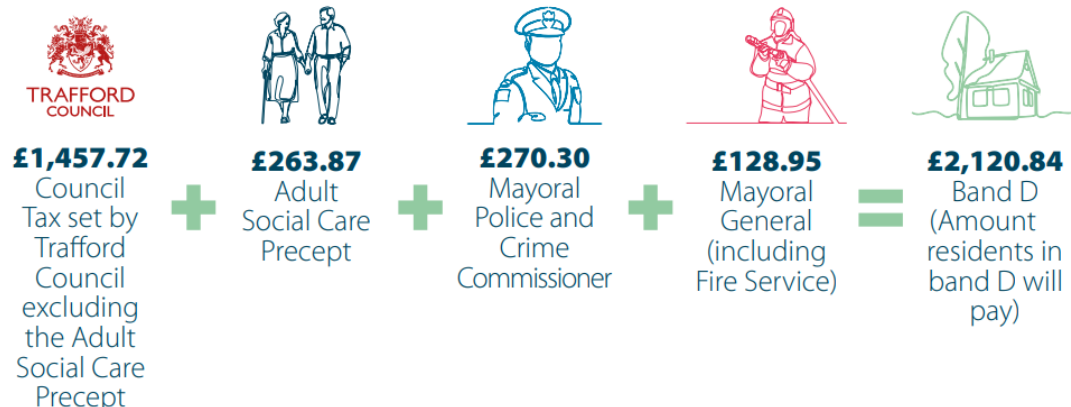


Council Tax is an important part of the Council's general resources that fund the planned spend on the provision of services. 60% of the Council's resource is from Council Tax income (including the Adult Social Care Precept).

Trafford agreed to raise the total level of Council Tax in 2025/26 by 7.49% at the Council meeting on 3 March 2025, made up of 2.99% relevant basic amount, an additional 2.50% agreed by the Government and 2.0% for the 'Adult Social Care' precept.

Trafford Council also collects Council Tax for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner and Mayoral General Precept including Fire Services. These are included to work out how much Council Tax each household must pay.

Example of breakdown for council tax band D:




Trafford Council provides adult social care services and has therefore been given the option from the Secretary of State of adding an Adult Social Care Precept of 2% onto Council Tax Bills. As a result of an aging population and inflation the cost of adult social care services are increasing, and it is important we continue to meet the cost of the service which supports our elderly and vulnerable residents.

We work out the Council Tax for each property band as a specific proportion of the Band D tax. The amount charged depends on the Government's banding of your property which is determined by the property's value.

The estimated equivalent number of properties in valuation Band D is 80,827, so the Council Tax for a property in Band D is £2,120.84. The relevant tax levels for 2025/26 are as follows:

Band	Fraction	Council Tax £
A	6/9	1,413.88
B	7/9	1,649.53
C	8/9	1,885.16
D	9/9	2,120.84
E	11/9	2,592.13
F	13/9	3,063.42
G	15/9	3,534.72
H	18/9	4,241.68



Taxpayers in the following Parish areas will pay extra because of the addition of a local parish precept:

Band	Partington £	Warburton £	Carrington £
A	1,457.25	1,447.21	1,433.88
B	1,700.12	1,688.42	1,672.86
C	1,942.98	1,929.60	1,911.83
D	2,185.89	2,170.84	2,150.84
E	2,671.64	2,653.24	2,628.80
F	3,157.38	3,135.64	3,106.75
G	3,643.14	3,618.05	3,584.72
H	4,371.78	4,341.68	4,301.68



4. Charges for other public services

Our net spending plans include charges for public services the Council does not directly provide but collects the levies on behalf of other organisations who provide the required services in Trafford, including waste, transport and flood and water management.

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 6,500 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:

	2024/25 £million	2025/26 £million
Gross expenditure	£117.163	£129.046
Levies raised	£4.544	£4.681
Total Council Tax Base	2,278	2,328

The Local Levy is shared on the basis of Band D Equivalents between all contributing bodies within the Committee Area. The levy to be paid by Trafford Council to the Agency in 2025/26 is £0.163m (£0.158m in 2024/25).

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. The total Local Levy raised has increased by 3.0 per cent from £4.544 million in 2024/25 to £4.681 million for 2025/26.

Waste and transport

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority also charge us for services they provide:

	2024/25 £ million	2025/26 £ million
GM Combined Authority (Transport)	16.732	17.103
GM Combined Authority (Waste)	16.104	16.688
Total	32.836	33.791

5. Capital spending and loan debt

We have a capital programme reflecting the investment we are planning to make in our assets (buildings, highways and so on) to support the achievement of the Council's objectives and key priorities. The money to pay for this spending comes from loans, capital grants and contributions and money we make from selling assets. In 2025/26, we plan to spend £143.93m.

	£million
Schools	23.88
Children's and Adults Social Care	4.25
Highways & Transport	12.24
Leisure Facilities Development	9.01
Regeneration and Economic Development	88.96
Other services	5.59
Total	143.93

As of 31 December 2024, the Council's external debt was £362.7 million which amounts to £1,542 for each person in the borough.