



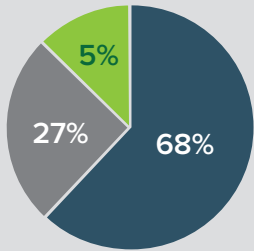
2025/26

The budget, your Council Tax and local services

Before the start of each new financial year, every council across the UK – by law - has to set a budget that balances the money they will receive with the money they need to spend.

When the money Flintshire receives from Welsh Government (WG) is calculated **per head of population** we are ranked 19 out of 22 Welsh councils. If we received the proposed Welsh average, we would be **£169 per person** better off. That amounts to around **£26.3m overall**.

Where the Council's money comes from



- Comes from the Welsh Government
- Comes from Council Tax
- Comes from the fees we charge for some services e.g. planning fees, garden waste charges, Register Office fees

The forecasted gap in our budget

- £37.778m July 2024
- ↑ £38.420m Sept 2024
- ↑ £47.493m Dec 2024
- £17.642m solutions identified up to Dec 2024
- ↓ £29.851m Dec 2024
- ↓ £18m final forecasted gap Jan 2025 after additional WG funding and other adjustments

This is by far the biggest funding gap Flintshire County Council has ever faced.



Closing the £18m gap

As a result of nearly two decades of underfunding from national governments, Flintshire County Council has reduced its spending by **£125m**.

Over this time we've exhausted all the easy, moderate and difficult ways to reduce costs.

Whilst WGs extra funding is welcomed, closing a remaining **£18m** gap was a very big ask and we have

been left with no option other than to make very hard choices about where we should *cut* our spending.

As a council we have:

- asked all services to identify further budget reductions
- increased fees and charges for some services

- increased Council Tax by 8.93% to pay for council services, with a further 0.57% to help pay for increases in our contributions to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and North East Wales Coroners Service.

The national context

WG has received **£1.7bn** extra funding from UK Government.

2024/25 **£774m** revenue funding

2025/26 **£694m** revenue*
£235m capital*

Important points to note:

Whilst welcomed this will be split between all Welsh public services (not just councils). This extra funding has not been built into WG's base budget from 2026/27 onwards.

* revenue - pays for the day-to-day running of Council services such as schools, care homes.

* capital - pays for the investment in new assets and projects, such as building new care homes.

* announced in WG provisional settlement (Dec 2024).

Where does the gap come from?

- Significant increases in demand for services such as homelessness and social care
- rising costs of energy, food, fuel and other services
- new unfunded responsibilities from Welsh Government
- increasing costs from external partners (North Wales Fire Authority, North East Wales Coroners Service, etc)

What your Council Tax pays for

Although the Council Tax you pay goes up every year, not all the money collected pays for council services. On your bill you will also see a charge for your Town or Community Council and the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner. North Wales councils also contribute to the running costs of other public services. These costs go up every year. Although not shown on your bill the Council Tax you pay also helps to cover these increases.

Flintshire's contributions are:

	2024/25	2025/26
North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	£10.905m	£11.519m
North East Wales Coroners Service	£0.423m	£0.444m*

*Forecast – the final cost cannot be calculated until the end of the financial year

To help pay for these increased costs Flintshire has applied an overall Council Tax increase of **9.5%** to its portion of your bill in 2025/26.

8.93% increase to pay for council services + **0.57%** to cover increases in our contributions to the North Wales Fire Authority and North East Wales Coroners Service

Comparing the cost of the increases

Using an average Band D property example:

	2025/26	2024/25	Increased Cost	Percentage increase
Flintshire County Council	£1,815.78	£1,658.25	£157.53	9.5%
North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner	£372.15	£349.65	£22.50	6.4%
Town and Community Councils*	£58.54*	£54.56*	£3.98*	7.3%*
TOTAL COST	£2,246.47	£2062.46	£184.01	8.92%

* Average cost across all 34 Town and Community Councils. The cost on individual bills will differ from council to council.



More information about the budget can be found on our website:

www.flintshire.gov.uk/Budget-25/26

