

Your council tax payments 2024/25

Your council tax payments go towards various services in Portsmouth provided by the council, police and fire service.

For the financial year 2024/25 the council is making a 5% increase: 3% for general services and 2% that will go directly to adult social care. The money for adult social care is shown separately on your bill so you can see exactly how much is going to those services.

Including the increases from the police and fire service, the total council tax charge has increased by 4.8%.

Details of how all of the council tax charges are calculated can be seen at www.portsmouth.gov.uk/counciltax

Online services for council tax

Our online services are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and therefore may be quicker and more convenient for those that are able to contact us via this method.

These services are available at

www.portsmouth.gov.uk/counciltax

Here you can also sign up to our council tax portal which will enable you to view your council tax account, check your balance and payments, view or download a copy of your bill, inform us of a move, apply for or cancel a single person discount, apply for or change a direct debit. To sign up to the portal you will need your council tax reference number shown on your bill and will also need to input your name in the same format as displayed on your bill.

Sign up for paperless billing

You can choose to receive your Council Tax bill electronically. Paperless billing (E-Billing) is secure, quick and reduces costs. To register go to

www.portsmouth.gov.uk/council-tax

Why isn't my bill up to date?

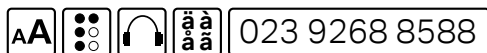
To make sure we post a bill to every home in Portsmouth ahead of the first instalment date, we have to prepare your annual bill earlier.

If you have advised us of changes don't worry, you do not have to do anything. It will all be registered in our system, and you will be sent an updated bill once any changes have been processed.

Can I spread my payments across 12 months?

Residents are automatically set up to pay their council tax across 10 months of the year with no payments made in February or March, unless you have already asked us to set your payment plan over 12 months, which will be shown on your bill.

If you want to change to 12 monthly payments, just go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk/council-tax



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Council tax support

Council tax support is a scheme to help some people on low incomes pay their council tax. The amount of support you can get will depend on your income and your personal circumstances.

For more information and to apply, please go to

www.portsmouth.gov.uk/counciltax

Change to Empty Home Premium

Where a property has been left empty and unfurnished for 1 year, the council has determined to charge an empty homes premium. Empty homes premiums from 1 April 2024 will be:

- 100% where a property is empty and unfurnished for a period of between 1 to 5 years.
- 200% where a property has been empty and unfurnished for a period between 5 to 10 years.
- 300% premium where a property is empty and unfurnished for a period of 10 years or more.

Avoid getting fined £70!

If you don't let us know about any changes to your circumstances that might affect your council tax then you might be fined £70. Make sure you tell us about any changes within 21 days.

Go to www.portsmouth.gov.uk/council-tax

Details of the government decision on the extra money for adult social care

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 approval of the House of Commons.