

Your Council Tax payments 2026/27

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

For the financial year 2026/27 the council is making a 4.99% increase. The council must display this to one decimal point on your bill, so this is displayed at 5.0%:

Including the increases from the police and fire service, the total Council Tax charge has increased by 5.1%.

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

Switch to e-Council Tax bills

You get your other bills online, so why not your Council Tax? Switching from paper to online takes minutes and you can manage your Council Tax account whenever you want to. It also reduces unnecessary paper and postage. So you'll be doing your bit for a greener Portsmouth, and helping the council save money for vital services.

Why not switch today at www.portsmouth.gov.uk - just click Council Tax.

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 portsmouth.gov.uk - just click **Council Tax**.

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.

An online 'contact us' form is also available for all other enquiries related to Council Tax, if you have been unable to find what you need on our website.

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 portsmouth.gov.uk/council-tax

Discounts and exemptions

If you think you may be entitled to a Council Tax discount or exemption, or simply want to check what support is available, please visit portsmouth.gov.uk/counciltax for full details. You'll find up to date information on reductions, exemptions, and ways we can help make your bill more manageable.

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. Simply visit portsmouth.gov.uk/council-tax

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

Student exemptions

If a house is solely occupied by full-time students an exemption from paying Council Tax is applied. If the property is a house in multiple occupation or if a landlord shares the property with tenants the landlord remains responsible for keeping the council up to date about matters relating to Council Tax.

Generally, the council defines someone as a full-time student if their course lasts at least an academic or calendar year, for at least 24 weeks of the year and requires 21 hours of study a week. For more information visit portsmouth.gov.uk/council-tax



023 9268 8588

Designed by: marketing@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
Published: **February 2026** • Ref: **105.200**