



Harborough District Council

Council Tax Guide 2026-27

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This leaflet is available in large print electronically as a PDF at www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax

If you would like this leaflet in another language, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us.

Email: customer.services@harborough.gov.uk

Keep up to date with all the latest news from Harborough District Council:

Newsletter:
www.harborough.gov.uk/harborough-news

Website: www.harborough.gov.uk

Twitter: [@harboroughdc](https://twitter.com/harboroughdc)

Welcome to the Harborough District Council Tax Guide

Harborough District Council is responsible for collecting council tax in the district, which is then distributed to authorities providing public services in the district:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Leicestershire Fire Authority
- Harborough District Council
- Parish and town councils

Please read on to find out about the different ways to pay your council tax, discounts and exemptions, and support schemes.

Drowning in paper?

Register for #paperfree in just a few minutes

Council tax – Business rates – Benefits

www.harborough.gov.uk/paperfree



Your council tax explained

Council tax is a local tax used to fund local services. Council tax contributes to Council, police and fire services, together with income from Government grants and other charges.

Owner-occupiers usually have to pay their council tax bill. In rented homes, the tenants have to pay. In the case of the majority of empty homes, the owner has to pay. The owners of the following properties also pay council tax:

- Residential care homes, nursing homes and hostels
- Those occupied by:
 - a) A minister of religion or a religious community
 - b) More than one household
 - c) Resident staff or asylum seekers.

Harborough District Council receives less than 10% of the total council tax. The rest contributes to services provided by the county council, the police and crime commissioner, the fire authority, and parish/town councils.

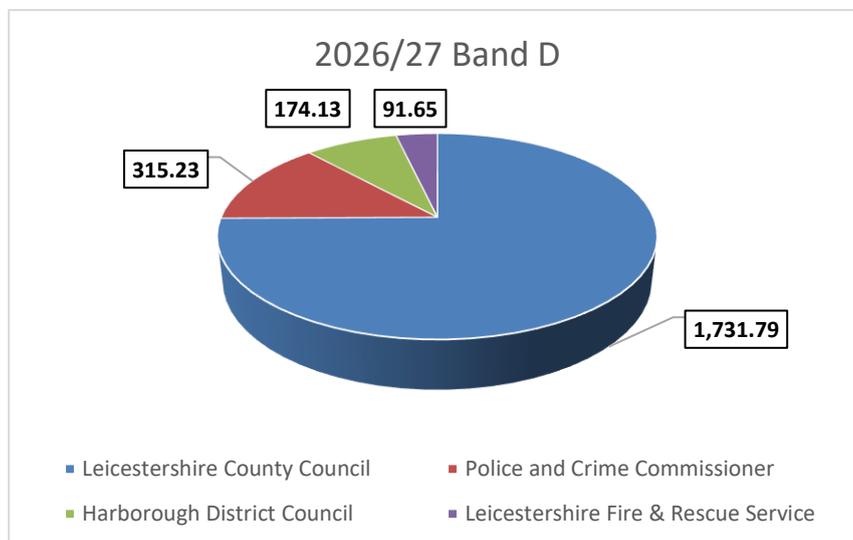
Financial information

Band D property will pay

	2025-26		2026-27
Leicestershire County Council	 £1681.58	→ +2.99%	 £1731.79
Police and Crime Commissioner	 £300.23	→ +4.99%	 £315.23
Harborough District Council (including Special Expenses) – see page 12	 £183.29	→ -5.00%	 £174.13
Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service	 £86.65	→ +5.77%	 £91.65
Total:	£2,251.75	→ +2.94%	£2,312.80

Where your money goes

In 2026/27, a Band D property will pay **£2,312.80** in council tax (including special expenses). The four main authorities receive the amounts show below. Visit each authority's website for more details on how this income contributes to public services



**POLICE & CRIME
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for Leicestershire

Your voice in Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

www.leics.pcc.police.uk/counciltax

**Leicestershire
County Council**

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/counciltax



**DISTRICT OF
HARBOROUGH**

www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltax

**LEICESTERSHIRE
FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE**

www.leicestershire-fire.gov.uk

Council tax valuation bands

The Valuation Office Agency (not local councils) puts every property into one of eight **valuation bands**, labelled **A** to **H**. Further details are available on the Valuation Office Agency website at www.voa.gov.uk.



Band	Range of values at 1 April 1991	Proportion of Band D tax payable
A	Up to and including £40,000	6/9
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9
H	More than £320,000	18/9

Council tax appeals

If you do not agree with the band for your home and wish to make an appeal, please contact the Valuation Office on 03000 501501 or go to the Valuation Office website: www.voa.gov.uk

Other appeals

If you wish to appeal against any other matter regarding your council tax, please do so in writing to the Council Tax Team. You can email the team at counciltax@harborough.gov.uk or write to us at:

F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.

You should continue to pay your original council tax demand notice whilst your appeal is outstanding. In the event of an overpayment, the credit will be offset against any outstanding balance and the remainder refunded to you.

Council Tax Support Scheme

From April 2013, **Council Tax Benefit** was replaced by a local **Council Tax Support Scheme**.

The Government reduced the amount of money local councils received to provide full discounts on Council Tax for working age people.

Everyone under state pension age must pay some council tax.

In 2026/27, working age people (in receipt of maximum Council Tax Support) have to pay a minimum of 15% of their council tax charge.

It is important that you contact us as soon as you receive your council tax demand notice if you need help and advice on how to pay your charge.

People of pensionable age who were in receipt of council tax benefit are protected from these changes. You will continue to receive the same level of support that you would have done under the council tax benefit rules.

Important note:

If your circumstances change you should report this to the council within a month of the change occurring. Failure to do this will be dealt with as an act of fraud. You can ring us on **01858 828282**, email: benefits@harborough.gov.uk or write to us at: **F.A.O. Benefits Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.**

How to pay

Paying council tax over 12 months

Council tax instalments can now be spread over 12 months instead of 10. Following your request, the number of payments will be dependent on the number of months remaining in the financial year. Your written request for 12 monthly instalments will automatically apply to the next financial year. If you would prefer to revert back to paying over ten months, please notify us in writing and we will amend our records.

If you would like to pay your council tax over 12 months, please email your request detailing your name, full address and council tax reference number (shown on your notice) to counciltax@harborough.gov.uk or write to us at **F.A.O. Council Tax Team, The Leicestershire Partnership, PO Box 10004, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 9EJ.** Alternatively, please call Customer Services on **01858 828282**.

Pay your council tax or business rates by Direct Debit

Direct debit is simple, convenient and secure.

You only need to set up a direct debit for council tax or business rates once. There is no need to cancel it at the end of the financial year.

Your payments will be collected automatically from your bank account on the dates shown on your demand notice.



Protected by the direct debit guarantee

After your final 2025/26 instalment has been collected, no further payments will be taken until the 2026/27 financial year starts and the first instalment becomes due in April 2026.

Set up a Direct Debit online by going to www.harborough.gov.uk/council-tax-pay

81% of
council tax
payers
pay by
direct debit

Alternatively, call us on 01858 828282. Please have your bank account details and reference number to hand to allow us to set this up over the telephone.

Are you struggling financially? We are here to help

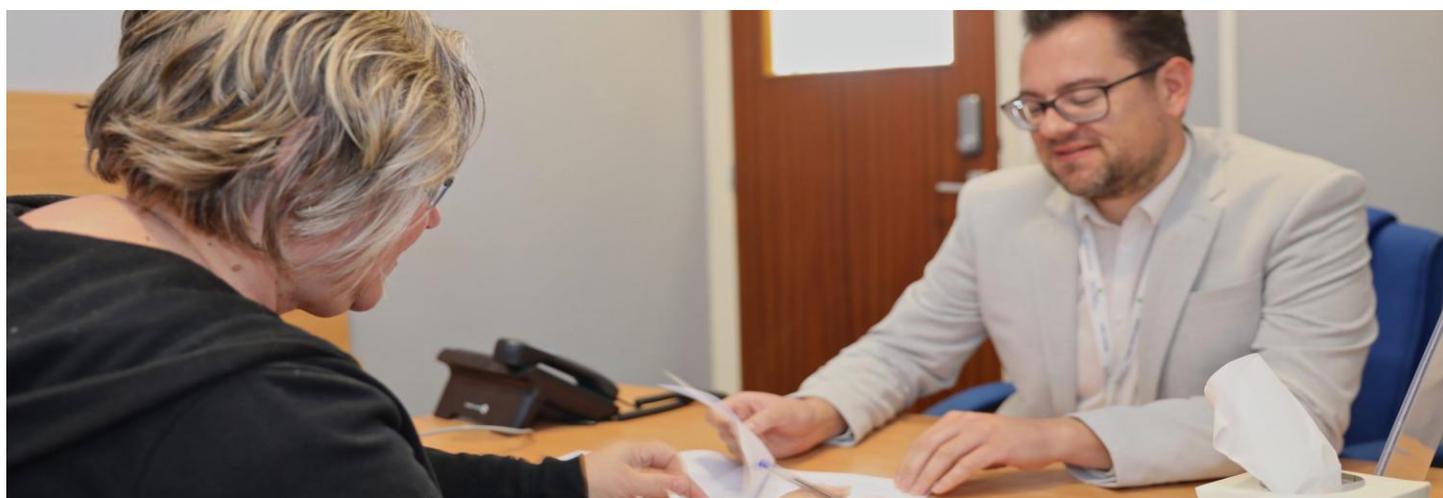
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are having difficulty paying your council tax or business rates instalments.

We can help you by:

- Referring you to a money advisor at Citizens Advice
- Referring you to our Benefits Team
- Agreeing an alternative payment arrangement with you
- Giving you advice about discounts, exemptions and reliefs.

Don't wait until you have lost your right to pay by instalments. We will be able to help if you contact us at an early stage, before any recovery action is taken.

You can call us on **01858 828282** or email counciltax@harborough.gov.uk



Discounts

Council tax assumes there are at least two adults living in the home. If you live on your own, you are entitled to 25% discount.

If an adult within the household falls into one of the following categories then a discount may apply:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices, youth training trainees and foreign language assistants
- 18/19 year olds who are at or have just left school or college
- Patients resident in hospital or being looked after in care homes
- Severely mentally impaired people
- People in hostels or night shelters
- Low paid care workers usually employed by charities
- People caring for a person with a disability who is NOT a partner or child under 18 years old
- Members of religious communities such as monks or nuns
- People in detention (except for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- Members of visiting forces, certain international and defence organisations.

Temporary absences owing to holiday or work will not normally result in discount entitlement.

Annexe discount – From 1 April 2014 annexes meeting certain criteria are entitled to a 50% discount. To qualify for a discount the annexe must be occupied by a relative of the person who is liable to pay council tax on the main home. If it is unoccupied the annexe must be being used as part of the main home. Please contact us for more details. If you wish to apply, we will send you an application form.

Properties that are second homes – From 1 April 2026 are subject to a 100% premium.

Long term empty properties which are both unoccupied and unfurnished will be liable to a premium

If a property has been empty and unfurnished:

- between one and five years a 100% premium will be added to the charge so you will pay twice the standard charge
- between five and ten years a 200% premium will be added to the charge so you will pay three times the standard charge
- over ten years a 300% premium will be added to the charge, which will mean that you will pay four times the standard charge.

Exceptions to the premium

There are various classes of properties that are exempt from the premium, some for a limited time of up to one year (from when they first became empty) and includes those being actively marketed for sale/ rent or those undergoing major repair. For a complete list of exemptions and further information please see page 11 in this leaflet.

Disabled people

A property band reduction in the charge may be applicable if you, or someone who lives with you, is disabled

and uses a wheelchair within the property or requires a room to meet their needs or requires an extra bathroom / kitchen. Please contact the Council Tax Team if you wish to apply.

Cyber Crime



If you are worried that you have been scammed, defrauded or have experienced cyber-crime, Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud. You can also find information on their site about free cybercrime protection and prevention advice. www.actionfraud.police.uk

Exemptions

Some properties may be exempt from council tax and the following is a broad description.

Class	Unoccupied properties	Entitlement
B	Owned by a charity	Up to 6 months
D	Left empty by someone who has gone to prison	No charge
E	Previously occupied by a person in permanent residential care	No charge
F	Waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted	Up to 6 months after probate is granted
G	Empty because occupation is forbidden by law	No charge
H	Waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion	No charge
I	Left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness	No charge
J	Left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person	No charge
K	Owned by a student and last occupied by a student	No charge
L	Subject to a Repossession Order	No charge
Q	The responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee	No charge
R	A site for a caravan, mobile home or mooring	No charge
T	'Granny annexes' or similar type of property	No charge
Class	Occupied properties	
M/N	All the residents are students	
O	Used for UK armed forces accommodation	
P	At least one liable person is a member of a visiting force	
S	All residents are less than 18 years old	
U	All residents are severely mentally impaired	
V	At least one liable person is a foreign diplomat	
W	It is annexed to a family home and occupied by that family's elderly or disabled relatives	

If you think you may be entitled to a discount or an exemption, please contact the Council Tax Team on **01858 828282**.

If you receive a discount / exemption, then you must tell the Council Tax Team within 21 days of any change of circumstances which affects your entitlement. Failure to do so may lead to a penalty charge.

Special expenses

Special Expenses are services provided by Harborough District Council, which are provided by Parishes and Town Councils elsewhere in the District. These become Special Expenses of the District Council and are only charged to the council tax payers in that area.

Special Expenses are paid to the District Council for; cemetery provision, allotment provision, Harborough in Bloom, Harborough Town Centre Support (including specified events), parks and recreation grounds, memorial gardens, bus shelters and space considered to be the public realm.

The table below shows where the Special Expenses are charged and how those charges are calculated.

Note: Of the 91 Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in Harborough District, 30 of those did not levy a precept.

Special Expenses - Redistribution by Parish Area						
Area within the District	Basic amount of HDC council tax before special expense £	Total special expense amount in HDC budget to be £	Basic amount of HDC council tax after special expense £	Net special expenses adjustment £	Parish precept element £	Basic amount of Council Tax by Parish £
Billesdon	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	21.59	45.89	215.95
Bitteswell with Bittesby	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	8.42	144.35	301.24
Blaston	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	0.00	0.00	148.47
Brighthurst	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	66.07	92.87	307.41
Broughton Astley	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	18.88	118.60	285.95
Catthorpe	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	13.74	0.00	162.21
Claybrooke Parva	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	26.11	66.58	241.16
Fleckney	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	9.61	184.05	342.13
Foxton	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	0.00	63.43	211.90
Great Bowden	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	5.77	82.89	237.13
Great Easton	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	0.00	46.44	194.91
Great Glen	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	13.49	137.74	239.70
Houghton-on-the-Hill	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	5.46	61.45	215.38
Husbands Bosworth	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	3.65	144.50	236.62
Kibworth Beauchamp	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	0.67	133.52	282.66
Kibworth Harcourt	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	25.31	148.13	321.91
Leire	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	7.37	66.27	222.11
Lubenham	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	3.30	47.55	199.32
Lutterworth	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	18.02	136.87	303.36
Market Harborough	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	67.71	0.00	216.18
Misterton	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	14.32	151.77	314.56
Mowsley	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	16.02	63.08	227.57
Saddington	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	2.22	24.01	174.70
Scraptoft	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	21.16	125.26	234.89
Shearsby	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	8.89	160.54	317.90
Skeffington	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	14.50	41.62	204.59
Stoughton	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	8.74	72.15	229.36
Swinford	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	6.46	80.31	235.24
Theddingworth	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	9.23	40.78	198.48
Thurnby	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	32.19	76.71	257.37
Tilton-the-Hill	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	1.78	69.78	220.03
Tugby and Keythorpe	174.13	(25.66)	148.47	9.27	97.51	255.25

In areas where there are parish or town councils, a portion of your council tax is given to them to provide certain services, such as grass cutting and cemeteries. The following information gives you the financial details for the majority of our parish and town councils. Where there is no parish or town council, the District Council may take on some services. These are called Special Expenses - see table above for more information.

Local parish precepts

Precept	Parish	Parish	Tax Base	Annual Band D Impact
2024/25		2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
£		£	£	£
0.00	Market Harborough	0.00	10,348.0	0.00
32.71	Allestun	33.53	36.5	0.82
94.69	Arnesby	94.57	177.1	-0.12
67.12	Ashby Magna	70.56	167.3	3.44
55.38	Ashby Parva	50.22	119.9	-5.16
45.99	Billesdon	45.89	446.5	-0.10
149.65	Bitteswell with Bittesby	144.35	256.6	-5.30
0.00	Blaston	0.00	36.2	0.00
89.51	Bringham	92.87	24.0	3.36
116.60	Broughton Astley	118.60	3,457.2	2.00
38.09	Bruntingthorpe	50.99	176.5	12.90
102.12	Burton Overy	104.89	157.4	2.77
0.00	Carlton Curlieu	0.00	20.8	0.00
0.00	Catthorpe	0.00	87.2	0.00
47.17	Claybrooke Magna	48.87	260.7	1.70
64.94	Claybrooke Parva	66.58	85.9	1.64
0.00	Cold Newton	0.00	23.6	0.00
37.82	Cotesbach	39.35	105.4	1.53
0.00	Cranoe	0.00	17.9	0.00
37.80	Drayton	39.48	79.8	1.68
53.32	Dunton Bassett	54.95	324.3	1.63
53.50	East Langton	67.90	197.7	14.40
0.00	East Norton	0.00	46.0	0.00
192.56	Fleckney	184.05	2,004.8	-8.51
61.80	Foxton	63.43	242.3	1.63
0.00	Frisby	0.00	14.1	0.00
36.71	Frolesworth	35.87	139.4	-0.84
0.00	Gaulby	0.00	79.9	0.00
78.77	Gilmorton	79.03	618.7	0.26
0.00	Glooston	0.00	37.2	0.00
10.37	Goadby	10.37	48.2	0.00
62.81	Great Bowden	82.89	653.9	20.08
37.40	Great Easton	46.44	341.3	9.04
134.38	Great Glen	137.74	1,964.1	3.36
14.43	Gumley	14.68	68.1	0.25
108.84	Hallaton	111.82	295.1	2.98
9.92	Horninghold	10.08	49.6	0.16
59.98	Houghton	61.45	768.1	1.47
129.53	Hungarton	134.88	136.4	5.35
137.63	Husbands Bosworth	144.50	560.5	6.87
52.34	Illston	56.75	89.5	4.41
73.12	Keyham	71.71	67.9	-1.41
113.29	Kibworth Beauchamp	133.52	1,868.0	20.23
132.32	Kibworth Harcourt	148.13	1,011.9	15.81
62.94	Kimcote & Walton	71.58	0.0	8.64
0.00	Kings Norton	0.00	0.0	0.00

Precept	Parish	Parish	Tax Base	Annual Band D Impact
2024/25		2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
£		£	£	£
0.00	Knaptoft	0.00	0.0	0.00
0.00	Laughton	0.00	0.0	0.00
0.00	Launde	0.00	0.0	0.00
60.34	Leire	66.27	0.0	5.93
34.90	Little Stretton	35.57	0.0	0.67
0.00	Loddington	0.00	0.0	0.00
0.00	Lowesby	0.00	0.0	0.00
47.82	Lubenham	47.55	0.0	-0.27
130.30	Lutterworth	136.87	0.0	6.57
0.00	Marefield	0.00	0.0	0.00
67.66	Medbourne	66.85	0.0	-0.81
147.25	Misterton	151.77	0.0	4.52
61.07	Mowsley	63.08	0.0	2.01
40.08	Neville Holt	36.35	296.7	-3.73
68.20	North Kilworth	70.25	31.8	2.05
0.00	Noseley	0.00	38.5	0.00
0.00	Owston & Newbold	0.00	47.0	0.00
29.86	Peatling Magna	30.93	12.9	1.07
0.00	Peatling Parva	0.00	281.8	0.00
0.00	Rolleston	0.00	56.2	0.00
24.15	Saddington	24.01	36.3	-0.14
115.36	Scraptoft	125.26	40.2	9.90
0.00	Shangton	0.00	466.9	0.00
26.10	Shawell	26.05	3,883.2	-0.05
159.35	Shearsby	160.54	10.6	1.19
41.92	Skeffington	41.62	253.5	-0.30
0.00	Slawston	0.00	203.5	0.00
57.46	Smeeton Westerby	64.18	126.8	6.72
84.77	South Kilworth	86.85	26.1	2.08
0.00	Stockerston	0.00	383.4	0.00
0.00	Stonton Wyville	0.00	12.9	0.00
71.38	Stoughton	72.15	58.6	0.77
78.92	Swinford	80.31	107.8	1.39
40.02	Theddingworth	40.78	95.0	0.76
0.00	Thorpe Langton	0.00	37.5	0.00
55.45	Thurnby & Bushby	76.71	106.2	21.26
65.34	Tilton	69.78	1,122.9	4.44
82.13	Tugby	97.51	75.6	15.38
98.92	Tur Langton	103.96	93.7	5.04
47.39	Ullesthorpe	48.43	116.0	1.04
0.00	Welham	0.00	115.3	0.00
0.00	West Langton	0.00	74.4	0.00
0.00	Westrill & Starmore	0.00	171.5	0.00
72.10	Willoughby Waterleys	78.07	250.0	5.97
0.00	Wistow	0.00	20.3	0.00
0.00	Withcote	0.00	16.0	0.00

Flood defence

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 of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2369km), Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2292km) and Severn and Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2486km).

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.

Leicestershire County Council pays flood defence levies to Trent, Anglian Northern and Severn & Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC) of the Environment Agency

County Council Flood Defence Levy	2025/2026 £000	2026/2027 £000
Anglian Northern	54	57
Severn & Wye	8	8
Trent	273	282
Total	335	347

Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

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.

The financial details are:

	Trent		Anglian Northern		Severn and Wye	
	2025/2026 £000	2026/2027 £000	2025/2026 £000	2026/2027 £000	2025/2026 £000	2026/2027 £000
Gross expenditure	£77,456	£70,294	£80,555	£110,971	£32,204	£20,748
Levies raised from councils	£2,360	£2,360	£1,884	£1,978	£1,296	£1,335
Total council tax base	1,959	1,959	639	651	1049	1061

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.

Levies Raised	Trent	Anglian Northern	Severn and Wye
2025/2026	£2,359,742	£1,883,533	£1,295,738
Increased %	3.0%	5.0%	3.0%
2026/2027	£2,430,534	£1,977,709	£1,334,611

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www.harborough.gov.uk



customer.services@harborough.gov.uk



[@harboroughdc](https://twitter.com/harboroughdc)



Call us on 01858 828282



Harborough District Council
The Symington Building
Adam & Eve Street
Market Harborough
Leicestershire LE16 7AG