

2026/27 Council Tax billing - responses

1. Why has the Council increased its Council Tax?

- This decision has been made following significant core funding cuts from Government, with significant savings needing to be found in the next 2 years.
- The Council recognises that many services must continue to be provided by the Council, especially universal services such as;
 - waste collection,
 - road maintenance,
 - parks
 - specialist services for vulnerable children and adults
- The Key Decision to increase Council Tax was agreed by Full Council on the 2 March 2026.
- Further information can be found on our website at www.tameside.gov.uk/counciltax

2. Are other authorities increasing Council Tax?

- Each Council will decide separately on the level of council tax that is appropriate.
- All Councils across Greater Manchester are charging the Adult Social Care Precept.

3. What is the Adult Social Care Precept?

- The Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities, which includes Tameside, for 2026/27.
- The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge a “precept” on its council tax for the financial year.
- Tameside, with other Councils, has agreed to take up this offer. The precept charged in Tameside will be 2% on its council tax for 2026/27.
- The precept is to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. The cost of care is increasing due to the aging population of the authority.
- The precept is an integral part of the Council Tax bill and legislation does not permit a tax payer to opt out of this charge, the bill must be paid in full.

4. How is the 2% increase in the Adult Social Care Precept calculated?

- Legislation is such that the Adults Social Care increase of 2% is based on the overall total of last year’s Council Tax bill (excluding any benefit that may be in payment) and not just the Adults Social Care element.
- Examples of the calculation can be found on the website at www.tameside.gov.uk/counciltax/faqs
- Legislation states the way the Adult Social Care Precept is calculated and how it must be shown on the Council Tax Bill.

- Queries regarding the calculation or the layout of the bill should be made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Their email address can be found on the website at <http://forms.communities.gov.uk/>

5. What are the Mayoral Precepts?

- The Greater Manchester Combined Authority met on 13 February 2026 and set the Mayoral precepts.
- There are 2 precepts
 - The Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept
 - The Mayoral General Budget which includes Fire and Rescue.
- Every year, some of your council tax bill goes towards funding both the police and fire services. The Mayor of Greater Manchester is responsible for setting these charges as he is responsible for these services. In addition, an additional charge is applied to fund other mayoral responsibilities. This is explained in detail at www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/counciltax
- **If caller does not have access to the internet advise:**
If you don't have access to the internet, you can contact Greater Manchester Combined Authority by writing to GMCA, 1st Floor, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford St, Manchester, M1 6EU or by calling 0161 778 7000

6. Why are there differing charges and increases on my council bill?

Council Tax is made up of the following elements:

Properties other than in Mossley

• The charge for Council services	2.99%	} 5.9% increase overall
• A precept for Adult Social Care	2.0%	
• A separate precept for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	5.5%	
• A separate precept for the Mayoral General Budget which includes Fire and Rescue	19.4%	

Properties in Mossley

• The charge for Council services	2.99%	
• A precept for Adult Social Care	2.0%	
• A separate precept for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	5.5%	
• A separate precept for the Mayoral General Budget which includes Fire and Rescue	19.4%	
• Mossley Parish Council	4.5%	

7. What is the reference to a referendum?

- The government has set out rules which determine the limits for council tax rises and the way this is to be calculated and reviewed to ensure the Council acts properly.
- In relation to the financial year beginning April 2026, Government have approved a referendum principle increase of 3% for general council tax in respect of Council expenditure.
- The Council may therefore increase Council Tax up to the level of 3% without holding a referendum.
- Tameside have set an increase of 2.99% for its own general services, which is below the limit for a referendum.

8. I would like to set up a Direct Debit.

- I am unable to take those details over the phone: please can you complete the online Direct Debit on the Tameside website, Council Tax and Benefits, click 'self-service' and chose 'pay by Direct Debit'.
- This will be completed within 5 working days of the form being submitted.

13. There is a credit on my Council Tax bill from last year

Refund requests cannot be accepted by telephone, please go to:

www.tameside.gov.uk/counciltax and click on Request a Refund and complete the form quoting your reference number, your name and address, your contact details and the bank account number where you wish the refund to be paid.