

Your 2025/26 services

Swale Borough Council

How your Council Tax helps pay
for the services we provide



Kent & Medway
Fire & Rescue Authority

Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL



About your Council Tax

Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority together deliver most of the local services in your area. If you live in an area with a parish/town council, it too provides some local services. This leaflet provides information from each of these authorities.



The Council Tax you pay is collected by Swale Borough Council on behalf of all the above authorities. The total amount is then divided between these authorities (see table on page 7).





Calculation of the Council Tax



Cllr. Tim Gibson, leader of the council said:

“Despite the considerable financial challenges we continue to face, we believe that the budget we have set will help us keep delivering the services that local people rely on us to do, and we will continue to work hard to ensure that we get the most out of every pound that we spend.

Our share of the Council tax bill will cost a typical band D household just £3.97 a week, though most people will be paying less as their homes are in lower council tax bands”

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £
Swale Borough Council Net Expenditure	22,856,827	23,893,081
Less: Revenue Support Grant	(338,000)	(362,000)
New Homes Bonus	(674,000)	(988,000)
Business Rates	(11,736,000)	(12,104,000)
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale	10,108,827	10,439,081

This amount is then divided by the Tax Base* for Swale which is	50,367.85	50,518.20
Giving a Swale Council Tax for a Band D property of	200.70	206.64
To which is added		
Kent County Council Tax of	1,610.82	1,691.19
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Tax of	256.15	270.15
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority Tax of	89.91	94.86
Giving a total Council Tax for a Band D property of	2,157.58	2,262.84

*The Tax Base is the equivalent number of Band D properties in the area after allowing for the relative proportions payable by all other bands and the fact that some of those properties may pay a reduced amount because of discounts.



Your Council Tax Bill

Valuation bands

Most homes whether rented or owned have to pay Council Tax. The Valuation Office Agency has placed every property into one of eight valuation bands according to its estimated open market capital value on 1 April 1991.

Valuation Band range of values

A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 - £52,000
C	£52,001 - £68,000
D	£68,001 - £88,000
E	£88,001 - £120,000
F	£120,001 - £160,000
G	£160,001 - £320,000
H	More than £320,000

If you think that your property band is wrong, you need to contact the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and ask to have your band reviewed. Your local office can be contacted via www.gov.uk/voa/contact

Empty Properties & Second Homes

From 1 April 2025 there are no discounts for empty properties or second homes.

Premiums are charged on all empty properties after 12 months and on all second homes.

For exceptions please see <https://swale.gov.uk/housing-council-tax-and-benefits/council-tax/council-tax-exemptions-discounts-and-disregards>

Discounts

If only one adult over the age of 18 lives in a property as their main home, the Council Tax bill can be reduced by 25%. Some people do not count towards the number of adults resident in a property including people who are:

- Full time students / student nurses
- In hospital or care homes
- Severely mentally impaired
- Detained in prison

Disabled Person Relief

If you or someone who lives with you has a disability, you may be entitled to a reduction. For more information please contact the Council Tax team.

Your Council Tax 2025/26



Exemptions

Any property that falls within one of the following classes will be exempt from Council Tax:

B	Vacant up to 6 months and owned by a charity
D	Property left empty by someone who has been detained in prison
E	Property left empty by someone who has moved into a care home or hospital
F	Property left empty by the estate of a deceased person for up to six months after grant of probate
G	Occupation is prohibited by law
H	Vacant and being held available for a Minister of Religion
I	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to receive personal care
J	Property left empty by someone who has moved elsewhere to provide personal care
K	Vacant but previously occupied by students
L	Vacant where mortgagee is in possession
M	Student Halls of Residence
N	Property occupied solely by students
O	Properties owned by Secretary of State for Defence - Armed Forces accommodation

P	Properties occupied by members of Visiting Forces
Q	Property where liable person is a trustee in bankruptcy
R	Vacant pitch or mooring
S	Property solely occupied by under 18s
T	Vacant annexe that cannot be let separately without breaching planning conditions
U	Occupied solely by the severely mentally impaired
V	Occupied by a Diplomat, who is not a British Citizen
W	Separately banded annexe occupied by a dependant relative

For full details of all discounts and exemptions now available (and the qualifying conditions) please contact the Council Tax team or visit www.swale.gov.uk/ctdde



Appeals

If you think that you should not be billed for Council Tax, or the Council has made a mistake in calculating your bill or your Council Tax Support, you can appeal. Appeals should initially be made in writing to the Council. The Council will look at your appeal first and try to resolve any issues. If you are not happy with our decision, we will provide you with details of how to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal Service who are independent from the Council. You should keep paying your bill even if you have appealed.

Council Tax Support

For further information on Council Tax Support please view our Council Tax Support page. If you are on a low income or living with other adults on a low income, you may be entitled to some help to pay your Council Tax. To find out if you are entitled to Council Tax Support contact our Benefits Team or view our Benefits page at www.swale.gov.uk/housing-council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/council-tax-support

If you suspect someone is committing benefit fraud, please let us know. You can report a suspected fraud in confidence, by phoning the Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0800 854440 or report it online www.swale.gov.uk

Your Council Tax 2025/26



Expenditure 2025/26

	Net Expenditure 2025/26 £000	Net Expenditure 2024/25 £000
Housing & Community Services	5,406	5,481
Planning Services	1,423	409
Environment & Leisure Services	10,156	9,839
Regeneration & Economic Development	(554)	(382)
Corporate & Democratic Services	6,666	5,741
Corporate Overheads and Capital Financing	3,352	3,648
Drainage Board Levy	1,049	1,000
Total Service Expenditure	27,498	25,736
Contributions to/(from) funds	(1,517)	(1,573)
Additional Grants	(2,088)	(1,306)
New Homes Bonus	(988)	(674)
Net Expenditure	22,905	22,183
Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates	(12,466)	(12,074)
Amount to be met by the Council Tax for Swale	10,439	10,109

Joint Council Tax Breakdown

House Band	Swale Borough Council £	Kent Police & Crime Commissioner £	Kent County Council £	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority £	Total Council Tax (excluding parish precepts) £
A	137.76	180.10	1,127.46	63.24	1,508.56
B	160.72	210.12	1,315.37	73.78	1,759.99
C	183.68	240.13	1,503.28	84.32	2,011.41
D	206.64	270.15	1,691.19	94.86	2,262.84
E	252.56	330.18	2,067.01	115.94	2,765.69
F	298.48	390.22	2,442.83	137.02	3,268.55
G	344.40	450.25	2,818.65	158.10	3,771.40
H	413.28	540.30	3,382.38	189.72	4,525.68



Statement of Parish Precepts for 2025/26

Parish/Town Council	Parish Precept 2024/25 £	Parish Precept 2025/26 £	Tax Base 2025/26 £	Parish Band D Council Tax 2025/26 £
Bapchild	13,780	13,780	689.68	19.98
Bobbing	51,764	53,718	1,005.24	53.44
Borden	75,687	82,527	1,143.38	72.18
Boughton-under-Blean	90,000	100,140	707.36	141.57
Bredgar	12,344	12,714	301.20	42.21
Doddington	8,641	9,390	234.10	40.11
Dunkirk	28,234	32,663	524.80	62.24
Eastchurch	71,253	82,281	842.58	97.65
Eastling	5,197	5,524	157.84	35.00
Faversham Town Council	666,741	755,000	7,450.97	101.33
Graveney & Goodnestone	13,065	13,620	188.10	72.41
Hartlip	20,000	21,546	377.49	57.08
Hernhill	18,091	17,863	320.81	55.68
Iwade	61,000	69,000	1,477.70	46.69
Leysdown	38,606	83,956	1,241.57	67.62
Lower Halstow	37,740	38,240	462.26	82.72
Luddenham	0	0	42.52	0.00
Lynsted	32,224	35,446	480.02	73.84
Milstead	7,000	7,000	100.68	69.53
Minster	199,998	200,408	5,725.95	35.00
Newington	59,053	61,671	1,068.63	57.71
Newnham	5,339	5,449	158.92	34.29
Norton & Buckland	8,333	9,231	200.35	46.07
Oare	14,700	15,700	182.97	85.81
Ospringe	11,015	14,000	284.93	49.13
Queenborough Town Council	71,500	72,000	902.74	79.76
Rodmersham	13,000	13,500	240.32	56.18
Selling	17,013	18,320	374.56	48.91
Sheerness Town Council	139,962	139,962	2,817.10	49.68
Sheldwich, Leaveland & Badlesmere	10,275	12,728	369.45	34.45
Stalisfield	3,087	3,439	110.14	31.22
Teynham	66,000	74,000	993.51	74.48
Throwley	4,123	4,226	144.07	29.33
Tonge	8,000	11,000	466.57	23.58
Tunstall	7,500	7,500	688.77	10.89
Upchurch	48,577	52,311	1,053.94	49.63
Warden	16,500	16,500	509.60	32.38





Contact information

If you have any comments or questions about the information provided, please contact the appropriate authority:

Swale Borough Council

Telephone: **01795 417850**

Email: **csc@swale.gov.uk**

Write to:

**Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT**

Website:

www.swale.gov.uk/news-and-your-council/publications/council-tax/your-services

Kent County Council

Telephone: **03000 41 41 41**

Email: **council.tax@kent.gov.uk**

Write to:

**Kent County Council, Room 3.08, Sessions House,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ**

Website: **www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/**

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

Telephone: **01622 677055**

Email: **contactyourpcc@pcc.kent.pnn.police.uk**

Write to:

**Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Police Headquarters,
Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9bz**

Website: **www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/**

Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority

Telephone: **01622 692121**

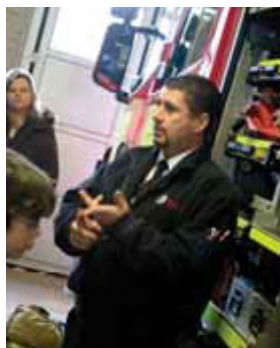
Email: **KFRSFinance@Kent.fire-uk.org**

Write to:

**Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority Headquarters, Straw Mill Hill,
Tovil maidstaone, Kent ME15 6XB**

Website (please enter this website address manually): **www.kent.fire-uk.org/about-us/**

If you have a question about paying your council tax bill or claiming council tax support, please contact Swale Borough Council using the details above.



How to pay • Help and advice • Benefits information • Get in touch

and much more from Kent County Council,
Swale Borough Council, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority