

Ipswich Borough Council

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2024/25



Message from Cllr Neil MacDonald, Leader of Ipswich Borough Council:

Like so many other Councils, Ipswich Borough Council is facing tough times. Financial pressures are the highest I've ever known. With significant cuts in funding from Government we continue to face tough decisions. However, these decisions are being made to ensure the future economic growth of Ipswich, and to safeguard our services that you value.

We understand that everyone is facing the same cost of living challenges, which is why for the seventh year running Ipswich Borough Council has maintained the lowest council tax increase of the three components that make up council tax, with increases at just 2.98% for 2024/25. This is 18p or less per week for most households and is consistent with the Government's recommended 3% increase. With the continuation of our Local Council Tax Reduction scheme, over 7,000 households should benefit from lower or frozen council tax bills.

Ipswich Borough Council launched its new Corporate Strategy in 2023, which includes investing in our town centre, meeting the housing needs of our community, to become carbon neutral by 2030, and promoting community well-being and fairness in Ipswich.

We also set out to be financially sustainable, and because of early action taken by the Council, our finances are on a much better footing. However, in real terms and by today's prices, the Government has cut funding by £109m since 2010/11, which may mean the Council is required to consider tough decisions in the future.

Creating a thriving town centre supports our economic growth by attracting people to work, live and visit Ipswich. Our aim is for Ipswich town centre to become the beating heart of our community. This supports our long-term vision of creating jobs, homes, and economic growth for people in Ipswich.

The Council has a very clear focus on meeting our housing needs, and the Council is already investing in multiple housing developments, which will see a total of 302 new affordable properties built in Ipswich by 2025.

New council housing is being built on Ravenswood and at Bibb Way with work starting this year at Fore Hamlet and Hawke Road. Positive action to tackle the shortage of affordable housing.

Our commitment to carbon neutrality has driven the development of our new carbon neutral depot (due to be completed later this year) which is key to achieving our Net Zero target. Environmental sustainability is vital, and this new depot will enable the Council to continue meeting the borough's refuse, recycling, and council housing maintenance needs for decades to come, in a sustainable, efficient, and environmentally friendly way.

We will continue to work with partners to deliver the £25m Town Deal for Ipswich, funded by the Government. The Town Deal has improved the town's skills offer and is making it greener. Its set to fill empty spaces in the town centre, create a digital and connected town and to repurpose buildings.

We are also working hard to tackle rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour, as well as crime, through successful bids for government funding, increasing CCTV coverage, emergency beds for rough sleepers, and funding PCSOs in the town centre.

Over the coming years Ipswich Borough Council is determined to develop and invest in Ipswich to make it a destination of choice for businesses, families, and investors to secure a better life for everyone.



Find out more at: www.ipswich.gov.uk/counciltax

Your money. Caring for Suffolk.



Over the next two years we will invest an extra **£74 million**

to support Suffolk's children and adults who need it most.

This work can be life-changing, by protecting children from neglect and abuse, supporting disabled people and adults with dementia to live independently, and providing residential care.

77p from every **£1** we spend goes towards providing these services.

Your contribution makes a real difference.



23p from every **£1**, is all that remains to provide our other services, which include:

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, school transport, public transport, road maintenance, Household Waste Recycling Centres, tackling climate change, libraries, arts and heritage, trading standards, community safety and much more.

There is competition for every pound we spend and many difficult decisions and prioritisations are necessary.

www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax

To deliver all the services that we are required to provide, the council is having to save

£65 million over the next two years. This has meant making many difficult decisions, including £11 million of staff savings.

The financial times we are in are challenging for everyone, so we thank you for your support and we will spend public money wisely and carefully for Suffolk.



Councillor Matthew Hicks
Leader of Suffolk County Council

OUR AMBITIONS FOR SUFFOLK

Looking after our health and wellbeing

Strengthening our local economy

Protecting and enhancing our environment

Providing value for money for our residents

Message from Tim Passmore, Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk



Suffolk is a good police force. It offers value for money to Suffolk communities and I am proud to serve as the county's Police and Crime Commissioner.

This year, officer numbers will reach 1425 – more than has ever been recorded. Some of this investment comes from your council tax, the rest from the government's police uplift programme.

In addition, investment in the control room has resulted in the recruitment of an additional 27 call handlers this year which is having a significant impact.

Maintaining a good service costs money and keeping crime levels low in Suffolk is crucial for us all. It cannot be in the county's interest to make cutbacks in our policing capabilities.

I know any increases in taxation are unwelcome, but I can assure you I am doing everything possible to make sure the force spends your hard-earned money as efficiently and effectively as possible and holding the Constabulary to account accordingly.

That said, any organisation should always look for and deliver greater efficiency and increased value - Suffolk Constabulary is no exception, so this work will continue.

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@timpcc



Find out more at: www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk

In the last financial year...

92.8%
999 calls dealt with within target
7th best performing force (Dec 2023)

1425*
Police Officers in Suffolk
Compared to 1206 in 2020, prior to Uplift programme & precept investment
*Target to be reached by 31 March 2024

£2.02m
Commissioning spend this year to support victims especially victims of serious sexual offences & violence against women and girls

Introduction of **80** named police officers working in community policing teams

5th
Best performing force for lowest levels of recorded crime according to the Office of National Statistics