



Town Hall
Magdalene Street
Glastonbury
Somerset
BA6 9EL

GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

www.glastonbury.gov.uk

2024-25 Budget and Precept Information

The Town Council's main role is to ensure that the delivery of services to meet local needs is maintained and that quality of life in the community of the Parish of Glastonbury is improved. The Town Council is also responsible for two youth clubs, public conveniences, several open spaces, skatepark lighting, allotments, grants to local organisations for the benefit of residents, income-generating events such as Frost Fayre, and other town maintenance & improvements, including floral displays through the award-winning Glastonbury in Bloom.

To operate effectively, the Town Council requires an annual income; the majority of this is obtained through a levy on each household - **this levy is known as the "Precept" and forms a small percentage (around 9%) of the total Council Tax that each household pays.** The Town Council generates significant additional income, particularly in relation to similar sized Councils, which subsidises expenditure.

With Somerset Council having declared a Financial Emergency in relation to their predicted budget deficit over multiple future years, Glastonbury Town Council, like many other towns and parishes, is in the position where it must step in to ensure local services, spaces and assets are maintained.

Budget Snapshot

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Precept	£419,160	£650,924	£960,000
Expenditure			
Administration + Staff	£342,076	£415,820	£586,309
Land and Property	£51,920	£43,208	£196,825
Town Hall	£71,680	£117,926	£93,073
Financial Assistance	£101,122	£171,491	£292,380
St Dunstan's Car Park	£58,870	£44,016	£66,455
Make Specific Reserves	£16,188	£21,074	Not Budgeted
Income (inc. Car Park)	£209,839	£290,405	£369,050
Use of Specific Reserves	£38,916	£33,362	£3,000
Previous Year End Balance	£144,601	£70,745	£159,093
Surplus to Reserves	- £73,856	£88,348	£88,743
Reserves (% of precept)	£70,745 (16%)	£159,093 (24%)	£247,835 (26%)

A copy of this information will be delivered to every household in BA6 8 and BA6 9 in the coming weeks

Budget areas explained:

- **Administration:** expenses and income relating to the Town Council's Administration Staff and other operating costs, utilities, IT, road closure costs, Christmas expenses and consultants for the Neighbourhood Plan, the A361, and investment in heritage & tourism.
- **Land and Property:** expenses and income relating to the Town Council's land, the Glastonbury Information Centre and Tribunal building (from 2024).
- **Town Hall:** expenses and income relating to the Town Council's caretakers, outside staff and the Town Hall.
- **Financial Assistance:** expenses and income relating to Youth Provision, Glastonbury in Bloom, various grants, the Tor Bus, footpaths and additional devolution of services and assets from Somerset Council.

This year's increase

For a Band D household (the benchmark), this year's increase is **£96.13 per year**. This increase is smaller for houses banded A – C, which are the majority of households in Glastonbury.

- **£49.02** of this increase is in response to the Financial Emergency at Somerset Council, which was necessary to protect services that would be cut by Somerset Council.
- **£18.04** of this increase is to maintain & improve the Glastonbury Information Centre and develop a Glastonbury Museum in the Tribunal building.
- **£9.32** of this increase is to enable the Town Council to invest in heritage and tourism for the long-term benefit of Glastonbury's economy.
- **£6.22** of this increase is to allow a Traffic Engineer to scope improvements to the A361 through Glastonbury.
- **£4.35** of this increase is to safeguard the Tor Bus from potential cuts.
- **£3.11** of this increase is to pay for additional Youth Provision.
- **£1.86** of this increase is to increase the Town Council's grant pots for local organisations from £4,000 to £10,000 per annum.
- The remaining **£4.21** of the increase is to cover general inflation.

The reasons for this year's increase are as follows:

- 1. To enable the Town Council to safeguard essential services such as CCTV, public toilets, libraries, street cleaning, maintenance of green and open spaces and other services that Somerset Council will otherwise cut.**
- 2. To increase historically low levels of reserves. Guidance is to hold between 25% and 100% of the precept in general reserve.**
- 3. Continued inflation pressures on the Town Council's budget.**
- 4. To enable the Town Council to continue projects such as retrofitting the Town Hall to reduce expenditure on utilities and carbon footprint, improving the town's amenities such as public toilets, the Information Centre and Museum in the Tribunal building, as well as investigating other improvements to Glastonbury on the A361 and investment in heritage & tourism for the long-term benefit of the town's economy and the investment it brings.**

The Town Council has delivered community events and infrastructure including the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the new Basketball and Netball practice court at Abbey Park using grant funding. In addition, Glastonbury Town Council is fortunate to have an income-generating asset in St Dunstan's Car Park, which many Councils of this size do not.

Council Tax Bands

Tax Paying households are 'banded' from A to H based on their value, with H being the largest of properties and paying double the Band D (Average) Precept. Band A homes are the least valuable and pay two thirds of the Band D Precept. The Town Council has made the difficult, but necessary, decision to increase the budget by £310,000.

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2024-25 Increase	£64.41	£74.98	£85.56	£96.13	£117.28	£138.43	£160.54	£192.26

The above increases are generally **paid over 10 months** of the year.

Somerset Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The new scheme for Somerset will give those customers on the lowest incomes a **100% discount on their entire Council Tax bill.**

You can find more information via the Somerset Council Website:

www.somerset.gov.uk/benefits-and-payments/council-tax-reduction

Or by phoning their switchboard Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm: **0300 123 2224**