

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Precept Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the Council 'Precept'?

When the Council mentions 'the Precept', this means the local Town Council tax paid by each household which funds the activities of the Town Council. This includes staff costs, community grants, health & wellbeing, floral displays, festive lights, allotments, the Town Ranger service, environmental improvements, road safety initiatives and a contribution towards the running costs of Sutton Coldfield Library.

2. How much Precept do residents pay each year?

The current Precept is set at £49.96 per year for a Band-D property. Band-D properties are considered the average household for tax purposes¹. Properties in Band A to C will pay less a year and properties in Band-E onwards will pay more each year. The Precept was set at this level when the Town Council was established in 2016 and has not increased in the eight years the Town Council has been in existence, despite annual increases in goods and services, inflation and staff costs.

3. How is the Precept charged and collected from residents?

There is no separate bill to residents for the Precept. All local taxes are invoiced in one bill each year by the main billing authority, Birmingham City Council. This bill lists the charges that are being made by each authority including Birmingham City Council, Fire, Police and the Town Council.

A typical Band-D property is charged £2,133.72 for 2024/25, of this £49.96 is for the Town Council.

	£
• Birmingham City Council council tax	1,793.01
• West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner precept	215.55
• West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority precept	75.20
• Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council precept	49.96
• Total Bill	£2,133.72

4. How much is raised each year in the Precept and what is it spent on?

The total Precept income in 2023/24 was £1,859,411.

This money was spent on the following:

	£
• Town Ranger service	259,596
• Health and wellbeing & community grants	245,181
• Central support, civic & democratic costs	235,554
• Clean, green & environmental improvements	160,813
• Sutton Coldfield Library contribution	137,000
• Town & Local centre improvements	92,744
• Allotments	55,000
• Other small service costs	19,314

¹ Bands are maintained by the Government's Valuation Office Agency, more information about the Bands is available on www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands.

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• Transfer to Reserves ²	654,209
Total	£1,859,411

5. Why does the Town Council need to increase the annual Precept?

The Council only has a small amount of funding ‘headroom’ (available savings) in the annual budget for any improvements across the town and any additional costs for devolved services the Town Council may want to take over from Birmingham City Council.

The proposed increase in the Precept would support the Town Council to achieve improvements in Sutton Coldfield and enable the Town Council to keep pace with rising prices.

Even if some development project funding is provided by Government or by the private sector, the Town Council is still likely to need to provide additional funds as ‘match funding’. An increase in the Precept would enable the Town Council to have monies available for such match funding.

6. How much additional Precept would be raised with the annual £10 increase?

The actual increase in the Precept for each property will depend on the tax band it sits in from Band-A to Band-H.

Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precept Annual Increase	6.70	7.80	8.90	10.00	12.20	14.40	16.70	20.00

If the proposal to raise the annual Precept by £10 each year for the next three years is approved, then the additional Precept raised is likely be:

	£
2025/26	374,000
2026/27	749,000
2027/28	1,123,000
TOTAL three years	£2,246,000

This additional funding would enable the Town Council to deliver some of its key priorities over the next three years and make our Royal Town an even better place to live and work.

² For future spend on Devo Deal, election costs, 2028 celebrations, environmental projects (see separate Reserves FAQ for full explanation).