

1. What is the Town Council 'Precept'?

When the Town 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 funding of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Libraries and Community Centres, the Town Ranger service, environmental improvements, road safety initiatives, community grants, health & wellbeing, floral displays, festive lights, allotments, together with staff costs.

2. How much Precept do residents pay each year?

The 2026/27 Precept is set at £69.96 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 to H will pay more each year.

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 £2,423.13 for 2026/27, of this £69.96 is for the Town Council.

• Birmingham City Council	£2,023.48
• West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner	£244.50
• West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority	£85.19
• Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council	£69.96
TOTAL BILL	£2,423.13

4. How much is the increase in Precept this year?

The actual annual 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
Annual Inc	£6.70	£7.80	£8.90	£10.00	£12.20	£14.40	£16.70	£20.00

The additional amount raised by this increase is £376,190.

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

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

The increase helps the Town Council to support improvements in Sutton Coldfield and enable the Town Council to keep pace with rising prices.

The Strategic Plan consultation asked residents if they would support an increase in the precept, if this was used to support or help avoid reductions in services currently provided by Birmingham City Council. A significant majority (over 70%) of respondents said yes, and that they would like to see the increase used towards helping maintain libraries, community services, parks, play areas and open spaces in light of projected cuts by the City Council.

The Town Council commissioned the Royal Sutton Coldfield Library and Community Centre Service from November 2025, which provides an enhanced Library offer in Mere Green and fully funds Boldmere Library, Walmley Library, Walmley Community Centre and Mere Green Community Centre saving them from closure, for residents. Furthermore, the Town Council has committed to further improve open spaces and the environment in the Town by agreeing to a new and enhanced grounds maintenance and ranger contract from February 2026. This builds on the work that the Town Rangers already carry out across the Town, maintaining overgrown areas, removing graffiti and litter, helping to keep Sutton Coldfield cleaner and greener.

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

The total Precept income in 2026/27 is £2,631,825. This will be used to fund a budget for the following:

• Clean, Green & Environmental Improvements Including the Town Ranger Service	£630,000
• Sutton Coldfield Library and Community Centres	£520,000
• Health & Wellbeing and Community Grants	£293,000
• Town & Local Centre Improvements	£222,000
• Devolution Deal & Sutton Park	£95,000
• Allotments	£55,000
• Cultural Events & Other Service Costs	£55,000
• Civic & Democratic Costs Including Election Costs	£80,500
• Central Support & Contingencies	£681,325