

Bolton in full

The council tax bill and who receives it, spending by service, payments over £500, senior pay, the report card and how the council compares.

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Executive summary

The key figures from each part of this report, with the change on a year earlier where the source gives one.

Bolton: your area

£2,400

Band D council tax, 2026-27
+£133 (+5.9%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1.0m

Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

48.3%

Household waste recycled,
2024-25

Council tax in Bolton

£2,400

Band D a year, 2026-27
+£133 (+5.9%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1,600

Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

-£11

Band D against the England
average of £2,411
Below average
As of 6 April 2026

Where your council tax goes in Bolton

£2,399.74

Band D bill, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£1,915.88

Goes to Bolton itself (80%)
As of 6 April 2026

£654.91

Largest line: adult social care
As of 17 September 2026

Parking income in Bolton

£1.03m

Parking surplus
+£0.67m (+185.6%) vs 2024-25
2025-26

£2.67m

Parking income
+£0.30m (+12.7%) vs 2024-25
2025-26

£1.64m

Spending on parking
-£0.37m (-18.4%) vs 2024-25
2025-26

Bolton: your area

[Your area](#) · Last updated 26 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/your-area/bolton/>

Bolton sets a Band D council tax of **£2,400** for 2026-27, 181 of 296 councils in England from the highest. Police: Greater Manchester. Fire and rescue: Greater Manchester. Health: NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board. This page links to everything the site holds on the area; the full bill, the report card and parking each have a page of their own.

Key figures

£2,400

Band D council tax, 2026-27
+£133 (+5.9%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1.0m

Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

48.3%

Household waste recycled,
2024-25

2%

A roads where maintenance
should be considered, 2024-25

51%

Reserves as a share of spending,
2025-26

What is the council tax in Bolton?

Band D is **£2,400** a year for 2026-27, and Band A, the lowest, **£1,600**. That is £11 below the England average of £2,411, 181 of 296 in England from the highest.

Of a Band D bill, **£1,953** goes to Bolton.

[Every band, who gets the money and how Bolton compares](#)

[Where your council tax goes: from your bill to each service](#)

How does the council compare?

- Council tax rise this year 5.9% Higher than the England figure of 4.9%
- Council tax per head £635 Lower than the England figure of £796
- Ombudsman uphold rate 85% (11 of 13) Lower than the England figure of 86%
- Reserves as a share of net spending 51% Higher than the England figure of 50%
- Borrowing per home £1,145 Lower than the England figure of £3,474
- Accounts, 2024-25 Delivered by backstop 92% of bodies had an opinion delivered by the backstop date
- Ofsted, children's services Good 73% of English councils are good or outstanding
- CQC, adult social care Good 62% of assessed councils are good or outstanding
- A roads needing maintenance considered 2% Lower than the England figure of 5%
- Recycling rate 48.3% Higher than the England figure of 42.0%
- Major planning decisions on time 87.0% Lower than the England figure of 91.0%

Each figure is set against the figure for England as a whole. They are plain comparisons, one measure at a time: there is no overall score and no ranking of councils. Higher is not always better or worse; what each measure does and does not show is on the [methodology page](#).

[The full report card: complaints, finances, audit, pay and services](#)

Roads, bins and planning

Roads, recycling and planning in Bolton

Measure	Figure	Period
A roads where maintenance should be considered	2%	2024-25
B and C roads where maintenance should be considered	2%	2024-25
Unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered	34%	2024-25
Household waste reused, recycled or composted	48.3%	2024-25
Major planning decisions made on time	87.0%	24 months to end of June 2026

Road condition is from the Department for Transport; each figure is compared with England as a whole in the [report card](#).

What does the council make from parking?

Parking income and surplus for Bolton

Authority	Year	Income	Surplus
Bolton	2025-26	£2.7m	£1.0m

What the law lets a council spend a parking surplus on is on [parking fines and council parking income](#).

Who is your MP?

A council area can span several constituencies, so your MP depends on your address. Enter your postcode in the box at the top of this page to see your MP and what their office cost, or [find any MP by name or constituency](#).

How much crime is recorded here?

This force supplied no records to police.uk for this period, so there are no figures for the areas inside it. Greater Manchester Police has supplied none since 2019; its force-wide crime figures are from the Home Office.

Across the whole of Greater Manchester police force area, the Home Office's recorded crime figures for the twelve months to March 2026 come to **103.7 crimes per 1,000 residents**.

[Bolton on the crime map](#)

Your police precept

A Band D home in Bolton pays **£285.30** police precept in 2026-27. It funds **Greater Manchester**, which has £911m in all for 2026-27. The precept is set once for the whole force area and spent across the whole force area, so the crime figures above for Bolton are not what its precept bought.

[Greater Manchester: funding, precept and results for the whole force](#)

Who runs police, fire, health and ambulances here?

The bodies that serve Bolton, and their latest money

Service	Body	Latest	Per resident
Police	Greater Manchester	£911m (2026-27)	£302
Fire and rescue	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service	£151m (2025-26)	£50.08
Ambulance	North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	£553m (2024-25)	£71.67
NHS	NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board	£10.0bn (2028-29)	£3,301
Roads	Bolton	£7m (2025-26)	£23.57
Schools	Bolton	£333m (2026-27)	£1,074
Council spending	Bolton	£663m (2025-26)	£2,141
Social care	Bolton	£253m (2024-25)	£820
Housing	Bolton	£11m (2025-26)	£35.39
Waste and recycling	Bolton	not published	—

Each body serves a wider area than Bolton, and its money is for the whole of that area. Its page has its funding over time and what is recorded alongside it; [public services near you](#) looks them up for any postcode. Water is not covered yet: see [Discover Water](#).

Which bodies cover Bolton: ONS lookups of local authorities to police force areas, fire and rescue authorities, integrated care boards and local health boards (Open Government Licence v3.0); where an area is split between integrated care boards, the one covering most residents is named.

How does Bolton look against other councils?

See Bolton on [the council map](#), alongside every other council on council tax, complaints, reserves, audit and inspections, or [browse every council](#).

Common questions

- How much is council tax in Bolton? Band D is £2,400 a year for 2026-27. [Every band](#).
- Which police force covers Bolton? Greater Manchester police force area. Fire and rescue: Greater Manchester.

Council tax in Bolton

Your area · Last updated 26 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/council-tax/england/bolton/>

Council tax in Bolton for 2026-27 is **£2,400 a year for a Band D home**, £1,600 for Band A and £4,799 for the top band. That is £11 below the England average of £2,411. It ranks 181 of 296 billing areas in England. Figures are the council's own set rates.

Key figures

£2,400

Band D a year, 2026-27
+£133 (+5.9%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1,600

Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

-£11

Band D against the England
average of £2,411
Below average
As of 6 April 2026

181 of 296

Rank in England, highest first
As of 6 April 2026

What is the bill for each band?

Council tax by band in Bolton, bands A to H

Band	A year	A month
Band A	£1,599.83	£133.32
Band B	£1,866.46	£155.54
Band C	£2,133.10	£177.76
Band D	£2,399.74	£199.98
Band E	£2,933.02	£244.42
Band F	£3,466.29	£288.86
Band G	£3,999.57	£333.30
Band H	£4,799.48	£399.96

Who gets the money?

Band D bill in Bolton by receiving body

Who receives it	Band D	Share
Bolton	£1,953	81%
Other precepting bodies	£447	19%

Each body sets its own precept and the council simply collects them together. The council that sends the bill keeps only its own share.

[Where your council tax goes: from your bill to each service](#)

How does it compare?

Band D here is **£11 below** the England average, 181 of 296 councils from the highest.

Bolton among the England councils nearest it, Band D 2026-27

Swale	£2,406
Charnwood	£2,406
St Helens	£2,403
Hart	£2,400
Bolton (Bolton)	£2,400
Stevenage	£2,392
Cotswold	£2,392
Harborough	£2,390
Waltham Forest	£2,387

Ranked highest first. Every council is in the full table.

How does Bolton compare? The report card

Official figures on complaints, finances, audit, pay and services for Bolton, each from the body that published it and set against the figure for England. See every council on the [council map](#).

- Council tax rise this year 5.9% Higher than the England figure of 4.9%
- Council tax per head £635 Lower than the England figure of £796
- Ombudsman uphold rate 85% (11 of 13) Lower than the England figure of 86%
- Reserves as a share of net spending 51% Higher than the England figure of 50%
- Borrowing per home £1,145 Lower than the England figure of £3,474
- Accounts, 2024-25 Delivered by backstop 92% of bodies had an opinion delivered by the backstop date
- Ofsted, children's services Good 73% of English councils are good or outstanding
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- Recycling rate 48.3% Higher than the England figure of 42.0%
- Major planning decisions on time 87.0% Lower than the England figure of 91.0%

Each figure is set against the figure for England as a whole. They are plain comparisons, one measure at a time: there is no overall score and no ranking of councils. Higher is not always better or worse; what each measure does and does not show is on the [methodology page](#).

What do complaints to the ombudsman show?

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman: Bolton, 2025-26

Measure	Bolton	For comparison
Complaints and enquiries received	84	—
Complaints and enquiries decided	66	72 in 2024-25
Detailed investigations	13	—
Upheld	11	—
Uphold rate	85%	86% for every body the Ombudsman covers; 83% for similar councils
Upheld cases where the council had already offered a satisfactory remedy	9%	13% for every body the Ombudsman covers
Ombudsman's recommendations the council complied with	100%	99.9% for every body the Ombudsman covers
Uphold rate in 2024-25	80%	—

An uphold rate depends on how many complaints reach a detailed investigation. With few investigations, one decision moves it a long way.

Source: [Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, Annual review of local government complaints](#), 2025-26.

This council is not in the Housing Ombudsman's landlord tables for 2025-26, which list landlords with five or more findings. Most councils without their own homes are not.

How healthy are its finances?

Reserves, spending and borrowing: Bolton

Measure	Bolton	For comparison
Net revenue spending, 2025-26	£313.6m	—
Reserves at the end of 2025-26	£160.5m	—
Reserves as a share of net spending	51%	50% for England; 56% in 2024-25
Outstanding borrowing at 30 June 2026	£148.0m	—
Borrowing per home on the valuation list	£1,145	£3,474 across English billing authorities

Earmarked and unallocated revenue reserves at the end of the year, excluding schools and public health, as a share of net revenue expenditure. Much of any council's reserves is set aside for particular purposes. Borrowing is total outstanding loans of every kind; councils borrow mainly to pay for buildings, roads and housing, and the figure does not show what the borrowing was for.

Source: [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local authority revenue expenditure and financing: revenue outturn time series](#), 2025-26; [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Local authority borrowing and investment live table](#), 30 June 2026; [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Council Taxbase statistics](#), 2025.

What have the auditors said?

Audit of the accounts: Bolton

Accounts year	Status recorded by PSAA	Opinion signed
2024-25	Delivered by backstop	30 January 2026
2023-24	Delivered by backstop	27 February 2025

“Delivered by backstop” means the auditor gave an opinion by the statutory backstop date. Many opinions given that way were disclaimed or qualified because the deadline cut the audit short; PSAA publishes which type of opinion each council received only as national totals, so it is not shown here. Auditors’ value-for-money findings are in each auditor’s annual report on the council’s website.

Source: [Public Sector Audit Appointments, Monthly audit opinion data](#), 2024-25.

What are senior staff and councillors paid?

Senior pay and councillor allowances for Bolton have not yet been read from its statement of accounts. There is no central dataset of either; they are being added council by council, each with a link to the page of the accounts it comes from.

How are its services rated?

Service ratings and performance: Bolton

Measure	Bolton	For comparison
Children's services, Ofsted overall effectiveness	Good	27 October 2023. 73% of English councils judged good or outstanding
Adult social care, CQC assessment	Good	11 February 2026. 62% of assessed councils rated good or outstanding
A roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	2%	5% in England
B and C roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	2%	7% in England
Unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	34%	17% in England
Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting, 2024-25	48.3%	42.0% for England
Major planning decisions on time, 24 months to end of june 2026	87.0%	91.0% for England
Non-major planning decisions on time, 24 months to end of June 2026	88.2%	90.7% for England

Inspections happen at different times, so a rating can be several years old; the date is shown with each. Planning figures are measured differently in each nation: share of decisions made within the statutory time (13 weeks for major, 8 for non-major) or an agreed extension, over 24 months. Recycling rates are measured differently in England, Scotland and Wales, so compare within a nation.

Source: [Ofsted, Children's social care: local authority inspection outcomes](#), as at 31 March 2026; [Care Quality Commission, Local authority assessments](#), latest assessment; [Department for Transport, Road condition statistics: data tables \(RDC\)](#), 2024-25; [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Local authority collected waste management: annual results](#), 2024-25; [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Live tables on planning application statistics \(P151, P153\)](#), 24 months to end of June 2026.

What has happened recently?

Decisions and publications by official bodies about Bolton, newest first. Each links to the body that made or published it. News reports are not included.

1. 7 May 2026 Election [Local election: 20 seats won](#) Reform UK 9, Conservative and Unionist Party 3, Green Party 3, Horwich & Blackrod First Independents 2, Labour Party 2, Liberal Democrats 1 Democracy Club
2. 1 April 2026 Council tax [Council tax for 2026-27: Band D £2,400, up 5.9% on the year before](#) Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
3. 30 January 2026 Audit [Auditor's opinion on the 2024-25 accounts signed](#) PSAA records the status as "Delivered by backstop"; auditor Forvis Mazars LLP. Public Sector Audit Appointments
4. 2 May 2024 Election [Local election: 21 seats won](#) Labour Party 5, Labour and Co-operative Party 4, Conservative and Unionist Party 3, Horwich & Blackrod First Independents 3, Farnworth and Kearsley First Party 2, Liberal Democrats 2, Green Party 1, Independent 1 Democracy Club
5. 4 May 2023 Election [Local election: 60 seats won](#) Labour Party 23, Conservative and Unionist Party 17, Horwich & Blackrod First Independents 6, Liberal Democrats 6, Labour and Co-operative Party 3, One Kearsley 3, Farnworth and Kearsley First Party 2 Democracy Club
6. 5 May 2022 Election [Local election: 20 seats won](#) Conservative and Unionist Party 9, Labour Party 8, Liberal Democrats 2, One Kearsley 1 Democracy Club

Does the council think something here is wrong?

If you represent Bolton and think a figure here is wrong, out of date or unfairly presented, email hello@whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk with this page's address and the source you would point to. Every correction is logged, with its date, on the [corrections page](#).

How much of the council's spending does this cover?

Council tax paid for 15.8% of the money Bolton had to spend in 2025-26. The rest came from government grants (48.1%), business rates (16.6%) and fees, charges and other income (19.0%), with 0.6% taken from reserves. That is why a grant cut can raise your bill even when the council has not changed what it does. [See where it goes](#).

Where can I find out more?

[What council tax is and why it works this way](#), including why the bands are still based on 1991 property values in England and Scotland, and [how every area compares](#), everything else on [Bolton: parking, roads, your MP and local services](#), and [Bolton on the council map](#).

Common questions

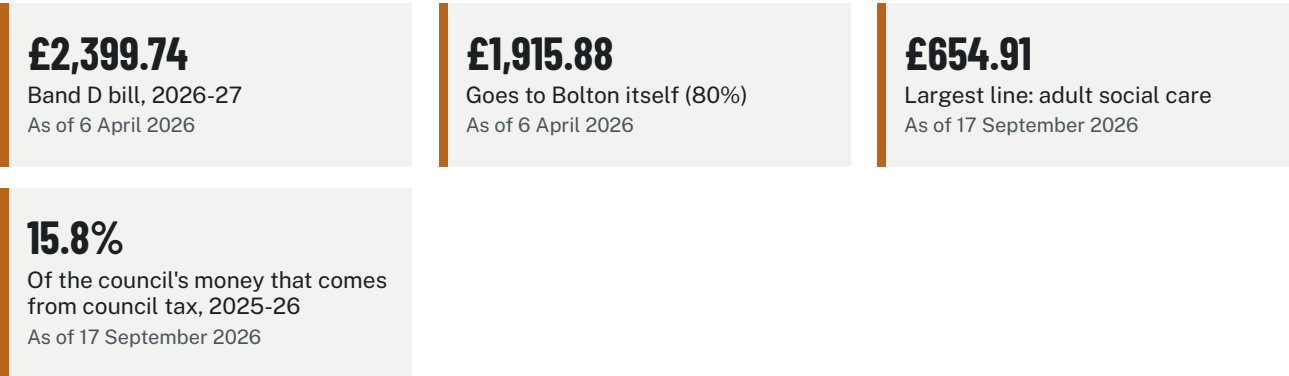
- How much is council tax in Bolton? Band D is £2,400 a year for 2026-27. Band A is £1,600 and the top band £4,799.
- Is council tax in Bolton higher than average? No. Band D here is £11 below the England average of £2,411.

Where your council tax goes in Bolton

Your area · Last updated 26 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/council-tax/england/bolton/where-it-goes/>

A Band D council tax bill in Bolton is £2,399.74 for 2026-27, split between Bolton £1,915.88, Bolton: adult social care precept, this year's increase £37.20, Greater Manchester Police £285.30, Greater Manchester Combined Authority £153.95, Parish and town councils (average for the area) £7.41. Shared out in proportion to what each body spends, the largest single line is adult social care at Bolton: £654.91 of the bill. Council tax pays for 16% of the council's own spending; the rest is government grant, business rates and fees.

Key figures



Who gets your bill

Figures are for a Band D home. Bands A to H pay a fixed fraction of this, set in law.

Parish precepts differ from parish to parish; this is the average across the area, and a home outside any parish pays none.

And where does that bit go?

Choose any part of the bill to see how it divides, then keep going as far as the published returns allow. Every level has its own link you can share.

An interactive map or explorer appears here on the live page.

Parks, street cleaning and roads here

What Bolton spent, net of income, on the lines readers ask about most. Roads and street cleaning are also shown per mile of road the council looks after, where it is the highway authority. Gully cleaning and verge cutting are inside routine maintenance; no return splits them out.

Bolton, 2025-26

Line	Net spending	Per resident	Similar councils, per resident	Per mile of road	Change
Parks and open spaces (including play areas)	£3.7m	£12	£15	—	up 33.4% on 2024-25
Street cleaning	£2.9m	£9.21	£15	£4,622 (similar: £7,702)	down 3.1% on 2024-25
Road and bridge maintenance	£3.5m	£11	£14	£5,598 (similar: £7,077)	up 138.4% on 2024-25
Environmental, safety and routine maintenance	£1.7m	£5.57	£9.73	£2,797 (similar: £4,553)	up 24.4% on 2024-25
Structural maintenance (resurfacing, bridges)	£1.7m	£5.58	£4.86	£2,801 (similar: £1,904)	up 2732.8% on 2024-25
Winter service (gritting)	£805k	£2.60	£2.25	£1,305 (similar: £1,208)	down 0.7% on 2024-25
Street lighting (including energy)	£3.0m	£9.78	£9.82	£4,908 (similar: £4,908)	down 9.9% on 2024-25

Miles of road: Department for Transport road lengths, 2025; locally managed major roads and all minor roads. More on [what council tax does and doesn't pay for](#).

What it adds up to

Bolton: net spending per resident by service, 2025-26, against the median for metropolitan borough councils

Service	Per resident	Median
Education	£1,001	£869
Adult social care	£443	£482
Children's social care	£352	£337
Public health	£70	£93
Environment and regulation	£59	£93
Running the council	£51	£60
Parks, leisure, libraries and culture	£42	£50
Housing (not council homes)	£35	£39
Other services	£35	£0.34
Planning and development	£29	£28
Roads and transport	£23	£29

- Bolton spent **36.7%** of its gross service spending on its own staff in 2025-26 (median for metropolitan borough councils: 33.6%); the rest went on suppliers, contractors, grants, benefits and other running costs.

What this data does and doesn't show

- These are each body's own figures, as reported to government in its revenue outturn return. Net spending is after the fees, charges and grants a service brings in.
- Your bill is for 2026-27; it is shared out using the latest published return, which covers an earlier year. The mix of spending changes little from one year to the next, but it does change.
- Council tax is not ring-fenced: this shows your bill in proportion to spending, not what your money bought. Where a precept is set aside for adult social care, it is shown against adult social care.
- No council publishes spending at street or property level, so nothing here says what was spent near you.
- Sub-service lines are the ones the national returns itemise. Councils describe their own budgets differently; their budget books and statements of accounts have more detail.

Sources

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [Council Tax levels set by local authorities in England: Table 10, local authority level data](#), published 25 March 2026. Open Government Licence v3.0.
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [Local authority revenue expenditure and financing: Revenue Outturn multi-year data set](#), published 17 September 2026. Open Government Licence v3.0.

How the split is worked out, and how the three nations' returns are matched to one list of services, is on the [methodology page](#). The dataset is on the [data page](#). See also [council tax in Bolton](#) and [everything else about Bolton](#).

Common questions

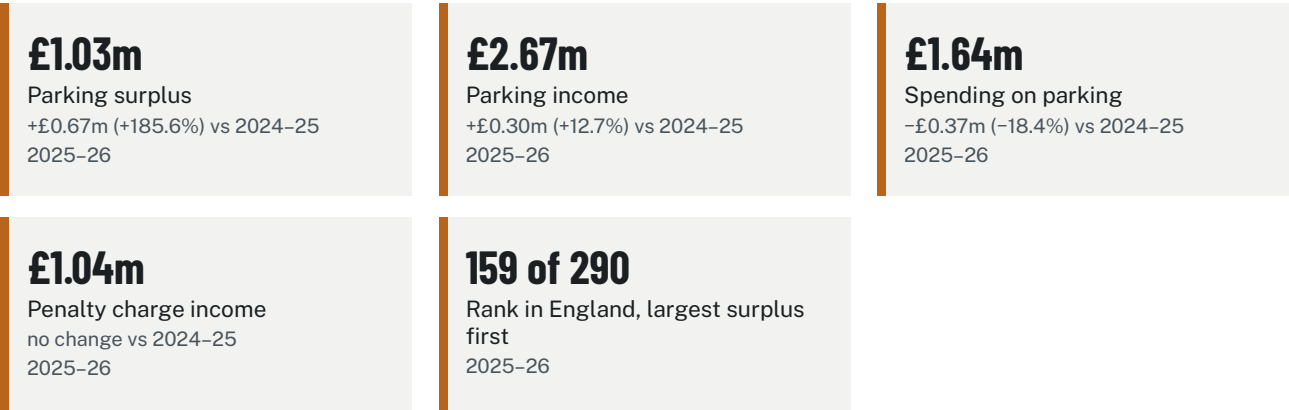
- **What does council tax pay for in Bolton?** A Band D bill of £2,399.74 is split between Bolton, Bolton: adult social care precept, this year's increase, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Parish and town councils (average for the area). In proportion to spending, the largest line is adult social care, £654.91.
- **Is council tax ring-fenced for particular services?** No. Council tax is pooled with grants, business rates and fees. The adult social care precept is the exception: councils raise it for adult social care.

Parking income in Bolton

Your area · Last updated 26 September 2026 · <https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/parking/bolton/>

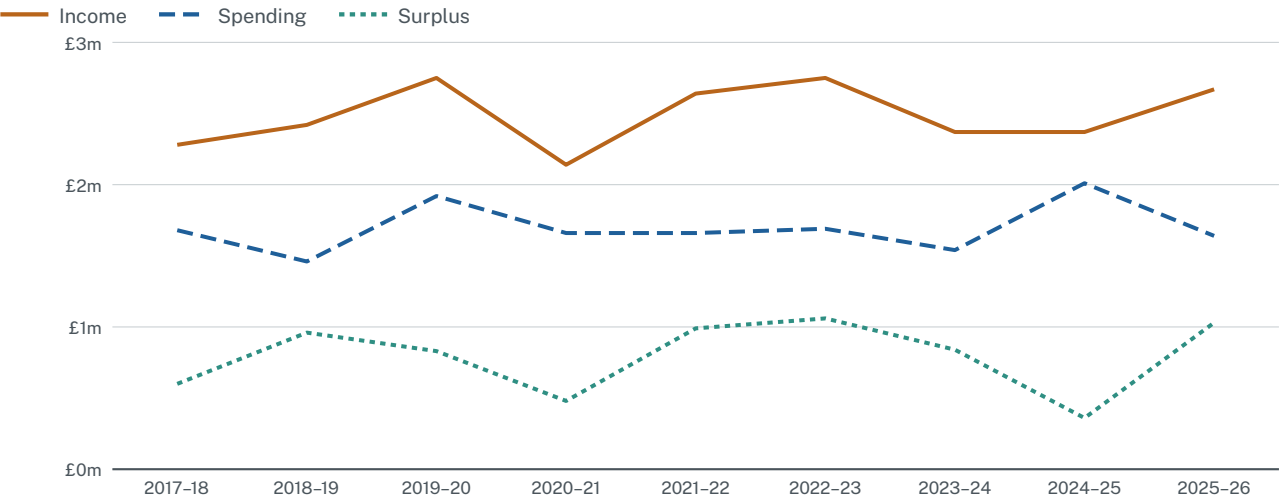
In 2025–26 Bolton took **£2.7m** in parking income and spent **£1.6m**, a **surplus of £1.0m** against **£0.4m** in 2024–25 (+186%), the 159th largest of 290 councils in England. Penalty charges brought in **£1.0m**. Figures are from the council's own return to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Key figures



How much has Bolton made from parking each year?

Bolton: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million



Bolton: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million. Income: £2.28m in 2017–18, £2.67m in 2025–26. Spending: £1.68m in 2017–18, £1.64m in 2025–26. Surplus: £0.6m in 2017–18, £1.03m in 2025–26.

Bolton: on-street and car park accounts

Year	On-street income	On-street spending	Car park income	Car park spending	Penalty income
2017-18	£1.20m	£1.30m	£1.08m	£0.38m	£0.86m
2018-19	£1.34m	£1.41m	£1.08m	£0.04m	£0.93m
2019-20	£1.45m	£1.57m	£1.30m	£0.34m	£1.43m
2020-21	£1.02m	£1.30m	£1.12m	£0.36m	£0.64m
2021-22	£1.54m	£1.30m	£1.10m	£0.35m	£1.03m
2022-23	£1.55m	£1.34m	£1.19m	£0.35m	£1.13m
2023-24	£1.56m	£1.21m	£0.81m	£0.33m	£1.07m
2024-25	£1.32m	£1.19m	£1.05m	£0.82m	£1.04m
2025-26	£1.47m	£1.19m	£1.20m	£0.45m	£1.04m

All figures are cash, in the council's own return. The most recent year is a first release and may be revised. Bolton is recorded as: Met District.

What can Bolton spend a surplus on?

On-street parking charges and all council parking penalty charges (England and Wales)

Ring-fenced by law a ring-fenced parking account. A surplus may only be spent on parking, public transport, highway and environmental improvements and similar purposes; a deficit is made good from the general fund.

[Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s55, as applied in England by SI 2022/71, regs 25 and 27](#)

Council car park (off-street) tariffs

Kept by the body that collects it the council's general fund. Section 55 covers on-street parking and enforcement income, not car park fees. Not verified

[Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s55\(1\), and DfT statutory guidance on civil parking enforcement](#)

How does Bolton compare with other councils?

Bolton among the England councils nearest it, parking surplus 2025-26



Ranked largest surplus first; a negative figure is a deficit. Every council is in the full tables.

[Every council's parking surplus](#), penalty charge levels and the national trend.

Sources and licences

Every dataset behind the figures in this document, with its publisher, the date its figures are as of, and the licence they are used under.

Source	Publisher	Figures as of	Licence	Used in
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Local authority revenue expenditure and financing: Revenue Outturn multi-year data set https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6ab26ffffe72ed1e2b02ee74/Revenue_Outturn_time_series_data_v4.csv	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	17 September 2026	Open Government Licence v3.0	Where your council tax goes in Bolton
legislation.gov.uk and official guidance, provision by provision https://www.legislation.gov.uk/	legislation.gov.uk	22 September 2026	Open Government Licence v3.0 (legislation.gov.uk)	Parking income in Bolton

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