Bristol 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.

Figures as of: 28 September 2026

Generated on: 13 November 2026

Version: 13 November 2026. Earlier versions stay available at https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/

Live version: https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/#council-bristol

This is a snapshot. It was generated on 13 November 2026 and does not change. The figures may have been updated since: the live version is at https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/#council-bristol.

Published by Tekstak Ltd. Our words, analysis and charts are licensed under CC BY 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), credit Tekstak Ltd. Figures from other bodies are used under each source's own licence, listed in the sources appendix.

This site takes no side. Every figure is quoted from the body that publishes it, with its date and source; views are attributed to the people and organisations who hold them. Our neutrality policy: https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/neutrality/

Contents

Executive summary	3
Bristol: your area	4
Council tax in Bristol	7
Where your council tax goes in Bristol	12
Parking income in Bristol UA	15
Bristol: spending over £500	17
Bristol: senior pay and councillor allowances	24
Sources and licences	27

Executive summary

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

Bristol: your area

£2,714
Band D council tax, 2026-27
+£130 (+5.0%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£14.2m
Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

44.1%
Household waste recycled, 2024-25

Council tax in Bristol

£2,714
Band D a year, 2026-27
+£130 (+5.0%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1,809
Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

+£303
Band D against the England average of £2,411
Above average
As of 6 April 2026

Where your council tax goes in Bristol

£2,713.68
Band D bill, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£2,266.04
Goes to Bristol itself (84%)
As of 6 April 2026

£834.56
Largest line: adult social care
As of 28 September 2026

Parking income in Bristol UA

£14.18m
Parking surplus
+£1.73m (+13.9%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£25.64m
Parking income
+£2.48m (+10.7%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£11.47m
Spending on parking
+£0.75m (+7.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

Bristol: spending over £500

£796.2m
Paid in payments of £500 or more, latest year

64,294
Payments

3,371
Suppliers

Bristol: senior pay and councillor allowances

£237,281
Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service, 2025-26

14
Staff paid £100,000 or more, 2025-26

£1,752,000
Members' allowances, 2025-26

Bristol: your area

Your area · Last updated 13 November 2026 · https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/your-area/bristol/

Bristol sets a Band D council tax of **£2,714** for 2026-27, 7 of 296 councils in England from the highest. Police: Avon and Somerset. Fire and rescue: Avon. Health: NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire 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

£2,714
Band D council tax, 2026-27
+£130 (+5.0%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£14.2m
Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

44.1%
Household waste recycled, 2024-25

10%
A roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25

44%
Reserves as a share of spending, 2025-26

What is the council tax in Bristol?

Band D is **£2,714** a year for 2026-27, and Band A, the lowest, **£1,809**. That is £303 above the England average of £2,411, 7 of 296 in England from the highest.

Of a Band D bill, **£2,310** goes to Bristol.

Every band, who gets the money and how Bristol compares

Where your council tax goes: from your bill to each service

Every payment over £500 that Bristol publishes

Bristol: senior pay and councillors' allowances

How does the council compare?

- Council tax rise this year 5.0% Higher than the England figure of 4.9%
- Council tax per head £751 Lower than the England figure of £796
- Ombudsman uphold rate 74% (23 of 31) Lower than the England figure of 86%
- Reserves as a share of net spending 44% Lower than the England figure of 50%
- Borrowing per home £3,107 Lower than the England figure of £3,474
- Accounts, 2025-26 Unsigned 4% of bodies had an opinion delivered by the backstop date
- Ofsted, children's services Requires improvement to be good 73% of English councils are good or outstanding
- CQC, adult social care Good 63% of assessed councils are good or outstanding
- A roads needing maintenance considered 10% Higher than the England figure of 5%
- Recycling rate 44.1% Higher than the England figure of 42.0%
- Major planning decisions on time 81.3% 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 Bristol

Measure	Figure	Period
A roads where maintenance should be considered	10%	2024-25
B and C roads where maintenance should be considered	11%	2024-25
Unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered	15%	2024-25
Household waste reused, recycled or composted	44.1%	2024-25
Major planning decisions made on time	81.3%	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 Bristol

Authority	Year	Income	Surplus
Bristol UA	2025-26	£25.6m	£14.2m

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, find any MP by name or constituency , or see every constituency and its MP on the MP map.

How much crime is recorded here?

In the 12 months to August 2026, police recorded **127.0 crimes per 1,000 residents** in Bristol, excluding anti-social behaviour, against 82.5 across England.

Bristol on the crime map, down to streets of a few hundred homes

Your police precept

A Band D home in Bristol pays **£308.20** police precept in 2026-27. It funds **Avon and Somerset**, which has £462m 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 Bristol are not what its precept bought.

Avon and Somerset: funding, precept and results for the whole force

Who runs police, fire, health and ambulances here?

The bodies that serve Bristol, and their latest money

Service	Body	Latest	Per resident
Police	Avon and Somerset	£462m (2026-27)	£254
Fire and rescue	Avon Fire and Rescue Service	£64m (2025-26)	£51.67
Ambulance	South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust	£435m (2024-25)	£73.85
NHS	NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board	£3.1bn (2028-29)	£3,033
Roads	Bristol, City of	£8m (2025-26)	£15.35
Schools	Bristol, City of	£387m (2026-27)	£781
Council spending	Bristol	£935m (2025-26)	£1,887
Social care	Bristol, City of	£446m (2024-25)	£902
Housing	Bristol	£34m (2025-26)	£67.56
Waste and recycling	Bristol, City of	not published	—

Each body serves a wider area than Bristol, 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 Bristol: 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 Bristol look against other councils?

See Bristol 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 Bristol?** Band D is £2,714 a year for 2026-27. Every band.
- **Which police force covers Bristol?** Avon and Somerset police force area. Fire and rescue: Avon.

Council tax in Bristol

Your area · Last updated 13 November 2026 · https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/council-tax/england/bristol/

Council tax in **Bristol** for 2026-27 is **£2,714 a year for a Band D home**, £1,809 for Band A and £5,427 for the top band. That is £303 above the England average of £2,411. It ranks 7 of 296 billing areas in England. Figures are the council's own set rates.

Key figures

£2,714
Band D a year, 2026-27
+£130 (+5.0%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1,809
Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

+£303
Band D against the England average of £2,411
Above average
As of 6 April 2026

7 of 296
Rank in England, highest first
As of 6 April 2026

What is the bill for each band?

Council tax by band in Bristol, bands A to H

Band	A year	A month
Band A	£1,809.12	£150.76
Band B	£2,110.64	£175.89
Band C	£2,412.16	£201.01
Band D	£2,713.68	£226.14
Band E	£3,316.72	£276.39
Band F	£3,919.76	£326.65
Band G	£4,522.80	£376.90
Band H	£5,427.36	£452.28

Who gets the money?

Band D bill in Bristol by receiving body

Who receives it	Band D	Share
Bristol	£2,310	85%
Other precepting bodies	£404	15%

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 **£303 above** the England average, 7 of 296 councils from the highest.

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



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

How does Bristol compare? The report card

Official figures on complaints, finances, audit, pay and services for Bristol, 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 5.0% Higher than the England figure of 4.9%
- Council tax per head £751 Lower than the England figure of £796
- Ombudsman uphold rate 74% (23 of 31) Lower than the England figure of 86%
- Reserves as a share of net spending 44% Lower than the England figure of 50%
- Borrowing per home £3,107 Lower than the England figure of £3,474
- Accounts, 2025-26 Unsigned 4% of bodies had an opinion delivered by the backstop date
- Ofsted, children's services Requires improvement to be good 73% of English councils are good or outstanding
- CQC, adult social care Good 63% of assessed councils are good or outstanding
- A roads needing maintenance considered 10% Higher than the England figure of 5%
- Recycling rate 44.1% Higher than the England figure of 42.0%
- Major planning decisions on time 81.3% 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: Bristol, 2025-26

Measure	Bristol	For comparison
Complaints and enquiries received	253	—
Complaints and enquiries decided	182	196 in 2024-25
Detailed investigations	31	—
Upheld	23	—
Uphold rate	74%	86% for every body the Ombudsman covers; 85% for similar councils
Upheld cases where the council had already offered a satisfactory remedy	35%	13% for every body the Ombudsman covers
Ombudsman's recommendations the council complied with	95%	99.9% for every body the Ombudsman covers
Uphold rate in 2024-25	83%	—

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.

The Housing Ombudsman, which handles complaints from council tenants, made **4** findings of severe maladministration against Bristol City Council in 2025-26, out of 83 findings in 37 determinations. Its maladministration rate for this landlord was 82%.

Source: Housing Ombudsman Service, Annual complaints review: landlord tables, 2025-26.

How healthy are its finances?

Reserves, spending and borrowing: Bristol

Measure	Bristol	For comparison
Net revenue spending, 2025-26	£469.7m	—
Reserves at the end of 2025-26	£205.1m	—
Reserves as a share of net spending	44%	50% for England; 44% in 2024-25
Outstanding borrowing at 30 June 2026	£662.5m	—
Borrowing per home on the valuation list	£3,107	£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: Bristol

Accounts year	Status recorded by PSAA	Opinion signed
2025-26	Unsigned	Not yet
2024-25	Delivered by backstop	26 January 2026

"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, 2025-26.

What are senior staff and councillors paid?

Pay and allowances: Bristol, from the statement of accounts

Measure	2025-26	2024-25
Employees paid £50,000 or more	1,042	901
Councillors' allowances	£1,752,000	£1,619,000

The count is up 141 on the year before. 'In addition to the remuneration of senior employees set out above, the number of the Council's employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's contributions)'. Printed as separate Schools and Non-Schools columns with no combined column; totals Schools 201 / Non-Schools 841 (2025/26) and 175 / 726 (2024/25). Dashes recorded as 0. The accounts describe the allowances figure as "The Council paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year. Allowances 1,752 (2024/25 1,619) £'000". These are draft accounts and may change at audit. Thresholds are not adjusted for inflation, so more staff cross them each year as pay rises.

Source: Bristol, Bristol City Council 2025 26 Draft Statement of Accounts, PDF page 87 (printed page 84). Checked 24 September 2026.

How are its services rated?

Service ratings and performance: Bristol

Measure	Bristol	For comparison
Children's services, Ofsted overall effectiveness	Requires improvement to be good	10 March 2023. 73% of English councils judged good or outstanding
Adult social care, CQC assessment	Good	63% of assessed councils rated good or outstanding
A roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	10%	5% in England
B and C roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	11%	7% in England
Unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	15%	17% in England
Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting, 2024-25	44.1%	42.0% for England
Major planning decisions on time, 24 months to end of june 2026	81.3%	91.0% for England
Non-major planning decisions on time, 24 months to end of June 2026	83.8%	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 Bristol, newest first. Each links to the body that made or published it. News reports are not included.

1. 1 April 2026 Council tax Council tax for 2026-27: Band D £2,714, up 5.0% on the year before Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2. 2 May 2024 Election Local election: 70 seats won Green Party 34, Labour Party 17, Liberal Democrats 8, Conservative and Unionist Party 7, Labour and Co-operative Party 4 Democracy Club
3. 30 March 2021 Ombudsman Ombudsman report: upheld, noise Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman public interest report, case 20-007-914. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
4. 30 March 2021 Ombudsman Ombudsman report: upheld, refuse and recycling Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman public interest report, case 20-007-915. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

Does the council think something here is wrong?

If you represent Bristol 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 **20.7%** of the money Bristol had to spend in 2025-26. The rest came from government grants (39.9%), business rates (12.8%) and fees, charges and other income (26.6%). 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 Bristol: parking, roads, your MP and local services, and Bristol on the council map.

Common questions

- **How much is council tax in Bristol?** Band D is £2,714 a year for 2026-27. Band A is £1,809 and the top band £5,427.
- **Is council tax in Bristol higher than average?** Yes. Band D here is £303 above the England average of £2,411.

Where your council tax goes in Bristol

Your area · Last updated 13 November 2026 · https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/council-tax/england/bristol/where-it-goes/

A Band D council tax bill in **Bristol** is **£2,713.68** for 2026-27, split between Bristol £2,266.04, Bristol: adult social care precept, this year's increase £44.01, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable £308.20, Avon Combined Fire and Rescue Authority £95.43. Shared out in proportion to what each body spends, the largest single line is adult social care at Bristol: **£834.56** of the bill. Council tax pays for 21% of the council's own spending; the rest is government grant, business rates and fees.

Key figures

£2,713.68
Band D bill, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£2,266.04
Goes to Bristol itself (84%)
As of 6 April 2026

£834.56
Largest line: adult social care
As of 28 September 2026

20.7%
Of the council's money that comes from council tax, 2025-26
As of 28 September 2026

Who gets your bill

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

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 Bristol 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.

Bristol, 2025-26

Line	Net spending	Per resident	Similar councils, per resident	Per mile of road	Change
Parks and open spaces (including play areas)	£6.6m	£13	£18	—	down 16.2% on 2024-25
Street cleaning	£9.5m	£19	£7.99	£13,441 (similar: £1,738)	up 5.5% on 2024-25
Road and bridge maintenance	£5.2m	£11	£26	£7,416 (similar: £5,042)	up 31.0% on 2024-25
Environmental, safety and routine maintenance	£1.1m	£2.16	£22	£1,515 (similar: £3,344)	up 8.8% on 2024-25
Structural maintenance (resurfacing, bridges)	£4.2m	£8.42	£6.75	£5,901 (similar: £1,206)	up 38.2% on 2024-25
Winter service (gritting)	£475k	£0.96	£4.11	£672 (similar: £904)	down 18.7% on 2024-25
Street lighting (including energy)	£1.9m	£3.84	£7.31	£2,690 (similar: £1,371)	down 47.4% 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

Bristol: net spending per resident by service, 2025-26, against the median for unitary councils in England

Service	Per resident	Median
Education	£711	£718
Adult social care	£496	£478
Children's social care	£331	£300
Environment and regulation	£112	£110
Public health	£90	£64
Housing (not council homes)	£68	£33
Running the council	£45	£52
Parks, leisure, libraries and culture	£36	£38
Planning and development	£24	£21
Roads and transport	£-24.63	£49

- Bristol spent **32.6**% of its gross service spending on its own staff in 2025-26 (median for unitary councils in England: 31.1%); the rest went on suppliers, contractors, grants, benefits and other running costs.
- Its published payments of £500 or more came to **£796.2m** between 2025-11 and 2026-10. These include capital and council housing spending, so they are not a share of the figures above.
- Payments we classify as consultancy and agency staff came to **19.1**% of its staff costs (median among the 6 other unitary councils in England whose £500 data is read: 5.7%). The two come from different sources and periods, so this is a guide to scale, not an exact share.

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 28 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 Bristol and everything else about Bristol.

Common questions

- **What does council tax pay for in Bristol?** A Band D bill of £2,713.68 is split between Bristol, Bristol: adult social care precept, this year's increase, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, Avon Combined Fire and Rescue Authority. In proportion to spending, the largest line is adult social care, £834.56.
- **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 Bristol UA

Your area · Last updated 13 November 2026 · https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/parking/bristol-ua/

In 2025–26 Bristol UA took **£25.6m** in parking income and spent £11.5m, a **surplus of £14.2m** against £12.4m in 2024–25 (+14%), the 29th largest of 290 councils in England. Penalty charges brought in £3.9m. Figures are from the council's own return to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Key figures

£14.18m
Parking surplus
+£1.73m (+13.9%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£25.64m
Parking income
+£2.48m (+10.7%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

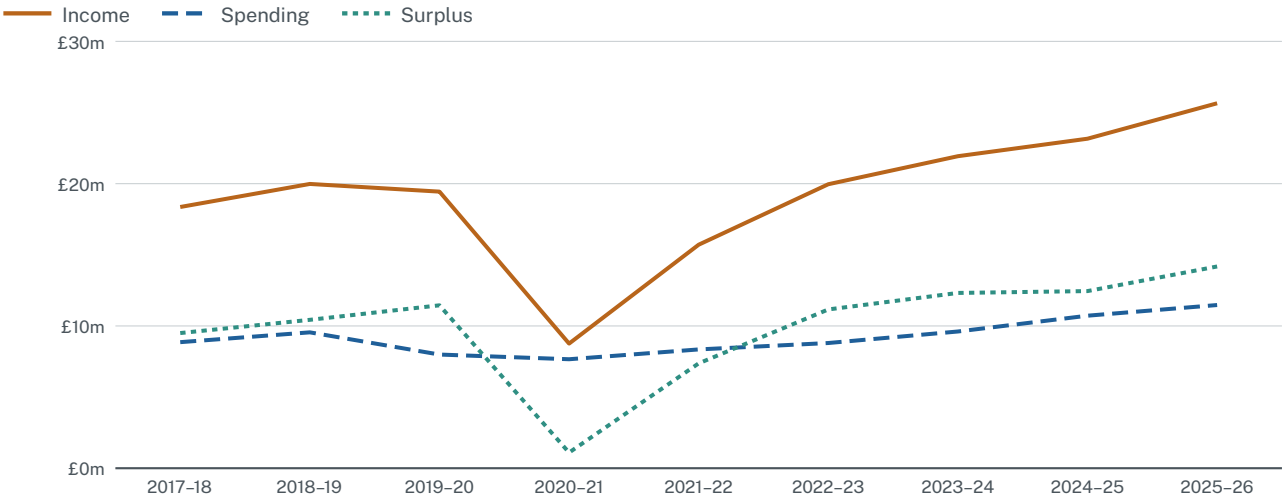
£11.47m
Spending on parking
+£0.75m (+7.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£3.86m
Penalty charge income
+£0.29m (+8.1%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

29 of 290
Rank in England, largest surplus first
2025–26

How much has Bristol UA made from parking each year?

Bristol UA: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million



Bristol UA: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million. Income: £18.36m in 2017–18, £25.65m in 2025–26. Spending: £8.86m in 2017–18, £11.47m in 2025–26. Surplus: £9.5m in 2017–18, £14.18m in 2025–26.

Bristol UA: on-street and car park accounts

Year	On-street income	On-street spending	Car park income	Car park spending	Penalty income
2017–18	£11.59m	£5.41m	£6.77m	£3.45m	£11.59m
2018–19	£12.52m	£5.20m	£7.46m	£4.35m	£3.13m
2019–20	£12.13m	£4.98m	£7.31m	£3.01m	£3.03m
2020–21	£6.38m	£5.01m	£2.38m	£2.64m	£1.60m
2021–22	£10.49m	£4.98m	£5.22m	£3.37m	£1.81m
2022–23	£12.50m	£5.43m	£7.46m	£3.37m	£3.01m
2023–24	£13.53m	£5.75m	£8.39m	£3.86m	£3.44m
2024–25	£14.46m	£6.69m	£8.71m	£4.03m	£3.57m
2025–26	£16.83m	£7.42m	£8.81m	£4.05m	£3.86m

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

What can Bristol UA 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 Bristol UA compare with other councils?

Bristol UA 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.

Bristol: spending over £500

Your area · Last updated 13 November 2026 · https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/councils/spending-over-500/bristol/

Bristol published **64,294 payments** of £500 or more between November 2025 and October 2026, worth **£796.2m** in all, to 3,371 suppliers. The largest total went to Stepnell Ltd: £28.4m across 124 payments. These are the council's own published records; the gaps in them are listed below.

Key figures

£796.2m
Paid in payments of £500 or more, latest year

64,294
Payments

3,371
Suppliers

12 of 12
Months with payments published

What the council published

1. Novpublished
2. Decpublished
3. Janpublished
4. Febpublished
5. Marpublished
6. Aprpublished
7. Maypublished
8. Junpublished
9. Julpublished
10. Augpublished
11. Septpublished
12. Octpublished

Gaps and problems in the data, as published:

- 4.7% of payments (£6,821,057) have the supplier name withheld or redacted by the council, usually because the payee is an individual.
- 612 credits and refunds (negative amounts, £11,077,955 in all) are included, so totals are net.

Top 50 suppliers by value

Bristol: the 50 suppliers paid most, November 2025 to October 2026

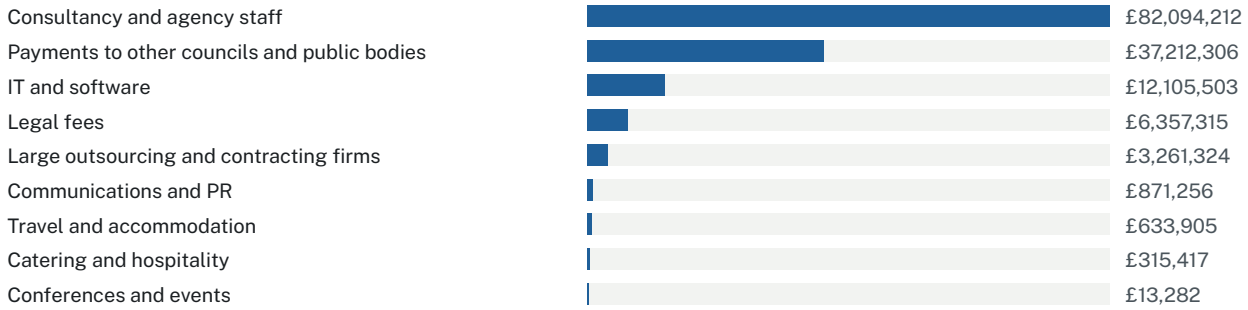
Supplier	Paid	Payments
Stepnell Ltd	£28,444,253	124
Bristol Pfi Ltd (Unitary Charges Only)	£22,491,265	80
Constellia Public Limited	£18,842,595	1,434
Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB	£18,706,063	22
ETM Contractors Ltd	£18,205,878	603
Ameresco Limited	£15,312,099	177
Comensura Ltd	£15,044,736	116
Turning Point (Services) Limited	£12,440,552	40

Supplier	Paid	Payments
Invesis UK Limited T/A Bristol Schools Limited	£11,138,598	336
Medequip Assistive Technology Ltd	£11,079,741	23
Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd	£10,216,887	84
Hill Partnerships Limited	£8,952,056	12
HMRC	£8,132,305	2
Taylor Woodrow Infrastructure Limited	£7,073,217	42
Names withheld by the council	£6,821,057	3,040
University Hospitals Bristol and NHS Foundation Trust	£6,618,214	31
Jeff Way Construction Ltd	£6,258,599	2,156
Ashcroft Services Ltd	£6,248,047	440
Zurich Insurance Company	£6,141,577	17
Lorne Stewart PLC	£5,948,294	244
Bray & Slaughter Ltd	£5,932,731	12
South Gloucestershire Council (Main Order Account)	£5,803,020	77
One Lockleaze Llp	£5,794,408	16
City Of Bristol College	£5,322,573	19
Powred Heating Components Ltd	£5,281,390	139
Newton Consulting Limited	£5,123,355	10
Bath And North East Somerset Council - Pensions	£5,054,426	104
EW Beard Limited	£4,780,200	22
Venturers' Academy E-Act	£4,574,810	16
Aspris Childrens Services Limited	£4,317,441	136
Centregreat Limited	£4,220,191	263
St Mungo Community Housing Assn.	£4,170,710	142
Synergize Ltd	£4,130,905	34
Bristol Active Ltd	£3,874,186	15
Ruskin Mill Trust - Grace Garden School	£3,572,384	92
Travis Perkins Trading Co Ltd	£3,563,198	273
Bristol Waste company Limited	£3,487,083	1
Total Gas & Power	£3,453,796	40
Xerox (UK) Ltd	£3,398,181	43
Ruskin Mill Trust Ltd	£3,308,435	194
Witherslack Group Limited t/a Witherslack – Castlefell School	£3,297,346	103
Alex Fry Rental Properties Ltd	£3,250,847	289
Visit West Limited	£3,211,136	27
Access 2 Homes Ltd	£3,122,199	154
Arcadis LLP	£3,118,925	154
Masters Pipeline Services Ltd	£3,090,247	988
NPower Business Ltd (Electricity)	£3,076,472	22
Walters U.K. Limited	£3,030,913	39
Goram Homes Limited	£2,900,000	3
Phoenix Software Ltd	£2,802,371	20

Spending by category (our classification)

Payments this site classifies into each category from the supplier and the council's description; most payments fall into none. The rules are on the methodology page.

Bristol: payments by category (our classification)



The supplier is another council, a police, fire or NHS body, a government department or agency, or a pension fund.

1. HMRC: £8,132,305 (2 payments)
2. University Hospitals Bristol and NHS Foundation Trust: £6,618,214 (31 payments)
3. South Gloucestershire Council (Main Order Account): £5,803,020 (77 payments)
4. Bath And North East Somerset Council - Pensions: £5,054,426 (104 payments)
5. West of England Combined Authority: £2,343,489 (11 payments)
6. North Star Academy Trust: £1,609,608 (20 payments)
7. Department for Transport: £1,326,850 (4 payments)
8. North Somerset Council: £1,111,451 (63 payments)
9. Environment Agency: £616,235 (6 payments)
10. Somerset Council: £571,689 (19 payments)

The supplier is one of a named list of large firms that run council services under contract. A payment to one is often a routine instalment on a long contract.

1. Willmott Dixon Construction Limited: £2,424,601 (44 payments)
2. Eurovia Infrastructure Ltd: £751,989 (1 payment)
3. Restaurant Associates t/a Compass Contract Services (UK) Limited: £46,612 (36 payments)
4. Colas Ltd: £26,713 (2 payments)
5. EQUANS EV Solutions Limited: £3,465 (3 payments)
6. Capita Pension Solutions Limited: £2,701 (1 payment)
7. Glendale Countryside Ltd: £2,596 (1 payment)
8. Serco Ltd: £1,582 (2 payments)
9. OCS Group UK Ltd: £1,066 (1 payment)

The supplier is a law firm or chambers, or the council describes the payment as legal fees, counsel or court fees.

1. Names withheld by the council: £1,090,438 (589 payments)
2. Wards Solicitors LLP: £1,061,123 (11 payments)
3. O'Neill Patient Solicitors: £777,583 (3 payments)
4. Battrick Clark Solicitors: £535,000 (2 payments)
5. Hotchkiss Warburton Solicitors: £365,000 (1 payment)
6. Josiah Hincks Solicitors: £350,000 (1 payment)
7. HS Legal Solicitors Ltd: £321,500 (1 payment)
8. Nantes Solicitors Limited: £315,008 (2 payments)
9. Capstone Solicitors: £260,000 (1 payment)
10. Red Kite Law LLP: £200,000 (1 payment)

The supplier is a recruitment agency or consultancy on a named list, or the council describes the payment as consultancy, agency or interim staff, or professional fees.

1. Comensura Ltd: £15,044,736 (116 payments)
2. Constellia Public Limited: £9,163,143 (870 payments)

3. Newton Consulting Limited: £5,123,355 (10 payments)
4. Arcadis LLP: £2,973,967 (146 payments)
5. Alex Fry Rental Properties Ltd: £2,847,314 (57 payments)
6. Learning Partnership West Cic: £2,155,476 (77 payments)
7. SLM Ltd: £2,048,124 (4 payments)
8. Sports Heroes Ltd: £2,046,383 (348 payments)
9. Homes 4 All: £2,026,139 (62 payments)
10. GLR Care and Support Limited: £1,758,001 (178 payments)

The supplier is on a named list of IT and telecoms firms, or the council describes the payment as software, licences, IT, hardware, hosting or telephony.

1. Phoenix Software Ltd: £2,773,021 (17 payments)
2. Specialist Computer Centres PLC: £1,456,713 (19 payments)
3. System C Healthcare Ltd t/a Liquidlogic Ltd: £1,020,347 (5 payments)
4. Vodafone Limited: £1,007,307 (55 payments)
5. Nuway Audio Visual Limited: £653,792 (16 payments)
6. Civica UK Limited: £433,011 (12 payments)
7. Virgin Media Business (Pay telephony payments here): £384,596 (58 payments)
8. Openreach Bt PLC: £240,461 (15 payments)
9. 2iC-Care Ltd: £235,067 (5 payments)
10. Voicescape Limited: £226,500 (2 payments)

The council describes the payment as advertising, marketing, publicity or public relations. Recruitment and statutory notices are left out.

1. Bauer Media Outdoor UK Limited: £457,557 (10 payments)
2. PeopleScout Limited: £230,331 (201 payments)
3. Constellia Public Limited: £53,718 (17 payments)
4. Reach Publishing Services Ltd: £21,559 (17 payments)
5. Plaster Creative Communication: £21,017 (12 payments)
6. Bristol Pride: £20,000 (1 payment)
7. Names withheld by the council: £13,033 (4 payments)
8. CAN Digital Solutions Limited: £8,000 (3 payments)
9. Housing Matters (Bristol): £6,000 (2 payments)
10. Bristol 24/7 CIC: £5,850 (6 payments)

The council describes the payment as a conference, seminar, exhibition, event or venue hire.

1. Watershed Trading Ltd: £4,076 (5 payments)
2. Metropolis International Group Ltd t/a EMAP Publishing Ltd: £3,250 (1 payment)
3. Bridge View Medical: £1,400 (1 payment)
4. International Association for Community Development: £1,400 (1 payment)
5. Redactive Events Ltd: £1,290 (2 payments)
6. British and Irish Sound Archives: £1,000 (1 payment)
7. The National Youth Agency: £867 (1 payment)

The council describes the payment as travel, fares, flights, subsistence or hotels. Homeless and temporary accommodation, and home to school and client transport, are left out.

1. First West of England Ltd: £136,157 (19 payments)
2. Lifecycle UK: £68,909 (21 payments)
3. ETM Contractors Ltd: £60,419 (2 payments)
4. Centregreat Limited: £57,948 (2 payments)

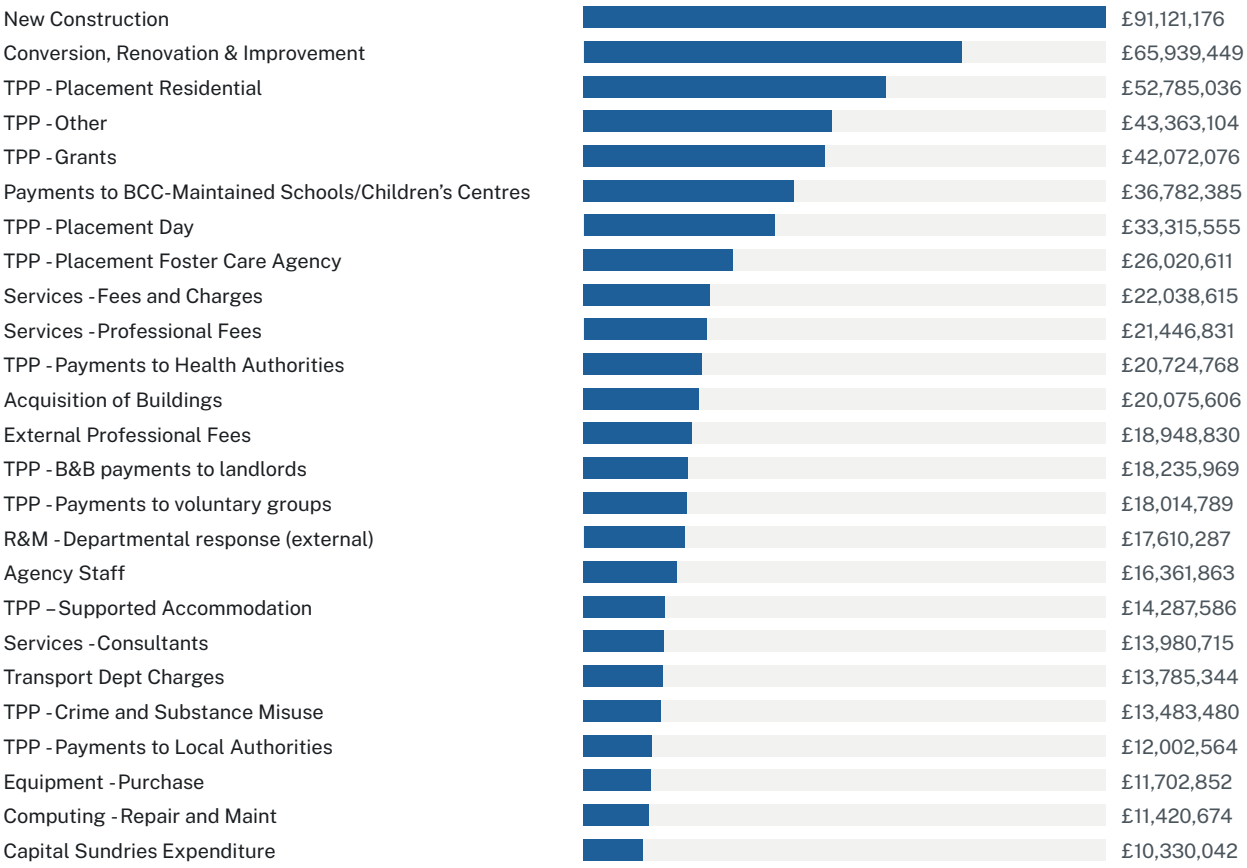
5. Names withheld by the council: £40,510 (12 payments)
6. Constellia Public Limited: £39,817 (1 payment)
7. Chroma Vision Limited: £35,729 (2 payments)
8. Cursive Cycling Ltd t/a Holy Spokes: £23,477 (9 payments)
9. Go Jauntly Ltd: £18,478 (4 payments)
10. The Bristol Bike Project CIC: £16,000 (3 payments)

The council describes the payment as catering, hospitality or refreshments. School meals are left out.

1. Apetito Ltd: £211,298 (12 payments)
2. Charles Saunders Limited: £64,146 (75 payments)
3. School Milk Services Ltd: £26,436 (34 payments)
4. RA Venues at MShed t/a Compass Services (UK) Limited: £3,703 (3 payments)
5. Pegasus Catering Ltd: £2,124 (3 payments)
6. Picnic Catering Limited: £1,700 (1 payment)
7. Culligan (UK) Limited: £1,342 (2 payments)
8. Nisbets: £1,287 (1 payment)
9. Future Inns Bristol: £1,063 (1 payment)
10. Square Food Foundation: £620 (1 payment)

Spending by the council's own service areas

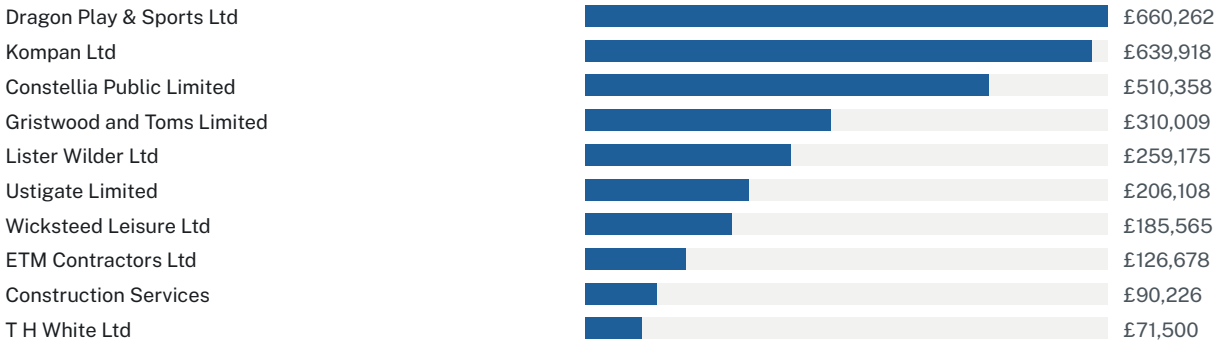
Bristol: payments by service area, as the council labels them



Who is paid for grounds, street cleaning, roads and bins?

The suppliers paid most for each kind of work, where the council's own labels say what the payment was for (our matching). A council that does the work with its own staff pays mostly wages, which are not in this data, so a short list here can mean the work is done in-house.

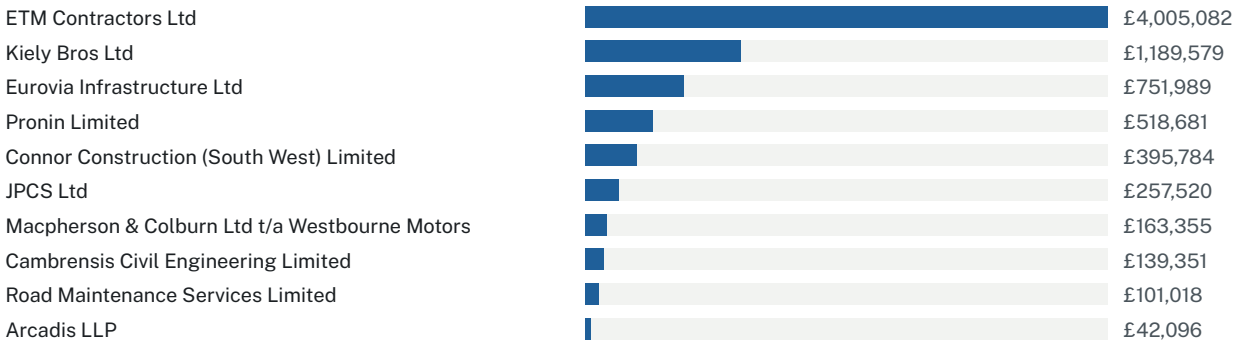
Parks and open spaces (including play areas): largest suppliers



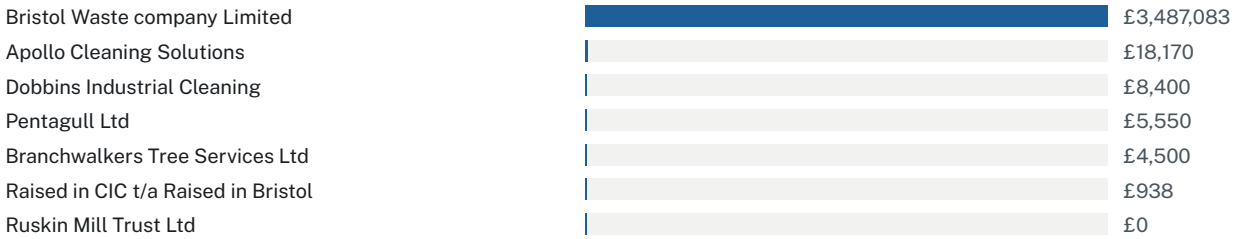
Street cleaning: largest suppliers



Road and bridge maintenance: largest suppliers



Waste collection: largest suppliers



Consultancy and agency against the pay bill

Payments we classify as consultancy and agency staff came to **19.1%** of Bristol's own staff costs in its 2025-26 revenue return, against a median of 5.7% for the other unitary councils in England read so far. The payments and the staff costs come from different sources and periods, so this is a guide to scale.

Search every payment

Searching needs JavaScript. Every payment is in one JSON file.

Every payment, as the council published it, is in one JSON file; the search can download any selection as CSV.

What this data does and doesn't show

- It is the council's own record of payments of £500 or more. It leaves out salaries, most staff costs and many internal costs, so it is not the council's whole spending.
- Descriptions are the council's own and vary in quality; some are codes, some are blank, and some supplier names are withheld to protect individuals.
- A large payment to one supplier is often a routine instalment on a long contract that was tendered openly.
- The categories and the matching to services are this site's classification from keywords, not the council's. The rules are on the methodology page.

Sources

Bristol, spending over £500, published here. Licence as the council states it: Open Government Licence. Checked 2026-09-24; files read 2026-11-13.

- default October 2026 (1.40 MB) (2026-10), file dated 2026-11-09: 6,302 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default September 2026 (1.19 MB) (2026-09), file dated 2026-10-12: 5,511 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default August 2026 (1.20 MB) (2026-08), file dated 2026-09-22: 5,571 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default July 2026 (1.25 MB) (2026-07), file dated 2026-08-17: 5,715 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default June 2026 (1.15 MB) (2026-06), file dated 2026-08-17: 5,347 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default May 2026 (1015 KB) (2026-05), file dated 2026-06-23: 4,525 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default April 2026 (1.30 MB) (2026-04), file dated 2026-06-23: 5,470 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default March 2026 (1.35 MB) (2026-03), file dated 2026-04-28: 6,268 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default February 2026 (1.18 MB) (2026-02), file dated 2026-04-28: 5,450 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default January 2026 (1.08 MB) (2026-01), file dated 2026-04-28: 4,886 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default December 2025 (1.10 MB) (2025-12), file dated 2026-01-28: 5,192 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default November 2025 (891 KB) (2025-11), file dated 2025-12-19: 4,064 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.
- default October 2025 (1.20 MB) (2025-10), file dated 2025-12-19: 5,371 payments of £500 or more. Read 2026-11-13.

Bristol: senior pay and councillor allowances

Your area · Last updated 13 November 2026 · https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/councils/pay-and-allowances/bristol/

In its draft statement of accounts for 2025-26, Bristol reports total remuneration of **£237,281** for its chief executive & head of paid service (including employer pension contributions), a year in which the post changed hands, **14** employees paid £100,000 or more, and **£1,752,000** paid in members' allowances.

Key figures

£237,281
Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service, 2025-26

14
Staff paid £100,000 or more, 2025-26

£1,752,000
Members' allowances, 2025-26

£18,227
Basic allowance per councillor, current (web page checked September 2026)

Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service

Total remuneration of **£237,281** in 2025-26, including employer pension contributions. Excluding pension contributions: £197,982. The post changed hands, or the figure covers part of a year, so it is not compared with the year before. The median among the 5 other unitary councils in England collected so far is £244,575.

From the accounts: 2025/26: N Hibberd, Apr '25 - Mar '26: salary, fees and allowances 197,982; pension 39,299; total 237,281. 2024/25 lines as printed: S Peacock, Apr-Jun '24 (left 9 June 2024), total 43,177 (pension 7,286); P Martin, Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service (Interim), Jun-Dec '24, total 231,314 'cost inclusive of agency fees', no pension; N Hibberd, from 6 January 2025, salary 45,382, pension 9,213, total 54,595. totalExclPension is the printed 'Salary, Fees and Allowances' column.

PDF pages 85-86 (printed pages 82-83)

Employees paid £50,000 or more

1,042 employees in 2025-26, up 15.6% on 2024-25 (901). 14 were paid £100,000 or more, 2.8 per 100,000 residents. The median among the 7 other unitary councils in England collected so far is 4.9 per 100,000.

Bristol: employees by pay band, as printed

Band	2025-26	2024-25
£50,000 to £54,999	459	446
£55,000 to £59,999	252	171
£60,000 to £64,999	63	59
£65,000 to £69,999	71	71
£70,000 to £74,999	42	47
£75,000 to £79,999	53	42
£80,000 to £84,999	41	32
£85,000 to £89,999	32	6
£90,000 to £94,999	9	9
£95,000 to £99,999	6	6
£100,000 to £104,999	2	2
£105,000 to £109,999	2	2
£110,000 to £114,999	3	0
£115,000 to £119,999	0	2
£120,000 to £124,999	1	1
£125,000 to £129,999	1	2
£130,000 to £134,999	1	2
£135,000 to £139,999	3	1
£140,000 to £144,999	1	0

Includes schools staff. Senior officers listed separately are not in these counts. From the accounts: 'In addition to the remuneration of senior employees set out above, the number of the Council's employees receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's contributions)'. Printed as separate Schools and Non-Schools columns with no combined column; totals Schools 201 / Non-Schools 841 (2025/26) and 175 / 726 (2024/25). Dashes recorded as 0.

Source: Bristol, Bristol City Council 2025 26 Draft Statement of Accounts (draft), PDF page 87 (printed page 84). Read by hand; checked 2026-09-24.

Councillors' allowances

£1,752,000 in 2025-26, up 8.2% on 2024-25 (£1,619,000), or £3.54 per resident. The median among the 7 other unitary councils in England collected so far is £3.81 per resident.

Bristol: allowances paid, 2025-26, from its published list

Paid as	Total
Basic allowances	£1,246,184
Special responsibility allowances	£482,666
Expenses	£2,172
All	£1,746,522

The basic allowance for each councillor is £18,227 a year (current (web page checked September 2026)).

From the accounts: "The Council paid the following amounts to members of the Council during the year. Allowances 1,752 (2024/25 1,619) £'000" (PDF page 84 (printed page 81), note 12)

Published allowances: Councillors statement of allowances paid 2025 2026 (spreadsheet: Councillor Remuneration for year ending 31/03/2026).

What this data does and doesn't show

- Every figure is as Bristol printed it, in accounts that have not yet been audited. Counts in the £100,000 figure are our sum of the council's bands.
- Comparisons are with the other unitary councils in England read so far; no national figure is published for England.
- Published 2025/26 statement is a spreadsheet listing 70 councillors with no totals row; figures are our column sums: Basic Allowance 1,246,184.44; Extra Responsibility Allowance 482,665.94; 'Allowance' 15,500.00; Broadband 0; Travel 2,171.64; Other Expenses 0; Child Care 0; Total ER Cost 1,746,522.02. 'sra' is the Extra Responsibility Allowance column; 'expenses' is travel, other expenses, child care and broadband; the unlabelled 'Allowance' column (15,500) is in the total only. The council web page states 'The basic allowance of £18,227 is paid to all 70 councillors' without giving the year; the 2025/26 spreadsheet shows full-year basic payments of 17,645.04 to 17,951.07.

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
Council Tax levels set by local authorities in England	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	the 2026–27 financial year	Open Government Licence v3.0	Bristol: your area; Council tax in Bristol; Where your council tax goes in Bristol
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/council-tax-statistics				
Local authority revenue expenditure and financing: revenue outturn multi-year data set (RO2 parking)	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	the 2025–26 financial year	Open Government Licence v3.0	Bristol: your area; Parking income in Bristol UA
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing-england-revenue-outturn-multi-year-data-set				
Local authority revenue expenditure and financing: Revenue Outturn multi-year data set	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	28 September 2026	Open Government Licence v3.0	Where your council tax goes in Bristol
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6ab26ffffe72ed1e2b02ee74/Revenue_Outturn_time_series_data_v4.csv				
legislation.gov.uk and official guidance, provision by provision	legislation.gov.uk	22 September 2026	Open Government Licence v3.0 (legislation.gov.uk)	Parking income in Bristol UA
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/				

How to use and cite this document

Published by Tekstak Ltd (https://tek-stak.co.uk). Our words, analysis and charts are licensed under CC BY 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), credit Tekstak Ltd. Figures from other bodies are used under each source's own licence, listed in the sources appendix. You may reuse our words and charts with credit.

This site takes no side. Every figure is quoted from the body that publishes it, with its date and source; views are attributed to the people and organisations who hold them. Our neutrality policy: https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/neutrality/

Generated on 13 November 2026. The live version, which may have newer figures, is at https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/reports/#council-bristol.