Luton 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

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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.

Luton: your area

£2,440
Band D council tax, 2026-27
+£120 (+5.1%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1.0m
Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

25.7%
Household waste recycled, 2024-25

Council tax in Luton

£2,440
Band D a year, 2026-27
+£120 (+5.1%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1,627
Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

+£29
Band D against the England average of £2,411
Above average
As of 6 April 2026

Where your council tax goes in Luton

£2,439.93
Band D bill, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£1,981.21
Goes to Luton itself (81%)
As of 6 April 2026

£584.61
Largest line: adult social care
As of 28 September 2026

Parking income in Luton UA

£1.02m
Parking surplus
−£0.17m (−14.4%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£4.26m
Parking income
+£0.01m (+0.3%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£3.23m
Spending on parking
+£0.18m (+6.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

Luton: your area

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

Luton sets a Band D council tax of **£2,440** for 2026-27, 151 of 296 councils in England from the highest. Police: Bedfordshire. Fire and rescue: Bedfordshire. Health: NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes 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

£2,440
Band D council tax, 2026-27
+£120 (+5.1%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1.0m
Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

25.7%
Household waste recycled, 2024-25

5%
A roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25

62%
Reserves as a share of spending, 2025-26

What is the council tax in Luton?

Band D is **£2,440** a year for 2026-27, and Band A, the lowest, **£1,627**. That is £29 above the England average of £2,411, 151 of 296 in England from the highest.

Of a Band D bill, **£2,020** goes to Luton.

Every band, who gets the money and how Luton compares

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

How does the council compare?

- Council tax rise this year 5.1% Higher than the England figure of 4.9%
- Council tax per head £598 Lower than the England figure of £796
- Ombudsman uphold rate 100% (11 of 11) Higher than the England figure of 86%
- Reserves as a share of net spending 62% Higher than the England figure of 50%
- Borrowing per home £9,582 Higher 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 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 5% The same as the England figure of 5%
- Recycling rate 25.7% Lower than the England figure of 42.0%
- Major planning decisions on time 92.2% Higher 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 Luton

Measure	Figure	Period
A roads where maintenance should be considered	5%	2024-25
B and C roads where maintenance should be considered	9%	2024-25
Unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered	14%	2024-25
Household waste reused, recycled or composted	25.7%	2024-25
Major planning decisions made on time	92.2%	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 Luton

Authority	Year	Income	Surplus
Luton UA	2025-26	£4.3m	£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, 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 **78.2 crimes per 1,000 residents** in Luton, excluding anti-social behaviour, against 82.5 across England.

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

Your police precept

A Band D home in Luton pays **£297.59** police precept in 2026-27. It funds **Bedfordshire**, which has £178m 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 Luton are not what its precept bought.

Bedfordshire: funding, precept and results for the whole force

Who runs police, fire, health and ambulances here?

The bodies that serve Luton, and their latest money

Service	Body	Latest	Per resident
Police	Bedfordshire	£178m (2026-27)	£236
Fire and rescue	Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service	£37m (2025-26)	£49.25
Ambulance	East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	£494m (2024-25)	£75.17
NHS	NHS Central East Integrated Care Board	£9.3bn (2028-29)	£2,877
Roads	Luton	£6m (2025-26)	£25.81
Schools	Luton	£256m (2026-27)	£1,081
Council spending	Luton	£516m (2025-26)	£2,183
Social care	Luton	£170m (2024-25)	£715
Housing	Luton	£22m (2025-26)	£91.86
Waste and recycling	Luton	not published	—

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

See Luton 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 Luton?** Band D is £2,440 a year for 2026-27. Every band.
- **Which police force covers Luton?** Bedfordshire police force area. Fire and rescue: Bedfordshire.

Council tax in Luton

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

Council tax in **Luton** for 2026-27 is **£2,440 a year for a Band D home**, £1,627 for Band A and £4,880 for the top band. That is £29 above the England average of £2,411. It ranks 151 of 296 billing areas in England. Figures are the council's own set rates.

Key figures

£2,440
Band D a year, 2026-27
+£120 (+5.1%) vs 2025-26
As of 6 April 2026

£1,627
Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

+£29
Band D against the England average of £2,411
Above average
As of 6 April 2026

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

What is the bill for each band?

Council tax by band in Luton, bands A to H

Band	A year	A month
Band A	£1,626.62	£135.55
Band B	£1,897.72	£158.14
Band C	£2,168.83	£180.74
Band D	£2,439.93	£203.33
Band E	£2,982.14	£248.51
Band F	£3,524.34	£293.70
Band G	£4,066.55	£338.88
Band H	£4,879.86	£406.66

Who gets the money?

Band D bill in Luton by receiving body

Who receives it	Band D	Share
Luton	£2,020	83%
Other precepting bodies	£420	17%

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 **£29 above** the England average, 151 of 296 councils from the highest.

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



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

How does Luton compare? The report card

Official figures on complaints, finances, audit, pay and services for Luton, 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 5.1% Higher than the England figure of 4.9%
- Council tax per head £598 Lower than the England figure of £796
- Ombudsman uphold rate 100% (11 of 11) Higher than the England figure of 86%
- Reserves as a share of net spending 62% Higher than the England figure of 50%
- Borrowing per home £9,582 Higher than the England figure of £3,474
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What do complaints to the ombudsman show?

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

Measure	Luton	For comparison
Complaints and enquiries received	99	—
Complaints and enquiries decided	66	64 in 2024-25
Detailed investigations	11	—
Upheld	11	—
Uphold rate	100%	86% for every body the Ombudsman covers; 85% for similar councils
Upheld cases where the council had already offered a satisfactory remedy	27%	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	77%	—

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 1 finding of severe maladministration against Luton Borough Council in 2025-26, out of 14 findings in 7 determinations. Its maladministration rate for this landlord was 77%.

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

How healthy are its finances?

Reserves, spending and borrowing: Luton

Measure	Luton	For comparison
Net revenue spending, 2025-26	£188.5m	—
Reserves at the end of 2025-26	£116.3m	—
Reserves as a share of net spending	62%	50% for England; 60% in 2024-25
Outstanding borrowing at 30 June 2026	£819.1m	—
Borrowing per home on the valuation list	£9,582	£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: Luton

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

Senior pay and councillor allowances for Luton 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: Luton

Measure	Luton	For comparison
Children's services, Ofsted overall effectiveness	Good	10 March 2026. 73% of English councils judged good or outstanding
Adult social care, CQC assessment	Good	22 May 2026. 63% of assessed councils rated good or outstanding
A roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	5%	5% in England
B and C roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	9%	7% in England
Unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered, 2024-25	14%	17% in England
Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting, 2024-25	25.7%	42.0% for England
Major planning decisions on time, 24 months to end of june 2026	92.2%	91.0% for England
Non-major planning decisions on time, 24 months to end of June 2026	97.7%	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 Luton, 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 £2,440, up 5.1% on the year before Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2. 28 February 2025 Audit backstop Listed by MHCLG as not meeting the audit backstop requirements for 2023-24 Draft accounts published by the deadline: no. Audit opinion delivered by the backstop date: no. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
3. 13 December 2024 Audit backstop Listed by MHCLG as not meeting the audit backstop requirements for 2022-23 Draft accounts published by the deadline: yes. Audit opinion delivered by the backstop date: not stated. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
4. 25 October 2024 Ombudsman Ombudsman report: upheld, housing benefit and council tax benefit Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman public interest report, case 23-016-145. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
5. 4 May 2023 Election Local election: 45 seats won Labour Party 27, Liberal Democrats 15, Conservative and Unionist Party 3 Democracy Club
6. 5 October 2021 Ombudsman Ombudsman report: upheld, antisocial behaviour Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman public interest report, case 19-018-711. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

Does the council think something here is wrong?

If you represent Luton 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 **15.9%** of the money Luton had to spend in 2025-26. The rest came from government grants (53.7%), business rates (9.4%) and fees, charges and other income (21.0%). 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 Luton: parking, roads, your MP and local services, and Luton on the council map.

Common questions

- **How much is council tax in Luton?** Band D is £2,440 a year for 2026-27. Band A is £1,627 and the top band £4,880.
- **Is council tax in Luton higher than average?** Yes. Band D here is £29 above the England average of £2,411.

Where your council tax goes in Luton

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

A Band D council tax bill in **Luton** is **£2,439.93** for 2026-27, split between Luton £1,981.21, Luton: adult social care precept, this year's increase £38.41, Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable £297.59, Bedfordshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority £122.72. Shared out in proportion to what each body spends, the largest single line is adult social care at Luton: **£584.61** 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

£2,439.93
Band D bill, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£1,981.21
Goes to Luton itself (81%)
As of 6 April 2026

£584.61
Largest line: adult social care
As of 28 September 2026

15.9%
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 Luton 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.

Luton, 2025-26

Line	Net spending	Per resident	Similar councils, per resident	Per mile of road	Change
Parks and open spaces (including play areas)	£2.2m	£9.45	£16	—	up 4.6% on 2024-25
Street cleaning	£4.0m	£17	£11	£13,621 (similar: £3,881)	up 5.5% on 2024-25
Road and bridge maintenance	£4.1m	£17	£14	£14,010 (similar: £5,357)	down 0.8% on 2024-25
Environmental, safety and routine maintenance	£3.5m	£15	£8.90	£12,014 (similar: £3,672)	down 2.1% on 2024-25
Structural maintenance (resurfacing, bridges)	£579k	£2.45	£5.23	£1,997 (similar: £1,464)	up 7.4% on 2024-25
Winter service (gritting)	£447k	£1.89	£2.33	£1,541 (similar: £811)	up 0.7% on 2024-25
Street lighting (including energy)	£1.6m	£6.56	£7.66	£5,345 (similar: £3,286)	up 4.0% 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

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

Service	Per resident	Median
Education	£994	£712
Adult social care	£386	£483
Children's social care	£335	£300
Environment and regulation	£103	£111
Housing (not council homes)	£92	£33
Public health	£85	£64
Running the council	£68	£51
Roads and transport	£64	£49
Parks, leisure, libraries and culture	£33	£38
Planning and development	£24	£21

- Luton spent **39.6%** 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.

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 Luton and everything else about Luton.

Common questions

- **What does council tax pay for in Luton?** A Band D bill of £2,439.93 is split between Luton, Luton: adult social care precept, this year's increase, Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority. In proportion to spending, the largest line is adult social care, £584.61.
- **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 Luton UA

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

In 2025–26 Luton UA took **£4.3m** in parking income and spent £3.2m, a **surplus of £1.0m** against £1.2m in 2024–25 (−14%), the 160th largest of 290 councils in England. Penalty charges brought in £1.9m. Figures are from the council's own return to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Key figures

£1.02m
Parking surplus
−£0.17m (−14.4%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£4.26m
Parking income
+£0.01m (+0.3%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

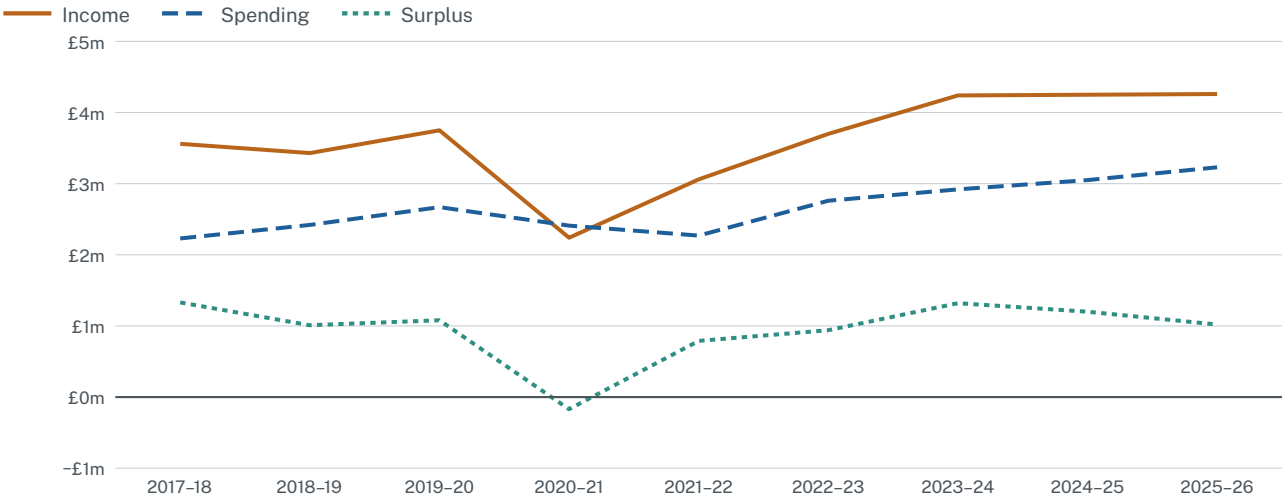
£3.23m
Spending on parking
+£0.18m (+6.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£1.94m
Penalty charge income
+£0.04m (+2.1%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

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

How much has Luton UA made from parking each year?

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



Luton UA: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million. Income: £3.56m in 2017–18, £4.26m in 2025–26. Spending: £2.23m in 2017–18, £3.23m in 2025–26. Surplus: £1.33m in 2017–18, £1.02m in 2025–26.

Luton UA: on-street and car park accounts

Year	On-street income	On-street spending	Car park income	Car park spending	Penalty income
2017–18	£2.05m	£0.66m	£1.52m	£1.57m	£1.10m
2018–19	£1.93m	£0.80m	£1.50m	£1.61m	£1.03m
2019–20	£2.28m	£0.87m	£1.47m	£1.80m	£1.35m
2020–21	£1.58m	£0.84m	£0.66m	£1.57m	£0.95m
2021–22	£2.04m	£0.77m	£1.01m	£1.50m	£1.17m
2022–23	£2.42m	£0.90m	£1.28m	£1.86m	£1.38m
2023–24	£2.63m	£1.05m	£1.61m	£1.87m	£1.67m
2024–25	£2.90m	£1.02m	£1.34m	£2.03m	£1.90m
2025–26	£3.01m	£1.19m	£1.25m	£2.05m	£1.94m

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

What can Luton 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 Luton UA compare with other councils?

Luton 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.

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	Luton: your area; Council tax in Luton; Where your council tax goes in Luton
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	Luton: your area; Parking income in Luton 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 Luton
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 Luton UA
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/				

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