Merthyr Tydfil 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: 21 October 2026

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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-merthyr-tydfil.

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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.

Merthyr Tydfil: your area

£2,594
Band D council tax, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£417,600
Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

66.3%
Household waste recycled, 2024-25

Council tax in Merthyr Tydfil

£2,594
Band D a year, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£1,729
Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

+£267
Band D against the Wales average of £2,326
Above average
As of 6 April 2026

Where your council tax goes in Merthyr Tydfil

£2,593.60
Band D bill, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£2,186.33
Goes to Merthyr Tydfil itself (84%)
As of 6 April 2026

£873.71
Largest line: education
As of 21 October 2026

Parking income in Merthyr Tydfil

£0.42m
Parking surplus
+£0.18m (+77.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£0.81m
Parking income
+£0.10m (+14.2%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£0.39m
Spending on parking
−£0.08m (−17.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

Merthyr Tydfil: your area

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

Merthyr Tydfil sets a Band D council tax of **£2,594** for 2026-27, 1 of 22 councils in Wales from the highest. Police: South Wales. Fire and rescue: South Wales. Health: Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health 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

£2,594
Band D council tax, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£417,600
Parking surplus, 2025-26
As of 6 April 2025

66.3%
Household waste recycled, 2024-25

What is the council tax in Merthyr Tydfil?

Band D is **£2,594** a year for 2026-27, and Band A, the lowest, **£1,729**. That is £267 above the Wales average of £2,326, 1 of 22 in Wales from the highest. It rose 5.3% on last year.

Of a Band D bill, **£2,186** goes to County or county borough council, **£405** goes to Police and crime commissioner, **£2** goes to Community council.

Every band, who gets the money and how Merthyr Tydfil compares

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

How does the council compare?

- Council tax rise this year 5.3% Higher than the Wales figure of 5.2%
- Council tax per head £844 Lower than the Wales figure of £963
- Ombudsman interventions 7% (1 of 15 closed) Lower than the Wales figure of 13%
- Recycling rate 66.3% Lower than the Wales figure of 68.4%
- Planning decisions on time 100.0% Higher than the Wales figure of 90.5%

Each figure is set against the figure for Wales 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 Merthyr Tydfil

Measure	Figure	Period
Household waste reused, recycled or composted	66.3%	2024-25
Planning decisions made on time	100.0%	January to March 2026

Road condition is not published in the same form for Wales councils. Road condition is from the Department for Transport; each figure is compared with Wales as a whole in the report card.

What does the council make from parking?

Parking income and surplus for Merthyr Tydfil

Authority	Year	Income	Surplus
Merthyr Tydfil	2025-26	£811,200	£417,600

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 **95.2 crimes per 1,000 residents** in Merthyr Tydfil, excluding anti-social behaviour, against 82.5 across Wales.

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

Your police precept

A Band D home in Merthyr Tydfil pays **£405.14** police precept in 2026-27. It funds **South Wales**, which has £468m 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 Merthyr Tydfil are not what its precept bought.

South Wales: funding, precept and results for the whole force

Who runs police, fire, health and ambulances here?

The bodies that serve Merthyr Tydfil, and their latest money

Service	Body	Latest	Per resident
Police	South Wales	£468m (2026-27)	£345
Fire and rescue	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	£96m (2025-26)	£61.51
Ambulance	Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust	£345m (2025-26)	£109
NHS	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	£1.4bn (2023-24)	£3,220
Roads	Merthyr Tydfil	£3m (2025-26)	£54.83
Schools	Merthyr Tydfil	£85m (2025-26)	£1,451
Council spending	Merthyr Tydfil	£212m (2025-26)	£3,632
Social care	Merthyr Tydfil	£62m (2025-26)	£1,058
Housing	Merthyr Tydfil	£18m (2025-26)	£309
Waste and recycling	Merthyr Tydfil	not published	—

Each body serves a wider area than Merthyr Tydfil, 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 Merthyr Tydfil: 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).

How does Merthyr Tydfil look against other councils?

See Merthyr Tydfil 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 Merthyr Tydfil?** Band D is £2,594 a year for 2026-27. Every band.
- **Which police force covers Merthyr Tydfil?** South Wales police force area. Fire and rescue: South Wales.

Council tax in Merthyr Tydfil

Your area · Last updated 13 November 2026 · https://whereyourmoneygoes.co.uk/council-tax/wales/merthyr-tydfil/

Council tax in **Merthyr Tydfil** for 2026-27 is **£2,594 a year for a Band D home**, £1,729 for Band A and £6,052 for the top band. That is £267 above the Wales average of £2,326. It ranks 1 of 22 billing areas in Wales. Figures are the council's own set rates. Wales publishes Band D only, so the other bands here are worked out from the statutory ratios.

Key figures

£2,594
Band D a year, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£1,729
Band A, the lowest
As of 6 April 2026

+£267
Band D against the Wales average of £2,326
Above average
As of 6 April 2026

1 of 22
Rank in Wales, highest first
As of 6 April 2026

What is the bill for each band?

Council tax by band in Merthyr Tydfil, bands A to I

Band	A year	A month
Band A	£1,729.07	£144.09
Band B	£2,017.24	£168.10
Band C	£2,305.42	£192.12
Band D	£2,593.60	£216.13
Band E	£3,169.96	£264.16
Band F	£3,746.31	£312.19
Band G	£4,322.67	£360.22
Band H	£5,187.20	£432.27
Band I	£6,051.73	£504.31

Wales publishes Band D only. The other bands are derived using the statutory ratios, which are fixed in law and the same for every Welsh authority, so these are exact rather than estimated.

Who gets the money?

Band D bill in Merthyr Tydfil by receiving body

Who receives it	Band D	Share
County or county borough council	£2,186	84%
Police and crime commissioner	£405	16%
Community council	£2	0%

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 **£267 above** the Wales average, 1 of 22 councils from the highest. It rose 5% on last year.

Merthyr Tydfil among the Wales councils nearest it, Band D 2026-27



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

How does Merthyr Tydfil compare? The report card

Official figures on complaints, finances, audit, pay and services for Merthyr Tydfil, each from the body that published it and set against the figure for Wales. See every council on the council map.

- Council tax rise this year 5.3% Higher than the Wales figure of 5.2%
- Council tax per head £844 Lower than the Wales figure of £963
- Ombudsman interventions 7% (1 of 15 closed) Lower than the Wales figure of 13%
- Recycling rate 66.3% Lower than the Wales figure of 68.4%
- Planning decisions on time 100.0% Higher than the Wales figure of 90.5%

Each figure is set against the figure for Wales 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?

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales: Merthyr Tydfil, 2024-25

Measure	Merthyr Tydfil	For comparison
Complaints closed	15	—
Closed with the Ombudsman intervening	1 (7%)	13% across Welsh councils

The Ombudsman publishes one row per closed case; the counts here are this site's own, from those rows, for the 2024-25 financial year. The Ombudsman's annual letter to each council may count slightly differently.

Source: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Open data: complaints closed, 2024-25.

How healthy are its finances?

Reserves, spending and borrowing: Merthyr Tydfil

Measure	Merthyr Tydfil	For comparison
Outstanding borrowing at 30 June 2026	£158.9m	—

The Welsh Government publishes council reserves as a PDF report only, so no figure is shown here. 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 borrowing and investment live table, 30 June 2026.

What have the auditors said?

Audit reports: Merthyr Tydfil

Report	Title	Published
Latest local report (Audit Wales)	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – Housing adaptations	28 August 2026
Latest Annual Audit Summary (Audit Wales)	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council – Annual Audit Summary 2024	9 July 2025

Audit Wales publishes an Annual Audit Summary for each council, which states its opinion on the accounts, and reports on particular services. Follow each link for the findings in full.

Source: Audit Wales, Local reports and Annual Audit Summaries, latest report. Checked 22 September 2026.

What are senior staff and councillors paid?

Senior pay and councillor allowances for Merthyr Tydfil 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: Merthyr Tydfil

Measure	Merthyr Tydfil	For comparison
Municipal waste reused, recycled or composted (the statutory target measure), 2024-25	66.3%	68.4% for Wales
Planning decisions on time, January to March 2026	100.0%	90.5% for Wales

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 planning applications determined within the statutory or an agreed time, in one quarter. Recycling rates are measured differently in England, Scotland and Wales, so compare within a nation.

Source: Welsh Government, Local authority municipal waste management, 2024-25; Welsh Government, Development management quarterly survey, January to March 2026.

What has happened recently?

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

1. 28 August 2026 Audit Audit Wales report: Housing adaptations Audit Wales
2. 1 April 2026 Council tax Council tax for 2026-27: Band D £2,594, up 5.3% on the year before Welsh Government
3. 9 July 2025 Audit Annual Audit Summary 2024 Audit Wales
4. 5 May 2022 Election Local election: 30 seats won Independent 15, Labour Party 15 Democracy Club

Does the council think something here is wrong?

If you represent Merthyr Tydfil 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 funds **23%** of this authority's budget. The rest comes from central government grant, business rates and fees. That is why a grant cut can raise your bill even when the council has not changed what it does, and why cutting council tax would not shrink services by the same proportion.

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 Merthyr Tydfil: parking, roads, your MP and local services, and Merthyr Tydfil on the council map.

Common questions

- **How much is council tax in Merthyr Tydfil?** Band D is £2,594 a year for 2026-27. Band A is £1,729 and the top band £6,052.
- **Is council tax in Merthyr Tydfil higher than average?** Yes. Band D here is £267 above the Wales average of £2,326.

Where your council tax goes in Merthyr Tydfil

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

A Band D council tax bill in **Merthyr Tydfil** is **£2,593.60** for 2026-27, split between Merthyr Tydfil £2,186.33, South Wales Police £405.14, Community and town councils (average for the area) £2.13. Shared out in proportion to what each body spends, the largest single line is education at Merthyr Tydfil: **£873.71** of the bill. Council tax pays for 9% of the council's own spending; the rest is government grant, business rates and fees.

Key figures

£2,593.60
Band D bill, 2026-27
As of 6 April 2026

£2,186.33
Goes to Merthyr Tydfil itself (84%)
As of 6 April 2026

£873.71
Largest line: education
As of 21 October 2026

9.4%
Of the council's money that comes from council tax, 2025-26
As of 21 October 2026

Who gets your bill

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

Fire and rescue in Wales is paid for by a levy on each council, so it is inside the council part of the bill rather than a separate precept.

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 Merthyr Tydfil 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.

Merthyr Tydfil, 2025-26

Line	Net spending	Per resident	Similar councils, per resident	Per mile of road	Change
Parks and open spaces (including play areas)	£2.4m	£42	£17	—	up 3.5% on 2024-25
Street cleaning	£2.1m	£35	£19	£10,663 (similar: £2,510)	up 2.7% on 2024-25
Road and bridge maintenance	£2.1m	£36	£55	£10,788 (similar: £5,644)	up 26.8% on 2024-25
Environmental, safety and routine maintenance	£1.3m	£23	£38	£6,860 (similar: £3,576)	up 19.4% on 2024-25
Structural maintenance (resurfacing, bridges)	£758k	£13	£23	£3,927 (similar: £2,480)	up 42.2% on 2024-25
Winter service (gritting)	£388k	£6.65	£8.62	£2,010 (similar: £861)	up 4.0% on 2024-25
Street lighting (including energy)	£743k	£13	£9.22	£3,850 (similar: £982)	up 21.0% 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

Merthyr Tydfil: net spending per resident by service, 2025-26, against the median for Welsh councils

Service	Per resident	Median
Education	£1,451	£1,275
Adult social care	£599	£680
Children's social care	£459	£372
Housing (not council homes)	£309	£272
Running the council	£220	£92
Environment and regulation	£201	£165
Planning and development	£180	£48
Parks, leisure, libraries and culture	£112	£86
Roads and transport	£100	£102

- Staff costs are not published by service for Merthyr Tydfil, so its split between its own staff and everything else cannot be shown.

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

- Welsh Government, Composition of average band D council tax by billing authority (StatsWales), published 24 March 2026. Open Government Licence v3.0.
- Welsh Government, Local authority revenue outturn expenditure and financing (StatsWales), published 21 October 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 Merthyr Tydfil and everything else about Merthyr Tydfil.

Common questions

- **What does council tax pay for in Merthyr Tydfil?** A Band D bill of £2,593.60 is split between Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales Police, Community and town councils (average for the area). In proportion to spending, the largest line is education, £873.71.
- **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 Merthyr Tydfil

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

In 2025–26 Merthyr Tydfil took **£0.8m** in parking income and spent £0.4m, a **surplus of £0.4m** against £0.2m in 2024–25 (+77%), the 13th largest of 22 councils in Wales. Figures are from the council's own return to the Welsh Government.

Key figures

£0.42m
Parking surplus
+£0.18m (+77.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

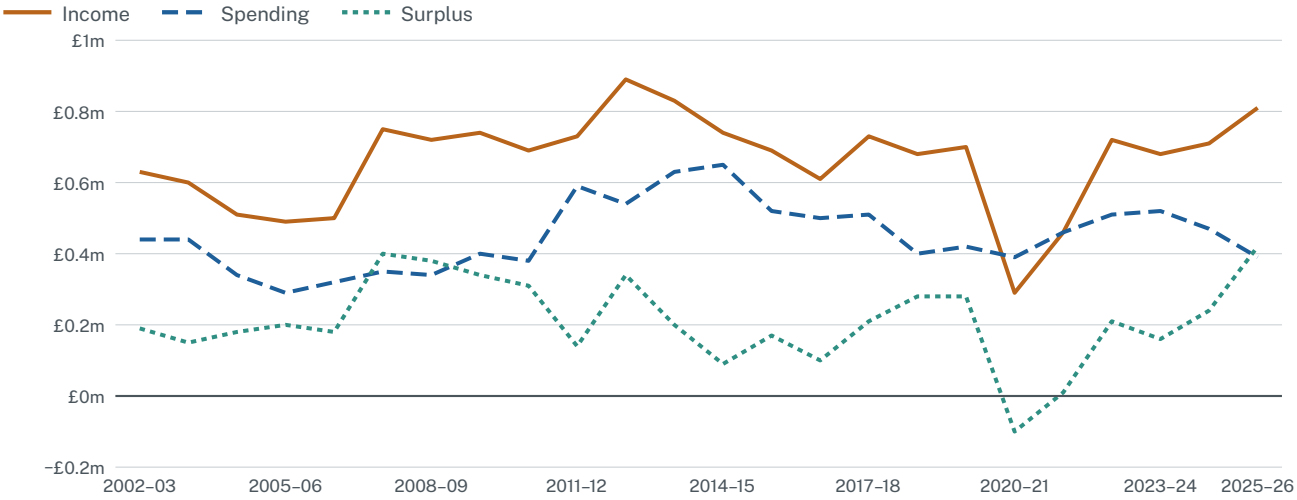
£0.81m
Parking income
+£0.10m (+14.2%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

£0.39m
Spending on parking
−£0.08m (−17.0%) vs 2024–25
2025–26

13 of 22
Rank in Wales, largest surplus first
2025–26

How much has Merthyr Tydfil made from parking each year?

Merthyr Tydfil: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million



Merthyr Tydfil: parking income, spending and surplus, £ million. Income: £0.63m in 2002–03, £0.81m in 2025–26. Spending: £0.44m in 2002–03, £0.39m in 2025–26. Surplus: £0.19m in 2002–03, £0.42m in 2025–26.

Wales reports parking as a single line, so there is no on-street and car park split.

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

What can Merthyr Tydfil 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

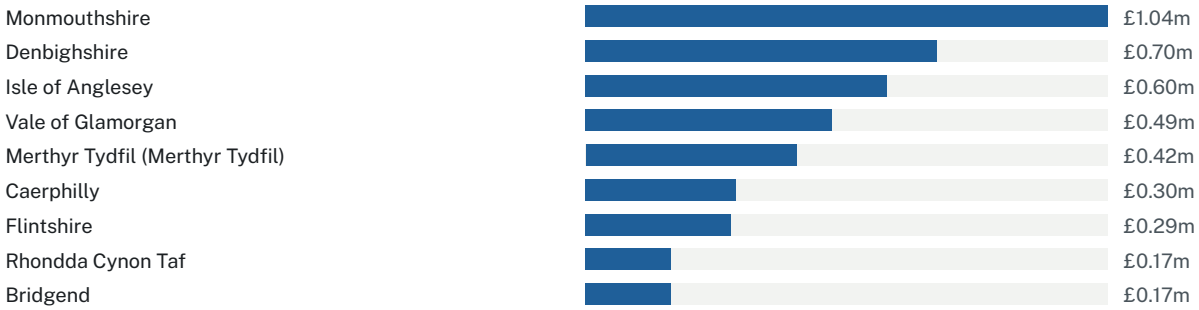
Council car park (off-street) tariffs

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 Merthyr Tydfil compare with other councils?

Merthyr Tydfil among the Wales 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 https://www.gov.wales/council-tax-levels	Welsh Government	the 2026–27 financial year	Open Government Licence v3.0	Merthyr Tydfil: your area; Council tax in Merthyr Tydfil; Where your council tax goes in Merthyr Tydfil
Roads and transport revenue outturn expenditure by authority and service https://stats.gov.wales/	Welsh Government (StatsWales)	the 2025–26 financial year	Open Government Licence v3.0	Merthyr Tydfil: your area; Parking income in Merthyr Tydfil
Local authority revenue outturn expenditure and financing (StatsWales) https://api.stats.gov.wales/v1/b483d2c5-e60e-4dfb-b03a-49df9e1931a0/download/csv	Welsh Government	21 October 2026	Open Government Licence v3.0	Where your council tax goes in Merthyr Tydfil
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 Merthyr Tydfil

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