

Help and support with your council tax



Helping with the cost of living

We know that it is a difficult time for many of our residents as we all face increasing costs for many of the things we need in our everyday lives.

We also appreciate any increases to your Council Tax bill will put pressure on your budget but we've got to balance those difficult decisions against being able to provide support for the most vulnerable in our borough.

This booklet will help signpost you to information covering financial support, health and wellbeing and information on key services.

If you are struggling to pay your council tax we do have a scheme, which reduces the amount you pay if you are on a low income.

The type of help and support on offer includes:



Welfare Benefits – check if you're entitled to any benefits



Help with Rent



Help with Council Tax – you may be eligible for reductions



Fuel Bills and Energy Saving



Cost of Living Payments



Financial Advice



Debt advice



Sefton's Warm Spaces network



Sefton Support Hub



Jobs and Volunteering



Foodbanks and Food Pantries



Free School Meals



Help to buy Food and Milk



Emergency Funds – we can support with urgent help to buy essentials



Help for Households – includes cost of living payments and how to save energy



Cost of Living Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

All this help and support is available at sefton.gov.uk/costofliving.



You can get free computer, internet and wi-fi access at any of our libraries or if you prefer, you can call us on **0345 140 0845**.

Council Tax discounts and exemptions

The most common discount is 25% off your bill for people who live alone.

You may also be able to claim a 25% discount if you are the only person living with any of the following:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth trainees
- Severely mentally impaired people
- 18 or 19-year-olds who are still at school or college, or have just left school or college
- Anyone caring for someone with a disability who is not their spouse, partner, civil partner or child under 18
- A 50% discount is available for non-dependent relatives occupying annexes which are part of a larger property

Don't lose your vote!

All residents who live in Sefton and are 18 years or older and registered to vote can have their say on who they want to see represent them on Sefton Council and in Parliament. This is known as an election and the key points to note are:



Next election on **Thursday 2 May 2024** – this will mean you can cast your vote on who represents you on Sefton Council. You will also be able to vote for the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner and the Liverpool City Region Mayor.



If you are not registered to vote you can register online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) you will need to register by Tuesday 16 April 2024 to be able to vote in the elections on Thursday 2 May 2024.



You will need to bring photographic ID to vote at the polling station. Please be aware that the over 60's Merseytravel local travel pass will not be accepted as a form of photographic ID. No ID? See page opposite – deadline for applying for a voter authority certificate is 5pm on Wednesday 24 April. You can apply at [gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)



Deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024 and you can apply at [gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote). If you already have a postal vote and your details haven't changed you do not need to take any action.

The rules for handing in postal votes at polling stations has changed - your postal vote will be rejected if not received correctly:

- If you return it by hand you will need to complete further documentation at your drop off point
- You cannot hand in more than 5 plus your own postal vote (for each election)
- Do not leave your postal vote in any council office post box or unattended reception points

If in doubt contact us on electors@sefton.gov.uk, 0345 1400845 or [sefton.gov.uk/elections](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/elections).



You need
photo ID
to vote at
a polling
station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280





Together we are stronger

We know how hard everyone works to pay their council tax and we wanted to give you an overview of what services it goes towards.

Our focus has been on protecting our most vulnerable residents, doing more for families and young children, supporting the local economy and being ambitious for our future. We have:

- Worked with partners to help thousands of residents with access to warm spaces, financial support and food provision
- Committed to building the first council housing since 2006 to provide more affordable homes
- Secured £20 million of investment to redevelop the Bootle Strand shopping centre and £73 million for Southport's Marine Lake Events Centre
- Hosted world class events generating hundreds of thousands of pounds for the local economy
- Continued to tackle climate change, look after our coast and improve recycling and air quality
- Helped community groups to make improvements in their area and supported more than 2,000 volunteers
- Demonstrated our commitment to equality and diversity supporting more community events and opportunities
- Continued to work hard to improve children's services to help our young people flourish to be the best that they can be

Where does every £100 of your Council Tax go?

Living, working and having fun
£15.35

Cleaning your streets
£1.32

Emptying your bins
£2.50

Skills and Jobs
£0.71

Protecting your health and wellbeing
£6.56

Getting rid of your rubbish
£4.85

Keeping your roads safe
£2.62

Children, young people and families
£9.26

Safeguarding Children
£21.08

Adult Social Care
£35.75

*Figures correct based on a council tax increase of 4.99%.



Sefton@Work

working for you

**Looking for work?
Help with training
or education?**

We offer free, confidential advice

Interview Skills

CV Writing

Health & Wellbeing

Jobs & Training



Find us in
The Strand, Bootle,
or Houghton Street,
Southport

Call: 0151 934 2610 or visit: www.seftonatwork.net



Be the difference

Fostering
changes lives

Sefton Council needs more local people to foster a child. We'll support you every step of the way. Contact us today.



Seftonfostering.co.uk

0800 923 2777

Sefton Council



MORE MORE MORE

ONE MEMBERSHIP SIX LOCATIONS

- Bootle** Leisure Centre
- Litherland** Sports Park
- Crosby** Lakeside
- Meadows** Leisure Centre
- Dunes** Splash World
- Netherton** Activity Centre

SCAN
ME!



activefitness
MORE THAN JUST A GYM

active sefton

Sefton Council



What goes in each bin?

Recycling



Clean cans and tins, cardboard boxes (please remove tape and labels), greetings cards, pizza boxes (without grease), paper, clean glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles



PLASTIC BAGS, FOOD WASTE, ITEMS COVERED IN GLITTER AND FOIL

Household Waste



General waste, food waste



BUILDING MATERIALS

Green



Grass cuttings, plants and leaves, branches



FOOD WASTE



For more information visit sefton.gov.uk/bins.

Learn something new in 2024

From that vital maths qualification to making mosaics and everything in between, check out Sefton Community Learning Service.

For more information on courses, or to enrol, visit www.sefton.gov.uk/communitylearning



Sefton Community
Learning Service

Sefton Council

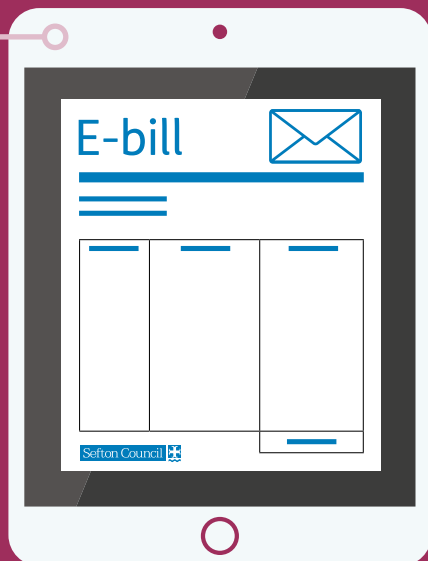
Get the latest news straight to your inbox.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone

Go online

View your bill and manage your account online.



Sefton Council  sefton.gov.uk/counciltax/myaccount

Upcoming Events for 2024

Sefton Council 



SALT AND TAR COMEDY WEEKENDER

24 May - 26 May



SOUTHPORT FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

31 May - 2 June



SOUTHPORT AIR SHOW

13 and 14 July

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW

15 -18 August



SALT AND TAR MUSIC WEEKENDER

16 - 18 August

BRITISH MUSICAL FIREWORKS CHAMPIONSHIP

20 and 21 September



Find out more about events at
sefton.gov.uk/whatson