

Your Council Tax Guide: Making a Difference Together 2026 - 2027



Welcome to this year's Council Tax booklet



Firstly, I want to thank you. We all have a role to play and this year has really shown that together as a community, we have

truly made and continue to make our borough a better place to live.

By listening to our residents, we've been able to invest in the services and improvements that matter most to you and your family. Over the past year, we have achieved some fantastic progress. Children's Services now rated 'Good' by Ofsted, Adult Social Care has been rated 'Good'

by the Care Quality Commission meaning our vulnerable adults are well cared for and a huge amount of work has been done to make our borough look clean and tidy.

Inside this booklet you can read about services we have delivered, what's planned for the next year and you'll find a summary of the help available as we are aware many residents are being affected by the cost of living.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion Atkinson".

Cllr. Marion Atkinson
Leader, Sefton Council

Easy ways to pay

Direct Debit

Join the 96,000 people already paying by direct debit - it's easy to set up, payments are taken automatically and it saves the council money that can then be used to support essential services.

Debit or Credit Card

You can make payments quickly and easily any time of the day on our automated payment line **0151 934 4697**.

You can find all the other ways to pay on the back of your bill.

Paperless billing

Sign up today and access your bills 24 hours a day, report changes and manage your account online.



Sefton Council



sefton.gov.uk/myaccount

Council Tax discounts and exemptions

You can apply for a Council Tax Discount of up to 100% if you have a terminal illness diagnosis or live with someone who has one.

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

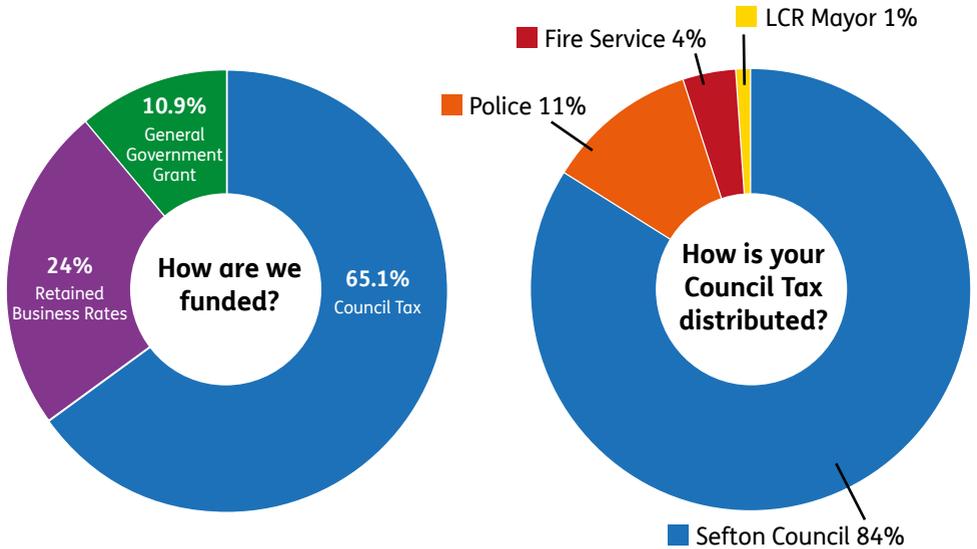
You may also be able to claim a 25% discount if you are the only person living with any of the following:

- Full time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth trainees
- 18 or 19-year-olds who are still at school or college, or have just left school or college
- Severely mentally impaired people
- Anyone caring for someone with a disability who is not their spouse, partner, civil partner or child under 18

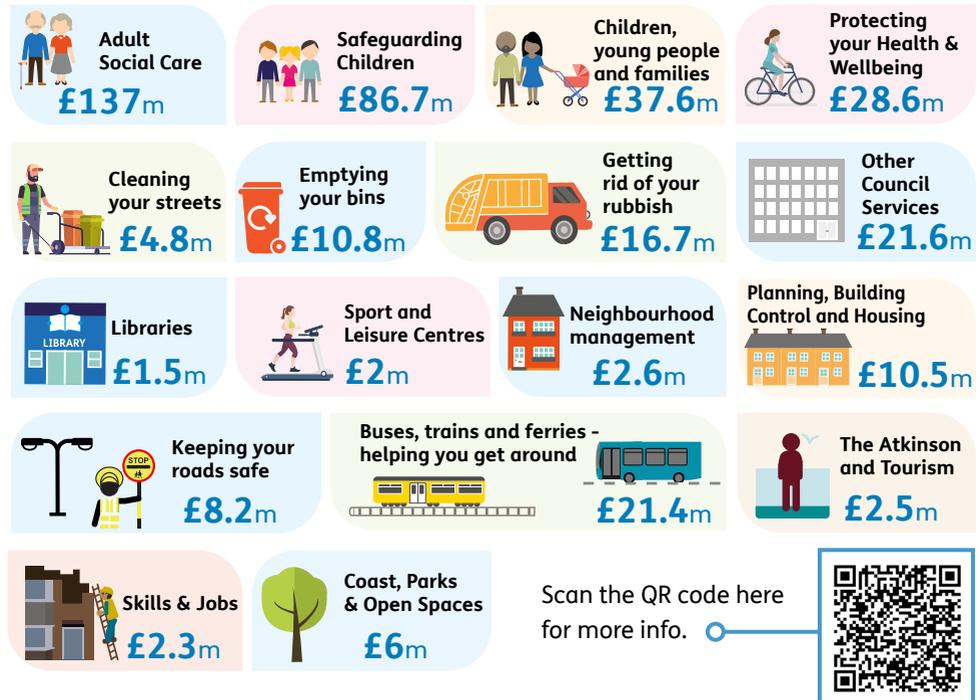
For more information on discounts and exemptions visit sefton.gov.uk/counciltax



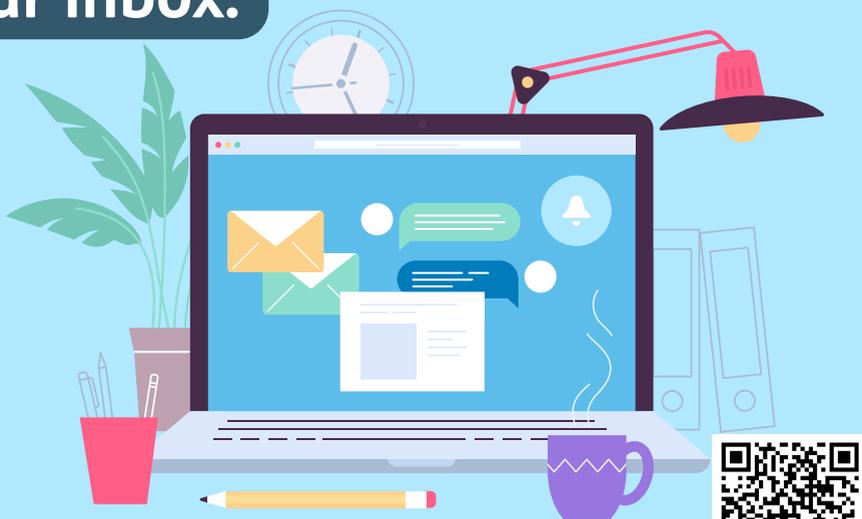
How do we use your Council Tax?



Here's what we expect to spend in a typical year



Get the latest news straight to your inbox.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone



YOUR SEFTON YOUR SAY

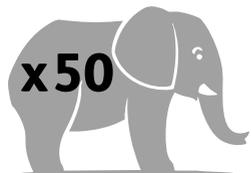
Have your say on what matters to you

- Take part in consultations
- Share your ideas about local issues
- Working stronger together – find out more about our co-production groups

Yourseftonyoursay.sefton.gov.uk



How your money makes a



300 tonnes of waste cleared since the summer (that's as heavy as 50 elephants)



6,965 road and pavement repairs completed

(the size of Bootle Strand Shopping Centre)

Fixed 1,354 potholes



(size of more than 12 tennis courts)

Hundreds of tonnes of leaves swept



More than 30 parks and 100 play spaces maintained



3,100

children signed up to our summer reading challenge



195,204

calls handled by our contact centre



30,000

people have registered for an online Council Tax account, to manage their account online

100,000



trees being planted at Lunt Meadows



4,000 residents engaged through consultations

difference to your community

7.9 million

household visits to empty your bins over the last year



Sefton's Children's Services



improved from 'Inadequate' to 'Good'



Adult Social Care rated 'Good'

by the Care Quality Commission



428

more pensioner households receiving financial support



425

road signs replaced and reset



£4million

generated for the local economy from major events



129

additional children enrolled on free school meals

1.1 million
square metres of
grass cut



(equivalent to 154 football pitches)



What's next for Sefton in 2026

These are some of the projects that we will be working on over the next year:

- Constructing quality affordable homes for local people - building 1000 homes right across the borough by 2030 in partnership with The Sovini Group
- Work beginning to restore Southport Pier
- Starting the transformation of the Ainsdale gateway, with an ambitious vision for nature-led regeneration and a world-class offering
- Continuing with the work in Bootle town centre to transform the Strand Shopping Centre and making Salt and Tar a permanent venue
- Hosting major events to boost the local economy including a new programme for Southport, the world famous Open Golf Championships and performances from music legends in Bootle, including Billy Ocean
- Investing £3.3 million in resurfacing your roads
- Introducing food waste collections to improve recycling rates
- Continuing the fight against people dumping rubbish with more clean ups and tougher penalties for those who make our borough look a mess
- Starting building work on the world-class Marine Lake Events Centre

You can learn more about our priorities by reading our corporate plan sefton.gov.uk/corporate



F⁴OSTER

Sefton Council



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.

Be the difference

Sefton Council



Seftonfostering.co.uk

0800 923 2777

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



Brown bin/ hessian sack - Plastic bottles, cardboard boxes/ packaging, glass bottles and jars, food tins, drinks cans, paper.



No bagged waste in the recycling- this cannot be recycled.

Household Waste



Grey bin/ refuse sack - non-recyclable household waste



Green



Green bin - garden waste, grass clippings, tree and shrub clippings, dead flowers, leaves



If you would like more information on what you can recycle, please visit: recycleright.org.uk

Food waste collections are coming to Sefton in

AUTUMN 2026



Latest information at:
sefton.gov.uk/bins

Are you ready for Sefton's Local Elections in May?



What's Happening in Sefton...

- Whole Council elections will be held on **Thursday 7 May 2026**
- Whole Council elections mean all **66 seats** on the Council are up for election
- If you receive a **white poll card**, this means you are registered to vote at your designated polling station
- If you receive a **pink poll card**, this means you are registered to vote by post
- If you receive a **lilac Empty Property Card**, this means that nobody at that property is registered to vote.

If you are not registered to vote, then you can apply at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote by **Monday 20th April, 2026** to vote in these elections.



Do You Want To Vote By Post?

- If you wish to vote by post, you can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote
- You must apply before 5pm on **Tuesday 21 April 2026**
- If you have voted by post in the past and did not renew your postal vote, then you **will need** to make a new application



If you cannot make a application online, please contact us on **0345 140 0845** or by email to electors@sefton.gov.uk

Ward Names & Polling Station changes

There has been a review of the electoral boundaries in Sefton. Some ward names have changed and some polling stations have changed - please check your white poll card.

For more information: sefton.gov.uk/elections

How to Vote and Remembering Voter ID



Every person registered to vote at these elections can vote for up to three candidates to elect three councillors for your electoral ward.

In your polling station you will need to show an approved photographic ID before you can be issued with a ballot paper. Approved IDs are listed on the reverse of your poll card.

Register to vote here



We're here to help with the cost of living



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



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



Help with Rent



Cost of Living Payments



Help with Council Tax – you may be eligible for reductions



Financial Advice



Fuel Bills and Energy Saving



Sefton's Warm Spaces network



Free School Meals



Childcare and Maternity Costs



Foodbanks and Food Pantries



Jobs and Volunteering

Tel: 0345 140 0845
sefton.gov.uk/costofliving

