

Clerk
West Swindon Parish Council

Swindon Borough Council

Finance Department

Civic Offices

Euclid Street

Swindon

SN1 2JH

Website: www.swindon.gov.uk

Please reply to: Carole Smith

Telephone no: 01793 465173

E-mail: cmsmith@swindon.gov.uk

Our ref: Parish Precepts 2025-26

Date: 22nd November 2024

Dear Clerk

Precept and Related Matters 2025-26

This letter provides the estimated Council Tax Base for 2025-26 for your town or parish. The taxbase for Swindon Borough Council is due to be considered by Full Council on 16th January 2025 and therefore could be subject to change. In the event of any changes you will be notified on 17th January 2025.

Council Tax Base

The Council Tax Base for your Council for 2025-26 has been calculated as **8,799.9** equivalent band D dwellings. The corresponding figure for 2024-25 was **8,820.6**. This represents a change of **-0.2%** which reflects the impact of changes in growth assumptions, the number of households receiving single persons discount and/or other discounts and exemptions.

Annual Precept

The precept requirements of the parished areas are governed by Sections 39(2), 41 and 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the 1992 Act).

Section 41 of the 1992 Act provides that a parished area may precept upon the billing authority for a financial year. If a precept is issued, it must be issued before 1 March and state the amount payable. In order to meet this timescale and to ensure the council tax bills reflect your agreed precept, I should be grateful if you would arrange to complete the attached precept form and return it to me by Friday, **31st January 2025**.

The meeting of Full Council to set the council tax will be on 27th February 2025. In the event of your precept demand not being issued to Swindon Borough Council prior to the Council meeting, legislation limits the calculation that can be included for your precept to the higher of the previous 3 years precept figures plus RPI as at September preceding the year for which the precept is being set.

If you think you may have any difficulties meeting this deadline please let me know as soon as possible so that we can discuss options.

Precepts in Excess of £100,000

Those parishes who issue precepts in excess of £100,000 will be required to supply details of their budget plans to be published at the same time as the tax demand in the area affected. An additional form has been enclosed for those parishes that fell into this category for 2025-26 and this should be returned with or shortly after the precept form. An electronic version of the form is also available, please contact my colleague by e-mail at lhudson2@swindon.gov.uk and electronic version will be returned.

Legislation changes in 2013 means that this information is no longer required to be printed and enclosed with the Council Tax bills and this is the route that Swindon proposes to take should your precept exceed the £100,000 threshold.

Payments of Precept

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) Regulations 1992 - Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraphs 8 and 9, you are informed that your Council's precept will be paid in two instalments; 50% before 23rd April 2025 and 50% before 30 September 2025. These amounts will be paid directly into the following Bank Account unless you notify me to the contrary before 1st April 2025.

Sort-code: 20-84-58

Account: 13048489

Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG)

The council faces significant budget challenges and as a result all areas of expenditure are under review, including the continuation of the council tax support grant. As a result, we are unable to confirm the arrangements for this grant at this time. As soon as a decision is made this will be communicated to you however, this will not be until Full Council sets its budget on 27th February 2025.

If you have any queries please contact us.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Smith

Head of Finance (Deputy S151)