

Report from Your District Councillors – March 2025

District Council Budget 2025/6

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have set the district element of the Council Tax at a meeting of the Council on Monday 24 February.

The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £169.12, an increase of £5. This is an increase of 3.05%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year. **Stratford-on-Avon remains a low-taxing authority, 18th lowest out of 164 district councils across the country in 2024/25.**

Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, it **only receives 7.1% of the Council Tax paid by residents**. Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of 76.6%, the Police 12.8% and Towns/Parishes 3.5%. Band D figures are set out below:

	2025/26	% Increase
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£169.12	3.05%
Warwickshire County Council	£1,822.95	5.00%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£303.71	4.83%
Sub-total	£2,295.78	4.83%
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£84.13	13.95%
TOTAL	£2,379.91	5.13%

More detail here:

[Council Tax level for Stratford-on-Avon District | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

In addition, at the budget meeting, two items of particular interest to Parishes are the £250,000 for Parishes and Community groups to improve their community facilities and

£50,000 for Trees for Parishes. As soon as we have further detail on how these funds may be applied for, we will of course, let you know.

The agenda and papers may be viewed here: [Agenda for Council on Monday, 24th February, 2025, 2.00 p.m. | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Update on the English Devolution White Paper

Central government wrote to the District Council in early February to request that their initial proposals for the re-arrangement of local government in England are submitted to them by 21 March.

As we said last month, the proposal is for two-tier authorities to be abolished (that is District, Borough and County Councils) and replaced with a unitary authority.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council held an **Extraordinary Full Council meeting on Monday 10 February at 2pm at Elizabeth House, Stratford-upon-Avon** to discuss the implications for the Council from Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation arising from the recent government white paper. The Press release following the meeting may be viewed here: [Stratford-on-Avon District Council supports Devolution Notice of Motion | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#). The District Council are presently working on their proposals with partners in order to meet the very tight deadline for submission and we will let you have further information as soon as we are able.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan remains open and will run until 7 March. The simplest way to respond is via the [online consultation portal](#)

Despite its very wide scope and complexity it is having a very high response rate (a snap shot this week showed responses were being received at a rate of 35 an hour). Nigel has expressed concern to the team at the potential of delay to assimilate and incorporate the

responses into the plan, however we gather that the public are using the on-line system rather than informal methods (emails and letters) which will streamline the process.

We have shared our own response as Ward Members with the Parish Council which we hope is helpful.

Comments on the 'Preferred Options' consultation, and submissions to the call for sites must be received by **11:59pm on Friday 7 March 2025**.

Community Noticeboard Grant Open for Applications

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Noticeboard Grant is now open for applications. Parish and Town Councils, community venues and local groups are invited to apply for funding for new community noticeboards.

There is £7,500 available with potential for supporting the purchase of 6-7 noticeboards across the District.

The grant will be open until **Friday 14th March 2025** and will be available for any community group to apply for either a new or replacement noticeboard.

To apply please contact us at socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Community Safety

Livestock worrying

Livestock worrying is a particular concern this time of year in our rural community with pregnant ewes and lambs being particularly vulnerable. Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, it is a criminal offence for a dog to actively worry livestock and dog owners risk prosecution. Whilst the majority of dog owners do walk their dogs in a responsible manner, unfortunately there are a small minority whose recklessness puts the welfare of other animals at risk. Please remember to keep your dog on a lead at all times in a field with livestock.

If you have livestock and would like a 'Dog on Lead' sign, please
email: ruralwatch@warwickshire.police.uk

ASB concerns

Residents should report ASB to either the Police or to the Community Safety Team in the District Council by using their online reporting form. If you go onto the SDC website (www.stratford.gov.uk) and put ASB into the search box, the relevant form should be the first item to come up in the search.

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