

Lighthorne Parish Council AGM 12th May 2026

Warwickshire County Council approved its budget for 2026/27, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years.

The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures. The medium-term financial strategy also sets out a programme of efficiency savings and investments to maintain the Council's strong focus on prevention to help reduce future demand on services.

For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week.

SEND provision

Warwickshire County Council has approved additions to the Education Capital Programme 2025/26 to expand specialist resourced provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to allocate over £320k from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation

Adult Social Care Service Rated 'Good' by CQC

WCC is celebrating a positive outcome from the Care Quality Commission's assessment of Adult Social Care which recognises the county as a high performing on Adult Social Care needs. Adult Social Care is the largest expenditure for Warwickshire County Council @ £310m per year. As an example, in 2024 The average cost of a local authority-funded care home place for someone aged over 65 was £951 a week and the costs are rising.

Home to school transport

Home to school transport is another big spend for WCC at over £40m per year.

However, we are Recalibrating Warwickshire and Fundamental changes are coming.

We are focused on the future and have set out our objectives for the next four years in our draft Council Plan which details our purpose and direction for our residents, partners, businesses and staff.

The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive.

Our plan is to deliver improvement for the people of Warwickshire. Rising demand for children's services and adult social care and a SEND system are under pressure.

This plan sets out how we will recalibrate Warwickshire, to make sure that the people of Warwickshire get a better deal. We will:

- Put residents of our County and their interests first in everything that we do. From planning decisions to how we allocate school places and design social care, we will fight for the best interests of local people.

Support residents who need help to make sure they don't get left behind. We will do this by putting a new focus on prevention, personal responsibility. Our towns and villages are the lifeblood of our economy, heritage and culture and we must do all we can to support them.

We will do this while keeping council tax increases as low as possible, to recognise the financial pressures faced by all the residents of Warwickshire, always remembering that every pound we spend needs to deliver for you, the taxpayer. The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive.

Chris Mills

County Councillor

Lighthorne