Council Tax Changes in Shetland

SHETLAND
ISLANDS COUNCIL

This consultation asks for your views on proposed Council Tax changes.

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Shetland Islands Council is changing **Council Tax** for **second homes** and **long-term empty properties**.



Since April 2024, second homes pay double the normal Council tax.



For long-term empty properties, the extra fee started in April 2024. At first, it was one quarter more than the normal charge. The extra fee will increase over time.



The extra fees will increase each year.

April 2025	Half the normal Council Tax charge
April 2026	Three quarters of the normal Council Tax charge
April 2027	The same as the normal Council Tax charge



Council Tax

Your Name
88 Your Street
Your Town
AN35 8TT

Council Tax Bill 2024-2025

Date
26 February 2025

Your Account Number
02 30 56 22

This property is listed in Band B

Council Tax for 1/4/2024 - 31/3/2025 %change from
Your City Council £560.22 2.0%
Adult Social Care £45.65 3.0%
Police £102.70 3.6%
Fire Service £48.22 2.0%

Total Council Tax £1,206.79

Less reduction for Disabilities -£301.70
Less single person discount -£301.70
Less Council Tax support - £297.80
Less overpayments - £0.00

Total Council Tax £305.59

Please see the back of this bill for how to contact us.

Please tell us if there is a change which will affect your bill, for example if you move house of if we need to stop a discount. You will need to tell us within 21 days or you could be fined.

We have granted sole occupier 25% discount because we believe only one adult over 18 lives here.

We have granted a reduction for Disabilities of 25%.

Thank you for paying by Direct Debit. We will collect your Council Tax in 10 instalments as follows: - £30.35 on or just after 30.04.2019 then £27 on or just after the last day of each month for 9 months starting 31.05.2019.

The council tax attributable to your city council includes a precept to fund adult social care, and the city council's increase is below the referendum threshold. Please see the back of the bill for further information or visit www.cityscouncil.gov.uk/counciltax

Helpline
0800 222 33 44

From April 2026, local councils can set higher Council Tax charges for long-term empty properties. This can be more than double the normal Council Tax rate.



These changes are to encourage people to use empty properties and help with **housing pressures**.



Some discounts and exemptions are set by law and can't be changed by the Council.



In August 2024, the Council added some exemptions for special cases to these premiums.



The exemptions help in situations where the premium does not fit the Council's goals.



It is important to not share any personal information in your consultation response.



The survey is divided into sections with questions about existing Council decisions.



You can suggest new ideas for exemptions or changes in the survey.



Questions might look the same but can focus on different situations.



The survey also includes questions to check if all age groups are participating.



There are **discretionary powers** for properties with a **demolition warrant** from 1st April 2025.



Discretionary power means they look at each case and decide what is appropriate.



If selling your home takes longer, you might get **special help**. This is called an exemption.



The exemption can be for properties empty for less than three years or recently sold.



There are **discretionary powers** for properties needing major repairs or renovations.



If you buy an empty property that needs repairs. You may pay half Council Tax for 6 months.



The Council also asks if more exemptions should be added for long-term empty properties.



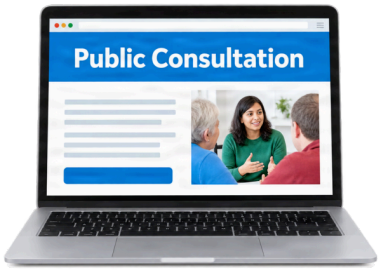
Second homes used for crofting do not pay the extra fee.



A second home needed for travel from an outer island may also be exempt.



Staff accommodation used for work may also be exempt from the extra fee.



The **Council** wants your views on whether to change the extra fees.



If you do not agree with the fees. You can suggest other ideas to help with **housing**.



The Council would like to hear your views. To complete the online survey, click here.

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