



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION

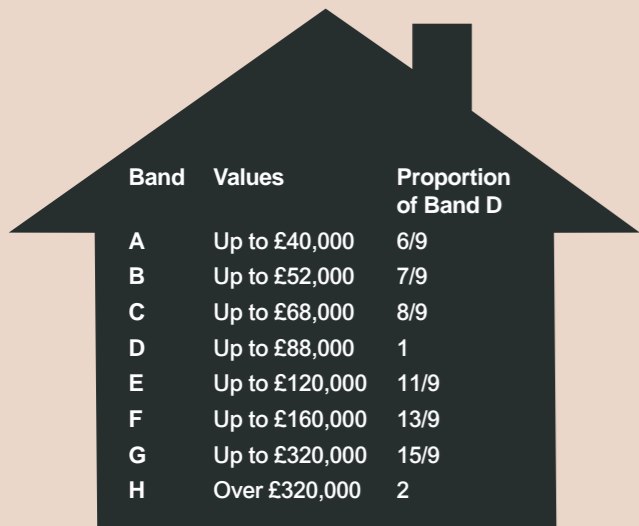
2025/26

for **with** you
you

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1. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET



The Council Tax you pay depends on the valuation your property has been given by the Valuation Office Agency. The amount payable is based on the market value of the property as of 1 April 1991.

Your Council Tax bill tells you which band applies to your home.

The amount of Council Tax charge for each band depends upon the tax set for band D and is calculated using the proportions shown.

	2024/25	2025/26	Increase
Amount met from Council Taxpayer	£95.819m	£101.050m	5.46%
Council Tax Base (Band D equivalents)	53,461	53,700	
Band D Council Tax	£1,792.31	£1,881.75	4.99%

If you live in a Parish that charges a precept, your Council Tax will be higher. Please see Section 2 for details.

THE BASIC COUNCIL TAX FOR A BAND D PROPERTY HAS BEEN SET AT:



Not all Council Tax collected pays for council services. It also supports Police, the Combined Authority and the Fire and Rescue Authority too.

BASIC COUNCIL TAX PAYABLE FOR 2025/26 (NON-PARISH)					
Band	St Helens (£)	Police (£)	Fire (£)	CA (£)	Total (£)
A	1,254.50	185.98	64.17	16.00	1,520.65
B	1,463.59	216.98	74.86	18.67	1,774.10
C	1,672.66	247.97	85.56	21.33	2,027.52
D	1,881.75	278.97	96.25	24.00	2,280.97
E	2,299.92	340.96	117.64	29.33	2,787.85
F	2,718.08	402.96	139.03	34.67	3,294.74
G	3,136.25	464.95	160.42	40.00	3,801.62
H	3,763.50	557.94	192.50	48.00	4,561.94

For 2025/26, the Government requires St Helens Borough Council to hold a referendum with local residents if it proposes to increase Band D Council Tax by 5% or more. Therefore, no referendum is required.

Revenue Spending 2025/26

Our total 2025/26 budget is **£539.8m** (Gross Revenue Expenditure).

In 2024/25 the equivalent amount was **£515.1m**.

The change in Gross Revenue Expenditure is due to a number of cost pressures, additional spend funded by non-Council Tax sources and savings made for 2025/26.

DEMAND/COST LED PRESSURES	£12.3M
PRICE INFLATION	£8.3M
ADDITIONAL SPEND FUNDED BY GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	£5.2M
PAY INFLATION	£4.5M
SAVINGS	-£5.6M

2. COUNCIL TAX CHARGES

The table below shows the amount of Council Tax you will pay dependent on which area of the Borough you live in. This includes the Adult Social Care Precept.

COUNCIL TAX CHARGES 2025/26								
Parts of the Council's Area	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bold	1,529.98	1,784.99	2,039.96	2,294.97	2,804.96	3,314.96	3,824.95	4,589.94
Rainford	1,542.14	1,799.18	2,056.18	2,313.21	2,827.25	3,341.31	3,855.35	4,626.42
Eccleston	1,534.61	1,790.39	2,046.13	2,301.91	2,813.44	3,324.99	3,836.52	4,603.82
Windle	1,529.28	1,784.17	2,039.03	2,293.92	2,803.68	3,313.45	3,823.20	4,587.84
Rainhill	1,533.36	1,788.92	2,044.46	2,300.03	2,811.15	3,322.27	3,833.39	4,600.06
Billinge	1,539.50	1,796.09	2,052.65	2,309.24	2,822.40	3,335.57	3,848.74	4,618.48
Seneley Green	1,554.42	1,813.50	2,072.55	2,331.63	2,849.77	3,367.92	3,886.05	4,663.26
All other parts of the council's area	1,520.65	1,774.10	2,027.52	2,280.97	2,787.85	3,294.74	3,801.62	4,561.94

3. MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING AND WASTE AUTHORITY (MRWA)

We are the public body responsible for dealing with household waste and recycling once it's been collected from your home.

We work hard to encourage Merseyside's householders to use less in the first place and, through our 16 Household Waste Recycling Centres and District Council kerbside collections, to recycle as much as they can.

Using the latest technology, we aim to make sure as much waste as possible is sustainably managed.

Our Energy from Waste facility in Wilton diverts the majority of Merseyside's non-recycled waste from landfill, whilst our two Materials Recovery Facilities sort and separate recycled materials where they then go on to be processed into new items.

Last year, 35% of Merseyside's household waste was reused, recycled and composted. Recycling, alongside our waste prevention work and involvement with community projects, can help us all contribute to cutting waste levels and fighting climate change.

You can read more about our work at www.merseysidewda.gov.uk.

The Levy for St Helens MBC for 2025/26 will be £10,022,303.



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

For more information contact:
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority
7th Floor
No.1 Mann Island
Liverpool
L3 1BP
Tel: **0151 255 1444**
E-mail: enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk
Web: www.merseysidewda.gov.uk
www.recyclerright.org.uk
www.zerowastelcr.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A comparison of Expenditure and Income for 2024/25 and 2025/26 is as follows.

	2024/25	2025/26
	£M	£M
Total Net Expenditure	84.409	74.762
Contribution to Reserves	0	8.730
Total Requirement	84.409	83.492
Use of Reserves	-2.558	0
Levy	81.851	83.492
Levy per head (Merseyside)	£57.51	£57.32

4. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 6500 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

NORTH WEST REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

	2024/25 '000s	2025/26 '000s
Gross Expenditure	£117,163	£129,046
Levies Raised	£4,544	£4,681
Total Council Tax Base	2,278	2,328

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy. A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 3.0%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £4,544,250 in 2024/2025 to £4,680,577 for 2025/2026.



5. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION - METRO MAYOR AND COMBINED AUTHORITY

Since 2014, St Helens has been a member of the Liverpool City Region. So, that does this mean for you?

It means that residents can reap the benefits of devolved, local leadership – capturing opportunities that may previously have been out of reach and accessing funding only obtainable to areas with Combined Authority status.

Steve Rotheram is the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region. Since he was elected in 2017, he has been committed to building a fairer, more equal future for the 1.6 million people who call our area home, where no one is left behind.

In what has been an incredibly challenging year for many households, Mayor Rotheram has made it his priority to ensure that families in our area feel protected from the worst impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.

From the Mayor's Young Person's Guarantee, which promises all of our young people a job, training or apprenticeship, to Housing First, a radical new approach to helping the homeless, we are leading the way in building a fairer, more inclusive local economy.

To date thousands of our most vulnerable families have been helped to save hundreds of pounds on their energy bills as a result of the Mayor Rotheram's £105m retrofitting programme - with many families given a chance to get on the property ladder in quality, affordable homes in Moss Nook and Thatto Heath through his Brownfield Land Fund.

The Mayor's interventions have created **tens of thousands of jobs and apprenticeships**, with **£53m awarded for the Parkside Interchange Project and £9m for Glass Futures**, a global centre of excellence based in St Helens. More than **£50m has also been invested in local schools and colleges**. Hundreds of long-term unemployed people have also been supported through our Households into Work programme.

With plans to regenerate St Helens Town centre, **£32m is being invested in a new transport interchange** which will create better links between bus, rail and active travel routes.

The Mayor is well on the way to building an integrated London-style public

transport network that makes it cheaper, faster, cleaner and more reliable to get around. Despite rising to £3 nationally, the Mayor has stepped in to extend the region's £2 bus fare cap until at least September 2025, keeping travelling by bus affordable for residents across the region.

Following the landmark decision made in 2023, the Mayor is continuing to make progress in **taking back control of the region's bus network**, with St Helens set to be the first in line to benefit from cheaper, more reliable services. This will give local leaders greater say over fares, routes and timetables.

In 2024, **£26m was invested in 50 new zero-emission double-deckers**, meaning the total number of publicly-owned, fully electric buses in the city regions fleet will be over 100. They will be introduced across the network over the coming years, marking a huge step towards the Mayor's goal of reaching net zero carbon in the Liverpool City Region by 2035.

Liverpool City Region residents also benefit from one of the **most generous concessionary travel schemes in the country**. Residents are entitled to receive

their travel passes when they turn 60 – a full seven years ahead of the national scheme. There are also discount schemes that help young people, apprentices and people with disabilities to benefit from fare reductions or to travel for free.

A total of **£60m has been awarded to improve Newton-le-Willows and Lea Green stations**, with over £100m invested in active travel infrastructure across the region - including the new CYCLOPS junction in Lea Green.

Ensuring the next generation inherits a greener, cleaner Liverpool City Region is a key priority for the Mayor - under his plans, we will hit net zero carbon by 2035, over a decade before national government targets. Our pioneering work on Mersey Tidal Power, which has the potential to generate enough renewable energy to power 1m homes and create thousands of local jobs and training opportunities, will have a big role to play in helping our city region hit its targets.



Steve Rotheram
Mayor of the
Liverpool City Region



METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

2024/25 £'000		2025/26 £'000
241,908	Gross Expenditure	292,713
(121,817)	Income and Specific Grants	(161,066)
(105,300)	Income from Levy	(107,090)
(6,694)	Contributions from Reserves	(14,098)
8,098	Council Tax Requirement	10,459
426,235	Tax Base	435,808
£19.00	Band D Equivalent	£24.00

The movement in the gross expenditure budget is detailed below.

	£'000
Gross Expenditure 2024/25	241,908
Additional Treasury Management Income	(2,000)
Transport related Expenditure funded by Reserves	7,398
Net Change in Revenue Grant Funded Activity	36,959
Inflationary and other cost pressures	6,067
Mayoral Priorities	2,381
Gross Expenditure 2025/26	292,713

For more information, visit: www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Transport Funding

The LCRCAs transport responsibilities are funded through transport levies across each of the six councils.

This funds concessionary travel, subsidised bus services, the Mersey Ferries and a range of other services.

The transport levy 2025/26 for each of the Merseyside Councils within the LCRCAs is:

	Transport Levy 2024/25 £'000	Transport Levy 2025/26 £'000
Knowsley	11,471	11,708
Liverpool	36,276	37,036
Sefton	20,518	20,788
St Helens	13,486	13,674
Wirral	23,548	23,884
Total	105,300	107,090

Please note that, for historical and legal reasons, Halton Borough Council currently provide transport activities directly within the boundaries of the borough of Halton.

The orders that created the Combined Authority allowed for a differential levy recognising that Halton Borough Council remains responsible for transport in the Halton area, whereas the other areas of the Combined Authority remain the responsibility of Merseytravel. This levy will be £3.455m for 2025/26.



Mayor Steve Rotheram

Mayor of the Liverpool City Region



Mr John Fogarty, B.A. Hons, C.P.F.A.

Executive Director of Corporate Services:
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority



6. THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR MERSEYSIDE

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, it is my responsibility to ensure Merseyside Police is well equipped to manage and respond to the risks that threaten your safety and make you feel unsafe.

Regrettably, this is becoming more difficult year on year. As new problems and risks emerge, and crime becomes more sophisticated, the gulf between what we have and

what we need keeps on growing. The position is made more challenging by rising costs, including pay and inflation, stretching the policing budget ever more thinly.

While I was extremely reluctant to ask local taxpayers to pay more, I am grateful for your support for paying a little extra towards policing to ensure the force can still deliver the strong and visible policing presence important to all of us.

HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

DESCRIPTION	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Police Officer Pay	221.466	246.092
Police Pensions	69.219	72.099
Police Staff Pay	92.411	111.261
Police Staff Pensions	14.611	16.584
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	1.650	1.837
PCC Controlled Expenditure	12.184	10.156
Other	60.721	43.846
Gross Expenditure	472.262	501.875

HOW OUR SPENDING HAS CHANGED:

GROSS EXPENDITURE 2024/25	£m 472.262
Full Year Effect of 2024 pay award above original budget	5.456
Impact of Price Inflation above 2024/25 contingency	0.742
Increase in Employers National Insurance	6.920
Cost of Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee	6.665
Additional Recruitment Top Up Expenditure	1.722
Allowance for Pay Inflation	12.801
Allowance for Price Inflation	1.866
Net Committed Growth/(Savings)	(6.559)
GROSS EXPENDITURE 2025/26	501.875

I am also grateful to the Police and Crime Panel, the body tasked with scrutinising my work, for unanimously endorsing my proposals.

Even with the additional precept income, and the funding provided by the Government, there is still a significant budget gap. The Chief Constable is working hard to find further efficiency savings on top of those already identified, and I plan to utilise reserves and one-off funding this year to balance the budget in a way that will protect officer and staff numbers and continue service delivery. I will also hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure we maximise every penny of the budget delivering on the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan to keep you safe.

Despite the budget challenges, crime on Merseyside is falling. The most recent crime figures show a drop of 13%

in overall crime in the year ending 30 September 2024, with reductions in key crime types including violence, robbery, anti-social behaviour and burglary.

During the 2024/25 financial year I successfully secured £12.017m of additional funding, an increase of £1.637m on the previous year to make Merseyside safer, by preventing crime, bringing offenders to justice and protecting victims. I will continue my work to secure more funding for our region and will fight to get Merseyside Police the funding it needs to see the return of the 450 missing officers, as well as protect staff jobs, so it can deliver a visible police presence in every community on Merseyside.

Thank you for playing a vital role in helping us to protect our police service.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

SOURCE	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Police General Grant	(304.702)	(315.998)
Council Tax Grants	(15.641)	(15.641)
Council Tax Requirement	(103.292)	(111.273)
Collection Fund Deficit / (Surplus)	0.180	(0.928)
Net Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(3.425)	(4.116)
Specific Government Grants	(42.249)	(50.747)
Income	(3.133)	(3.172)
Total Funding	(472.262)	(501.875)



Emily Spurrell
Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside
Mather Avenue Training Centre, 224 Mather Avenue, Liverpool
L18 9TG

Tel: 0151 777 5155

Email: info@merseysidepcc.info

www.merseysidepcc.info

THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR MERSEYSIDE

WHY HAS COUNCIL TAX CHANGED?	
	£m
Council Tax Requirement 2024/25	(103.292)
Increase in tax base	(2.397)
Increase in Band D Equivalent	(5.584)
Council Tax Requirement 2025/26	(111.273)

2024/25		2025/26	INCREASE
389,826	Tax base (Band D equivalent properties)	398,872	9,046
£264.97	Band D Equivalent Charge	£278.97	£14.00

YOUR CONTRIBUTION 2025/26:

Tax Band A*	£185.98	*majority of taxpayers on Merseyside
Tax Band B	£216.98	
Tax Band C	£247.97	
Tax Band D	£278.97	
Tax Band E	£340.96	
Tax Band F	£402.96	
Tax Band G	£464.95	
Tax Band H	£557.94	

INCREASE FROM 2024/25:

£9.33
£10.89
£12.44
£14.00
£17.11
£20.23
£23.33
£28.00



7. MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Precept Information 2025/26

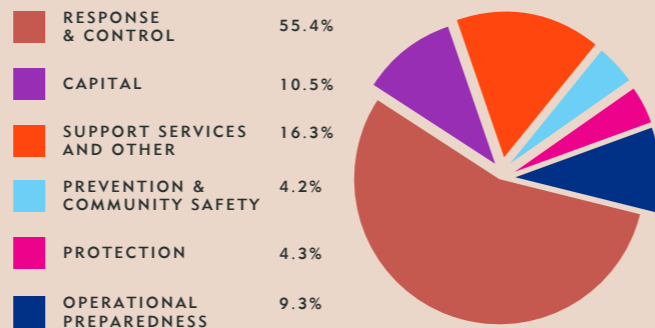
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority has again been judged as 'Outstanding' in its use of resources by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in 2023. Once again, the Authority has set its budget in response to all foreseeable risk from fire and other emergencies, particularly the Service's ability to respond to large, complex and/or protracted incidents. The Authority's budget will also enhance its protection (fire safety) services in the light of the Grenfell Tower fire, and towards those most at risk to fire through its 'Outstanding' prevention activity.

The Authority has delivered significant re-investment into the frontline since 2018, secured through prudent financial management and by staffing its fire stations to meet demand. In its Community Risk Management Plan for 2024/27, the Authority is proposing to invest in the Service again in 2025/2026 which will result in further increases in fire engine availability from 32 to 34, along with technical developments that improve response times, increase investment in training and assurance given the Grenfell Tower Phase 2 report, specialist clothing, bespoke equipment and enhancements in areas directly related to firefighter safety. The Authority's capital programme means we can invest £43m in the Service's infrastructure by 2029/2030, and this will ensure firefighters have the best equipment to respond to a variety of risks to keep Merseyside communities safe. The ongoing investment the Authority has made in the Service and the benefits this brings to Merseyside communities, were reflected in the last HMICFRS inspection report. The Service was congratulated on its performance in keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks. HMICFRS graded the Service as

'outstanding' in three areas, 'good' in five areas and 'adequate' in three areas. Meaning it is currently highest performing fire & rescue service in England.

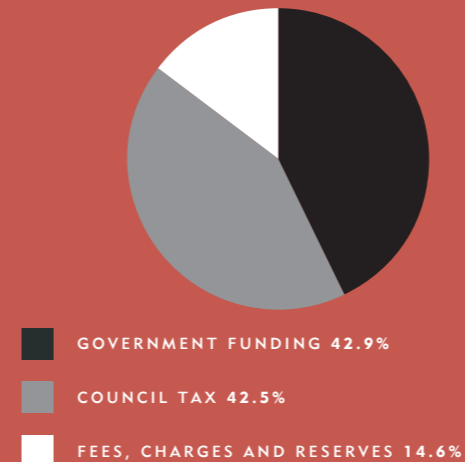
How The Money Is Spent

Approximately 73.2% of the Authority's 2025/2026 budget remains committed to delivering emergency response; plus services that help us prevent and prepare for emergencies and carry out our legal responsibilities relating to fire safety. We also know through consultation, that the public support our priorities. The costs associated with funding capital investment account for 10.5% of the Authority's budget and this relates to investment in frontline activities such as fire stations, fire engines and operational equipment. The remaining 16.3% is spent on support services, of which a significant proportion relates to essential frontline service support such as insurance of vehicles and premises, the vehicle maintenance workshop, and ICT costs.



How We Are Funded

The Authority's 2025/2026 Gross Budget is £91.2m and the graph below outlines how this is funded.



The Authority set a Council Tax requirement of £38.391m for 2025/2026 and a Council Tax for a Band D property of £96.25, a £5.00 increase on the 2024/2025 figure of £91.25.

By increasing the council tax charge, it allows the Authority to maintain the investment in frontline services and fund the further investment planned in 2025/2026. Most council taxpayers in Merseyside will pay Band A Council Tax of £64.17 about 18p per day towards their Fire and Rescue Service.

The Authority has issued a precept on the five Merseyside District Councils of £38.391m, St Helens contribution to

COUNCIL TAX CHARGE

The Council Tax for a Band D property has been set at:

	£M	COUNCIL TAX FOR A BAND D PROPERTY
Gross Budget	91.260	
Income & Specific Grants	(13.491)	
Net Movement on Reserves	0.165	
Net Budget Requirement	77.934	
Government Settlement Funding (less Local Business Rates Adjustment)	(39.129)	
Council Tax/Business Rates Collection Fund Surplus	(0.414)	
Council Tax Requirement	38.391	
Tax Base		398,872.20
Band D Equivalent		£96.25

expenditure financed by precept is **£5.169m**, which represents **13.46%** of the total precept.

Contact Us

Mike Rea, B.A. (Hons), ACMA.
 Director of Finance and Procurement
 Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
 Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bridle Road, Bootle,
 Liverpool, L30 4YD
 Email: mikerea@merseyfire.gov.uk

8. HELP & SUPPORT

HELP KEEP COUNCIL COSTS DOWN



Manage your Council Tax online

Sign up for e-billing and help the council cut down on costly paperwork, visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/counciltax



Contact the council and make payments online

Online transactions are more efficient and cost effective for the council. The self-service section of our website is available for fast and easy access to council services, visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/pay



Recycle more

Recycling helps protect our environment and reduces costs. Find out more on: www.sthelens.gov.uk/recycling

WAYS WE CAN HELP



Work and Employment

If you are currently unemployed and would like advice or support about getting back into work. Please visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/waystowork or call the 'Ways to Work' team on: **01744 676131**.



Money Advice

If you are having problems paying your Council Tax contact us immediately. Please visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/counciltaxadvice or call us on: **01744 675255**.



Welfare Assistance Scheme

Find out what financial assistance and other support is available to residents at: www.sthelens.gov.uk/sthelenstogether



Reduce Your Bill

You could be eligible for help towards the cost of your Council Tax. For more information about the Council Tax Reduction scheme or other Council Tax discounts, exemptions and reliefs, please visit: www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/3463/Reduce-your-bill



Energy Savings

Our Affordable Warmth team can help reduce your energy usage and save on your gas and electricity bills. Find out more at: www.sthelens.gov.uk/saveenergy

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION



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ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Please contact us to request translation of Council information into Braille, audio tape or a foreign language.

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