CASTLE WEALTH
Independent Financial Advice

GUIDE TO THE

Autumn Budget 2026

A pivotal moment for the UK as Chancellor John Healey, presents his first Budget



Head Office:
Thremhall Park, Start Hill,
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7WE
Tel: 01279 874505 **Fax:** 01279 874303

Chelmsford Office:
Old Park Farm, Ford End,
Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1LN
Tel: 01245 860912

Web: www.castlewealth.co.uk
Email: info@castlewealth.co.uk

Castle Wealth Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). FCA Number: 1021791.
Registered office: Lewis House, Great Chesterford Court, Great Chesterford, Essex, CB10 1PF. Registered in England and Wales Company no 07676287.

Welcome

Breathing space for British families still facing financial pressures

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey delivered his maiden Budget to Parliament on Wednesday 28 October, amid global uncertainty. He said the conflict in the Middle East and Russia's invasion of Ukraine had disrupted the global economy, driving up costs and putting pressure on households, businesses and communities. He added that the Budget was designed to ease immediate financial pressures while laying the foundations for a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Britain.

TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING

"The Government's priority is to help families manage rising costs, boost business confidence and address the challenges facing communities," Mr Healey said. The measures focus on reducing the cost of living, particularly energy bills, while avoiding broad-based tax rises and protecting most people and businesses from tax increases.

However, the Chancellor stressed that the Government must look beyond immediate challenges to secure long-term prosperity. He highlighted the importance of supporting economic growth across the UK, giving local leaders greater economic powers and ensuring that opportunities reach towns, cities and regions. He said that creating the right conditions for growth would be essential to improving living standards and supporting communities across the country.

BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE

The Budget also prioritises lower energy bills, expanded social housing provision and stronger national security. Mr Healey said these measures would help build a more resilient country, better equipped to improve living standards and respond to global challenges.

He emphasised that sound public finances were essential to achieving these ambitions, providing the foundation for sustainable economic growth and public investment. The Budget also aims to encourage business investment and support communities, alongside the Government's forthcoming 10-Year Plan and the next Spending Review. The Chancellor said that maintaining a balance between immediate financial support and long-term investment would be important in securing the country's future prosperity.

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Mr Healey noted that today's decisions would shape opportunities for future generations. While acknowledging that Britain could not prevent every global shock or resolve every challenge immediately, he stressed that the Government could act with purpose and fairness to improve working people's lives.

Concluding his remarks, the Chancellor said the Budget was about more than figures; it was about setting a clear direction for the country. He highlighted the need to help people navigate current financial pressures while preparing Britain to seize future opportunities. The overarching ambition, he said, was to provide breathing space today, build resilience for tomorrow and create renewed hope for generations to come. ◄

WHAT DOES THE AUTUMN BUDGET STATEMENT 2026 MEAN TO YOU?

Our Autumn Budget 2026 guide explains the key announcements and what they could mean for you, your personal finances and your business. With households facing ongoing cost-of-living pressures and businesses navigating an uncertain economic climate, understanding the changes ahead has never been more important.

This guide provides a general overview of the key announcements in the Autumn Budget 2026 for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate and up to date at the time of publication, Budget announcements may be subject to change, further clarification, or the introduction of legislation. Measures may not take effect immediately and their impact will vary depending on individual circumstances.

Please note that tax rates, bands and certain rules differ for Scottish taxpayers, so the measures outlined in this guide may not apply in the same way to everyone across the UK.

The information in this guide does not constitute financial, tax, legal or other professional advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for advice tailored to your personal or business circumstances. If you are unsure about the best course of action, we recommend seeking professional financial or tax advice before making decisions or taking action based on the information provided.

For the latest information on Budget measures and their implementation, please refer to official sources, including GOV.UK and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

We accept no responsibility for any loss arising from reliance on the information contained in this guide.













Contents

02 WELCOME
Breathing space for British families still facing financial pressures

04 AUTUMN BUDGET STATEMENT 2026 ANNOUNCEMENTS AT A GLANCE
The main measures and what they mean for your money, family and business

06 ECONOMY AND THE PUBLIC FINANCES
Rising borrowing costs and resilient economic growth

07 BREATHING SPACE FOR BRITAIN
Fiscal discipline, economic resilience and a buffer against global uncertainty

08 ENERGY BILLS
Immediate bill relief and long-term energy reform

09 CASH ISA £12,000 CAP SCRAPPED
Government abandons planned restriction on tax-free cash savings

10 TARGETED SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDS
Higher minimum wages and greater support for families

11 TARGETED SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES
Easing cost pressures across retail, hospitality and leisure

12 PUBLIC SPENDING
Reforming the state and strengthening public services

14 REVENUE RAISING
Tax policy adjustments to deliver Budget commitments

15 GOOD GROWTH IN EVERY POSTCODE
Driving economic growth across every region and nation

16 FRESH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE
Building Britain's resilience and improving living standards

17 A SAFER BRITAIN
Strengthening national security and defence capabilities



Autumn Budget Statement 2026 announcements at a glance

The main measures and what they mean for your money, family and business

Chancellor John Healey has announced his first Autumn Budget, unveiling a £100 "household energy payment" for 20 million households in council tax bands A to D in England, with equivalent funding for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The measures include a time-limited 3% surcharge on bank profits, tax increases on certain savings and rental income and plans to expand regional financial powers, with mayors receiving a share of income tax from 2028 onwards.

The Budget also targets energy costs, business support, pensions and wages and benefits. Inflation is forecast to return to 2% in 2028, with economic growth expected to slow next year and borrowing to fall as a share of GDP.

We have summarised the key announcements from the Autumn Budget at a glance, highlighting the main changes and their potential implications for households, workers and businesses across the UK.

ECONOMY

- Government borrowing is predicted to be higher than previously expected in every year of the latest forecast
- Inflation is forecast to average 3.1% this year and 3.4% in 2027, above previous forecasts, before falling to the government's 2% target in 2028
- UK national debt is set to rise from 96% of GDP this year to 97% in 2028/29, then fall back to 96% in 2031
- The OBR predicts the UK economy will grow by 1.2% this year, up from its previous estimate of 1.1%
- Borrowing as a proportion of GDP is forecast to fall to 4.2% this year and then decline each year to reach 1.8% in 2030/31
- Economic growth is expected to slow to 1% next year, down from the previous forecast of 1.6%, before recovering to 1.6% in 2028

WAGES, BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

- Legal minimum wage to increase by 3.9% in April
- Parental pay extended to self-employed fathers and to parents in same-sex couples
- A new tax-free allowance for low-income pensioners will ensure that those with incomes up to the full new State Pension amount will not pay income tax
- Unpaid carers will no longer lose their entire Carer's Allowance if they earn more than £204 a week after tax, as a taper rate will replace the previous rule
- The new flat-rate state pension will increase by £488 a year from April — equivalent to 3.9% — under the triple lock, while the old basic state pension will rise by £374.40

ENERGY AND COST OF LIVING

- Freeze on fuel duty extended again until July 2027
- A green levy — the Gas Shipper Obligation to fund hydrogen projects — to be removed from energy bills and shifted to general taxation
- A new scheme offering 25% off electricity bills for 10,000 firms will launch in April 2027, with payments backdated to cover this year's energy costs
- One-off £100 payment for 20 million households in council tax bands A to D in England to help with rising energy bills, with equivalent funding for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Import taxes to be removed on more than 100 food products, including gherkins, marmalade, kerosene and fertilisers
- VAT cut on electricity bills extended from April to July 2027
- Standing charges — fixed daily fees customers pay regardless of usage — to be removed from household gas bills in England, Scotland and Wales, with costs added to the unit rate
- A 55p-per-mile tax-free mileage rate for those driving up to 10,000 miles for work has been made permanent, with the rate rising from 25p to 35p per mile for any distance beyond that

HOUSING

- An extra £432m for a programme aimed at giving every rough sleeper in England a route off the streets by Christmas
- An additional £1bn for social and affordable housing in England, bringing the total funding for the 10-year programme to more than £40bn

DEFENCE

- Details of how the government will meet its NATO commitment to spend 3.5% of GDP on defence by 2035 will be set out at next year's Spending Review, with a 2030 target of 3%
- Defence Investment Plan to be fully funded by reprioritising government budgets, after Sir Keir Starmer committed only £10.3bn to the £15bn plan
- Extra £10bn of economic and military support for Ukraine

DEVOLUTION AND REGIONS

- Regional bodies and mayors in England to receive greater powers over spending, starting with £285m next year for housing, transport and High Streets
- A share of income tax receipts to be paid to mayors from 2028 onwards
- Government to work with mayors to design a £1.5bn borrowing facility to enable investment in larger projects
- All business rates to be retained locally by the end of the decade, with mayors retaining 20% of revenue from next year

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fund to tackle misogyny in schools, at work and in communities to receive £15m
- The amount people can contribute to tax-free Cash ISAs (Individual Savings Accounts) will remain at £20,000 a year, with plans to reduce the limit to £12,000 for under-65s scrapped
- More than £600m of investment in artificial intelligence (AI) projects, including an additional £120m for the UK's AI Security Institute and £100m for a national AI Biosecurity Lab

BUSINESS

- Requirements for online marketplaces such as Amazon, eBay and Temu to be strengthened to prevent sellers using their platforms from avoiding paying VAT
- Taxes on gambling machines to rise from 20% to 25% for higher-stakes machines
- The threshold at which High Street shops in England start paying business rates is to be increased from £12,000 to £18,000, meaning businesses would pay no rates on properties with a rateable value below this level
- Surcharge banks pay on their profits will rise from 3% to 6% for 15 months, starting in January
- Adult gaming centres and vape shops will not be eligible for business rates relief



The Budget also targets energy costs, business support, pensions and wages and benefits. Inflation is forecast to return to 2% in 2028, with economic growth expected to slow next year and borrowing to fall as a share of GDP.



Mr Healey acknowledged that higher borrowing costs and debt interest payments would further strain public finances, reinforcing the need for careful fiscal management.

Economy and the public finances

Rising borrowing costs and resilient economic growth

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, highlighted the impact of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East on global financial markets and government borrowing costs. He said that all G7 countries had seen borrowing costs rise to, or close to, levels not seen for decades. He noted that this would increase the cost of servicing UK government debt, with the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasting an average of £14 billion in additional debt interest per year, compared with its Spring forecast.

Despite these external pressures, Mr Healey highlighted signs of resilience in the UK economy. Since the start of the current Parliament, whole-economy investment had risen by 6.9% and business investment by 7.5%, while productivity growth had exceeded 2% last year. He said these developments would support economic performance and strengthen the UK's longer-term growth prospects.

CHALLENGING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The Chancellor also highlighted the UK's relative economic performance, noting that the country had recorded the joint-fastest GDP growth among G7 countries in the first half of the year. He said the OBR had revised its 2026 growth forecast upwards to 1.2%, while more recent figures showed GDP growth of 0.7% over the three months to August, exceeding expectations. He acknowledged that these figures demonstrated resilience despite the challenging international environment and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.

Mr Healey acknowledged that higher borrowing costs and debt interest payments would further strain public finances, reinforcing the need for careful fiscal management. He emphasised the importance of sustaining investment, improving productivity and supporting economic growth to strengthen public finances over the longer term. Balancing these priorities with the need to manage rising debt-servicing costs would remain a key consideration for the Government. ◂

“The Chancellor also highlighted the UK's relative economic performance, noting that the country had recorded the joint-fastest GDP growth among G7 countries in the first half of the year.”

Breathing space for Britain

Fiscal discipline, economic resilience and a buffer against global uncertainty

Despite signs of resilience in the UK economy, the conflict in the Middle East has affected the UK's growth outlook and many households continue to face financial pressures, Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, acknowledged. He also highlighted the ongoing impact of business costs, including energy bills, regulation and planning constraints, on investment and growth.

He emphasised that fiscal discipline underpins the Government's commitments, supporting economic stability, national security and sustainable growth. Reducing borrowing, he said, strengthens the UK's resilience to global shocks, helps curb inflation and creates breathing space for households and businesses. Mr Healey noted that all Budget measures are fully funded across the forecast period.

He also said that, at a time when households, businesses and the wider economy are under pressure, the Budget avoids broad-based tax increases. Instead, the Government has used some of the fiscal headroom established last year to absorb the impact of higher debt-interest costs arising from the conflict in the Middle East.

How the Government continues to meet its fiscal rules while maintaining a buffer against future economic shocks:

- **Stability rule:** The rule is met with £15 billion in 2029/30, rising to £22 billion in 2030/31. Mr Healey noted that higher debt-interest costs arising from the conflict more than account for the reduction in headroom since the Spring in 2029/30. He described this as the purpose of a fiscal buffer: to provide support when needed and to be rebuilt as soon as conditions allow.
- **Investment rule:** The rule is met by £24 billion in 2029/30, putting debt on a stable trajectory while maintaining plans to deliver more than £120 billion in additional investment this Parliament compared with the previous Government's plans.

Mr Healey further highlighted the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) forecast that the Government's plans will reduce borrowing over the forecast period, placing debt on a downward trajectory. Borrowing is projected to fall to 1.8% of GDP by 2031/32, with debt lower at the end of the forecast period than in 2026/27.

Finally, he pointed to the International Monetary Fund's assessment of the UK's fiscal plans relative to those of its peers. He noted that the UK has delivered the largest reduction in borrowing among the G20 this year and is on track to have the lowest borrowing levels in the G7 from 2029 onwards. ◄



The conflict in the Middle East has affected the UK's growth outlook and highlighted the ongoing impact of business costs, including energy bills, regulation and planning constraints, on investment and growth.

Energy bills

Immediate bill relief and long-term energy reform

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, described the Budget as a shift in the Government's energy policy, responding to the impact of the conflict in the Middle East on household and business bills. He said the Budget would provide immediate financial support and introduce longer-term reforms to improve the energy system for households and businesses.

He highlighted progress towards clean power, arguing that the next priority is to unlock cheaper electricity, reduce bills and support the UK's reindustrialisation. The Chancellor emphasised the need to manage energy costs carefully while investing in the infrastructure required to strengthen energy security, protect households and businesses from volatile international gas prices and expand a grid that has failed to keep pace with demand.

He described the Autumn Budget as the start of a new approach to energy, which the Government's 10-Year Plan would build on, with cheaper energy intended to improve business competitiveness and give households greater financial breathing space. He added that cheaper electricity would encourage electrification, strengthen energy security and help decarbonise the wider economy.

Measures to support households and businesses:

- **Household energy support:** Extend the VAT cut on electricity until July 2027, which is expected to reduce the annual Ofgem price cap by around £50 in April 2027. The Government will also introduce a £2.6 billion Household Energy Payment, providing £100 directly into bank accounts for eligible households in England in council tax bands A to D from January 2027, supporting up to 20 million households. Devolved governments will receive their share of funding via the Barnett formula. The package will be partly funded by a temporary increase in the Bank Corporation Tax Surcharge from 3% to 6% for 15 months, from 1 January 2027 to 31 March 2028.
- **Fuel duty and road tax:** Extend the 5p fuel duty cut and freeze, alongside the Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) road tax holiday, until 1 July 2027. This will keep fuel duty at its lowest level for more than 16 years and substantially lower in real terms, while the red diesel rate remains at its lowest level for more than 20 years.

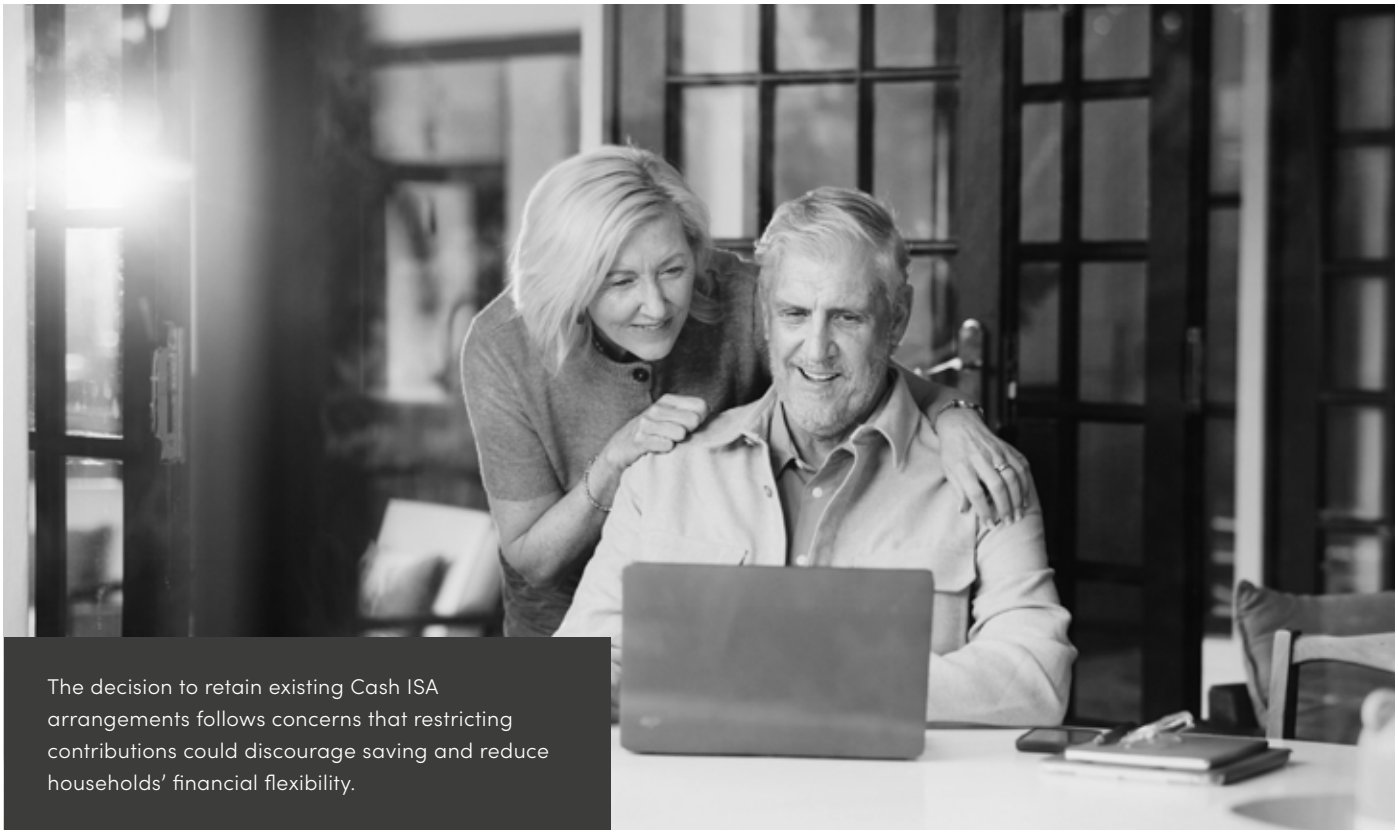
Longer-term reforms intended to reduce energy costs and provide greater certainty for consumers and businesses:

- **Controlling energy costs:** No new policy costs will be added to energy bills until a comprehensive Cost Control Framework is established at the 2027 spending review. The framework will set budgets for the various components of energy costs, including policy costs.
- **Prioritising cheaper energy:** New electricity generation will be procured only where it reduces bills, benefits the energy system and can be accommodated by the grid.
- **Reducing exposure to gas prices:** A consultation on wholesale Contracts for Difference will be published alongside the Budget, outlining the next steps to reduce the impact of gas prices on electricity bills. These contracts fix the price paid to certain renewable energy projects and are intended to help protect households and businesses from volatile gas prices.

From 2027 onwards, Mr Healey said the Government would introduce further measures to reduce costs:

- **British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme:** Offer 10,000 energy-intensive manufacturing firms a 20% to 25% discount on electricity bills from April 2027, including backdated support for 2026/27.
- **Gas standing charges:** Abolish gas standing charges, with targeted measures to ensure the change is implemented fairly.
- **Energy Debt Circuit Breaker:** Introduce a new mechanism to tackle energy debt, expected to save all billpayers around £30 by 2030.
- **Electricity standing charges:** Reform electricity standing charges, with further details to be announced next year.
- **Gas Shipper Obligation:** Scrap the planned new tax on gas bills, ensuring that the costs of hydrogen projects are funded by the Government rather than by consumers.





The decision to retain existing Cash ISA arrangements follows concerns that restricting contributions could discourage saving and reduce households' financial flexibility.

Cash ISA £12,000 cap scrapped

Government abandons planned restriction on tax-free cash savings

Chancellor John Healey has scrapped plans to introduce a £12,000 annual cap on Cash ISA contributions, preserving existing arrangements for tax-efficient cash savings. In his first Budget, Mr Healey also announced that the government would work with the financial services industry to develop a new 'starter ISA' to replace the Lifetime ISA (LISA) as part of wider efforts to encourage first-time investors.

The decision to retain existing Cash ISA arrangements follows concerns that restricting contributions could discourage saving and reduce households' financial flexibility. Cash ISAs allow savers to earn interest tax-free and are commonly used to build emergency funds, save for house deposits and set aside money for future expenses.

WIDER EFFORTS TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION

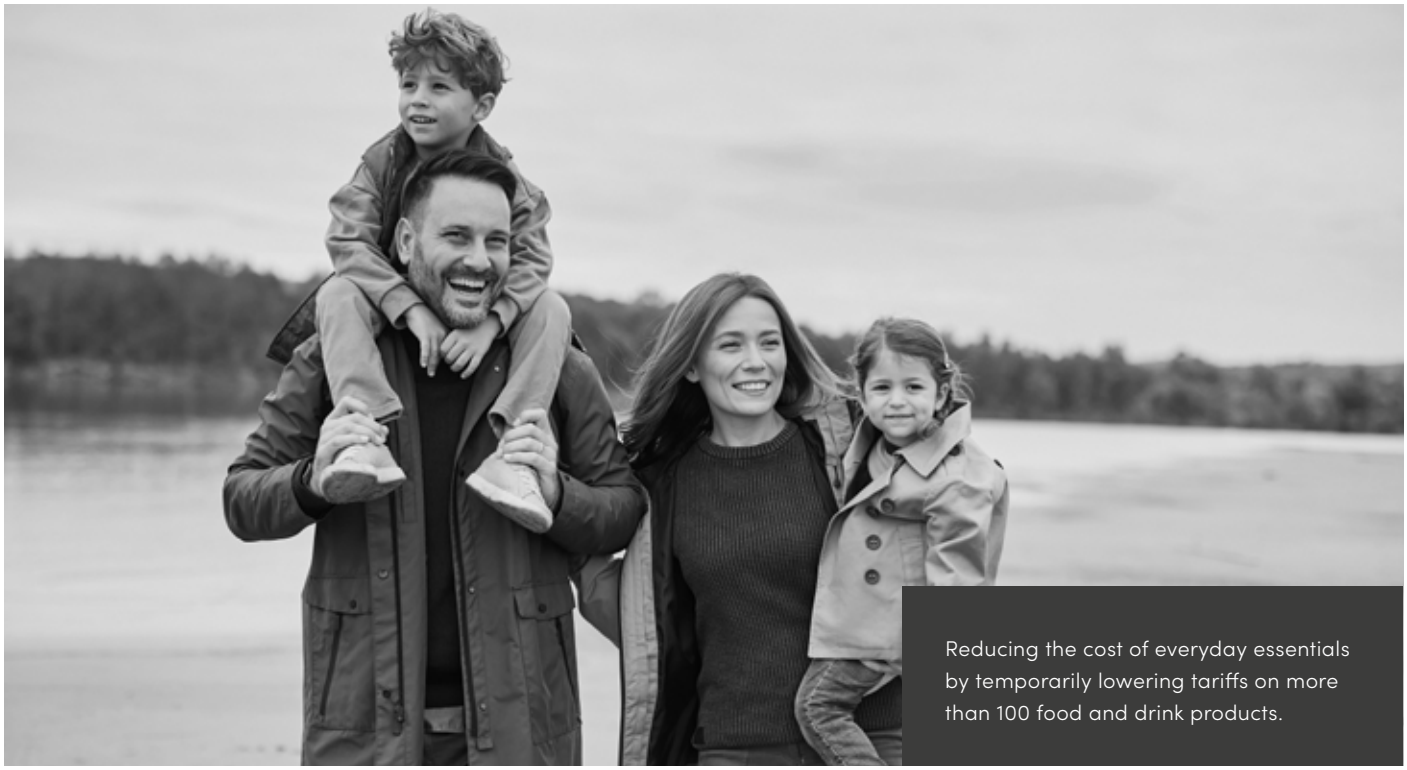
The proposed cap raised concerns among savers wishing to deposit larger sums in a single year, particularly those who prefer the relative certainty of cash products to the risks of stocks and shares. Retaining the existing arrangements provides continuity and allows individuals to continue using Cash ISAs to meet their short- and medium-term savings goals.

The proposed starter ISA could form part of wider efforts to increase participation in financial markets and help more people build long-term wealth. It could also mark a significant change for prospective first-time homebuyers and those saving for the future. However, key details, including eligibility criteria, contribution limits, tax treatment, any government bonus and the launch date, remain to be announced.

BALANCING SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

The Chancellor said the announcement provides continuity for existing Cash ISA holders and offers financial services providers an opportunity to help shape the proposed new product. Nevertheless, questions remain about how the starter ISA would fit within the wider ISA framework, whether the LISA would be phased out or retained alongside it and how the government intends to balance support for cash savings with its ambition to encourage investment.

Savers, prospective first-time buyers and financial services providers will need to await further details before assessing how the starter ISA will operate and whether it offers a viable alternative to existing products. Until the government confirms its plans, existing ISA rules should not be assumed to have changed beyond the announced decision on the proposed Cash ISA contribution cap. ◄



Reducing the cost of everyday essentials by temporarily lowering tariffs on more than 100 food and drink products.

Targeted support for households

Higher minimum wages and greater support for families

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, presented a package of targeted measures in the Autumn Budget Statement 2026 to ease cost-of-living pressures, support working people and provide greater financial certainty for households. The measures focus on reducing the cost of everyday essentials, protecting pensioners from unexpected income tax liabilities and improving financial support for workers and families.

Rather than relying on a single intervention, the package combines temporary cost reductions with changes to wages, parental pay entitlements and tax-free mileage allowances. Mr Healey announced that the proposals reflect the Government's stated intention to help households manage ongoing financial pressures while ensuring support reaches different groups across society.

Key measures include:

- Reducing the cost of everyday essentials by temporarily lowering tariffs on more than 100 food and drink products.
- Protecting pensioners from unexpected tax bills through the new Pension Tax Allowance, fulfilling the Government's commitment that pensioners with incomes at or below the full new State Pension will not be brought into paying income tax as a result of State Pension uprating during this Parliament.
- Supporting working people and families by increasing the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage by 3.9%, expanding parental pay entitlements to include self-employed fathers and partners for the first time and permanently increasing tax-free mileage rates for those who rely on their own vehicles for work.

Together, the Chancellor said, these measures are intended to provide practical support for households, help pensioners manage their incomes and ensure that working people and families receive targeted assistance. ◂

“Together, the Chancellor said, these measures are intended to provide practical support for households, help pensioners manage their incomes and ensure that working people and families receive targeted assistance.”



A package combines targeted business rates relief, a freeze on rates for eligible properties and additional support for small alcohol producers, while introducing measures to ensure online businesses meet their VAT obligations.

Targeted support for businesses

Easing cost pressures across retail, hospitality and leisure

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, said the Budget includes measures to support small businesses, protect local venues and ease cost pressures across the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. These measures are intended to help businesses manage operating costs, maintain their presence on high streets and in local communities and support the long-term sustainability of sectors that make an important contribution to employment and economic growth.

He said the package combines targeted business rates relief, a freeze on rates for eligible properties and additional support for small alcohol producers, while introducing measures to ensure online businesses meet their VAT obligations.

Key measures include:

- Reducing business rates for pubs, music venues and social clubs by funding an additional 20% reduction, alongside an increase in the Small Business Rate Relief threshold, so that a further 70,000 retail, hospitality and leisure businesses pay no business rates. The Government will fund these measures by ensuring that businesses with significant online sales pay the VAT they owe and by requiring online marketplaces to collect it on their behalf.
- Freezing business rates for other retail, hospitality and leisure properties for two years ensures that no property in these sectors faces an increase above inflation. Taken together, the measures mean that, from April, retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England will see their business rates frozen in real terms, reduced, or cut to zero.
- Providing additional support for small alcohol producers by making Small Producer Relief within the Alcohol Duty system more generous, delivering £10 million per year in support to more than 2,000 small alcohol producers across the UK.

"The Budget will provide targeted support to businesses, helping small firms manage costs, protecting local venues and supporting businesses that play an important role in communities across the country," said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey. ◂

> "Freezing business rates for other retail, hospitality and leisure properties for two years ensures that no property in these sectors faces an increase above inflation."



Chancellor's Public spending

Reforming the state and strengthening public services

The Budget sets out the Government's long-term approach to public spending, public service reform and investment, with a focus on delivering sustainable improvements in public services and strengthening the UK's economic and social resilience, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, said.

It aims to ensure that public money is directed towards the country's key priorities, including the NHS, housing, infrastructure, defence and tackling child poverty, while improving efficiency and accountability across government.

Alongside maintaining investment in essential services, Mr Healy announced that the Government is pursuing fundamental reforms to the organisation, funding and delivery of public services, with greater emphasis on devolved decision-making, prevention, productivity and improved outcomes for communities across the UK.

Key measures and priorities include:

- **Sustaining investment in public services:** Departmental day-to-day spending will be £40 billion higher each year by 2028/29 than under the previous Government's plans and capital investment will be £120 billion higher over the Parliament. This investment is intended to support the delivery of new social and affordable homes, improved infrastructure, measures to lift children out of poverty, a stronger NHS and increased defence capability.
- **Reforming public services and devolving decision-making:** In line with the Government's Rewiring the State statement published in July, reforms will transfer resources and decision-making powers to local leaders across England, enabling communities to target spending on their most pressing needs and to improve service coordination.
- **Streamlining central government:** The Government will transform the Civil Service, with plans to achieve significant reductions in its size and cost while improving efficiency and the delivery of public services.
- **Harnessing technology to improve productivity:** Ahead of the next spending review, the Chancellor and the Health Secretary have commissioned an independent review of NHS productivity, including opportunities to transform patient services through artificial intelligence and other technologies.
- **Introducing a preventative approach to public spending:** The next spending review will establish a new category of ringfenced spending, known as preventative Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL), to support a longer-term approach to public services, focusing on prevention, improved outcomes and more efficient use of resources.
- **Fully funding the Defence Investment Plan:** The Budget supports the Defence Investment Plan by proactively managing capital pressures and reprioritising capital budgets. The Government's forthcoming 10-year plan will set out its long-term vision and priorities for the country.

The Government, the Chancellor said, has also made it clear that not all departments will necessarily receive real-terms spending increases at the next spending review, as resources are directed to the country's highest priorities.

The next spending review, scheduled for 2027, will build on the Government's work to transform the state, reprioritise spending and reform welfare, with further details of its long-term vision to be set out in the 10-year plan.

Mr Healey said the Budget would support a fundamental shift in how government operates and how public services are delivered, with a greater emphasis on devolved decision-making, prevention, productivity and the direction of resources towards the country's long-term priorities. ◄

“The next spending review, scheduled for 2027, will build on the Government's work to transform the state, reprioritise spending and reform welfare, with further details of its long-term vision to be set out in the 10-year plan.”



The Government will modernise the taxation of company distributions while protecting genuine commercial transactions, including family business successions.

Revenue raising

Tax policy adjustments to deliver Budget commitments

In the Autumn Budget, Mr Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, set out the Government's approach to raising revenue while recognising the financial pressures on households and businesses. Rather than introducing broad-based tax increases, the Budget he announced focuses on targeted, proportionate measures to ensure that the Government's commitments to household support and to energy costs are fully funded throughout the forecast period.

The Chancellor said the approach is designed to protect most individuals and businesses from tax increases, provide households and businesses with greater financial breathing space and maintain stability and certainty within the existing tax framework.

Key measures include:

- **Maintaining commitments on headline taxes:** The Government will not increase the headline rates of Income Tax, National Insurance contributions, or VAT. It will also uphold its commitments under the 2024 Corporate Tax Roadmap, providing continuity and certainty for businesses.
- **Modernising the tax system and closing loopholes:** The Government will modernise the taxation of company distributions while protecting genuine commercial transactions, including family business successions. It will also tackle tax non-compliance among online sellers, with the revenue reinvested in high streets through business rates support.
- **Ensuring fair competition between businesses:** Measures will address inconsistencies in the taxation of larger minicab operators and ensure that overseas businesses cannot use the tax system to undercut UK firms.
- **Introducing targeted revenue-raising measures:** Banks will make a temporary additional contribution to fund immediate household support. The Government will also increase taxes on income from property and savings in a manner it considers fair and proportionate, while reversing the planned reduction in the Cash Individual Savings Account (ISA) allowance to continue supporting tax-efficient saving.
- **Adjusting duties to support business rates relief:** The rate of Machine Games Duty on higher-risk gaming machines will increase, helping to fund the real-terms freeze on business rates for retail, hospitality and leisure (RHL) properties.
- **Reforming capital allowances:** Changes to capital allowances will strengthen the upfront incentive for businesses to invest while also raising revenue, thereby balancing the objective of encouraging investment with the need to fund the Government's wider commitments.

Taken together, these measures are intended to ensure the Budget is fully funded over the forecast period, with revenue raised in a targeted and proportionate manner, the Chancellor said. The Government's approach combines actions to close tax loopholes and improve compliance with specific tax changes to fund support for households and businesses, while maintaining its commitments to the main rates of taxation.

Mr Healey said the Budget rejected broad-based tax rises at a time when households and businesses needed breathing space. He added that the Government would instead focus on raising the revenue needed to fund its commitments fairly and proportionately, modernising the tax system and ensuring individuals and businesses pay the tax they owe. ◂

> "In the Autumn Budget, Mr Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, set out the Government's approach to raising revenue while recognising the financial pressures on households and businesses."

Good growth in every postcode

Driving economic growth across every region and nation

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, has set out the Government's ambition to transform the UK economy and deliver sustainable growth, investment and employment opportunities across every region and nation.

Mr Healey announced that the Budget focuses on strengthening public control of essential infrastructure, devolving powers and resources to local leaders, supporting British businesses and developing the UK's artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.

Through increased investment, greater innovation and a balanced approach to regulation and emerging technologies, the Government aims to create the conditions for businesses to invest, expand and create jobs, while ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are shared more widely across the country.

Key measures and priorities include:

- **Strengthening public control of essential services and infrastructure:** The Government will provide greater strategic direction, certainty and accountability across energy, transport, water and housing to lay the foundations for long-term growth. Additional funding will be provided to the National Wealth Fund and the British Business Bank to attract and encourage private investment. The Government will also reduce business costs and support innovation, with measures intended to save businesses almost £800 million per year by reducing regulatory and administrative burdens, extending tariff suspensions and granting new powers that allow businesses to test new technologies safely and more quickly. A new Better Regulation Executive will oversee the development and implementation of a streamlined, proportionate regulatory system.
- **Driving growth in more places through devolution:** The Budget sets out a roadmap for fiscal devolution, transferring greater powers and resources from central government to local leaders. Mayors, strategic authorities and local authorities will be given greater responsibilities to work with businesses and universities to encourage investment, support reindustrialisation and strengthen local economies. Mayors will receive a share of income tax and business rates, while local authorities will retain more of their business rates. Good Growth Funds will support mayors and local leaders across England in promoting investment and economic development. Devolved governments will receive equivalent funding via the Barnett formula.
- **Backing British businesses and supporting skilled employment:** The Government will support the next generation of British start-ups and scale-ups, including through a competitive tax offer for founders and their companies. Strategic public procurement and business promotion will support British firms and help develop a skilled domestic workforce. Measures will also aim to ensure talent can move where it is most needed, helping businesses access the skills required to grow while expanding career opportunities for workers.
- **Building the UK's independent AI capability while strengthening security:** Recognising both the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence, the Government will invest in the UK's ability to develop and secure AI technologies in line with British values. This includes an additional £120 million for the AI Security Institute, £165 million for a new National AI Biosecurity Initiative, £154 million to strengthen cyber defences and £40 million to establish a National Agentic Security Unit to investigate and respond to rogue agentic incidents. A further £140 million will be invested in the Sovereign AI Unit to support promising UK AI companies in scaling up and succeeding domestically.
- **Supporting technological sovereignty and responsible data centre development:** The Government will introduce a new Data Centre Covenant that sets out expectations for strategically important data centres, including their contributions to local communities and to the UK's economic interests. This will be accompanied by government action to support the infrastructure and capacity needed to strengthen the country's technological independence.

Taken together, these measures aim to encourage private investment, strengthen domestic industry, improve local economic decision-making and ensure the UK is better placed to benefit from emerging technologies. The Government's approach combines investment in essential infrastructure with business support, regulatory reform and targeted funding for innovation and security.

Mr Healey said the Government would transform the economy to deliver strong growth in every postcode by pursuing greater devolution and local leadership, providing stronger support for British businesses and adopting a balanced approach to artificial intelligence. He added that the Budget and the measures that follow would focus on increasing investment, driving innovation and creating more jobs across every region and nation of the UK. ◄





Fresh hope for the future

Building Britain's resilience and improving living standards

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, has set out the Government's ambition to put the country on a stronger long-term footing, including measures to improve housing provision, strengthen national resilience and support people at every stage of life.

Mr Healey announced that the Budget prioritises investment in social and affordable housing, action to tackle rough sleeping, opportunities for first-time buyers and measures to help young people into employment.

It also sets out the Government's longer-term ambitions for pension security, personal care and adult social care, with the aim of delivering greater stability, security and opportunity for families and communities nationwide.

FRESH HOPE ON HOUSING

The Government is prioritising housing investment in its various forms, recognising the importance of a safe, secure and affordable home for individuals, families and communities.

Key measures include:

- **Building more social and affordable homes:** An additional £1.5 billion will be allocated to deliver around 10,000 homes in England, with funding prioritised for Social Rent, particularly council housing. This will bring total investment in the Social and Affordable Homes Programme to more than £40 billion over 10 years.
- **Tackling rough sleeping:** Further funding will support the Government's commitment to ending rough sleeping, ensuring that people have a route off the streets on a sustained basis, rather than receiving only short-term support.
- **Helping more people onto the housing ladder:** The Government will support 70,000 households in accessing homeownership by confirming £4.7 billion for the new Your First Home equity-loan scheme for first-time buyers and setting out its final details.

Over the next decade, Mr Healey said the Government intends to begin delivering the largest council housebuilding programme since the post-war era, while continuing to encourage private-sector housebuilding. Its forthcoming 10-year plan will set out reforms to strengthen councils' capacity to build at scale, reduce the complexity and cost of development and release public land for affordable housing.

FRESH HOPE FOR EVERY GENERATION

The Chancellor also announced that the Government has set out measures to improve opportunities for young people and to establish a longer-term framework to support older people. Its approach focuses on helping young people into employment and on developing a more secure settlement for retirement and adult social care.

Key measures include:

- **Supporting young people into work:** The Budget will deliver the Jobs Guarantee for eligible 18- to 24-year-olds receiving Universal Credit and invest £100 million in local apprenticeship services. The Government has stated that it will not write off the nearly one million young people who are not in education, employment or training. A White Paper is due early next year, following the publication of Alan Milburn's final report and the conclusion of the Timms Review.
- **Developing a long-term settlement for older people:** From the next Parliament, the Government intends to adjust the Triple Lock to help fund a new settlement for older people. This would combine an annual increase in the State Pension with free personal care at the point of use and a high-quality National Care Service in England, providing greater security in later life.
- **Strengthening the future of adult social care:** The Prime Minister has agreed with Baroness Casey that her Independent Commission on Adult Social Care will report in 2027, informing the Government's longer-term approach to care provision.

Taken together, these measures set out the Government's plans to increase housing supply, expand access to homeownership, improve employment prospects for young people and address the longer-term needs of an ageing population. Further details on housing and wider reforms will be set out in the Government's 10-year plan.

Mr Healey said the Budget would begin the significant changes needed to put the country on a better path, spanning housing to national security, to strengthen Britain's resilience and help ensure the next generation is better off. ◄

A safer Britain

Strengthening national security and defence capabilities

The Government has set out its commitment to safeguarding the UK's national security in an increasingly challenging global environment. The Autumn Budget, as outlined by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, sets out plans to strengthen the country's defence capabilities, support the domestic defence industry and mobilise private investment to enhance national resilience.

Mr Healey reaffirmed the UK's support for Ukraine, recognising the importance of Ukraine's security to the wider international community. He said the Government aims to strengthen the UK's security through sustained defence investment, closer collaboration with industry and fiscal discipline, while supporting jobs, businesses and economic growth across the country.

Key measures and priorities include:

- **Strengthening the UK's defence capabilities:** The Government's fully funded Defence Investment Plan will deliver a stronger frontline military capability and support jobs, businesses and economic growth across the UK.
- **Meeting long-term NATO spending commitments:** At next year's spending review, the Government will set out how it intends to meet its NATO commitment to spend 3.5% of GDP on defence by 2035, with a 2030 target of 3%. This investment aims to strengthen national security while creating opportunities to expand the UK's defence industrial capacity and develop innovative capabilities.
- **Mobilising private investment in defence:** The Budget will establish a new Innovative Defence Financing Taskforce to maximise the contribution of private and international finance to UK defence. It also confirms a commitment for the National Wealth Fund and the British Business Bank to deploy up to £5 billion over the next four years to support defence, dual-use technologies and other sectors underpinning national security, sovereign capability and resilience.
- **Providing further support for Ukraine:** The Government will make available more than £10 billion in additional financial support to Ukraine. This is alongside its ongoing commitment to provide £3 billion a year in military support until 2030/31, or for as long as needed, reflecting the Government's view that Ukraine's security is vital to global security.

Taken together, the Chancellor said, these measures aim to strengthen the UK's capacity to respond to emerging threats, enhance the resilience of its defence supply chains and encourage investment in strategically important industries. The Government's approach combines long-term public investment with increased private-sector involvement to support national security and deliver wider economic benefits.

Mr Healey announced that the Budget was built on fiscal discipline, would provide breathing space for families and businesses, drive economic growth across every postcode and offer greater security and opportunity for the future. ◄



Mr Healey reaffirmed the UK's support for Ukraine, recognising the importance of Ukraine's security to the wider international community.

Autumn Budget Statement 2026: What could the key changes mean for you?

The measures announced in the Autumn Budget 2026 may affect your personal finances, your business and your future plans. Understanding these changes will help you assess their potential impact and plan accordingly.

To discuss your situation or your financial planning goals, please contact us.

This summary of the Autumn Budget Statement 2026 was produced on Wednesday, 28 October 2026 and is for your general information and use only. It is not intended to address your specific needs. You should not rely solely on this content, nor should it be considered or used as advice. Although efforts have been made to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that it remains accurate as of the date received or will remain accurate in the future. Individuals or companies should seek appropriate professional advice after carefully examining their particular circumstances before acting on this information. We accept no responsibility for any loss resulting from acts or omissions related to this content. Thresholds, percentage rates and tax legislation may change in subsequent Finance Acts. Tax levels, bases and reliefs are subject to change and their value depends on an individual's personal circumstances.

Published by Goldmine Media Limited, 124 City Road, London EC1V 2NX. The content is protected by copyright, Goldmine Media Limited, 2026. Unauthorised duplication or distribution is strictly forbidden.