

Information on your Council Tax 2022/23



As a Wandsworth resident you will know that this council looks out for you

For more than 40 years the borough has become synonymous with low tax. This is because we are determined to make sure you pay the lowest possible council tax rate while continuing to deliver high quality services.



This year, more than ever, we are determined to make sure you don't have to pay any more council tax than before, and once again Wandsworth residents will pay the lowest average council tax in the country.

With rising living costs, increased fuel bills and petrol prices now also going up, Wandsworth Council is proud to be the only council in London actually cutting its share of council tax.

Wandsworth is in a unique position to be able to do this because of the way we have managed our finances and budgets over the years and making

sure we save your money is very important to us.

At the same time as bringing in our unique council tax reduction we have also agreed plans to invest more than £21m in infrastructure improvements – this is money spent on the things we know are important to you such as roads, parks, libraries and leisure centres.

We are also spending close to £10m on town centre improvements around the borough, creating more attractive and pedestrian-friendly environments for our residents and businesses, allowing our town centres to thrive.



Wandsworth remains the best place to live and work in because we use your money sensibly and focus on the services that matter most to you.

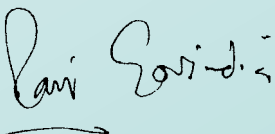
I know just how difficult the last two years have been for the people of this borough, as indeed across the whole country. The pandemic has had a devastating impact on people's livelihoods and left many residents struggling financially.

This booklet provides information about how to find out if you are eligible for a council tax reduction – for example if you are on a low income or in receipt of benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit – or what to do if you are finding it difficult to pay generally.

We will continue to look after our residents while investing in, enhancing and improving this wonderful borough which we have all chosen to call home.

Cllr Ravi Govindia

Leader of Wandsworth Council



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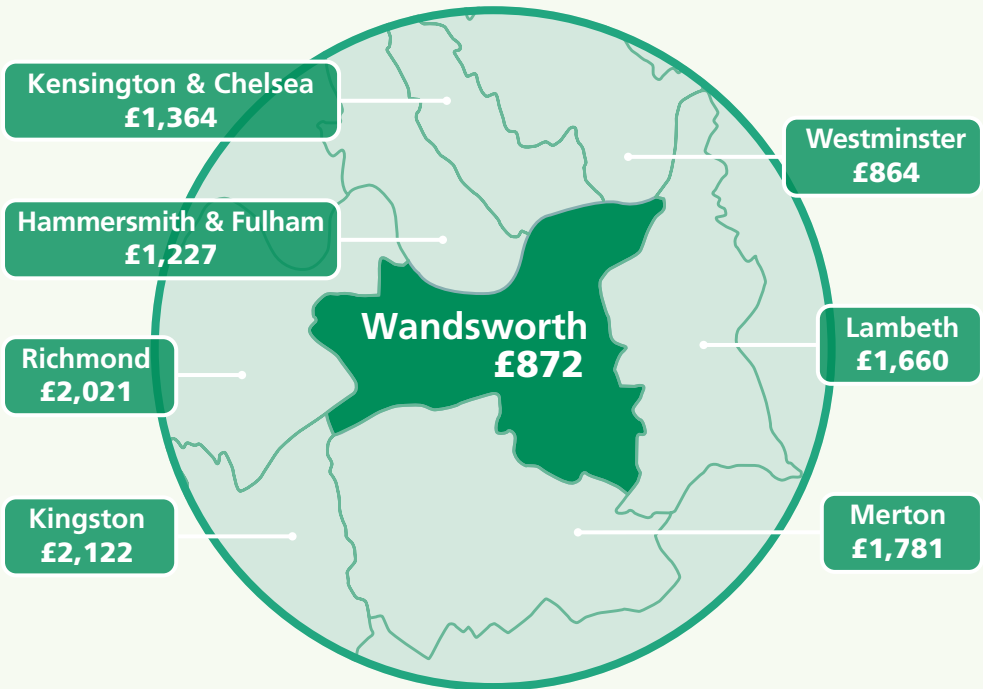
Council tax staying low

Wandsworth residents will again pay the lowest average council tax this coming year. The council is consulting local people on a voluntary community contribution scheme with the proceeds passed in full to an independent charitable trust. Look out for a leaflet sent with your council tax bill.

If you are struggling financially, the council has various schemes that can help, including crisis payments.

[Find out more](#)

There are also schemes to apply for council tax discounts, reductions and exemptions. [Find out more](#)



Council tax bills 2022/23 band D equivalent properties including GLA precept. Provisional figures subject to final approval from councils concerned and may not account for local levies.

Help keep bills low by paying with Direct Debit.
Phone (020) 8871 7799
or visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax

Contacts

Council tax service:

Council Tax Service
Wandsworth Council
PO Box 65962
London SW18 9HN

Website	www.wandsworth.gov.uk
Contact us online	www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/counciltax
Sign up for online services	www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax
Billing enquiries	(020) 8871 8081
To set up a Direct Debit	(020) 8871 7799
Payments by debit/credit card	0800 021 7763 (free of charge)
Fax	(020) 8871 8148

Benefits service including council tax reduction enquiries:

Benefits Service
Wandsworth Council
PO Box 500
London SW18 2PN

Website	www.wandsworth.gov.uk
Contact us online	www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/benefits
Benefit enquiries:	(020) 8871 8081

The information contained in this leaflet forms part of the statutory demand notice. The required contents are set down in the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Schedule 1, Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/191).

Your council tax

Council tax is a form of local taxation that helps pay for local services, such as refuse collection, care for the elderly, and the police and fire service.

The council tax came into existence from 1 April 1993.

It is charged on all domestic properties and is based upon the value of the property as assessed in 1991. You will receive your council tax bill at the end of March each year, or as soon as you tell us you have moved into a property.

The amount that you pay also includes certain other amounts that the council collects on behalf of 'precepting' bodies such as the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Council tax reduction

Council tax reduction is a local scheme to provide assistance for people with their council tax. The scheme is set by the council but must follow some government set rules, including protection for pensioners.

If you are on a low income or in receipt of benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit you may be entitled to council tax reduction. The amount of reduction you are entitled to depends on certain factors such as:

- Any income or savings you may have
- The circumstances of any other people who live with you
- The amount of council tax you pay

You can apply for council tax reduction if you are a person liable for council tax and your savings are less than £16,000.

If you are a pensioner, you may be entitled to more help through the Pension Credit Scheme. If you are not already getting Pension Credit you should contact the Pension Service on 0800 991234.

If you are of pension age you can claim second adult rebate, based on the income of any second adult in your property.

If you are entitled to either council tax reduction or second adult rebate this will be paid into your council tax account and you will get a bill for the lower amount.

If you are on Universal credit or any other benefit you will need to apply separately for Council Tax reduction as this is not paid as part of your entitlement.

To find out more about our local scheme or to make an application for council tax reduction visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/benefits.

If you receive council tax reduction you must tell us about any changes in your circumstances which might affect your award; for example, you have a change in your income or have a change in the number of people in your household. Your award could be affected if you fail to tell us of the change within 21 days. Any excess reduction resulting from a failure to notify changes of circumstance will be recovered.

Failure to notify a change or providing incorrect information could result in prosecution or a financial penalty being imposed.

Reductions for disability

If a room in your home is used to meet the special needs of a disabled resident, your council tax bill may be reduced by one band below that set by the Valuation Office Agency.

You may also get a reduction if certain alterations have been made to your home to meet the special needs of a disabled person living there. These can include the creation of extra space for a wheelchair to be used indoors, the use of a room for dialysis equipment or the addition of an extra bathroom or kitchen.

The quickest way to apply for a reduction is to visit our website and download the form.

Sign up for Council Tax online services www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax



Photo: SoStock

What discounts are available?

If you are the only adult living in your household you can get a 25 per cent reduction off your bill.

Generally, if there are two or more adults living in your household, no reduction will apply. But you can get this reduction if all the adults, except one, fall into one of these categories:

- aged 18 but still at school attracting child benefit, 18 or 19-year-old school leavers.
- a full-time student, student nurse, trainee on youth training course, apprentice, foreign language assistant, part-time student under the age of 20 or non-British spouses of full-time students.
- a patient in hospital, nursing or care home.
- a carer for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18.
- a person who is severely mentally impaired (e.g. Alzheimer's disease).
- a member of international headquarters and defence organisations or a member of a religious community.
- members (and dependants) of visiting forces.
- persons with diplomatic privilege or immunity.
- a resident of certain types of hostel.
- a person in prison.

If your bill shows that you are not getting a discount, and you think you should have one, please tell us straight away.

If you are already getting a discount, and there are changes in your circumstances which might affect that discount, you must tell us at once. If you do not do this, or you give false information, you could be prosecuted.

The quickest way to apply for a discount is to visit our website and download the form.

Long-term empty premium

From the 1 April 2019, properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than **two** years will be charged an additional premium of 100% council tax. From 1 April 2020 this premium increased to 200% for properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than **five** years. From 1 April 2021 this premium increased to 300% for properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than **ten** years. This is regardless of any change of ownership during that period.

Sign up for Council Tax online services www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax

What exemptions are available?

Exemptions applying to vacant properties

- **Class B** (Charity and empty) – owned, and was last occupied, by a charity – exempt for up to six months.
- **Class D** (Vacant and liable person detained) – left empty by someone who has gone into prison.
- **Class E** (Vacant and liable person in hospital) – left empty by someone who has gone to live in a hospital or care home.
- **Class F** (Vacant and liable person deceased) – waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted, and for up to six months after.
- **Class G** (Occupation prohibited by law) – empty because occupation is prohibited by law.
- **Class H** (Vacant held for a minister of religion) – waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion.
- **Class I** (Vacant and liable person living elsewhere to receive personal care) – left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care.
- **Class J** (Vacant and liable person living elsewhere to provide personal care) – left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care.
- **Class K** (Vacant left empty by a student) – owned by a student studying elsewhere, who last lived in the property as his or her main home.
- **Class L** (Vacant and has been repossessed) – property has been repossessed.
- **Class Q** (Vacant and liable person bankrupt) – property is the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee.
- **Class R** (Unoccupied pitch or mooring) – an unoccupied caravan pitch or boat mooring.
- **Class T** (Unoccupied annexe to an occupied dwelling) – an unoccupied annexe to an occupied property.

Exemptions applying to occupied properties.

- **Class M** (Student halls of residence) – provided predominantly for full time students.
- **Class N** (Student household) – occupied only by students, school or college leavers or by certain spouses or dependants of students.
- **Class O** (Armed forces accommodation) – living accommodation for UK armed forces.
- **Class P** (Visiting forces accommodation) – visiting forces accommodation.
- **Class S** (Occupied under 18s) – occupied only by persons under 18.
- **Class U** (Occupied by SMIs) – occupied only by severely mentally impaired persons.
- **Class V** (Occupied by diplomat) – occupied by person with diplomatic privilege or immunity.
- **Class W** (Granny annexe) - occupied only by relatives aged 65 and over.

You may be able to get a 50 per cent discount for an annexe that is occupied by a relative under 65 years of age.

If your bill shows that you are not getting an exemption, and you think you should have one, please tell us straight away.

If you are already getting an exemption, and there are changes in your circumstances which might affect that exemption, you must tell us at once. If you do not do this, or you give false information, you could be prosecuted.

The quickest way to apply for an exemption is to visit our website and download the form.

Sign up for Council Tax online services www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax

Valuation bands

The amount of council tax depends on the valuation band of the property. The council tax payable for this year, for each band, is shown on page 15 of this booklet. Every property has been placed in one of eight valuation bands. The band for your property is shown on your bill.

The valuation band for each property has been decided by the HM Revenue and Customs' Valuation Office Agency, not by the council. The band is based on the value of the property estimated on 1 April 1991. As property prices are changeable, this was set as the standard rate for valuing all properties.

The values for each band are as follows:

April 1991 Property Values

Band A up to £40,000	Band E up to £120,000
Band B up to £52,000	Band F up to £160,000
Band C up to £68,000	Band G up to £320,000
Band D up to £88,000	Band H over £320,000

In some circumstances you can appeal to the Valuation Office Agency for a lower banding. An appeal can only be made by:

- the person liable to pay the council tax in a dwelling, for example a tenant or owner-occupier, or
- the owner of the dwelling, even if that person is not the occupier.
- if you bought the property recently, and the Valuation Officer/Listing Officer then changed its banding, you can appeal within six months of the date you became responsible for council tax for the property.

Other circumstances where an appeal can be made are:

- a drop in the value of the property caused by the demolition of part of the property, or a major change in the state of the local area.
- if you start or stop using part of the property for business purposes, or the balance between domestic and business use changes.
- if the house is converted into flats.

General changes in house prices after 1 April 1991 will not affect bandings, so appeals based solely on these changes will not succeed.

You can contact the VOA at [gov.uk/contact-voa](https://www.gov.uk/contact-voa). If you are unable to use the online service, you can also contact the VOA on **03000 501 501**.

You can find out more about when you can challenge your band and what you need to do at [gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band](https://www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band). If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay council tax at your current band until your appeal is decided.

Can I appeal?

Tax payers are entitled to appeal against a decision made by the council about their council tax liability if they:

- disagree that their property is a chargeable property.
- disagree that they are the person liable to pay council tax.
- disagree with the calculation of the amount of council tax due.

Anyone disagreeing with a decision made by the council must first contact the council tax service, providing their name and address, council tax reference number and the reasons for the appeal. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the appeal, or have not received a response to the appeal within two months, you can make a further appeal to the Valuation Tribunal.

Information about how to submit an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal can be found on their website, the address of which can be found below.

Payments must continue to be made as per the latest bill issued, in accordance with the council tax banding currently in force whilst any appeal is pending.

The Valuation Tribunal which deals with Wandsworth is as follows:

Valuation Tribunal Service
2nd Floor
120 Leman Street
London E1 8EU

Email: appeals@valuationtribunal.gov.uk
Telephone: 0303 445 8100
www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk/council-tax

Our charter

Our aim is to provide you with an efficient, friendly and helpful service and to inform you of your rights and duties as a taxpayer.

Telephone enquiries - please use the direct line (020) 8871 8081 to use our automated, self-service line 24 hours a day. To speak to an advisor you will need to call Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

We will meet the needs of our customers wherever we can. For example, home visits will be available in some cases for our elderly or disabled customers.

We will look at the pattern of complaints and suggestions and try to improve areas where there are continuing problems.

We aim to meet the following targets:

- all items of correspondence should be answered within 15 working days.
- council tax refunds should be made within 15 working days of receipt.
- any complaints will be taken seriously and should be answered fully within ten working days.

Our service performance

The figures below show our performance in meeting service standards during 2020/2021. The previous year's figures are in brackets.

- we authorised 99% (99%) of all council tax refunds within ten working days.
- we collected 95.9% (98.2%) of council tax.
- we received 39 (60) complaints.
- the number of direct debit accounts decreased by 241 from 96,832 to 96,591.

Complaints

Making a complaint

Unfortunately there are times when things go wrong and as part of our commitment to delivering high-quality services we want to know when this happens. If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of the service you have received you should let us know as soon as possible.

More information on how to do this can be found at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/complaints

Protecting public money

This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use any information you have provided for the prevention and detection of fraud. We may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

The council audit team are working with the National Fraud Initiative to cross reference council tax data against other council records to ensure only those that genuinely live alone receive the single person discount.



How we spend your council tax

Council tax amounts

Your council tax helps pay for local services, such as refuse collection, care for the elderly, and the police and fire service.

The tax is charged at eight different levels, each covering a different band of property values. The levels have to be in these ratios to one another:

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18

The tables below show the council tax amounts for 2022/23 compared with last year's amounts.

Main part of the borough	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Band A	559.41	577.37
Band B	652.64	673.59
Band C	745.87	769.83
Band D	839.10	866.05
Band E	1,025.57	1,058.51
Band F	1,212.05	1,250.96
Band G	1,398.51	1,443.42
Band H	1,678.22	1,732.10

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators' area (including Conservators' levy)		
Band A	580.07	598.80
Band B	676.75	698.59
Band C	773.42	798.40
Band D	870.10	898.19
Band E	1,063.46	1,097.80
Band F	1,256.82	1,297.39
Band G	1,450.17	1,496.99
Band H	1,740.21	1,796.39

Combining the council tax for two authorities

The council tax collected by Wandsworth Council has to cover the spending needs of Wandsworth Council and the Greater London Authority (GLA). The amounts for each authority are added together to work out the total council tax for each band. The table below shows how the amounts for each authority have been combined for band D properties in the borough.

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Increase
Wandsworth Council (average)	425.94	416.30	-2.00%
Adult social care*	55.84	60.66	1.00%
Total Wandsworth Council (average)	481.78	476.96	-1.00%
GLA	363.66	395.59	8.78%
Total	845.44	872.55	3.21%

*The council tax attributable to Wandsworth includes a precept to fund adult social care.

Adult social care funding

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. (“Adult social care authorities” are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. In the Local Government Finance. On 10 February, the House of Commons again approved this precept with a maximum level set at 1 per cent.

Council Tax 2022/23

Current legislation allows Wandsworth Council to increase the main element of its council tax charge by up to 2 per cent without requiring a referendum in order to gain public approval. For 2022/23 Wandsworth Council has chosen to **reduce** this charge by 2 per cent.

In addition, a further 1 per cent will be charged as a precept to fund adult social care.

The average band D council tax for 2022/23 is therefore £476.96 which is a **decrease** of 1 per cent on 2021/22 and is below the referendum threshold of a 3 per cent increase (2 per cent for main element + 1 per cent for adult social care). The average council tax charge is a blended rate of the amounts paid by those properties that attract an additional levy for the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators and the rest of the borough.



Wandsworth Council

The table below shows the council's expenditure plans for 2022/23 in comparison with 2020/21 budget position.

	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	22/23 £m	21/22 £m	22/23 £m	21/22 £m	22/23 £m	21/22 £m
Adult Care & Health Services						
Adult Services Operations	113.2	109.5	24.3	24.0	88.9	85.6
Commissioning & Quality Standards	19.5	19.8	1.3	1.3	18.2	18.5
Business Resources	3.7	3.3	0.7	0.4	3.0	3.0
Public Health	3.4	3.5	29.4	27.8	-26.0	-24.3
Total	139.8	136.2	55.7	53.4	84.1	82.8
Community Services & Open Spaces						
Arts Service	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5
Contracts & Leisure	45.1	42.5	8.3	6.5	36.8	36.0
Highways Operations & Street Scene	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.1	0.4	0.3
Total	48.5	45.4	10.4	8.6	38.1	36.8
Education & Children's Services						
Children & Families	48.3	48.0	5.3	3.9	43.0	44.1
Early Help	20.0	21.1	3.8	3.0	16.2	18.1
Education, Performance & Planning	12.7	10.4	5.1	5.0	7.6	5.4
Business Resources	17.1	16.7	2.3	2.6	14.8	14.1
Total	98.1	96.2	16.5	14.5	81.6	81.7
Finance, Resources & Climate Sustainability						
General Services						
- Chief Executive and other Departments	2.7	2.5	0.5	0.6	2.2	1.9
- Resources Department	11.2	12.3	23.0	22.2	-11.8	-9.9
Revenue Services	156.9	183.3	150.1	176.7	6.8	6.6
Property Services	3.1	3.1	6.7	6.5	-3.6	-3.4
Economic Development	3.3	2.9	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.5
Other Environmental Services and Regulatory Services	4.2	4.6	0.5	0.9	3.7	3.7
Total	181.5	208.8	182.3	208.3	-0.8	0.5

£m	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	22/23 £m	21/22 £m	22/23 £m	21/22 £m	22/23 £m	21/22
Housing & Regeneration						
Private Sector Housing	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
Housing Services	44.6	37.4	30.8	28.3	13.8	9.1
Housing Management & Service Strategy	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.4	0.5	0.2
Total	47.6	40.2	32.8	30.3	14.8	9.9
Strategic Planning and Transportation						
Planning & Transport	4.6	4.7	3.3	3.4	1.3	1.3
Traffic & Engineering	31.5	34.5	42.6	38.4	-11.1	-3.9
Total	36.1	39.2	45.9	41.8	-9.8	-2.6
Non Service Specific Grants	0.0	0.0	45.5	49.1	-45.5	-49.1
COVID-19 Contingency	2.0	3.5	0.0	0.0	2.0	3.5
Charges Between Services	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure on Services	559.2	575.0	394.7	411.6	164.5	163.4



Photo: Courtney Hale, Rawpixel

	2022/23 £m	2021/22 £m
Total Expenditure on Services (excluding levies counting as council expenditure)	164.5	163.4
Special Levy		
Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators	0.9	0.9
Other Levies		
Greater London Pensions Fund Authority	0.5	0.5
Inner London Pensions Fund Authority	1.5	1.5
Western Riverside Waste Authority	1.4	1.4
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	0.3	0.3
Environment Agency	0.3	0.3
Council Services and Levies	169.5	168.2
Contribution to/Use of Reserves and Balances	0.7	-0.4
Council's Net Expenditure	170.2	167.9
Local Authority Finance Settlement	-103.0	-101.7
Collection Fund Surplus	-1.4	-0.6
Council Tax Requirement	65.8	65.6

(Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)

The council works out the tax for band D by dividing the council tax requirement of £65.8 million, less the Conservators' levy, by the tax base. This gives a figure of £470.46 (including the precept to fund adult social care). The tax base (138,028) is the total number of properties in the eight valuation bands, after allowing for exemptions, discounts, premiums and the council tax reduction scheme, weighted for the amount that can be collected from each band compared with band D.

The council tax requirement includes £897,052 for the levy payable to the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators for Wandsworth's share of the upkeep of the commons. The tax base for the Conservators' area is 27,908. Dividing their levy by this tax base gives the additional £32.14, which is the difference between the two band D amounts shown on page 15. Only those householders in the levying area pay this extra amount. The additional amount paid by taxpayers at band D in this area is therefore £1.14 (3.7 per cent) higher than in the previous year.

If you would like to know more about the council's spending plans, please write to:

[Assistant Director of Resources \(Financial Management\),
Wandsworth Council,
Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street,
London SW18 2PU](#)
Telephone: [\(020\) 8871 6499](tel:02088716499)
Email: accountancy@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators can be contacted at:

[Manor Cottage,
Windmill Road,
Wimbledon Common,
London SW19 5NR](#)
Telephone: [\(020\) 8788 7655](tel:02087887655)
Email: rangersoffice@wpcc.org.uk
www.wpcc.org.uk



Greater London Authority

Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2022-23 financial year sets out his priorities to support London's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to tackle the huge social, health and economic inequalities which it has exposed and exacerbated, and which have become even more apparent as a result of the current cost of living crisis. It supports job creation and London's businesses (both large and small), our city's future growth and economic success and the Mayor's vision to rebuild London as a greener, cleaner and safer city with stronger and more cohesive communities.

This year's budget will provide resources to improve the key public services Londoners need. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, securing funding to maintain the capital's transport infrastructure and tackling toxic air pollution and the climate emergency. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, fund skills and retraining programmes, help rough sleepers, invest in youth services and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live.

The budget prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police Service and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe, including violence reduction initiatives and initiatives to improve opportunities for young Londoners. In light of the significant reductions in fare revenues and property tax income following the pandemic some difficult decisions have been unavoidable. However, this budget remains focused on delivering a swift and sustainable recovery and building the better, brighter, fairer future all Londoners want and deserve.

Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £31.93 (or 61p per week) to £395.59. The additional income raised will fund the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade and will also go towards ensuring existing public transport services in London can be maintained, meeting requirements set by the government in COVID-19 funding arrangements. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £118.46.

Band D Council Tax	2021/22 £	Change £	2022/23 £
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	267.13	10.00	277.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	56.87	1.93	58.80
GLA	22.57	0.00	22.57
Transport Services	17.09	20.00	37.09
Total	363.66	31.93	395.59

Investing in frontline services

This budget will enable the Mayor to fulfil his key priorities for London. These include:

- ensuring the Metropolitan Police has the resources it needs to tackle violent crime – since 2019 the Mayor has funded 1,300 additional police officer posts from locally raised council tax and business rates revenues – while seeking to increase trust and confidence amongst Londoners in the police service;
- tackling the underlying causes of crime through the rollout of funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners access positive opportunities and constructive activities that allow them to make the most of their potential, as well as resources for new violence reduction initiatives;
- protecting vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence;
- providing enough resources to the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to ensure that first and second fire engines arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes on at least 90 per cent of occasions and 12 minutes on at least 95 per cent of occasions respectively, after being dispatched. The Mayor is also providing resources to rollout a transformation programme so that the LFB can implement the recommendations of the Grenfell fire inquiry. This includes investing in the new vehicles and equipment required;
- working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes, for example, maintaining free bus and tram travel for under 18s as well as free off-peak travel across the network for older Londoners, the disabled, armed forces personnel in uniform and eligible armed services veterans and protecting the Taxicard and Dial a Ride scheme;
- continuing the Hopper bus fare, which makes transport more affordable for millions of Londoners;
- opening the central London section of the Elizabeth line (the operational name for Crossrail) in the first half of 2022, followed by the full line opening with through services as soon as possible to increase central London's rail capacity by ten per cent. This will follow the successful opening of the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station in September 2021;
- continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, by investing £4.9 billion to allow 116,000 affordable home starts within London by 2023 and an additional 35,000 starts by 2026, as well as allocating resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping;
- tackling the climate emergency through creating a new £90 million fund alongside the continued roll out of the Mayor's £50 million Green New Deal for London fund. The Mayor has already expanded the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the North and South Circular roads in Autumn 2021 to tackle air pollution;
- investing in projects to enable more walking and cycling across London; and
- funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts, sports and culture, help tackle inequality and improve the environment.

Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's planned spending for 2022-23 with last year and sets out why it has changed. The GLA's planned gross expenditure is lower this year. This overall reduction is mainly due to the need to repay deficits in council tax and business rates income due to the impact of the pandemic albeit the Mayor has increased his proposed spending on services including policing. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra resources for the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade and to secure funding to maintain existing transport services. There has also been a 1.7 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: www.london.gov.uk/budget

How the GLA budget is funded	2022/23 £m
Gross expenditure	14,950.3
Government grants and retained business rates	-6,974.8
Fares, charges and other income	-6,781.5
Change in reserves	19.6
Amount met by council tax payers	1,213.6

Changes in spending	2022/23 £m
2021/22 council tax requirement	1,096.6
Net change in service expenditure and income	-1,034.7
Change in use of reserves	759.2
Government grants and retained business rates	391.3
Other changes	1.2
Amount met by council tax payers	1,213.6

Environment Agency South East Region

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 5200 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Thames 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 shown in the table below.

Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
Gross Expenditure	133,962	148,034
Levies Raised	12,042	12,282
Total Council Tax Base	5,127	5,214

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 1.99%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £12,042,289 in 2021/2022 to £12,281,930 in 2022/2023.

For more information on the Environment Agency visit
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Western Riverside Waste Authority

Western Riverside Waste Authority is the statutory waste disposal authority for the London Boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Lambeth and Wandsworth and for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The Authority's waste management policies are led by the waste hierarchy principles of waste reduction, reuse and recycling, with the balance of residual waste being transported from the Authority's two transfer stations via the River Thames to an Energy from Waste Facility on the Thames at Belvedere. The Authority has therefore already achieved the Mayor of London's 2025 target of zero municipal waste direct to landfill.

The Authority and its constituent councils agreed on a basis of cost apportionment from 2009/10. Under the agreement, which has been extended to run for a further eight years from 2017/18, the Authority recovers the costs of waste delivered by its constituent councils at a rate per tonne according to the nature of the waste recycled or disposed of. There is a residual annual levy, apportioned on the basis of council tax-base, for overheads and civic amenity waste.

The estimated costs to constituent councils for 2022/23 compared to the original budgeted cost in 2021/22 are shown in the table below.

Council	2022/23 Direct costs £'000	2022/23 Levy £'000	2022/23 Total costs £'000	2021/22 Total costs £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) %
Hammersmith & Fulham	9,757	862	10,619	10,269	350	3.4
Kensington and Chelsea	9,392	1,019	10,411	9,010	1,401	15.5
Lambeth	15,463	1,165	16,628	16,356	272	1.7
Wandsworth	14,389	1,446	15,835	15,475	360	2.3
Total	49,001	4,493	53,494	51,111	2,383	4.7

For more information on Western Riverside Waste Authority visit www.wrwa.gov.uk

London Pensions Fund Authority

The London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) raises a levy each year to meet expenditure on premature retirement compensation and outstanding personnel matters for which LPFA is responsible and cannot charge to the pension fund. These payments relate to former employees of the Greater London Council (GLC), the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and the London Residuary Body (LRB).

For 2022/23, the income to be raised by levies is set out below. The Greater London levy is payable in all boroughs, the Inner London levy only in Inner London Boroughs (including the City of London). The figures show the total to be raised and, in brackets, the percentage change on the previous year.

Inner London	£13,065,200	
Greater London	£10,317,753	
Total	£23,382,953	(0%)



Photo: Courtney Hale, Rawpixel

