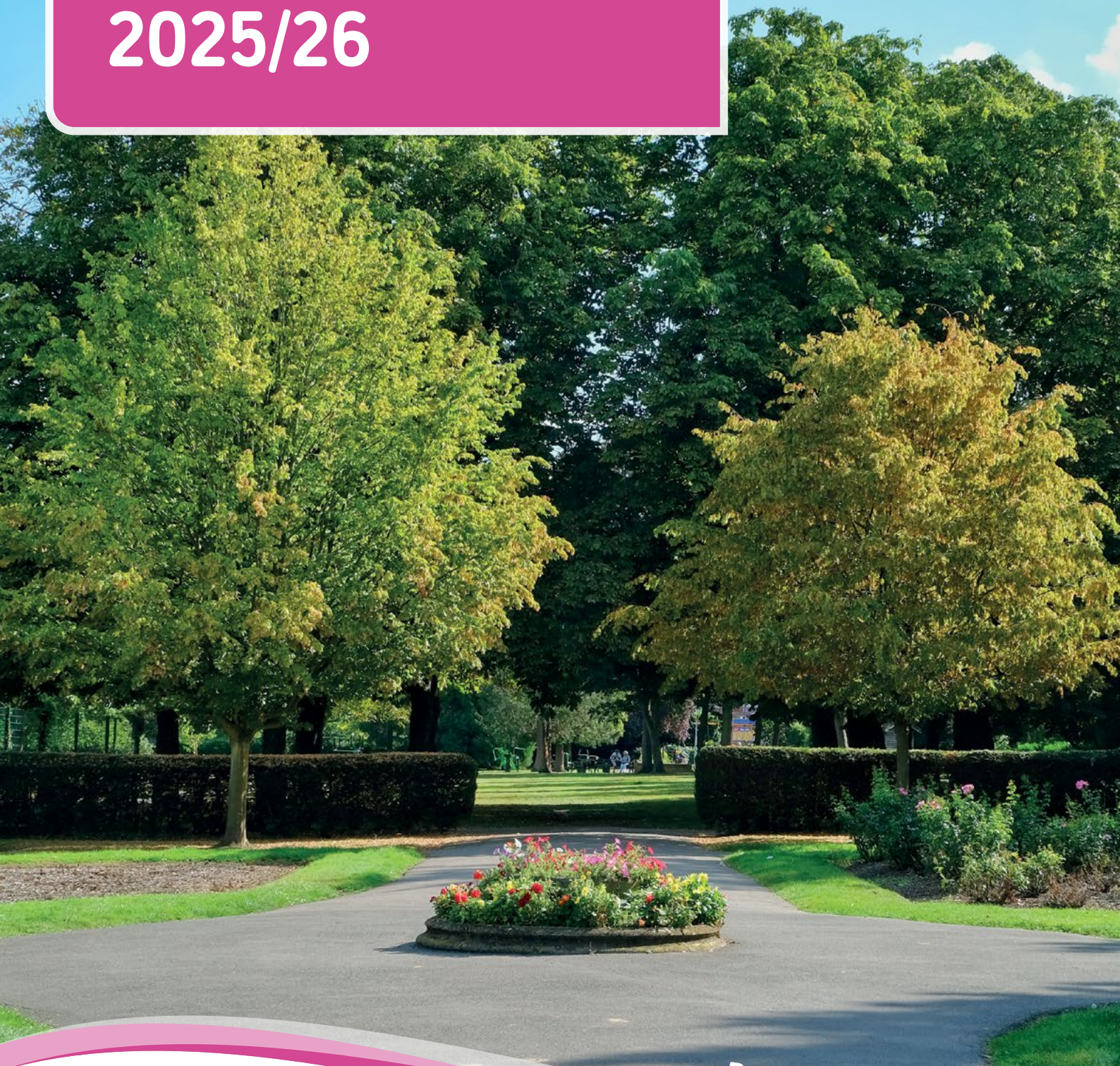


# Council Tax

2025/26



*Delivering value for money*



**HILLINGDON**  
LONDON

[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax)

## Pay by direct debit

**Direct debit is the easiest payment method.**

You can choose to pay on the 1, 10, 18 or 25 of the month. Paying by direct debit saves you the worry of remembering to pay each month, writing cheques, postal costs or queuing to pay.

In addition, you have the added bonus of the direct debit guarantee, which means an immediate refund will be paid to you in the unlikely event of an error occurring.


To find out more, visit  
 [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/  
pay-your-council-tax](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/pay-your-council-tax)



## How to pay

**Council tax is usually paid in 10 instalments from April to January or you can apply to pay in 12 instalments. If you wish to do so, your request must be received in writing by 1 April.**

Where requests are received after 1 April, council tax will be payable in the number of months remaining up to and including March of the following year.

Details of the different payment methods and contact information are online at  
 [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax).


## Sign up for e-billing

**Help protect the environment by signing up to manage your council tax account online.**



**It's fast, free, reliable and secure.**

Once you're registered, you can download your bill, check how much you owe, set up direct debit payments and keep us up-to-date with any changes in your circumstances.

To sign up, visit  
 [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/  
register-your-account](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/register-your-account)



# Message from Cllr Ian Edwards, Leader of the Council



The council has approved its budget for 2025/26, continuing its commitment to putting residents first by further investing in services and keeping council tax at the second lowest level in outer London and the lowest of its neighbouring London boroughs.

Despite the crisis in local government finances, and their manifesto commitment, the government has still to engage in meaningful discussion on how to reform the funding of local councils, and particularly how Hillingdon will be fully funded for the additional burdens arising from having Heathrow in our borough, burdens that presently fall on the residents of Hillingdon to fund.

The homeless crisis continues to put unprecedented pressure on all councils, with London boroughs spending up to £90 million per month on temporary accommodation.

The government's recent National Insurance increase has also landed the council with an extra bill of half a million pounds, despite their repeated promises that councils would be fully compensated for their direct costs – in the end they only provided 80 per cent of the funding.

Hillingdon is already a low spending authority and receives less government funding than other similar outer London boroughs.

Without fair and adequate multi-year funding from government there will continue to be uncertainty and volatility rather than action to help meet the needs of residents.

The council continues to prioritise the delivery of its rigorous savings programme to keep more of residents' hard-earned money in their pockets, but it is becoming increasingly challenging. Most regrettably we are having to consider charging for garden waste collection, a charge the vast majority of London's councils implemented some years ago. It is necessary to consider this to ensure that we have sufficient financial reserves to cope during this period of great economic uncertainty.

Despite the significant strains on resources, Hillingdon Council continues to invest in services and reshape how the authority works to achieve

sustainability and value for money for all our residents.

We were proud to step in and help protect our pensioners from the government's winter fuel cuts. We will invest up to £342 million in services and facilities, and £514 million in extra housing stock and stock improvement from 2025/26 to 2029/30.

Improvements to our services and award-winning facilities will also continue, including:

- new homes
- road and pavement resurfacing
- educational facilities and school places
- parks and play areas
- leisure facilities
- town centre improvements.

Core council tax will increase by 2.99 per cent and a levy of 2 per cent to fund residents' adult social care will also be charged. This means that council tax for a Band D property in Hillingdon will be £1,462 a year. This equates to an increase of £1.33 a week, ensuring it is still the lowest in north west London. Whereas it will be £1,905.48 in Harrow (£443.48 more expensive), £1,595.44 in Hounslow and expected to be £1,550.64 in Ealing. In addition, £490.38 per Band D property will be added as a result of the GLA precept.

Residents will also be aware that council tax caps are also set by government, however, this is in stark contrast to the different rules for the GLA precept which has now increased by 78 per cent since 2016.

We will continue to call on a systematic overhaul of the local government funding system to protect the vital services our residents rely on.

The council is not the only organisation providing public services in the borough that are partly funded from your council tax, and this guide also sets out where the money to pay for council and other local services comes from and how it is spent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Edwards'.

**Cllr Ian Edwards, Leader of the Council**

# Your council tax

This booklet contains information about your council tax for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2025. It tells you how much you will pay, how the money will be used and how much goes to other organisations, such as the Greater London Authority (GLA), which is headed by the Mayor of London.

Every house in the country receives a council tax bill. Whether you live in a house or a flat, own your own house or rent, everyone has to pay council tax, which helps to pay for the services that Hillingdon Council delivers for local people – everything from leisure centres, family hubs and libraries to waste and recycling, parks, keeping you safe, services for the elderly and housing.

## Breakdown of your payments for Hillingdon Council's and the GLA's services

<i>Property band</i>	<i>Hillingdon</i>	<i>GLA</i>	<i>Total council tax payable</i>	<i>Range of values</i>
	£	£	£	£
A	974.67	326.92	1,301.59	up to 40,000
B	1,137.11	381.41	1,518.52	40,001 to 52,000
C	1,299.56	435.89	1,735.45	52,001 to 68,000
D	1,462.00	490.38	1,952.38	68,001 to 88,000
E	1,786.89	599.35	2,386.24	88,001 to 120,000
F	2,111.78	708.33	2,820.11	120,001 to 160,000
G	2,436.67	817.30	3,253.97	160,001 to 320,000
H	2,924.00	980.76	3,904.76	more than 320,000

The Hillingdon Council precept includes funding for adult social care

## Adult social care precept

The Secretary of State 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 was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. The social care precept will continue into 2025/26 as part of the ongoing package of additional funding for social care.

The Older Person Discount remains closed to new entrants since 1 April 2021, the council continues to protect existing discounts for those already in receipt of this discount and a safety net is also in place for the most financially vulnerable residents through the council tax reduction scheme.

As part of the budget, the council continues to hold £20.05 million of reserves available for further financial resilience against demographic and inflationary pressures as well as any unforeseen economic impacts above those identified in the council's budget proposals and has factored into service operating budgets the impact of the high inflationary environment the council has been operating under.

## This year's council tax

	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Gross expenditure on services	499,181	552,503
Service income (specific government grants, fees and charges)	(214,671)	(243,208)
<b>Net expenditure on services</b>	<b>284,510</b>	<b>309,295</b>
Corporate income (business rates, general government grants and use of balances)	(138,759)	(155,168)
<b>Hillingdon's council tax requirement</b>	<b>145,751</b>	<b>154,127</b>
Greater London Authority precept	49,340	51,697
<b>Total council tax requirement</b>	<b>195,091</b>	<b>205,824</b>
Divided by Band D equivalent properties within the borough	104,668	105,422
<b>Charge for each Band D household</b>	<b>£1,863.91</b>	<b>£1,952.38</b>

## Development of 2025/26 budget

	£'000
<b>Council tax requirement 2024/25</b>	<b>145,751</b>
Increase in government funding	(12,959)
Increase in business rate income	(3,103)
Movement in drawdown from balances	(347)
Inflationary cost increases	5,487
Increase in demand-led growth	17,763
Savings and efficiencies	(34,033)
Corporate adjustments	35,568
<b>Council tax requirement 2025/26</b>	<b>154,127</b>



## What do I get for my money?

The council delivers nearly 800 different services, which directly benefit local residents and the borough. These services are funded through a combination of grants from central government, a share of local business rates and your council tax. The amount to be raised from council tax is known as the council tax requirement.

Further information about the council's budget can be found at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/budget-reports](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/budget-reports).

### The split of costs between different council services

	2024/25 £'000	Change £'000	2025/26 £'000
Adult social care	109,511	(1,159)	108,352
Cultural, environmental and planning services	42,289	2,491	44,780
Children's social care	53,577	4,412	57,989
Public health	16,207	(1,387)	14,820
Education services	17,969	3,250	21,219
Highways, roads and transport services	4,009	2,869	6,878
Housing services	13,240	264	13,504
Central services to the public	847	(907)	(60)
Capital financing charges	17,180	3,702	20,882
Corporate and democratic core	6,804	(1,102)	5,702
Priority growth and general contingency	528	12,324	12,852
Levies and other London-wide charges	2,349	28	2,377
	<b>284,510</b>	<b>24,785</b>	<b>309,295</b>

## How is every £1 of your council tax spent?

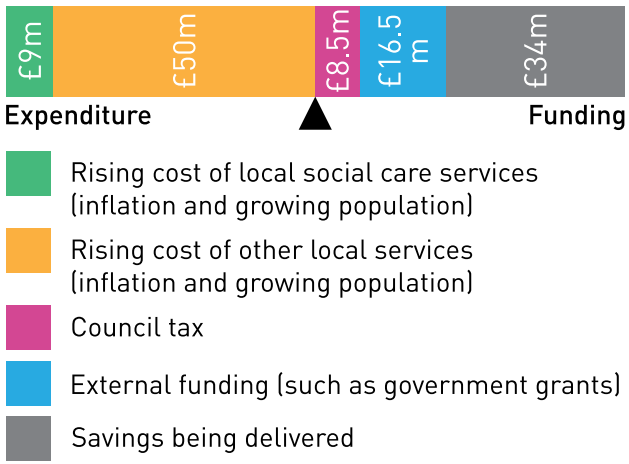
In 2025/26, the council is expecting to raise £154.1 million from council tax income and here is how we expect to spend the money.



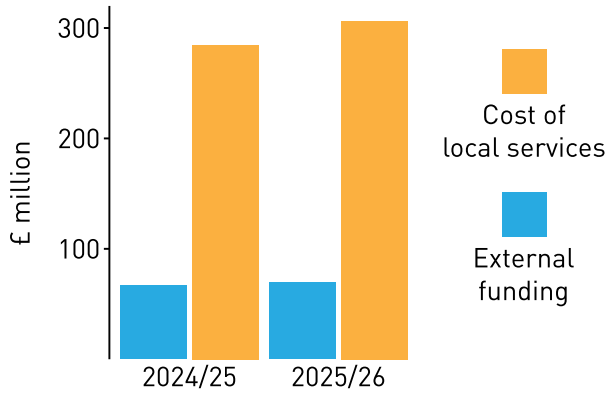
- **35p** Adult social care
- **19p** Children's social care
- **14p** Cultural, environmental and planning services
- **14p** Corporate support services
- **7p** Education services
- **5p** Public health
- **4p** Housing services
- **2p** Highways, roads and transport services



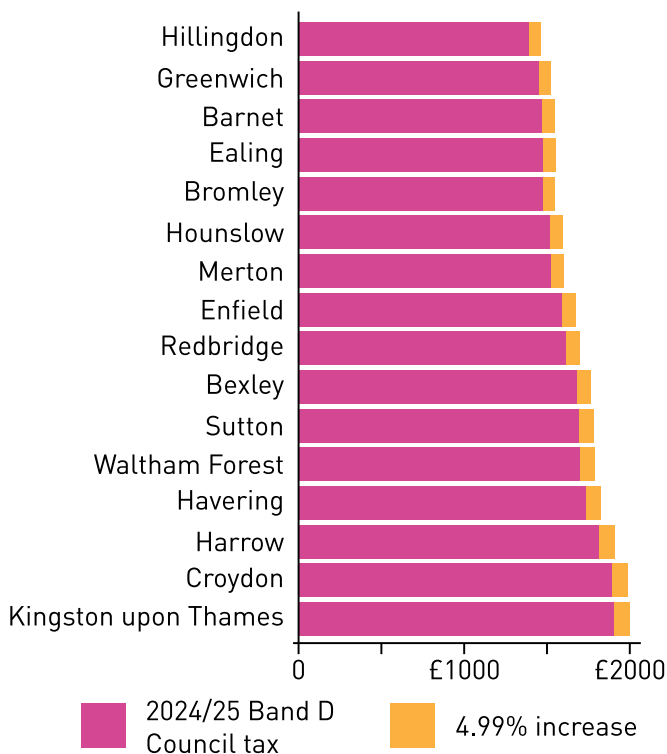
### Movement in budget 2024/25 to 2025/26



### Funding the rising cost of services



### Value for money in Hillingdon



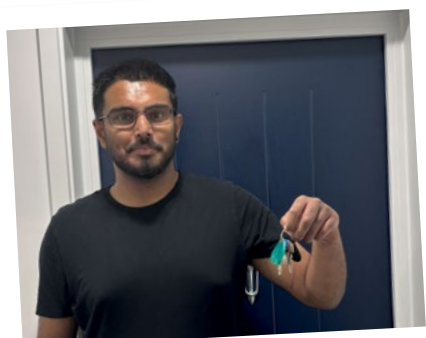
# Reflecting on our key achievements

The council delivers more than 800 services for residents each year, here's a snapshot of how we continued to put residents first in 2024/25.

## Building new homes and safe and strong communities



Our Community Awards recognised 18 hidden heroes



We acquired 182 new homes, including HPH3, Hayes and Carpenters Court, Uxbridge

- ▶ We completed **34** new homes in Hayes.
- ▶ Construction is underway in Yiewsley to deliver **95** new homes (100% affordable).
  - ▶ More than **90** properties, collectively valued at **£6.3 million**, were recovered.
- ▶ We refreshed our Social Housing Allocation Policy and launched a campaign to encourage those at risk of homelessness to seek early support.
- ▶ **£1 million** Chrysalis funding improved **9** community facilities and ward budgets supported **24** local initiatives.



- ▶ We obtained closure orders to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Injunction granted to prevent unauthorised parking on green belt land in Harlington and a Public Spaces Protection Order introduced to stop taxis waiting in streets near Heathrow.



We responded to unprecedented flash flooding to support residents

## Creating a greener future

- ▶ **£3 million** funding to replace roofs of **5** schools.
- ▶ As part of our **£1 million** park enhancement programme improvements are underway at **5** parks across the borough.
- ▶ Most Green Flags in the UK for 12th year.

- ▶ **8,378** trees planted.
- ▶ **£1.2 million** grant funding improved leisure facilities and green spaces.



One of the largest government grants in London for our buildings' decarbonisation project

- ▶ More than **7,000** new households signed up to our food waste recycling service and **9,000** for our improved recycling bag delivery service.
- ▶ Published a Cycling Strategy, and spent **£40,000** grant funding on towpath improvements.



- ▶ **46** new electric vehicle chargers were installed in our car parks, and **£12 million** invested in highways, roads and pavements.



## Fostering thriving, healthy households

- ▶ Adult Social Care services rated one of the best in London and nationally.
- ▶ Older residents protected from impact of government winter fuel allowance cuts.



Queens Walk Resource Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary



- ▶ First in London to pioneer new technology to improve patient hospital discharge processes.

- ▶ **7,000** children participated in Holiday Activities and Food programme.
- ▶ **2** new residential children's homes built.
- ▶ New and unrivalled payment and benefits package for foster carers.



Our 'Outstanding' Children's Services launched a new Youth Offer

- ▶ We opened a new specialist resource provision and first assessment centre for 2 to 5-year-olds with SEND and a new learning space for children with autism spectrum condition.



Work is progressing on the Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre, West Drayton

## Delivering value for money services

- ▶ We launched our Digital Strategy with plans to invest **£9 million** to improve how residents access services.



Some NHS teams moved to the Civic Centre which will help improve health and care outcomes

- ▶ Work is well underway to create a new Uxbridge Library and Register Office.



We sold Barra Hall to Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge College to provide essential SEND learning places

## Investing in Hillingdon to create a thriving economy

- ▶ Local Plan consultation carried out and feedback sought on draft Uxbridge Vision.
- ▶ Investor conference held to showcase borough plans.
- ▶ **£1.1 million** grant funding supported local businesses and helped residents find jobs and improve their skills.



546 adult learning courses delivered

- ▶ We commissioned specialist operators to run services more sustainably on our behalf, including our early years centres and the Beck Theatre.
- ▶ Our counter fraud team identified savings related to fraud and prevented the loss of more than **£8.7 million**.



See more and watch the video:  
[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council-tax-guide](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/council-tax-guide)



## Further information

### Valuation of properties and valuation banding appeals

All homes, including houses, flats, mobile homes and houseboats, must pay council tax. Every property is placed in a valuation band for England by the listing officer at the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) for HM Revenue and Customs. Your council tax bill shows which band your property is in, based on the expected sale price as of 1 April 1991.

If you have an enquiry about the banding of your property or wish to appeal against it, please contact the VOA via  [www.gov.uk/voa/contact](http://www.gov.uk/voa/contact) or call the VOA centralised switchboard on  03000 501 501.

### Council tax appeals

You can appeal against your council tax if you think:

- you are not the resident or owner
- your property is exempt
- there has been a mistake in calculating your bill.

If you want to appeal, you must tell us in writing, giving the reasons why you are appealing.

You must continue to pay your council tax while your appeal is being dealt with. We will refund any money that you have overpaid, if your appeal is successful.

### Discounts for over-65s


The Older Person Discount remains closed to new entrants since 1 April 2021. The council continues to protect existing discounts for those already in receipt of this discount and a safety net is also in place for the most financially vulnerable residents through the council tax reduction scheme.

### Are you entitled to a reduction?

In some cases, you may be entitled to a reduction. If you are the only adult living in a property, you may be entitled to a 25 per cent discount. We work out your council tax based on at least two adults living at the property. However, the following people are not counted for council tax purposes, which may entitle you to a reduction, even if you do not live alone:

- full-time students, student nurses, apprentices (earning less than £195 a week) and youth training trainees
- 18 and 19 year olds who are in, or who have just left, a course of education for the period 1 May to 31 October in any year
- patients in hospital and people looked after in a care home
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- those staying in certain hostels or night shelters
- care workers on low pay, working for charities
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner or child under 18 years of age
- members of visiting armed forces and certain international institutions
- members of religious communities (monks and nuns)
- people in prison (unless sentenced for non-payment of council tax or a fine).

If your property has an annexe that is occupied by a relative, you may be entitled to a 50 per cent reduction in the amount of council tax you have to pay.

If you think you qualify for a council tax reduction, please visit  [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax) for further details.

## Discounts for empty homes

The council does not grant a discount for unoccupied and substantially unfurnished homes or properties undergoing (or require) major repair work or structural alteration.

Second homes and furnished properties that are not used as a sole or main residence do not attract a discount.

## Exemptions

The following unoccupied properties are exempt from council tax:

- previously occupied and owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- was last occupied by someone who has gone into prison (unless sentenced for non-payment of council tax or a fine)
- was last occupied by someone who has gone into hospital or a nursing home to receive personal care
- where probate or letters of administration are pending (exempt for up to six months after either have been granted)
- where occupation is prohibited by law
- is waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion
- where the previous occupier has moved elsewhere (other than hospital or care home) to receive or provide personal care through old age, disability, illness or mental disorder past or present, or through alcohol or drug dependence
- is owned by a full-time student and was their last sole or main residence
- has been repossessed
- where the liable person is acting as a trustee in bankruptcy.

Exemptions also apply to the following occupied properties:

- student halls of residence, forces' barracks and married quarters, a caravan pitch or mooring not in use and an unoccupied annexe that is part of a single dwelling
- property where the liable person is a member of (or has a relevant association with) visiting armed forces, or is a visiting

non-UK citizen entitled to diplomatic privileges or immunities

- property where all residents are full-time students or is occupied by person(s) under 18, or those severely mentally impaired
- an annexe of an occupied dwelling that is occupied by a dependent relative.

Certain conditions may apply to discounts or exemptions. Please visit [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax) for advice.

If your council tax bill shows a discount, the council has made the assumption that you are entitled to the discount for the period covered by the bill. If this assumption is no longer correct, because your circumstances have changed, or you know that they will change during the period covered by your bill, please let us know. You are required to let the council know in writing within 21 days of realising that you are no longer entitled to a discount. Failure to do this without a reasonable excuse could lead to a £70 penalty.

If you are unsure whether your change of circumstances will affect any entitlement to discount, please visit [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax) for advice.

## Empty homes premium

Properties that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for two years or more, will be charged a Long Term Empty Premium in addition to the annual council tax charge. How much this premium in will depend on how long it has been unoccupied and unfurnished for:

- 100 per cent if empty and unfurnished for two years
- 200 per cent if empty and unfurnished for five years
- From 1 April 2025, this will increase to 300 per cent if empty and unfurnished for 10 years or more.

Periods of six weeks or less when the property is occupied/furnished are disregarded for the purposes of calculating the empty homes premium.

The empty homes premium will not be charged on properties left empty for a specific purpose that have a specific statutory exemption, for example:

- when a person goes into care
- a property that would otherwise be the sole or main residence of a member of the armed services, who is absent from the property as a result of such service
- a dwelling that forms part of a single property being treated by a resident of that property as part of the main dwelling, ie. annexes.

## People on a low income

If you are on a low income, you can apply for council tax reduction on the amount you have to pay. The level of reduction will depend on the size of your family, your savings, your income and the amount of council tax. The maximum reduction you can receive is 75 per cent or, where you or any member of your household is in receipt of any disability income, the maximum would be 80 per cent. If you are receiving Income Support, Universal Credit (without any earned income), Jobseeker's Allowance, or Employment Support Allowance, you have to pay 25 per cent or 20 per cent (if in receipt of disability income). This could be more if you have non-dependant adults living with you. More details of the council's local council tax reduction scheme can be found at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/benefits).

## Couples

If you are married or living with someone as husband, wife or same sex partner, you will normally be jointly responsible for the council tax bill. Only make one claim for council tax reduction, which will be assessed on your joint income.

## Capital limit

The capital upper limits from 1 April 2025 are:

- No limit - receiving the guarantee part of Pension Credit
- £16,000 - if you and your partner are both state pension credit age
- £6,000 - if you and/or your partner are not state pension credit age.

For couples, the limit applies for each claim, not for each person.

To find out if you are state pension credit age go to [www.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age).

## Non-dependents deduction

Your council tax reduction will be affected if you have someone other than your partner or dependent children living in your household. For working age claims, this is £10 per week. More details on the non-dependant deductions can be found at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ctrscheme](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ctrscheme). You can also find out how much council tax reduction you may be entitled to by using the council tax reduction calculator at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/counciltax).

## People with disabilities

You may be entitled to a reduction in your council tax bill if your home has certain features that are essential (or of major importance) to the wellbeing of a disabled person who lives there. These features are:

- a room (other than a bathroom, kitchen or toilet) used mainly by a disabled person (for example, for storing dialysis equipment or a ground-floor bedroom in a property with two or more floors)
- an additional kitchen or a bathroom (with bath and/or shower, not just a toilet and wash basin) for use by the disabled person
- extra space inside the property to allow for the use of a wheelchair.

If you are eligible, your bill will be reduced to that of a property in the valuation band immediately below the actual band of your property.

# Greater London Authority

## Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for 2025-26 sets out how he will fund his plans to continue building a fairer, safer, and greener London for everyone and provides resources to improve key public services in the capital. The budget ensures investment to tackle crime, build more affordable homes, reduce street homelessness, improve our transport network, and ensure London remains a world-leader in tackling air pollution and the climate crisis.

The budget prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and London Fire Brigade (LFB) to keep Londoners safe. This includes resources for violence reduction initiatives, support for victims of crime, additional funding for frontline police officers, continued reform of the MPS and the delivery of projects to divert vulnerable young people away from gangs and violence. It also confirms funding to continue Universal Free School Meals in London's state primary schools for a further academic year until July 2026.

## Council tax for GLA services

The Greater London Authority's (GLA) share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £18.98 (or 37p per week) to £490.38. The additional income from this increase in council tax will fund the MPS and the LFB, and will also go towards ensuring existing public transport services in London can be maintained, meeting requirements set by the government in funding agreements. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £171.25.

### The GLA's share of council tax

Council tax	2024/25 £	Change £	2025/26 £
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	305.13	14.00	319.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	66.74	4.98	71.72
GLA	22.44	0.00	22.44
Transport Services	77.09	0.00	77.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>471.40</b>	<b>18.98</b>	<b>490.38</b>

## Investing in frontline services

This budget will enable the Mayor to continue fulfilling his key priorities for London. This includes:

- 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 Taxi card and Dial-a-Ride schemes
- providing £147.5 million to continue to fund universal free school meals for London's estimated 287,000 state primary school children for a third academic year. By July 2026 it is estimated that this programme will have saved London families up to £1,500 per child since its introduction in September 2023
- ensuring the MPS has the resources it needs to tackle violent crime by investing additional resources in front line policing and crime prevention. The Mayor has doubled investment in policing to help tackle crime, including recurring funding for 1,300 additional police officers funded from council tax and business rates income. While the Mayor provides MOPAC and the MPS with as much funding as possible, the impact of significant real-terms national government cuts over the last 14 years has left the MPS in a difficult financial position
- tackling the underlying causes of crime through the rollout of funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners to 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. The Mayor has funded more than 500,000 positive opportunities to help divert vulnerable young Londoners away from crime – including through London's Violence Reduction Unit

- providing resources to roll out a transformation programme to support the LFB in implementing the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and other key improvements. The LFB now responds to emergencies faster and is rated as outstanding in how it responds to major and multi-agency incidents
- freezing bus and tram fares in 2025 and retaining the one-hour Hopper fare thus making transport more affordable for millions of Londoners. The Superloop network will also be expanded
- building on the success of delivering the Elizabeth line on its full timetable and route. The Elizabeth line has increased central London's rail capacity by ten per cent and saw over 500,000 passenger journeys between its opening date in 2022 and early 2025. This has made it the busiest rail line in the UK. This follows on from the opening of the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station in September 2021
- rolling out new trains on the Piccadilly line, with the first new trains serving customers from 2025 and upgrading the signalling on the District and Metropolitan lines
- continuing to improve accessibility across TfL's network, increasing the availability of step-free access and toilets. In 2025-26, TfL will increase investment in step-free schemes to make progress towards its goal of halving step-free journey times across the network, as well as its target of making 50 per cent of London Underground stations fully accessible. All 41 Elizabeth line stations are now step-free
- continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, by investing £1.5 billion in 2025-26 to increase the number of Londoners who have a safe, decent and affordable home. The Mayor will also allocate resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping
- investing in schemes designed to make walking, cycling and public transport safer, cleaner and more appealing in partnership with London boroughs.

## Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA Group's planned spending for 2025-26 with last year and sets out why it has changed.

The GLA's planned gross expenditure is higher this year. This reflects the additional resources the Mayor is investing in policing and the fire brigade. Overall, the council tax requirement has also increased for this reason. There has been a 2 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase.

Find out more about our budget at

 [www.london.gov.uk/budget](http://www.london.gov.uk/budget).

### How the GLA's budget is funded

	<i>2025/26</i> £
Gross expenditure	17,961.6
Government grants and retained business rates	(7,676.0)
Fares, charges and other income	(8,312.4)
Change in reserves	(391.3)
<b>Amount met by council tax payers</b>	<b>1,581.9</b>

### Changes in spending

	<i>2025/26</i> £
2024/25 council tax requirement	1,490.3
Net change in service expenditure and income	348.8
Change in use of reserves	53.4
Government grants and retained business rates	(327.2)
Other changes	16.6
<b>Amount met by council tax payers</b>	<b>1,581.9</b>

## 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 5,200 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:


### Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee budget

<i>Budget/levy changes</i>	<i>2024/25 £'000</i>	<i>2025/26 £'000</i>
Gross expenditure	154,702	126,785
Levies raised	12,776	13,030
<b>Total council tax base</b>	<b>5,365</b>	<b>5,453</b>

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 per cent. The total Local Levy raised has increased from £12,775,615 in 2024/2025 to £13,029,850 for 2025/2026.

## Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Lee Valley Regional Park is a unique leisure, sports and environmental destination for all residents of London, Essex and Hertfordshire. The 26 mile long, 10,000 acre Park, much of it formerly derelict land, is partly funded by a levy on the council tax. This year there has been a 2.7 per cent increase in this levy. Find out more about hundreds of great days out, world class sports venues and award winning parklands at  [www.visitleevalley.org.uk](http://www.visitleevalley.org.uk).

### Lee Valley Regional Park Authority budget

<i>Budget/levy changes</i>	<i>2024/25 £m</i>	<i>2025/26 £m</i>
Authority operating expenditure	15.3	15.6
Authority operating income	(7.8)	(8.0)
<b>Net service operating costs</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Financing costs		
• Debt servicing/ repayments	2.2	2.1
• Capital investment	1.3	1.6
<b>Total net expenditure</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>
<b>Total levy</b>	<b>(11.0)</b>	<b>(11.3)</b>

# 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 2025/26, 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.

## London Pensions Fund Authority levy

<i>Share of levy</i>	£
Inner London	7,000,000
Greater London	1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>

From 2022 onwards, a portion of the amount previously raised as levies is being paid directly into the LPFA Pension Fund to address a funding deficit in respect of former GLC, ILEA, and LRB employees.

As part of the 31 March 2025 triennial valuation, the Levy requirements will be reviewed and communicated to all the London Boroughs as part of the 2026/27 levy setting process.