



COUNCIL TAX
2023/24

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk



Dear Croydon resident,

The council has set a budget for 2023/24 that will protect vital services whilst we continue to fix the finances and make our council more efficient, so that it provides reliable services and value for money.

In the next financial year the council will continue to spend around £340m a year providing our 390,800 residents with a range of essential services.

The council's budget will support everyday services such as rubbish and recycling collection; clean and safe streets; and investing in warm, dry council homes that people are proud to live in.

It also ensures we are protecting vulnerable children and adults, which you told us were your top priorities in our survey last year.

Croydon's financial challenges

This is a challenging budget, following years of financial mismanagement of our borough.



To understand more about why the council is in this situation I would encourage you to look at the frequently asked questions page I have published by scanning this QR code or visiting [croydon.gov.uk/budget](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/budget)

This shows what I am doing to return the council to a sustainable financial footing and how those responsible for the financial collapse of our borough are being held to account.

When I was elected as Croydon's first Executive Mayor in May last year, I pledged to do everything in my power to fix the mess I had inherited and rebuild our council for residents.

Croydon has experienced ongoing, serious challenges since the council's financial collapse in 2020. With £1.6bn of debt Croydon would not be able to continue providing essential services without a new model of support from the government.

To that end, we have recently been successful in negotiating a £63m capitalisation direction from government to help balance our budget. I will continue to push for further support for our borough, including a partial debt write off, interest reductions or fairer funding, which we so desperately need to get us back on track.

Council tax

To protect and provide services that our residents rely on, the government has also given the council permission to raise council tax by 14.99%. This includes 2% to care for and protect our older and vulnerable residents, which the government expects all councils to raise.

I know this is really difficult news, but the scale of the council's financial crisis means that we must look at every option possible to protect essential services. There will be extra help for low-income households through our £33m council tax support scheme, and a new £2m hardship fund to help residents who are struggling.

Without this council tax increase, we would have to make a further £20m savings next year, on top of the £36m savings we are already making.

That would mean more cuts, including to services for vulnerable people as well as universal services such as waste collection and street cleaning – and I am not prepared to do that.

Now that the budget is set I hope we can get on with delivering services for local people, getting our council back on track and restoring pride in our borough.

Yours sincerely



Mayor Jason Perry
Executive Mayor of Croydon

For more information about your council tax bill and the council's budget go to

www.croydon.gov.uk/ctax

THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES

How we calculate the council tax requirement for Croydon services.

	Total £'000
Budget Requirement	341,115
Paid For by :	
Revenue Support Grant	-16,711
Collection Fund deficit	1,986
Business Rates Top up grant	-35,921
Business Rates Income	-42,710
Council Tax Requirement for Croydon Services	-247,759
Greater London Authority (GLA)	-59,577
Total Council Tax	307,337
2022/23	268,058
Change	39,279

	Individual Element Increased	Overall Impact on Council Tax	Per Annum £	Per Week £
Croydon Services	12.99%	12.99%	203.95	3.92
Social Care Levy	2.00%	2.00%	31.40	0.60
GLA Services	9.74%	9.74%	38.55	0.74
		13.93%	273.90	5.27

Band	Proportion of Band D	Croydon Services £	Adult Social Care Precept £	GLA	Total £
A	6/9	1,058.87	144.74	289.43	1,493.04
B	7/9	1,235.35	168.86	337.66	1,741.87
C	8/9	1,411.83	192.99	385.90	1,990.72
D	1	1,588.31	217.11	434.14	2,239.56
E	11/9	1,941.27	265.36	530.62	2,737.25
F	13/9	2,294.23	313.60	627.09	3,234.92
G	15/9	2,647.18	361.85	723.57	3,732.60
H	18/9	3,176.62	434.22	868.28	4,479.12

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL SPENDING

The table below compares the net cost of providing your services in 2023/24 with 2022/23.

Revenue spending refers to the day to day running costs of the authority:

SERVICE	2022/23	2023/24			2023/24
	Current net budget £'000	Growth £'000	Savings £'000	Other £'000	net budget £'000
Children, Young People & Education	79,683	5,188	-6,920	14,387	92,338
Adult Social Care & Health	114,215	9,269	-12,243	18,591	129,832
Housing	8,028	5,289	-2,305	4,645	15,654
Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Renewal	26,467	15,939	-1,859	25,074	65,621
Assistant Chief Executive	32,478	3,231	-2,924	8,012	40,797
Resources	24,787	12,466	-6,347	4,624	35,530
Net cost of Services	285,658				379,772
Corporate Items	-4,259				23,921
Levies from other bodies	1,411				1,453
Net Interest Payable	19,392				29,669
Net Operating Expenses	302,202				434,815
Appropriations					
Contributions to/from earmarked reserves	-3,560				-13,726
Provision for repayment of external loans	21,000				28,250
Capital Charges	nil				-45,224
Capitalisation Direction	-25,000				-63,000
Budget Requirement	294,642				341,115

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What is council tax?

Council tax is a property tax charged to the occupiers (or in some cases the owners) of domestic properties such as houses, flats, caravans, etc.

We collect the tax and retain some of the money to pay for the services we provide. Part of the money is collected by the council on behalf of the Greater London Authority (GLA) and is used to pay for the services provided by that authority. The amount of money you pay towards the GLA is shown separately on your bill.

The amount you pay is calculated according to the banding of your property which is based on the market value of your home on 1 April 1991. There are eight bands labelled 'A' to 'H'. Band A is the lowest and Band H the highest. The bands are determined by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) which are contained in a valuation list. You can look at the valuation list on the [VOA website](#).

Payment of council tax

For information on how to pay your council tax please read the reverse of your bill. If you are struggling to pay you may be entitled to council tax support. For more information and details of how to apply, please go to page 9 and follow the links.

Discounts

If only one adult resides in the property a discount of 25% can be awarded. If you would like to apply for this, please visit [our website](#).

If two or more adults reside in the property but one or more should be disregarded for council tax purposes (see below list) so that, in effect, there is only one adult in the property, a discount of 25% can be awarded.

If the property is occupied but all the residents are not counted as adult residents, either a full exemption or 50% discount will apply (unless the property is exempt).

The following people will not be counted as adult residents:

- People who are in prison or detention (except for non-payment of local tax or fines)
- Ukrainian nationals with a Homes for Ukraine (HFU) visa
- Some school and college leavers
- Full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth training trainees
- Persons receiving care in a registered care home
- Residents of hostels
- Members of religious communities
- Non-British spouses of students
- People who are 'severely mentally impaired'
- 18- and 19-year-olds for whom child benefit is paid
- Long-term hospital patients
- Care workers
- Carers (unpaid carers subject to certain conditions)
- Members and dependants of international headquarters and defence organisations
- Members and dependants of visiting forces
- Persons with diplomatic privilege or immunity.

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Exemptions

Some properties are exempt from council tax. A list is provided below:

- Unoccupied owned by a charity (maximum period six months) (B)
- Left unoccupied by a prisoner (D)
- Residents in care home/hospital (E)
- Property forms part of a deceased estate, pending probate (F)
- Property forms part of a deceased estate, once probate granted (maximum period six months) (F2)
- Occupation prohibited by law (G)
- Property held for a minister of religion (H)
- Left unoccupied by a person living elsewhere to receive/provide care (I, J)
- Left empty by a student (K)
- Property in possession of a mortgage lender (L)
- Student halls of residence (M)
- Occupied only by students (N)
- UK armed forces accommodation (O)
- Visiting forces (P)
- Empty property in hands of a trustee in bankruptcy (Q)
- Unoccupied caravan pitch or boat mooring (R)
- Occupied only by under 18-year-olds (S)
- Unoccupied annex to an occupied dwelling (T)
- Occupied wholly by people who are 'severely mentally impaired' (U)
- Main residence of a person with diplomatic privilege or immunity (V)
- Occupied annex to an occupied dwelling (W)

If you think you are entitled to a discount or exemption and this is not already showing on your bill, visit [our website](#)

to confirm if you are eligible and how to apply for one of these discounts or exemptions.

Empty properties

Properties that are empty and unfurnished will be subject to the following premiums, in addition to 100% council tax: A 100% premium is applied to properties that have been empty for at least two years. A 200% premium is applied to properties that have been empty for at least five years. A 300% premium is applied to properties that have been empty for at least 10 years. This is to reduce housing pressure within the area by bringing empty properties back into use. For further information please visit our [website](#).

For help and advice on preparing your property for sale or to let, please visit our empty properties [website](#).

People with disabilities

If you or someone living with you needs a room/extra bathroom/kitchen to meet special needs arising from disability, or needs sufficient space to use a wheelchair indoors, then you may be entitled to a reduced council tax bill. To apply for this, please contact us with details of the adaptations made and an appointment will be made for a visiting officer to attend your property to confirm eligibility.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme (HFU)

If you are a sponsor who has nominated a named Ukrainian or a named Ukrainian family to stay with you in your home or another property, or you are a Ukrainian national with a HFU visa, please visit our [website](#) for information on the HFU Scheme and help with Council Tax.

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Council tax appeals

Banding appeals

Appeals regarding council tax banding should be made with the Valuation Office Agency who can be contacted via the [government website](#).
or telephone: **03000 501 501**.

Other appeals

Appeals concerning liability, discounts, exemptions or disabled relief should be made in writing to the Appeals Resolution Team, Resources Directorate, Croydon Council, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA. The council has up to two months to respond to your appeal. If you are unhappy with the reply, or no reply has been received within two months of your appeal to us, you can progress your appeal to The Valuation Tribunal for England 2nd Floor, 120 Leman Street, London E1 8EU.

Contacting the council



Visit www.croydon.gov.uk/contact



Email us at croyctax@croydon.gov.uk



Telephone **020 8726 7000 Option 2**
Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm



Payments, Revenues, Benefits and Debt Team, Resources Directorate 3rd Floor,
Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA

You can attend Access Croydon for pre-booked appointments only at Bernard Weatherill House, Croydon.

FINDING IT HARD TO PAY YOUR COUNCIL TAX OR RENT?

You could be eligible for council tax support or universal credit

If you are on a low income or receive benefits you may be entitled to council tax support. To find out how the amount you may be entitled to is calculated and to make a claim please visit our [website](#).

If you need help paying your rent, universal credit has replaced housing benefit for most working age people. You can [apply for universal credit online](#).

Housing benefit is still available if you are of pension age, living in temporary or support exempt accommodation. For more information and to make an application please visit our [website](#)

Do your circumstances mean you can get help?

Below is a table looking at customers with different circumstances and the amount of help they are receiving with their council tax.

	Monthly income	Monthly council tax	Money given towards their council tax
Mr and Mrs M live in a council house with their three children and Mr M is working	£1,280.58	£132.16	£26.43
Ms W is a single parent living in a housing association house with her daughter over five and is working	£883.74	£99.12	£59.47
Ms H is renting a flat on her own and working in a nursing home	£715	£86.73	£52.04
Ms A is a self-employed hairdresser living in a privately rented two bedroom house with her son	£971.84	£86.73	£34.69
Mr V is currently off sick from work and getting income support	Personal independence payment	£99.12	£99.12
Mr & Mrs L are pensioners living in a house that they own	£1,193.36	£148.68	£148.68

This information is for guidance only and is intended to give an estimate. It does not include any details of universal credit entitlements. For actual entitlements, you will need to complete an application.

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NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES EXPLANATORY NOTES 2023-2024

Non-domestic rates

Non-domestic rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements introduced from 1 April 2013, authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally. The money, together with revenue from council taxpayers, locally generated income and grants from central government, is used to pay for the services provided by local authorities in your area. Further information about the business rates system may be obtained [here](#) and at the website of your local council which is normally shown on your rate bill.

Rateable value

Apart from properties that are exempt from business rates, each non-domestic property has a rateable value which is set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an agency of HMRC. They compile and maintain a full list of all rateable values, available at www.gov.uk/voa

The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of your bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market, on a particular date specified in legislation. For the current rating list, the revaluation came into effect on 1 April 2023, this date was set as 1 April 2021.

The VOA may alter the valuation if circumstances change. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can also check and challenge the valuation shown in the list if they believe it is wrong.

Further information about the grounds on which challenges may be made and the process for doing so can be found on the [VOA website](#).

Your billing authority can only backdate any business rates rebate to the date from which any change to the list is to have effect.

National non-domestic rating multiplier

The local authority works out the business rates bill for a property by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate non-domestic multiplier. There are two multipliers: the national non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. The government sets the multipliers for each financial year, except in the City of London where special arrangements apply.

For 2023/24 the multipliers have been frozen at 49.9p (small business multiplier) and 51.2p (standard multiplier). The current multipliers are shown on the front of your bill.

Business rates instalments

Government has put in place regulations that will allow businesses to require their local authority to enable payments to be made through 12 monthly instalments. If you wish to take up this offer, you should contact the local authority as soon as possible.

Revaluation 2023 and transitional arrangements

All non-domestic property rateable values are reassessed at revaluations. The most recent revaluation took effect from 1 April 2023. Revaluations ensure that business rates bills are up-to-date, more accurately reflect current rental values and relative changes in rents. Frequent revaluations ensure the system continues to be responsive to changing economic conditions.

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At a revaluation some ratepayers will see reductions or no change in their bill, whereas some ratepayers will see increases.

Transitional relief schemes are introduced at each revaluation to help those facing increases.

This relief is applied automatically to bills. Further information about transitional arrangements and other reliefs may be obtained from the local authority or the government [website](#).

Unoccupied property rating

Business rates will not be payable in the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain industrial properties. After this period rates are payable in full unless the unoccupied property rate has been reduced by the government by order.

In most cases the unoccupied property rate is zero for properties owned by charities and community amateur sports clubs. In addition, there are a number of exemptions from the unoccupied property rate. Full details on exemptions can be obtained from your local authority. If the unoccupied property rate for the financial year has been reduced by order, it will be shown on the front of your bill.

Partly occupied property relief

A ratepayer is liable for the full non-domestic rate whether a property is wholly occupied or only partly occupied. Where a property is partly occupied for a short time, the local authority has discretion in certain cases to award relief in respect of the unoccupied part. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Small business rate relief

Ratepayers who occupy a property with a rateable value which does not exceed £50,999 (and who are not entitled to other mandatory

relief or are liable for unoccupied property rates) will have their bill calculated using the lower small business non-domestic rating multiplier, rather than the national non-domestic rating multiplier.

In addition, generally, if the sole or main property is shown on the rating list with a rateable value which does not exceed £15,000, the ratepayer will receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for this property of up to a maximum of 100%. For a property with a rateable value of not more than £12,000, the ratepayer will receive a 100% reduction in their rates bill.

Generally, this percentage reduction (relief) is only available to ratepayers who occupy either-

- (a) one property, or
- (b) one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed £2,899.

The rateable value of the property mentioned in (a), or the aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in (b), must not exceed £19,999 outside London or £27,999 in London on each day for which relief is being sought. If the rateable value, or aggregate rateable value, increases above those levels, relief will cease from the day of the increase.

The government has introduced additional support to small businesses. For those businesses that take on an additional property which would normally have meant the loss of small business rate relief, the government has confirmed that they will be allowed to keep that relief for a period of 12 months. Where a ratepayer meets the eligibility criteria and has not received the relief they should contact their local authority.

You can make an application online using [this webpage](#).

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Provided the ratepayer continues to satisfy the conditions for relief which apply at the relevant time as regards the property and the ratepayer, they will automatically continue to receive relief in each new valuation period.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by a ratepayer who is in receipt of relief (other changes will be picked up by the local authority). The changes which should be notified are-

- (a) the ratepayer taking up occupation of an additional property, and
- (b) an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief

Charity and community amateur sports club relief

Charities and registered community amateur sports clubs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the club, and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the club (or of that and other clubs).

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Because of the council's financial situation, there will be no Discretionary Rates Relief scheme from 2023/24 onwards.

Supporting Small Business Relief (SSB)

The 2023 Supporting Small Business (SSB) Relief Scheme will cap bill increases at £600 per year for any business losing eligibility for some or all Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) at the 2023 revaluation. SSB Relief was first introduced following the 2017 revaluation to support ratepayers facing bill increases greater than the Transitional Relief caps due

to loss of Small Business Rate Relief.

Ratepayers who have received SSB Relief as a result of the 2017 revaluation will continue to receive relief, if eligible, for 2023-24. SSB Relief will end for these ratepayers on 31 March 2024 without further notice.

Ratepayers who during 2022-23 lost entitlement to Small Business Rate Relief (because they failed the second property test) but have, under the rules for Small Business Rate Relief, been given a 12 month period of grace before their relief ended - can continue on the 2023 SSB Relief Scheme for the remainder of their 12 month period of grace.

All other eligible ratepayers remain in 2023 SSBR for either three years or until they reach the bill they would have paid without the scheme. A change of ratepayers will not affect eligibility for the Supporting Small Business scheme but eligibility will be lost if the property falls vacant or becomes occupied by a charity or community amateur sports club.

There is no second property test for eligibility for the 2023 SSB Relief Scheme.

There is no need to make an application for this relief. If you qualify we will automatically apply the relief to your account. If you think you are entitled to the relief but haven't received it, please contact us.

Any relief awarded under this scheme will be adjusted if there is a change in your circumstances, for example if you vacate the premises or there is an amendment to the rateable value of your premises. For further information please visit this [website](#).

2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief

The 2023/24 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief scheme will provide eligible, occupied, retail, hospitality and leisure properties with a 75 per cent relief, up to a

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cash cap limit of £110,000 per business.

This cash cap applies at a group company level (so holding companies and subsidiaries cannot claim up to the cash cap for each company). It also applies to organisations which, although not a company, have an interest in a company that they would, if they were a company, result in it being the holding company.

To claim the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief you must not have exceeded either the £110,000 cash cap for 2023/24 or the Small Amounts of Financial Assistance limit of £315,000 over three years (including 2023/24).

Please email the business rates team (croyndr@croydon.gov.uk) if your business will be in breach of the cash cap.

For the 2023/2024 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief Scheme, businesses may choose to opt out of support by providing billing authorities notification of their request to refuse support, per eligible hereditament. To opt out please contact us at croyndr@croydon.gov.uk

For further information please visit [this website](#).

Local discounts

Local authorities have a general power to grant discretionary local discounts. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Subsidy control

The new UK subsidy control regime commenced 4 January 2023. The new regime enables public authorities, including devolved administrations and local authorities, to deliver subsidies that are tailored for local needs.

Mandatory rate relief doesn't count as a subsidy, but discretionary rate relief usually does. If you apply for any discretionary reliefs and you've received any other subsidy this

year or in the last two years, you must tell us.

You're allowed up to £315,000 over a rolling three year period (consisting of the 2023-24 financial year and the two previous financial years). Expanded Retail Discount granted in 2021-22 does not count towards the £315,000 allowance, but BEIS business grants (throughout the three years) and any other subsidies claimed under the Minimal Financial Assistance limit should be counted.

Public authorities giving subsidies must comply with the UK's international subsidy control commitments. The subsidy control legislation provides the framework for a new, UK-wide subsidy control regime. Further information about subsidy control can be found on the gov.uk [website](#).

Hardship relief

The local authority has discretion to give hardship relief in specific circumstances. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Rating advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS - [website](#)) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV - [website](#)) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct. Before you employ a rating adviser, you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.

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Information supplied with demand notices

Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to the gross expenditure of the local authority is available [here](#).

A hard copy is available on request by calling 020 8726 6000 or writing to: Resources Department, Finance Investment and Risk, 3rd Floor, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA.

What is the Elizabeth Line (formerly Crossrail) and how will it benefit your business?

The Elizabeth Line is London's newest railway. It connects the outer suburbs and Heathrow airport to the West End, the City and Canary Wharf. As such, it is vital to the future of London's economy. The increased earnings it will bring – from new jobs and quicker journeys – will benefit businesses across London. It was named the Elizabeth line in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The Elizabeth line has been the single largest investment in London's infrastructure for decades. It employed up to 14,000 people at the peak of construction. The central section opened in May 2022 and in November 2022, direct Elizabeth line services into central London from Reading, Heathrow, Shenfield and Abbey Wood began. The final timetable across the entire railway is expected to be in place by no later than May 2023. To find out more, visit <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/elizabeth-line/>, call the helpline on **0343 222 1234** or go to <https://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/>

Developments in the funding of Crossrail

The previous Mayor of London agreed a funding settlement with the government in 2010 for the Crossrail scheme. The Mayor and the Secretary of State for Transport agreed revised funding packages for Crossrail in December 2018 and November 2020.

How will London's businesses help fund Crossrail?

In April 2012, the previous Mayor introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL) on new developments in London to finance Crossrail. The charging schedule changed in April 2019. The developer pays this levy.

Business ratepayers of larger properties have contributed through a special Crossrail Business Rate Supplement (BRS) since April

2010. Under the current funding package, the GLA is expected to contribute a total of around £7 billion towards Crossrail. This is financed through the MCIL and the BRS. The BRS will need to be levied until the GLA's Crossrail related borrowing is repaid. This should be no later than March 2041, in line with the published Crossrail BRS prospectus

Does my business have to pay the Crossrail BRS?

Your rates bill makes clear if you are liable to pay the BRS. It applies only to assessments (for example business and other non-domestic premises) with a rateable value above £75,000. This year the threshold has been increased from £70,000 to £75,000 reflecting the impact of the 2023 business rates revaluation. This higher threshold means that at least 86 per cent of the capital's non-domestic properties will be exempt from paying the BRS in 2023-24

How much do I pay if my property's rateable value is above £75,000?

The Crossrail BRS multiplier for 2023-24 remains at 2p per pound of rateable value. Reliefs for the Crossrail BRS will apply on the same basis and at the same percentage rate as for your national non-domestic rates (NNDR) bill. However, there is no transitional relief scheme for the BRS.

Keeping you up-to-date

We will give ratepayers an annual update over the lifetime of the BRS.

Contact for more information

020 7983 4100

crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk

www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs

Finance, GLA, City Hall, London E16 1ZE



Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2023-24 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 - inequalities which have become even more apparent as a result of the current cost of living crisis. It supports job creation and London's business community, 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 and help address the cost of living crisis. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, funding to maintain the capital's transport services and programmes to tackle 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 services for children and young people and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live. Moreover, it prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe, including violence reduction initiatives, support for victims of crime, recruitment drives for additional frontline officers and projects to divert vulnerable young people away from the criminal justice system.

In light of the significant reductions in fares revenue since the pandemic, it has been necessary to provide additional resources through local taxation income to maintain London's transport system including investing in preserving the bus network. However, this budget remains focused on delivering a swift and sustainable economic recovery across the capital as well as 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 £38.55 (or 74p per week) to £434.14. The additional income from this increase in council tax 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 funding agreements. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £142.01.

Band D Council Tax (£)	2021-23	Change	2023-24
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	277.13	15.00	292.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	58.50	3.68	62.48
GLA	22.57	-0.13	22.44
Transport Services	37.09	20.00	57.09
Total	395.59	38.55	434.14

Controlling costs at City Hall and delivering the Mayor's key priorities

The Mayor's budget includes significant savings across the GLA Group in 2023-24, including tens of millions of pounds over the first five years following moving City Hall from Tower Bridge to the Royal Docks. These savings have allowed him to release resources to help meet his key priorities. His budget includes plans to invest £6.9 billion to allow 116,000 affordable homes starts within London by the end

The Mayor has already taken steps to improve air quality in London by introducing the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in central London in April 2019, which was expanded to the North and South Circular roads in Autumn 2021. The Mayor has also created a £110m scrappage scheme providing financial assistance to help eligible Londoners scrap or retrofit their highest polluting vehicles to prepare for the planned expansion of the ULEZ London-wide from 29 August 2023. He has continued to roll out his Green New Deal for London to address the climate emergency, with the objective of helping to create jobs and to double the size of the capital's green economy by 2030. This work is being supported in 2023-24 by the allocation of an additional £134 million to be used towards environmental improvement projects in order to help deliver the Mayor's target to ensure London achieves carbon net zero by 2030

The Mayor will continue to ask the government to provide the maximum possible ongoing financial support to London businesses and Londoners to assist them through the current challenging economic situation including the impact of rising food and fuel inflation, rents and interest rates. He will also maintain investment in skills and retraining to help tackle unemployment and support Londoners to secure better paid jobs, as well as supporting the advice sector to help Londoners impacted by the cost of living crisis. The Mayor is also responding to the cost of living crisis by providing £130 million of new funding to ensure all primary school pupils can receive free school meals in the 2023-24 school year.

The Mayor will also work with London's business community, key investors and other stakeholders to support the economic recovery and ensure that London and Londoners' interests are protected following the UK's departure from the European Union. He will provide funding for new projects to bring communities together, tackle social inequality and boost London's economy, including supporting projects to help small and medium sized businesses.

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

The Mayor published his Police and Crime Plan for 2022-25 in March 2022. This sets out the Mayor's vision for a city in which Londoners are safer – and feel safer. His key priorities include providing a better criminal justice service in London to ensure victims of crime are better supported, keeping children and young people safe, tackling the harm caused by drugs, reducing reoffending by the most violent and high-risk groups and preventing hate crime. He has taken steps to ensure London's police service has the resources it needs to put more officers on the streets to suppress violence, including dealing with violence against women and girls, and responding to the demands and pressures of policing a capital city. He has also provided resources to tackle domestic violence and is increasing investment in violence reduction initiatives. The Plan also outlines the action the Mayor is taking to continue to hold the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to account, ensuring all Londoners have trust and confidence in their police force and standards within the wider force are improved. The budget supports the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner in delivering this vital work.

The Mayor published his Action Plan in November 2020 to improve trust and confidence in the MPS and to address community concerns about disproportionality in the use of certain police powers affecting Black Londoners. The Mayor has committed, as part of the action plan, to invest £1.7 million per annum, for a three year period from 2021-22 to 2023-24, to develop greater community involvement in police officer training and in the recruitment and progression of Black officers in the MPS. The MPS must rise to meet these challenges at a time of acute financial pressure. As a result of the net reduction in resources from the Home Office for policing between 2010 and 2019, the MPS had to close more than 100 police stations and remove over 3,300 Police Community Support Officers and 4,500 police staff in order to minimise reductions to front line officer numbers.

The Mayor is raising the police element of his council tax precept paid in the 32 London boroughs (but not the City of London which has its own police force) by £15 for a typical Band D property, as assumed in government calculations of police spending power. The additional revenues will help raise £22 million to fund the recruitment of 500 additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). In all, through his decisions in this and previous budgets, the Mayor has funded an additional 1,300 police officer posts from locally raised revenues.

Transport for London (TfL)

TfL has faced significant financial challenges as a result of the reduced levels of ridership due to the pandemic since March 2020, which has led to a reduction in fare revenues. The Mayor continues to work with the government to secure a sustainable long-term funding settlement for TfL to allow him to continue to invest in the transport network while making it more reliable and accessible. The Mayor's priorities for TfL, subject to funding constraints where applicable, and key achievements include:

- 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 schemes.
- Completing the final stages to deliver the full operation of and timetable for the Elizabeth line by no later than May 2023. The line has increased central London's rail capacity by ten per cent and saw over 100 million passenger journeys during its first eight months. This follows on from the opening of 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.
- Enhancing capacity on the London Underground and rail services, and upgrading key stations such as Bank/Monument station, Old Street and Elephant and Castle as well as securing government funding to make Leyton and Colindale stations step free.
- Making public transport more accessible for everyone. All Elizabeth line stations will be step free.
- Delivering the local regeneration and housing benefits arising from completing the extension of London Overground on the Gospel Oak to Barking Line to serve Barking Riverside in July 2022.
- Expanding capacity and commencing rolling out new trains on the DLR network in 2024.
- Maintaining the Bus and Tram one-hour Hopper fare and investing to sustain existing journey times and reliability on the bus network.
- Continuing the electrification of London Buses so that all are emission free by 2037 at the latest.

- Tackling London's toxic air quality including extending the ULEZ London-wide. The Mayor has introduced a £110 million vehicle scrappage scheme for small businesses and Londoners in receipt of low income and disability benefits.
- Investing in schemes designed to make walking, cycling and public transport safer, cleaner and more appealing in partnership with London boroughs.

London Fire Commissioner (LFC)

The Mayor's funding ensures that the London Fire Brigade's (LFB) first and second fire engines attending an incident arrive 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. A new Community Risk Management Plan came into effect in January 2023 covering the period to 2029 replacing the previous London Safety Plan. The Mayor is providing resources to roll out a transformation programme so that the LFB can implement the recommendations of the Grenfell fire inquiry, including investing in the new vehicles and equipment required. The London Fire Commissioner, with the full support of the Mayor, is also committed to implementing the deep-rooted reform needed to the culture and systems within the LFB.

London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)

The LLDC was set up to ensure that the city benefits from a long-term legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Mayor's 2023-24 budget provides funding to complete the construction of East Bank, one of the world's largest and most ambitious cultural and education districts, in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It will bring an additional 1.5 million visitors to the Park and surrounding area each year, and more than 2,500 jobs will be created generating an estimated £1.5 billion for the local economy.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

The OPDC has been established to support the creation of 65,000 new jobs and at least 24,000 new homes in west London over the next 20 years. It will build on the regeneration benefits which High Speed 2 (HS2), the Elizabeth line and the Great Western Mainline stations at Old Oak Common are expected to bring locally. The Mayor's 2023-24 budget provides additional resources to enable the Corporation to start early delivery of its programme.

Summary of GLA Group budget

The tables below show where the GLA's funding comes from and the reasons for the year on year change in the budget. It also explains how the GLA has calculated the sum to be collected from council tax (the council tax requirement), has calculated the sum to be collected from council tax (the council tax requirement).

How the GLA budget is funded (£ million)	2023-24
Gross expenditure	16,232.6
Government grants and retained business rates	-7,001.9
Fares, charges and other income	-7,527.2
Change in reserves	-350.4
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	1,353.1

Changes in spending (£ million)	2023-24
2022-23 council tax requirement	1,213.6
Net change in service expenditure and income	-108.4
Change in use of reserves	-278.3
Government grants and retained business rates	942.8
Other changes	-416.6
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	1,353.1

Detailed budget by service area

The table below compares the GLA Group's planned expenditure on policing, fire and other services (including transport) in 2023-24 with 2022-23. LLDC and OPDC are not funded from council tax. The GLA's planned gross expenditure is higher this year. This reflects the additional resources the Mayor is investing in policing, the fire brigade and transport services. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra resources for the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade and to secure funding to maintain existing transport services including buses and the tube network. There has been a 1.6 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: www.london.gov.uk/budget.

Summary of Spending and Income (£ million)	Police (MOPAC)		Fire (LFC)		Other Services (incl. GLA, TfL, LLDC and OPDC)		GLA Group Total	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
<i>(figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)</i>								
Gross expenditure	4,269.2	4,533.1	508.6	534.5	10,172.5	11,165.0	14,950.3	16,232.6
Government grants and business rates	-2,992.3	-3,100.5	-277.6	-284.6	-3,704.9	-3,616.8	-6,974.8	-7,001.9
Other income (incl. fares and charges)	-303.4	-329.4	-44.2	-48.1	-6,433.9	-7,149.7	-6,781.5	-7,527.2
Net expenditure	973.5	1,103.2	186.8	201.8	33.7	398.5	1,194.0	1,703.5
Change to level of reserves	-124.0	-193.6	-6.1	-6.7	149.7	150.1	19.6	-350.4
Council tax requirement (income)	849.5	909.6	180.7	195.1	183.4	248.4	1,213.6	1,353.1

LONDON PENSIONS FUND AUTHORITY 2023/24

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 2023/24, 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	£7,000,000 (-46%)
Greater London	£1,000,000 (-90%)
Total	£8,000,000 (-66%)

From 2023/24 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. This means that although the levy amount has reduced this year, most boroughs continue to pay the same total amount to LPFA as was paid during 2022/23.

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 9% 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

Budget/Levy 2023/24 (£'million)

	2022/23	2023/24
Authority Operating Expenditure	15.1	15.5
Authority Operating Income	-7.0	-7.3
Net Service Operating Costs	8.1	8.2
Financing Costs - Debt Servicing/repayments	0.5	2.0
- Capital investment	1.3	0.9
Total Net Expenditure	9.9	11.1
Net use of Reserves	-0.1	-0.5
Total Levy	-9.8	-10.6

Further details on how this budget is spent and the amount each council contributes can be found at www.leevalleypark.org.uk

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 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:

Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee		
	2022/2023 (£000s)	2023/2024 (£000s)
Gross Expenditure	£109,376	£139,806
Levies Raised	£12,282	£12,526
Total Council Tax Base	5,214	5,297

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 £12,281,930 in 2022/2023 to £12,526,341 for 2023/2024.

Name not on the electoral register?



Each individual must register to vote. If your name is not on the electoral register, you can register online at:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Registering will only take a few minutes. As part of your application you will be required to provide your national insurance number. This is used as part of a security check to verify your identity, so please make sure you have this to hand when you make your application.

Alternatively, please contact us to request a paper application form:

✉ electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk ☎ **0300 373 0595**

Once we have checked your information, we will inform you when you are added to the electoral register.

A change in the law means that from May this year, voters will need to show photo ID in order to vote in person at their polling station. Anyone who does not have an accepted form of photo ID will be unable to vote.

To find out what types of ID will be accepted and for more information, visit the voter ID [page](#)

Elections can be called at any time. Make sure you're ready. **Check** you've got the right ID or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate now.

For more information about registering to vote and elections visit the council's [elections page](#).

Electoral Services can be contacted at electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk / 0300 373 0595

The
Electoral
Commission

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID



Registered to vote
by post? You don't
need photo ID