



The Executive Mayor's Office  
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**26 February 2026**

Dear Resident

Croydon is back on track – but the job is far from finished.

When I became Mayor, I inherited a Council with serious financial challenges. The finance director had had to issue two Section 114 Notices – effectively declaring bankruptcy. Several public reports had set out serious issues with financial decision-making and governance – and residents were paying the price.

Since becoming Mayor in 2022, my priority has been simple: fix the Council, restore stability and protect our borough's future.

This year's budget continues that work.

Since 2020-21, we have delivered £229 million of savings, cutting waste and reducing red tape – all whilst improving services and strengthening governance. This year alone we are on course to deliver more than £48 million in savings. Next year we will deliver a further £34 million, followed by £30 million each year through to 2029.

Since 2022, we have stabilised the debt and we have fixed the hole beneath the waterline. That is real progress.

But I want to be honest with you: our recovery remains fragile.

Croydon still carries a historic £1.4 billion debt burden in the general fund, that I inherited. Servicing that debt will cost £86 million this year. That is money we would all rather see spent on frontline services – bins, roads, parks and more – but it reflects the scale of the challenge we inherited.

Councils across the country continue to face significant pressures, particularly from rising demand for homelessness support and adult social care. The national economic picture is also adding very real pressure on our local community. So, Croydon's financial position remains tight and requires continued discipline.

In line with my commitment to residents, we are not increasing Council Tax above the Government's 4.99% cap for London boroughs. This includes the 2% Adult Social Care precept that Councils are expected to charge.

For a Band D property, this represents an increase of approximately £2.30 per week (including the GLA precept). I understand that any increase is unwelcome, which is why we continue to provide Council Tax Support for those who need it. You can find out more at [www.croydon.gov.uk/benefits/council-tax-support](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/benefits/council-tax-support)

This budget is not about short-term headlines. It is about long-term responsibility.

In the past Croydon Council over-extended itself – the Council did too much, and did it poorly. That's now changing. We are working hard to modernise how the Council operates and as a result we will become a smaller, more efficient organisation that delivers better value for every person living in our borough. That is my vision.

I am working hard to restore pride in Croydon. We are investing in cleaner streets and stepping up enforcement against fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour. I've recruited more enforcement officers to name and shame those who dump in our communities. We are maintaining a zero-tolerance approach to crime and taking more people to court for abusing our neighbourhoods. We have secured more than £1.2 billion of inward investment and driving regeneration across the borough. We are supporting children and families and helping older residents live healthier, more independent lives.

We have made significant progress, all within a difficult financial context, but there is still more to do.

The decisions we take now matter. Responsible leadership means staying focused, maintaining financial discipline and not risking the progress we have made.

My commitment remains clear: to fix our Council, protect local services and ensure Croydon delivers value for money for every resident.

We have come a long way. We are back on track. And we must keep going.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason Perry". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

**Mayor Jason Perry**  
Executive Mayor of Croydon