Dear Croydon resident,

I am writing to let you know about the council’s new budget for 2020/21, which outlines our commitment to protect and invest in public services that are making a difference to people’s lives.

To be able to continue to deliver and support these important services we will need to raise Croydon’s council tax from April.

Decisions like this are never easy, but we think it’s really important that we are able to care for our elderly and vulnerable residents, and that we invest in schools and children’s services that give our young people the best start in life.

We all want safe, clean neighbourhoods and to be able to recycle more, which is why we continue to prioritise our environmental services. We also want to make sure we are supporting initiatives that help to reduce Croydon’s carbon footprint following our declaration of a climate emergency last year.

This year’s council tax increase means householders in an ‘average’ Band D property will pay an extra £1.29 per week. Some of that money goes directly to help care for Croydon’s older residents, while 22p will go to the Greater London Authority, whose responsibilities include policing, fire services and Transport for London.

The financial struggle local councils are facing is well documented. Trying to balance increasing demand for services with sustained cuts to grant funding from central government has left many having to make some difficult decisions.

Austerity isn’t over, but Croydon has worked hard to manage the money it has. As well as finding savings of more than £200m over the past decade we are developing innovative new ways of service delivery and strengthening our work with partners out in our communities.

Through our preventative and targeted early intervention work in Croydon’s neighbourhoods, we are supporting residents who need help at the earliest opportunity, delivering services in the right place at the right time.
We have protected local libraries and invested in culture, including the restoration of our much-loved Fairfield Halls. This commitment was recognised last month when the Mayor of London declared that Croydon would be London Borough of Culture 2023. This wonderful accolade will come with investment, creating many more opportunities for everyone locally to experience and participate in the arts.

Our budget prioritises investment in local people, supports our most vulnerable residents and protects value for money public services so that we can build a fairer, stronger and more sustainable Croydon.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Tony Newman
Leader, Croydon Council

For more information about your council tax bill and the council’s budget go to www.croydon.gov.uk/ctax
Would you like your COUNCIL TAX PAID FOR A YEAR?

YES? GREAT!

2 ways to win...

Set up a Direct debit by 31st May. It’s the easiest way to pay. Click WIN

or

Sign up to My Account and online billing by 31st May HERE and join thousands of other residents who manage their council services online.

or

You can complete and return the form included with your last bill if you prefer!

Don’t delay and lose out on winning today. How would you spend the money you could save?

For terms & conditions visit: www.croydon.gov.uk/ctax
How we calculate the Council Tax requirement for Croydon Services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total £'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Requirement</td>
<td>277,272</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Paid For by:**
- Collection Fund deficit: -1,121
- Business Rates Top up grant: 34,192
- Business Rates Income: 37,348
- Council Tax Requirement for Croydon Services: 192,726
- Greater London Authority (GLA): 44,075

**Total Council Tax:** 236,801

2019/20 Change £ 15,450

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Element Increased</th>
<th>Overall Impact on Council Tax</th>
<th>Per Annum £</th>
<th>Per Week £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Croydon Services</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
<td>27.79</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Care Levy</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>27.93</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLA Services</td>
<td>3.60%</td>
<td>11.56</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Band Proportion of Band D Croydon Services £ Adult Social Care Precept £ GLA Total £**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Proportion of Band D</th>
<th>Croydon Services £</th>
<th>Adult Social Care Precept £</th>
<th>GLA</th>
<th>Total £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>883.41</td>
<td>84.61</td>
<td>221.38</td>
<td>1,189.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>7/9</td>
<td>1,030.65</td>
<td>98.71</td>
<td>258.28</td>
<td>1,387.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>1,177.88</td>
<td>112.81</td>
<td>295.17</td>
<td>1,585.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>1,325.12</td>
<td>126.91</td>
<td>332.07</td>
<td>1,784.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>1,619.59</td>
<td>155.11</td>
<td>405.86</td>
<td>2,180.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>13/9</td>
<td>1,914.06</td>
<td>183.31</td>
<td>479.66</td>
<td>2,577.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>15/9</td>
<td>2,208.53</td>
<td>211.52</td>
<td>553.45</td>
<td>2,973.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>18/9</td>
<td>2,650.24</td>
<td>253.82</td>
<td>664.14</td>
<td>3,568.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adult Social Care Precept**

The 2015 Spending Round and Autumn Statement announced an additional flexibility on top of the core principle for local authorities with responsibility for adult social care (‘ASC authorities’) for all years of the Spending Review (i.e. up to and including 2019-20), subject to annual approval by the House of Commons. This is known as the ‘Adult Social Care precept’. The 2019 Spending Round announced that a further 2% flexibility would also be available in this way for 2020-21.
SUMMARY OF COUNCIL SPENDING

The table below compares the gross and net cost of providing your services in 2020/21 with 2019/20.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVICE</th>
<th>2019/20</th>
<th>2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>net £’000</td>
<td>Spending £’000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, Families and Education</td>
<td>97,349</td>
<td>168,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Wellbeing and Adults</td>
<td>131,272</td>
<td>234,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>104,052</td>
<td>140,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>-3,176</td>
<td>236,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7,782</td>
<td>5,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cost of Services</td>
<td>337,279</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Grants</td>
<td>-33,430</td>
<td>-33,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levies from other bodies</td>
<td>1,424</td>
<td>1,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Receivable</td>
<td>-11,318</td>
<td>-11,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Payable</td>
<td>23,054</td>
<td>25,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency / Unallocated Provision</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Operating Expense</td>
<td>319,009</td>
<td>299,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to / (from) earmarked reserves</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for repayment of external loans</td>
<td>7,243</td>
<td>7,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-26,889</td>
<td>-28,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred / intangible charges written off</td>
<td>-3,692</td>
<td>-1,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFCUS</td>
<td>-30,806</td>
<td>-3,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to / (from) general balances reserves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Requirement</td>
<td>270,365</td>
<td>277,272</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main reasons for the increase in estimated net expenditure from 2019/20 to 2020/21 are as follows:-

**£m**

- Council Tax income 12,698
- Revenue Support Grant 14,127
- Collection Fund -7,681
- Business Rates -12,237
- Total 6,907
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 www.voa.gov.uk

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 www.croydon.gov.uk/doitonline and click on Apply for it.

If two or more adults reside in the property but one or more adult 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)
• 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 dependents of visiting forces
• Persons with diplomatic privilege or immunity.
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, please visit the website to confirm if you are eligible and how to apply for one of these discounts or exemptions, www.croydon.gov.uk/advice/counciltax/reductions

Empty properties
From 1 April 2019, the long term empty property premium changed. An additional charge of 100% council tax was applied to properties that had been empty for at least two years. From 1 April 2020, an additional charge of 200% will be applied for properties that have been empty for more than 5 years. From 1 April 2021, an additional charge of 300% will be applied for properties that have been empty for more than 10 years. This is in order to reduce housing pressure within the area by bringing empty properties back into use. For further information, please visit our website https://www.croydon.gov.uk/advice/counciltax/reductions-appeals-and-exemptions

For help and advice on preparing your property for sale or to let, please visit our website www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/privatehousing

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.
EXPLANATORY NOTES

Council tax appeals

Banding appeals
Appeals regarding Council Tax banding should be made with the Valuation Office Agency who can be contacted via www.gov.uk/contact-voa or telephone: 03000 501 501.

Other appeals
Appeals concerning liability, discounts, exemptions or disabled relief should be made in writing to the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and S151 Officer, Investment and Risk, Resources Department, 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 our website log on to www.croydon.gov.uk/contact and click on ‘Contact the council’
- Email us at croyctax@croydon.gov.uk
- Telephone 020 8726 7000 Option 1
  Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm
- Resources Department, Finance Investment and Risk, 5th Floor, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA
- Minicom 020 8760 5797

Visit Access Croydon, Bernard Weatherill House, Croydon. We are open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.
**Finding it hard to pay your council tax or rent?**

**You could be eligible for council tax support or Universal Credit**

Based on the information you provide, our benefit calculator can help assess whether you are entitled to council tax support and, if so, give you an idea of how much. You can find our benefit calculator at [www.croydon.gov.uk/advice/benefits/claim](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/advice/benefits/claim).

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 [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit).

Housing Benefit is still available if you are of pension age, living in temporary or support exempt accommodation or are in receipt of a Severe Disability Premium. For more information and to make an application please visit our website [www.croydon.gov.uk/advice/benefits/claim](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/advice/benefits/claim).

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly income</th>
<th>Monthly council tax</th>
<th>Money given towards their council tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£1,280.58</td>
<td>£132.16</td>
<td>£112.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£883.74</td>
<td>£99.12</td>
<td>£84.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£715</td>
<td>£86.73</td>
<td>£7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£971.84</td>
<td>£86.73</td>
<td>£73.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income support</td>
<td>£99.12</td>
<td>£99.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£1,193.36</td>
<td>£148.68</td>
<td>£148.68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
EXPLANATORY NOTES

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES EXPLANATORY NOTES 2020-2021

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 1st 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 at: https://www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates 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 Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs. 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 2017, this date was set as 1st April 2015.

The Valuation Office Agency 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: www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-check-your-rateable-value-is-correct. 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.

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 2017 and transitional arrangements
All non-domestic property rateable values are reassessed at revaluations. The most recent revaluation took effect from 1st April 2017. 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.
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 has been funded by limiting the reduction in bills for those who have benefitted from the revaluation. Transitional relief is applied automatically to bills. Further information about transitional arrangements and other reliefs may be obtained from the local authority or the website www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

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.
EXPLANATORY NOTES

Where a ratepayer meets the eligibility criteria and has not received the relief they should contact their local authority.

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. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Spring Budget 2017 Relief Scheme: Discretionary Scheme

The Government is providing £300 million of funding to local authorities over 4 years to 31st March 2021 to provide discounts to ratepayers in their area on a discretionary basis. Each authority has been allocated a share with which to design and implement a scheme to deliver targeted support to ratepayers. The £300m will cover the 4 years from 2017/18: £175m in 2017/18; £85m in 2019/20; £35m in 2019/20 and £5m in 2020/21.

Local authority allocations can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/discretionary-business-rates-relief-scheme

This relief will be delivered through local authority discretionary discount powers (under section 47(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988). Further information can be obtained from your local authority.

Retail Relief scheme

The Government is providing funding for occupied properties with a rateable value of less than £51,000 for 2020-21.

The value of the discount will be 50 per cent of the bill and must be applied after mandatory reliefs and other discretionary reliefs funded by section 31 grants.
Properties that will benefit from the Relief will be wholly or mainly being used as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments. From 2020-21 this discount will extend to cinemas and music venues.

The relief will be delivered through local authority discretionary discount powers (under section 47(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1998). Further information can be obtained from your local authority.

The Local Discretionary Pub Relief Scheme

The Local Discretionary Business Rate Pub Relief Scheme will provide £1,000 for one year only for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 to occupied pubs that meet the eligibility criteria.

You can find further information regarding qualifying criteria for the relief on our website at https://www.croydon.gov.uk/business/businessrates/reductions/relief

All reliefs are subject to state aid rules and apply in England only.

Local discounts

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

State aid

The award of such discounts is considered likely to amount to state aid. However it will be state aid compliant where it is provided in accordance with the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013. The De Minimis Regulations allow an undertaking to receive up to €200,000 ‘de minimis’ aid over a rolling three year period. If you are receiving, or have received, any ‘de minimis’ aid granted during the current or two previous financial years (from any source), you should inform the local authority immediately with details of the aid received.

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 www.rics.org) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV - website www.irrv.org.uk) 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.

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 at www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/budgets/financial-accounts

A hard copy is available on request by writing to the council or calling 020 8726 6000.
EXPLANATORY NOTES

BUSINESS RATE SUPPLEMENTS
AUTHORITIES ONLY (EXCLUDING COMMON COUNCIL)

Business rate supplements
The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 enables levying authorities - county councils, unitary district councils and, in London, the Greater London Authority - to levy a supplement on the business rate to support additional projects aimed at economic development of the area.

Business Rate Supplements (BRS) are not applicable to properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or below, and authorities have discretion to increase that threshold. The total maximum BRS which may be levied by a levying authority is 2p per pound of rateable value. Levying authorities have the power to apply such reliefs to the BRS as they think appropriate and, in such cases, must include an explanation of the rules for the application of those reliefs in the final prospectus for the BRS.

CROSSRAIL BUSINESS RATE SUPPLEMENT (BRS)

What is Crossrail and how will it benefit your business?
Crossrail is London's newest railway. It will connect the outer suburbs and Heathrow airport to the West End, City and Canary Wharf. As such, Crossrail 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. When it opens, it will be named the Elizabeth line in honour of Queen Elizabeth II.

Crossrail is the single largest investment in London's infrastructure for decades. It employed up to 14,000 people at the peak of construction. Work is now continuing to complete the project and stations along the route as soon as possible with the section through central London expected to open in 2021.

To find out more, visit www.crossrail.co.uk, call the Crossrail 24 hr Helpdesk on 0345 602 3813 or email helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk
EXPLANATORY NOTES

Developments in the funding of Crossrail
The previous Mayor of London agreed a funding settlement with Government in 2010 for the Crossrail route. The Mayor and the Secretary of State for Transport announced a revised funding package for Crossrail on 10 December 2018.

How are London's businesses helping fund Crossrail?
In April 2012, the previous Mayor introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL) on new developments in London to finance Crossrail. This is paid for by the developer. Business ratepayers of larger properties have contributed through a special Crossrail Business Rate Supplement (BRS) since April 2010.

Under the December 2018 funding package, the GLA's total contribution towards Crossrail financed through the MCIL and BRS is expected to be around £6.1 billion. The BRS will need to be levied until the GLA's Crossrail related borrowing is repaid. This is expected to be some time in the mid to late 2030s, in line with the published prospectus. The policies for the BRS in 2020-21 remain unchanged from last year.

Does my business have to pay the Crossrail BRS?
Your rates bill makes clear if you are liable to pay the BRS. The Crossrail BRS is applied only to assessments (for example business and other non-domestic premises) with a rateable value of over £70,000 on the local rating lists of the 32 London boroughs and City of London Corporation. This threshold means that around 85 per cent of non-domestic properties in London will be exempt from the BRS in 2020-21.

How much do I pay if my property’s rateable value is above £70,000?
The Crossrail BRS multiplier for 2020-21 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, no transitional relief is provided 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 SE1 2AA
Introduction

The Mayor of London’s budget for the 2020-21 financial year is built around his vision of a city where nobody is left behind, and opportunities are open to all. It supports London’s future growth and economic success, building on our city’s thriving economy, extraordinary creativity, tolerance, diversity and openness to the world.

This year’s budget will provide resources to improve the key services Londoners need. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, keeping transport fares as low as possible and tackling toxic air pollution and the climate emergency. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, help rough sleepers, invest in youth services and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live. Moreover, it provides extra resources from council tax and business rates for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe. Over £100 million in additional funding is being provided by the Mayor to the police, for violence reduction initiatives and to improve opportunities for young Londoners. This will help offset the ongoing impact of the reductions in government funding over the last decade.

Council tax for GLA services

The GLA’s share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £11.56 (or 22p per week) to £332.07. The additional income raised will fund the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £79.94.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council Tax (£)</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)</td>
<td>242.13</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>252.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFC (London Fire Brigade)</td>
<td>53.00</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>55.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLA</td>
<td>23.38</td>
<td>-0.69</td>
<td>22.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFL (Transport)</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>320.51</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>332.07</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Mayor’s budget includes significant savings across the GLA Group in 2020-21. This has allowed him to release resources to help meet his key priorities. This includes plans to invest £4.8 billion to support starts of 116,000 new affordable homes in London by 2022 and extra resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.
The Mayor will also increase investment in green spaces and provide £25 million of extra funding to support constructive activities for disadvantaged young Londoners. He has taken steps to improve air quality in London by introducing the Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London which will be expanded to the North and South Circular roads in autumn 2021. An additional £50 million has also been allocated to fund a Green New Deal for London to address the climate change emergency. The Mayor is also providing funding for around 1,000 cultural and community events across London and for the planting of thousands more street trees over the next year.

The Mayor will also work with London’s business community and key investors to ensure London’s 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 over 6,400 small and medium sized businesses.

**The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)**

The Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan – a Safer City for Londoners 2017-21 - sets out his strategy for policing and community safety in the city. His key priorities include improving the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), providing a better criminal justice service in London and keeping children and young people safe. He will also provide resources to tackle domestic violence which particularly affects women and invest an extra £34 million on violence reduction initiatives.

The MPS must rise to meet these challenges at a time of acute financial pressure. As a result of the reductions in government resources for policing over the last decade, officer numbers fell to the lowest levels in fifteen years, and the MPS has had to close more than 100 police stations and remove 2,800 police support staff and Police Community Support Officer roles in order to protect officer numbers.

The Mayor is raising the police element of his council tax precept by £10 for a typical Band D property. He will also maintain an additional £59 million of funding through business rates. In all, through his decisions in this and previous budgets, the Mayor has funded an additional 1,300 officer posts from locally raised revenues.

**Transport for London (TfL)**

London’s population is forecast to grow by one million in the next decade. TfL is investing to make the transport network more reliable and accessible. The Mayor’s priorities for TfL include:

- making transport more affordable. Single bus fares, single pay as you go fares on the Tube and DLR and the charges for the Santander cycle hire scheme have been frozen again in 2020. This will save travellers an estimated £40 million a year;
- maintaining the Bus and Tram one-hour Hopper fare and investing to improve journey times and reliability on the bus network;
• working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes providing free 24-hour travel for the over 60s, the disabled, armed forces personnel in uniform and eligible war veterans and protecting the Taxicard and Dial a Ride schemes. Discounts on travelcards are also available for apprentices;

• increasing capacity on the London Underground and rail services and maintaining the Night Tube and Night Overground services;

• extending the Barking Gospel Oak line to Barking Riverside and expanding capacity on the DLR and tram network;

• planning for the Bakerloo line extension to south east London and new river crossings in east London;

• working to complete the Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail) - which will increase central London’s rail capacity by ten per cent - and the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power station as soon as possible;

• developing plans and securing funding to deliver refurbished trains on the Central Line and a new spacious state of the art fleet on the Piccadilly line;

• introducing an Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London to tackle local air pollution which will be extended to the North and South Circular roads by autumn 2021;

• making public transport more accessible for everyone. By 2024 nearly 40 per cent of tube stations are expected to be step free. All new Elizabeth line stations will also be step free; and

• investing a record £2.3 billion by 2024 through his Healthy Streets scheme to fund a range of 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 first and second fire engines attending an emergency incident arrive, on average, within six and eight minutes respectively. The Mayor is also providing resources to roll out 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.
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 2020-21 budget provides funding for the development of a world class cultural and education district, East Bank, in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. This is expected to create 3,000 new jobs, attract 1.5 million additional visitors and bring £2.8 billion of economic value to east London.

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.
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).

### Detailed budget by service area

The table below compares the GLA Group’s expenditure on policing, fire and other services (including transport) in 2020-21 with 2019-20. The GLA’s gross expenditure is higher this year. This is mainly due to the impact of extra investment planned by the Mayor in transport, policing, adult education and the fire service as well as additional business rates receipts being paid over to the Government to support local services elsewhere in England. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra funding for the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade. There has also 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](http://www.london.gov.uk/budget) (tel: 020 7983 4000).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How the GLA budget is funded (£ million)</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross expenditure</td>
<td>13,365.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants and retained business rates</td>
<td>-5,486.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fares, charges and other income</td>
<td>-6,787.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of reserves</td>
<td>-81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount met by council tax payers (£m)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,010.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in spending (£ million)</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-20 council tax requirement</td>
<td>960.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>244.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiencies and other savings</td>
<td>-150.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New initiatives</td>
<td>512.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other changes (for example fares revenue and grants)</td>
<td>-555.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,010.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Spending and Income (£ million)</th>
<th>Police (MOPAC)</th>
<th>Fire (LFC)</th>
<th>Other Services (incl. GLA, Tfl, LLDC and OPDC)</th>
<th>GLA Group Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross expenditure</strong></td>
<td>3,556.7</td>
<td>3,885.3</td>
<td>450.3</td>
<td>489.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government grants and business rates</strong></td>
<td>-2,656.4</td>
<td>-2,786.3</td>
<td>-245.7</td>
<td>-266.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other income (incl. fares and charges)</strong></td>
<td>-278.5</td>
<td>-280.0</td>
<td>-38.3</td>
<td>-39.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net expenditure</strong></td>
<td>621.8</td>
<td>819.0</td>
<td>166.3</td>
<td>183.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change to level of reserves</strong></td>
<td>103.4</td>
<td>-51.9</td>
<td>-7.1</td>
<td>-15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council tax requirement (income)</strong></td>
<td>725.2</td>
<td>767.1</td>
<td>159.2</td>
<td>168.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 2020/21, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>£13,065,200</th>
<th>£10,317,753</th>
<th>£23,382,953</th>
<th>0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inner London</td>
<td>£13,065,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater London</td>
<td>£10,317,753</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£23,382,953</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 which is formerly derelict land, is partly funded by a levy on council tax. This year there has been a 0% 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 Changes – 2019/20 – 2020/21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019/20 £m</th>
<th>2020/21 £m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority Operating Expenditure</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority Operating Income</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Service Operating Costs</strong></td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financing Costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Debt Servicing/repayments</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Capital investment</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Levy</strong></td>
<td>-9.6</td>
<td>-9.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee</th>
<th>2019/2020 (£000s)</th>
<th>2020/2021 (£000s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross Expenditure</td>
<td>£100,146</td>
<td>£101,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levies Raised</td>
<td>£11,577</td>
<td>£11,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Council Tax Base</td>
<td>5,085</td>
<td>5,163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 £11,576,942 in 2019/2020 to £11,807,323 for 2020/2021.
Help shape Croydon’s future

Survey closes 31 March

Have your say at:
bigconversation.croydon.gov.uk/survey

We’re here to support you to be your best self in 2020

GET STARTED TODAY:
LOSE WEIGHT STOP SMOKING EXERCISE MORE

JustBeCroydon.org
livewell@croydon.gov.uk 0800 019 8570

Join the conversation

#bigconversationcroydon

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk
Join the food waste recycling revolution in 4 easy steps...

1. Check you’ve got an indoor kitchen caddy and outdoor food waste bin (with lockable lid). To order a free replacement: croydon.gov.uk/myaccount

2. Line your kitchen caddy with old newspaper or a compostable liner.

3. When your kitchen caddy is almost full, tie the top of the liner (or fold over the newspaper) and put it in your outside food bin (remember to lock the lid).

4. Place your food bin out for collection every week on your collection day.

Recycling just six tea bags can produce enough electricity to boil a kettle for another cuppa!

If you’re not recycling your food waste yet, find out more at: croydon.gov.uk/foodwaste