

Information on your Council Tax 2023/24



Wandsworth Council is freezing your council tax this year, to help in the Cost of Living crisis.

I'm pleased to say that residents in Wandsworth will pay the lowest average council tax in the country. Freezing the main element of council tax is a key part of our plan to deliver a fairer, compassionate, more sustainable borough.

We will charge the same low council tax and deliver better services for all. Alongside a freeze in council tax, we will:

- Provide free monthly mega skips, guarantee to keep your weekly bin collection and expand our food waste collection pilot.
- Deliver 1,000 new council homes, plus introduce landlord licensing to protect private renters.
- Work with residents to support 800 Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war.

Wandsworth Council has launched the biggest cost of living response in London, with a £5 million fund to help residents with soaring bills. This work includes:

- Free school uniforms for hard-pressed families, activities for young people and meals for children in the school holidays.

- Free swimming and gym sessions for families who receive universal credit or free school meals.
- Libraries and children's centres became welcoming Warm Spaces over the winter months.

There will be an increase of 2% in the social care levy, to support the NHS and care for our most vulnerable residents.

Wandsworth is a fantastic place to live. Our strong, diverse communities represent the best of modern Britain. Our plan will help keep Wandsworth special and make sure all residents can share the fantastic opportunities our borough provides.



Simon Hogg

Leader of Wandsworth Council



Contents

Information on your council tax

Contacts	5
Council tax	6
Council tax reduction scheme	6-7
Reductions for disability	7
Discounts	8
Exemptions	9-10
Council tax valuation bands	11-12
Council tax liability appeals	12
Our charter	13
Our service performance	13
Complaints	14

How we spend your council tax

Council tax amounts	15
Combining the council tax for two authorities	16-17
Wandsworth Council	18-21
Greater London Authority	22-24
Environment Agency	25
Western Riverside Waste Authority	26
London Pensions Fund Authority	27



Creating a fairer borough

Council tax is staying low this year – Wandsworth residents will continue to benefit from the lowest average council tax bills in the country. Band D bills will be £914.

Wandsworth’s council tax reduction scheme is being enhanced with an extra discount to reduce the bills of

residents most in need of help by up to £150 in 2023, plus more money has been made available for crisis loans and other forms of support. Use our [Support Calculator](#) to find out what you could be entitled to.

Visit our [Cost of Living Hub](#) for details.

A promotional poster for Wandsworth Council's Cost of Living support. The background features a close-up of several hands clasped together on a wooden surface, symbolizing support and community. The text is overlaid on a dark blue and green background. The Wandsworth Council logo is in the top left. The main title 'Cost of Living support' is prominently displayed in the center. A list of services is provided in a white box on the bottom left. The contact number 'call: 0808 175 3339' is at the bottom center. The Wandsworth logo, featuring a tree and the text 'THE BRIGHTER BOROUGH Wandsworth', is in the bottom right corner.

Wandsworth Council

Cost of Living support

- Help with grants, bills and benefits
- Support for families
- Where to turn in a crisis and more

call: 0808 175 3339

THE BRIGHTER BOROUGH
Wandsworth

Contacts

Council tax service:

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

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

Benefits service including council tax reduction enquiries:

Benefits Service
Wandsworth Council
PO Box 500
London SW18 2PN

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

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

Your council tax

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

The council tax came into existence from 1 April 1993.

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

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

Council tax reduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2023 Wandsworth Cost Of Living Discount

In response to the cost-of-living crisis, the Council has also awarded up to £150 to all existing households which are in receipt of means-tested council tax reduction but were still required to pay some council tax.

This award will either create more zero balances to pay or reduce instalments for those low-income households that contribute to their council tax. The award will also be given to new claimants throughout the year.



Photo: SoStock

Reductions for disability

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

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

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

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

What discounts are available?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Long-term empty premium

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

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

What exemptions are available?

Exemptions applying to vacant properties

- **Class B** (Charity and empty) – owned, and was last occupied, by a charity – exempt for up to six months.
- **Class D** (Vacant and liable person detained) – left empty by someone who has gone into prison.
- **Class E** (Vacant and liable person in hospital) – left empty by someone who has gone to live in a hospital or care home.
- **Class F** (Vacant and liable person deceased) – waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted, and for up to six months after.
- **Class G** (Occupation prohibited by law) – empty because occupation is prohibited by law.
- **Class H** (Vacant held for a minister of religion) – waiting to be occupied by a minister of religion.
- **Class I** (Vacant and liable person living elsewhere to receive personal care) – left empty by someone who has moved to receive personal care.
- **Class J** (Vacant and liable person living elsewhere to provide personal care) – left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care.
- **Class K** (Vacant left empty by a student) – owned by a student studying elsewhere, who last lived in the property as his or her main home.

- **Class L** (Vacant and has been repossessed) – property has been repossessed.
- **Class Q** (Vacant and liable person bankrupt) – property is the responsibility of a bankrupt's trustee.
- **Class R** (Unoccupied pitch or mooring) – an unoccupied caravan pitch or boat mooring.
- **Class T** (Unoccupied annexe to an occupied dwelling) – an unoccupied annexe to an occupied property.

Exemptions applying to occupied properties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Valuation bands

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

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

The values for each band are as follows:

April 1991 Property Values

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

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

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

Other circumstances where an appeal can be made are:

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

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

You can contact the VOA at gov.uk/contact-voa. If you are unable to use the online service, you can also contact the VOA on **03000 501 501**.

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

Can I appeal?

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

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

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

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

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

The Valuation Tribunal which deals with Wandsworth is as follows:

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

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

Our charter

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

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

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

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

We aim to meet the following targets:

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

Our service performance

The figures below show our performance in meeting service standards during 2021/2022. The previous year's figures are in brackets.

- We authorised 99% (99%) of all council tax refunds within ten working days.
- We collected 95.9% (95.9%) of council tax.
- We received 15 (39) complaints.
- The number of direct debit accounts increased by 4,458 from 96,591 to 101,049.

Complaints

Making a complaint

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

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

Protecting public money

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

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



How we spend your council tax

Council tax amounts

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

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

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

The tables below show the council tax amounts for 2023/24 compared with last year's amounts.

Main part of the borough	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Band A	577.37	609.43
Band B	673.59	710.99
Band C	769.83	812.57
Band D	866.05	914.14
Band E	1,058.51	1,117.29
Band F	1,250.96	1,320.42
Band G	1,443.42	1,523.57
Band H	1,732.10	1,828.28

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators' area (including Conservators' levy)		
Band A	598.80	633.40
Band B	698.59	738.96
Band C	798.40	844.54
Band D	898.19	950.10
Band E	1,097.80	1,161.24
Band F	1,297.39	1,372.36
Band G	1,496.99	1,583.51
Band H	1,796.39	1,900.20

Combining the council tax for two authorities

The council tax collected by Wandsworth Council has to cover the spending needs of Wandsworth Council and the Greater London Authority (GLA). The amounts for each authority are added together to work out the total council tax for each band.

The table below shows how the amounts for each authority have been combined for band D properties in the borough.

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase
Wandsworth Council (average)	416.30	416.97	0.16%
Adult social care*	60.66	70.20	2.00%
Total Wandsworth Council (average)	476.96	487.17	2.14%
GLA	395.59	434.14	9.74%
Total	872.55	921.31	5.59%

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

Adult social care funding

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

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional “precept” on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. The House of Commons again approved this precept for 2023/24 with a maximum level set at 2 per cent.

Council Tax 2023/24

Current legislation allows Wandsworth Council to increase the main element of its council tax charge by up to 3 per cent without requiring a referendum in order to gain public approval. For 2023/24 Wandsworth Council has chosen to **freeze** this part of the charge.

A 2 per cent increase will be charged as a precept to fund adult social care.

The band D levy charged by the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators to fund the upkeep of their commons is £35.96 for 2023/24, which is an increase of 11.89 per cent on 2022/23.

The average band D council tax for 2023/24 is therefore £487.17 which is an **increase** of 2.14 per cent on 2022/23 and is below the referendum threshold of a 5 per cent increase (3 per cent for main element + 2 per cent for adult social care). The average council tax charge is a blended rate of the amounts paid by those properties that attract the additional commons levy and the rest of the borough.



Wandsworth Council

The table below shows the council's expenditure plans for 2023/24 in comparison with 2022/23 budget position.

	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	23/24 £m	22/23 £m	23/24 £m	22/23 £m	23/24 £m	22/23 £m
Health						
Adult Services Operations	119.1	112.5	30.6	24.3	88.5	88.2
Commissioning & Quality Standards	22.9	19.9	2.2	1.3	20.7	18.6
Business Resources	9.4	6.4	3.3	3.3	6.1	3.2
Public Health	3.6	3.5	29.5	29.4	-25.9	-25.9
Community Safety	0.9	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.7
Total	156.0	142.9	65.6	58.2	90.4	84.7
Environment						
Arts Service	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.9
Climate Change	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2
Contracts & Leisure	50.2	45.1	9.0	8.3	41.2	36.8
Highways Operations & Street Scene	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.1	0.2	0.4
Total	54.6	48.8	11.5	10.5	43.1	38.3
Children's						
Children & Families	50.4	47.4	6.4	5.3	43.9	42.1
Early Help	17.2	19.6	2.5	3.8	14.7	15.8
Education Standards and Inclusion	209.3	181.7	195.2	172.6	14.0	9.1
Business Resources	21.1	19.4	4.9	4.8	16.1	14.6
Total	297.9	268.1	209.1	186.5	88.8	81.6
Finance						
General Services						
- Chief Executive and other Departments	3.1	2.5	0.5	0.5	2.6	1.9
- Resources Department	0.4	-5.4	18.1	6.6	-17.7	-12.0
Revenue Services	144.9	157.2	135.5	150.1	9.3	7.1
Property Services	4.0	3.1	7.1	6.7	-3.1	-3.5
Economic Development	2.9	3.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.9
Other Environmental Services and Regulatory Services	3.8	3.6	0.5	0.5	3.3	3.0
Total	159.2	164.3	163.3	165.9	-4.1	-1.6

	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	23/24 £m	22/23 £m	23/24 £m	22/23 £m	23/24 £m	22/23 £m
Housing						
Private Sector Housing	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Housing Services	58.7	44.7	38.4	30.8	20.2	13.8
Housing Management & Service Strategy	1.4	2.0	0.9	1.5	0.5	0.5
Total	61.2	47.7	39.9	32.9	21.3	14.8
Transport						
Planning & Transport	4.9	4.5	3.1	3.3	1.8	1.2
Traffic & Engineering	35.1	31.5	44.0	42.6	-8.9	-11.1
Total	40.0	36.0	47.0	45.9	-7.1	-9.9
Non Service Specific Grants	0.0	0.0	48.0	45.5	-48.0	-45.5
Contingency	2.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.0
Charges Between Services	11.9	5.6	11.9	5.6	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure on Services	782.9	715.5	596.3	550.9	186.7	164.5



Photo: Courtney Hale, Rawpixel

	2023/24 £m	2022/23 £m
Special Levy		
Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators	1.0	0.9
Other Levies		
Greater London Pensions Fund Authority	0.0	0.5
Inner London Pensions Fund Authority	0.8	1.5
Western Riverside Waste Authority	1.3	1.4
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	0.4	0.3
Environment Agency	0.3	0.3
Council Services and Levies	191	169.5
Contribution to/Use of Reserves and Balances	-1.1	0.7
Local Authority Finance Settlement	-118.7	-103.0
Collection Fund Surplus	-2.1	-1.4
Council Tax Requirement	68.7	65.8
(Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)		

The council works out the tax for band D by dividing the council tax requirement of £68.7 million, less the Conservators' levy, by the tax base. This gives a figure of £480.00 (including the precept to fund adult social care). The tax base (141,015) is the total number of properties in the eight valuation bands, after allowing for exemptions, discounts, premiums and the council tax reduction scheme, weighted for the amount that can be collected from each band compared with band D.

The council tax requirement includes £1,010,441 for the levy payable to the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators for Wandsworth's share of the upkeep of the commons. The tax base for the Conservators' area is 28,098. Dividing their levy by this tax base gives the additional £35.96, which is the difference between the two band D amounts shown on page 15. Only those householders in the levying area pay this extra amount. The additional amount paid by taxpayers at band D in this area is therefore £3.82 (11.9 per cent) higher than in the previous year.

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

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/the-council/how-the-council-works/council-finances/

or write to:

**Assistant Director of Resources (Financial Management),
Wandsworth Council,
Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street,
London SW18 2PU**

Telephone: **(020) 8871 6499**

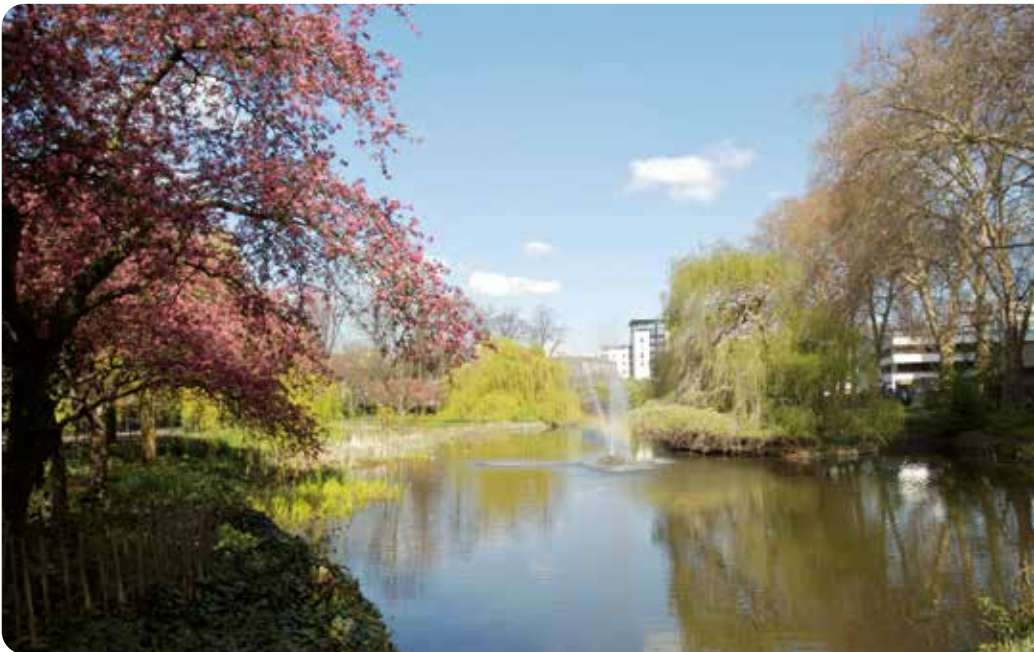
Email: accountancy@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators can be contacted at:

**Manor Cottage,
Windmill Road,
Wimbledon Common,
London SW19 5NR**

Telephone: **(020) 8788 7655**

Email: rangersoffice@wpcc.org.uk
www.wpcc.org.uk



Greater London Authority

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. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, funding to maintain the capital's transport services and tackling toxic air pollution and the climate emergency. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, fund skills and retraining programmes, help rough sleepers, invest in services for children and young people and make London a fairer and cleaner place for everyone 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. 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.

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. and building the better, brighter, fairer future all Londoners want and deserve.

Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £38.55 (or 74p per week) to £434.14. The additional income raised will fund the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade and will also go towards ensuring existing public transport services in London can be maintained, meeting requirements set by the government in funding arrangements. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £142.01

Band D Council Tax	2022/23 £	Change £	2023/24 £
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	277.13	15.00	292.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	58.80	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

Investing in frontline services

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

These include:

- Ensuring the Metropolitan Police has the resources it needs to tackle violent crime – since 2019 the Mayor has funded 1,300 additional police officer posts from locally raised council tax and business rates revenues – while seeking to increase trust and confidence amongst Londoners in the police service. His precept increase for 2023-24 will also be used to fund the recruitment of an additional 500 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).
- Tackling the underlying causes of crime through the rollout of funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners to access positive opportunities and constructive activities that allow them to make the most of their potential, as well as resources for new violence reduction initiatives.
- Protecting vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence.
- Providing enough resources to the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to ensure that first and second fire engines arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes on at least 90 per cent of occasions and 12 minutes on at least 95 per cent of occasions respectively, after being dispatched. The Mayor is also providing resources to rollout a transformation programme so that the LFB can implement the recommendations of the Grenfell fire inquiry. 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.
- 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.
- Continuing the Hopper bus fare, which makes transport more affordable for millions of Londoners.
- 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.
- Continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, by investing £6.9 billion to allow 116,000 affordable home starts within London by the end of 2023 year and an additional 165,000 affordable homes starts by 2026, as well as allocating resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.
- Tackling the climate emergency including creating a new £134 million Environmental Improvement fund to help deliver the Mayor's target for London to be carbon net zero by 2030. The Mayor is also expanding the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) London-wide to tackle air pollution, supported by a £110 million

vehicle scrappage scheme for small businesses and Londoners in receipt of low income and disability benefits to help them switch to cleaner vehicles or retrofit their existing ones.

- Investing in projects to enable more walking and cycling across London.
- Funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts, sports and culture, help tackle inequality and improve the environment.

help tackle inequality and improve the environment.

Summary of GLA budget

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

How the GLA budget is funded	2023-24 £m
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 tax payers	1,353.1

Changes in spending	2023-24 £m
2021/22 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 tax payers	1,353.1

Environment Agency

Thames Region

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 5200 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion.

The financial details are shown in the table below.

Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
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.

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

Western Riverside Waste Authority

The Western Riverside Waste Authority, as a levying body under the above regulations, provides the following information.

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

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

The estimated costs to constituent councils for 2023/24 compared to the original budgeted cost in 2022/23 are shown in the table below.

Council	2023/24 Direct costs £'000	2023/24 Levy £'000	2023/24 Total costs £'000	2022/23 Total costs £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) %
Hammersmith & Fulham	9,120	803	9,923	10,619	(696)	(6.6)
Kensington and Chelsea	9,773	935	10,708	10,412	296	2.8
Lambeth	14,971	1,078	16,050	16,628	(578)	(3.5)
Wandsworth	13,207	1,349	14,556	15,835	(1,279)	(8.1)
Total	47,071	4,165	51,236	53,494	(2,258)	(4.2)

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

London Pensions Fund Authority

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

For 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	
Greater London	£1,000,000	
Total	£8,000,000	(-66%)



Photo: Courtney Hale, Rawpixel

