

We're building a fairer, compassionate, more sustainable borough



**council
tax freeze**

**better services
for all**

Helping you through the cost of living crisis



10,000 households to pay no council tax at all

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.

This will give an estimated 4,258 households the full £150 boost and lowers the bills of thousands more families during the cost of living crisis. This builds upon the council providing extra warm spaces over the winter

months and an online cost of living support hub within a £5 million wider support package that has ensured Wandsworth's cost of living response is the biggest in London.

Dear resident

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 two per cent 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.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Hogg".

Simon Hogg

Leader of Wandsworth Council



Delivering 1,000 new council homes

We're delivering 1,000 homes for council rent across the borough – all of them on council-owned land.

We are investing in our Homelessness Service and our Area Housing Teams to provide a better service for our residents and improving our estates so that they are more energy efficient and save our residents money.

“ Major works are due to be carried out on our building. Thankfully, with the council's new repayment plan, the cost has been spread out over four years interest-free. It feels like a load has been lifted ”

James, from Roehampton



**council
tax freeze**
**better services
for all**

Support for local families

The council's new School Uniform Support Scheme means hard-pressed families will not have to pay for costly school uniforms when they start their next school.

And the Mayor of London chose Wandsworth to launch his free school meal plan for all primary school children. This is in addition to action from the council including free school meals during the holidays and free breakfasts at 20 schools through the council's Schools Food Strategy.



Monthly mega skip collections

Free mega skips to prevent fly-tipping and help people dispose of bulky waste are now monthly. The council will expand food waste collections and has guaranteed weekly bin collections will continue.





**council
tax freeze**

**better services
for all**

Cutting the cost of grass pitches

The cost of hiring a grass sports pitch will be cut by five per cent from April 1 to make the borough fairer and encourage everyone to keep fit and active. Helping people through the cost of living crisis - all while keeping the same low council tax.

“I was absolutely delighted that Wandsworth Council is reducing the costs of football pitches this year. I think it's going to really encourage the community to get involved in sports and I know certainly me and my team will be using them all the time.”

Wandsworth Common footballer



We will offer free gym and swim sessions for residents who receive universal credit or free school meals.



Ambitious plans to improve our environment

We've installed 100 bike hangars and will install 300 in total. Our Future Streets travel plans will also see an extra £5m spent on roads and pavements, more cycle routes and electric vehicle charging points and more school streets. Wandsworth is the first inner-London authority to achieve a CDP Cities A-grade for action on climate change and has set up a Citizens' Assembly to find shared solutions to cleaning up our air.



A fairer borough

Thank you to everyone who has helped find a home in Wandsworth for almost 900 people fleeing war in Ukraine. Support has included help with language skills, access to healthcare and employment opportunities. Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/ukraine

Wandsworth is putting fairness and equality at the heart of all decisions it takes and it is working to become a Borough of Sanctuary.

The council is providing more support to victims of domestic abuse, carers and people on lower incomes. This builds upon work to improve access to mental health services and reduce health inequalities.

Wandsworth
Council

Cost of Living support

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



visit: wandsworth.gov.uk/hub
call: 0808 175 3339

