

# Information on your Council Tax 2020/21



# Delivering good value services



**Wandsworth has always prided itself on making life better for its residents by keeping council tax low while providing some of the best services in London.**

And once again this year our council tax payers will be paying around half the London average and one of the lowest rates in the country.

This council has a well earned reputation for using your money wisely and always striving to make Wandsworth the best borough to live and work in.

Recognising the challenge of the climate change emergency Wandsworth has already committed £20m to help us become carbon-neutral by 2030 and London's greenest inner borough.

This pledge builds on the proven record of delivering green policies, including planting hundreds of trees every year, making council offices and depots more energy efficient, switching to LED street lighting and promoting electric vehicles and car clubs. This year we will plant 530 trees and by the end of the year we will

have 550 electric vehicle charging points. We will also work to grow our already staggering car club membership which is currently approaching 30,000.

Last year we promised to build a thousand new homes for local people on council land and that work is now well underway. We continue to increase the supply of affordable homes - with 3,000 built over the past decade and around 2,500 more due to be completed within the next three years.

We are funding a further package of improvements for our council homes, as well as funding the ongoing regeneration of council housing in Battersea and Roehampton.

Parents are rightly proud of the quality of our schools, with 93 per cent rated by Ofsted as good or outstanding – twice the national average. We want to deliver a



fantastic education for our young people and continue to keep up these high standards.

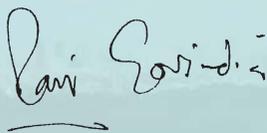
Our specialist Work Match service matches people's ambitions with employment opportunities and we have helped more than 1,500 Wandsworth residents back into work.

Our record on libraries speaks for itself. As well as keeping all our existing libraries open, we're opening new ones – including a new £3m library for Wandsworth Town.

We spend more than £4m a year on cleaning your streets and will continue to crack down on littering and flytipping, as well as investing in pavements and roads.

I am proud of this council's track record of keeping council tax low and yet setting the bar high for services and an environment that make a real difference to the lives of our residents.

Read about our priorities at [wandsworth.gov.uk/brighterborough](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/brighterborough).



**Cllr Ravi Govindia**

Leader of Wandsworth Council

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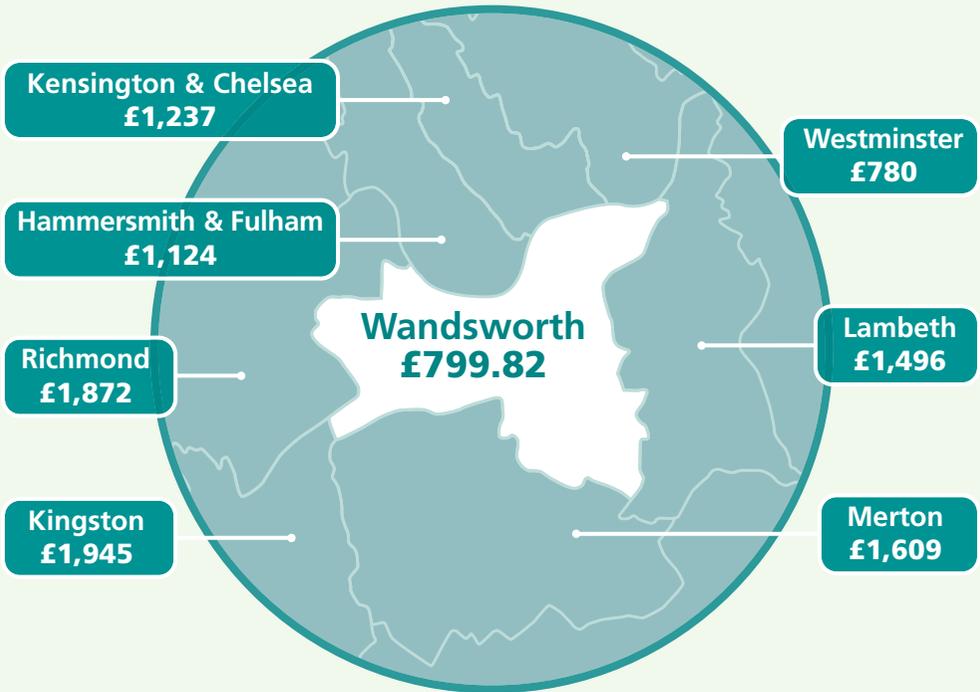
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# Council tax staying low

Wandsworth's Band D council tax bills are set to be the second lowest in the country again in 2020/21 and around half the London average.



Council tax bills 2020/21. Band D equivalent properties including GLA precept. Provisional figures subject to final approval from councils concerned and may not account for local levies.

Help keep bills low by paying with Direct Debit.  
Phone (020) 8871 7799  
or visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax)

# Contacts

## Council tax service:

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

<b>Website</b>	<b><a href="http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk">www.wandsworth.gov.uk</a></b>
<b>Contact us online</b>	<b><a href="http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/counciltax">www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/counciltax</a></b>
<b>Sign up for online services</b>	<b><a href="http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax">www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax</a></b>
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)
Fax	(020) 8871 8148

## Benefits service including council tax reduction enquiries:

Benefits Service  
Wandsworth Council  
PO Box 500  
London SW18 2PN

<b>Website</b>	<b><a href="http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk">www.wandsworth.gov.uk</a></b>
<b>Contact us online</b>	<b><a href="http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/benefits">www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/benefits</a></b>
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.

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

## Reductions for disability



Photo: asisaeit

**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](http://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 will increase to 200% for properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than five years. This is regardless of any change of ownership during that period.

Sign up for Council Tax online services [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax](http://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](http://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 <b>A</b> up to £40,000	Band <b>E</b> up to £120,000
Band <b>B</b> up to £52,000	Band <b>F</b> up to £160,000
Band <b>C</b> up to £68,000	Band <b>G</b> up to £320,000
Band <b>D</b> up to £88,000	Band <b>H</b> 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 get an application form by phone: **0300 050 1501** or visit their website: [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk)

If you cannot reach an agreement with the listing officer, your case will be referred to an independent valuation tribunal.

You must carry on paying your original council tax bill until the outcome of your appeal has been decided. If your appeal is successful, you will get a refund of any overpaid tax.

The valuation bands for all properties in the borough can be found on the Valuation Office Agency website.

## 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 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:

**Clerk of the Tribunal  
Valuation Tribunal for England  
2nd Floor  
120 Leaman Street  
London E1 8EU**

**Email: [vtwhitechapel@valuationtribunal.gov.uk](mailto:vtwhitechapel@valuationtribunal.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0300 123 2035  
[www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk/council-tax](http://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.

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 2018/2019. The previous year's figures are in brackets.

- we authorised 99% (93%) of all council tax refunds within ten working days.
- we collected 98.3% (98.5%) of council tax.
- we received 60 (99) complaints.
- we increased the number of direct debit accounts by 3,809 from 91,882 to 95,691.

# 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](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/complaints)

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## 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 2020/21 compared with last year's amounts.

Main part of the borough	2019/20 £	2020/21 £
Band A	509.39	529.04
Band B	594.29	617.22
Band C	679.19	705.39
Band D	764.09	793.56
Band E	933.89	969.91
Band F	1,103.69	1,146.26
Band G	1,273.48	1,322.61
Band H	1,528.18	1,587.13

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators' area (including Conservators' levy)		
Band A	529.33	549.31
Band B	617.55	640.87
Band C	705.77	732.42
Band D	793.99	823.97
Band E	970.44	1,007.08
Band F	1,146.88	1,190.18
Band G	1,323.32	1,373.29
Band H	1,587.99	1,647.95

# 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.

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	Increase
Wandsworth Council (average)	416.98	425.94	1.99%
Adult social care*	32.82	41.81	2.00%
Total Wandsworth Council (average)	449.80	467.75	3.99%
GLA	320.51	332.07	3.61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>770.31</b>	<b>799.82</b>	<b>3.83%</b>

\*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. In the Local Government Finance Settlement issued on 6 February 2020 the secretary of state confirmed that local authorities could again raise this precept.

## Council Tax Increase

In addition to the adult social care precept, current legislation allows Wandsworth Council to increase its average council tax charge by up to 2 per cent before requiring a referendum in order to gain public approval.

For 2020/21 Wandsworth Council has chosen to increase the main element of its council tax charge by 1.99 per cent and to charge an additional 2 per cent precept to fund adult social care.

The average band D council tax for 2020/21 is therefore £467.75 which is an increase of 3.99 per cent on 2019/20 and is below the referendum threshold. The average council tax charge is a blended rate of the amounts paid by those properties that attract an additional levy for the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators and the rest of the borough.



# Wandsworth Council

The table below shows the council's expenditure plans for 2020/21 in comparison with 2019/20, revised budget position.

	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	20/21 £m	19/20 £m	20/21 £m	19/20 £m	20/21 £m	19/20 £m
<b>Adult Care &amp; Health Services</b>						
Adult Services Operations	105.0	106.4	23.4	26.2	81.6	80.2
Commissioning & Quality Standards	19.9	19.4	0.7	0.7	19.1	18.7
Business Resources	3.1	2.7	0.3	0.0	2.8	2.7
Public Health	3.5	4.5	27.1	27.5	-23.6	-23.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>133.0</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>78.6</b>
<b>Community Services &amp; Open Spaces</b>						
Contracts & Leisure	41.0	40.7	10.1	9.3	30.9	31.4
Highways Operations & Street Scene	2.3	2.5	2.1	3.0	0.2	-0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>30.9</b>
<b>Education &amp; Children's Services</b>						
Children & Families	46.0	47.5	1.3	2.4	44.6	5.1
Early Help	22.9	19.9	4.8	1.6	18.1	18.3
Education, Performance & Planning	25.8	26.4	5.1	4.3	20.7	22.1
Finance & Commissioning	4.4	2.5	0.4	1.1	4	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>96.3</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>86.9</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Corporate Resources</b>						
General Services						
- Chief Executive and other Departments	2.6	2.3	0.5	0.5	2.1	1.8
- Resources Department	13.0	11.9	30.2	29.6	-17.2	-17.7
Revenue Services	197.8	197.4	190.5	190.5	7.3	6.9
Property Services	2.3	3.0	6.4	5.6	-4.1	-2.6
Economic Development	2.6	2.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3
Other Environmental Services and Regulatory Services	4.3	4.2	0.9	1.0	3.4	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>222.6</b>	<b>221.4</b>	<b>229.9</b>	<b>228.5</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-7.1</b>

	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	20/21 £m	19/20 £m	20/21 £m	19/20 £m	20/21 £m	19/20 £m
<b>Housing &amp; Regeneration</b>						
Private Sector Housing	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
Housing Services	28.0	24.8	21.6	19.1	6.4	5.7
Housing Management & Service Strategy	1.4	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Strategic Planning and Transportation</b>						
Management & Support	7.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	7.0	5.6
Planning & Transport	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.3	0.8	0.9
Traffic & Engineering	29.2	29.0	37.5	35.6	-8.3	-6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Non Service Specific Grants</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>-37.1</b>	<b>-28.1</b>
<b>Charges Between Services</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Expenditure on Services</b>	<b>573.3</b>	<b>567.4</b>	<b>412.5</b>	<b>399.9</b>	<b>160.8</b>	<b>167.5</b>



	2020/21 £m	2019/20 £m
<b>Total Expenditure on Services</b> (excluding levies counting as council expenditure)	<b>160.8</b>	<b>167.5</b>
<b>Special Levy</b>		
Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators	0.8	0.8
<b>Other Levies</b>		
London Pensions Fund Authority	2.0	1.9
Western Riverside Waste Authority	1.5	1.5
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	0.3	0.3
Environment Agency	0.3	0.3
<b>Council Services and Levies</b>	<b>165.7</b>	<b>172.3</b>
Use of Reserves and Balances	-0.5	-10.1
<b>Council's Net Expenditure</b>	<b>165.1</b>	<b>162.2</b>
Local Authority Finance Settlement	-100.3	-100.1
Collection Fund Surplus	-1.5	-2.2
<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>59.9</b>

(Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)

The council works out the tax for band D by dividing the council tax requirement of £63.3 million, less the Conservators' levy, by the tax base. This gives a figure of £461.49 (including the precept to fund adult social care). The tax base (135,327) 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 £846,075 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 27,824. Dividing their levy by this tax base gives the additional £30.41, 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 amount paid by taxpayers at band D is therefore £0.51 (1.7 per cent) higher than in the previous year.

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

Deputy Director of Resources,  
Wandsworth Council,  
Town Hall,  
Wandsworth High Street,  
London SW18 2PU

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# Greater London Authority

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.

Council tax	2019/20 £	Change £	2020/21 £
MOPAC (Met Police)	242.13	10.00	252.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	53.00	2.28	55.28
GLA	23.38	-0.69	22.69
TfL (Transport)	2.00	-0.03	1.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>320.51</b>	<b>11.56</b>	<b>332.07</b>

## Investing in frontline services

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

- making transport more affordable. Single bus fares, single pay as you go fares on the Tube and DLR and Santander cycle hire scheme charges have been frozen again in 2020. This will save travellers around £40 million this year. The bus and tram one hour Hopper fare introduced by the current Mayor will also continue;
- continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, using £4.8 billion of funding to support starts of 116,000 new affordable homes by 2022;

- ensuring the Metropolitan Police have the resources they need to tackle violent crime – the Mayor has funded 1,300 additional police officer posts from locally raised council tax and business rates revenues;
- tackling the underlying causes of crime, with £25 million of extra funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners access positive opportunities and constructive activities that allow them to make the most of their potential as well as providing £34 million extra for new violence reduction initiatives;
- protecting vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence;
- tackling the climate emergency through the creation of a new £50 million Green New Deal for London fund;
- providing enough resources to the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to ensure that first and second fire engines arrive at emergency incidents, on average, within six and eight minutes respectively. The Mayor is also providing resources to rollout 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;
- working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes 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 and introducing new trains on the London Underground and working to complete the Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail), the Northern line extension to Battersea Power station and the Overground extension to Barking Riverside as soon as possible. The Mayor will also maintain the Night Tube and Night Overground services;
- investing £2.3 billion in Healthy Streets by 2024 to fund projects to enable more walking and cycling across London. The Mayor will also expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the North and South Circular roads in autumn 2021 to tackle local air pollution;
- 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 be step free; and
- funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts, sports and culture including honouring London's host city commitments for the UEFA 2020 football championships, help tackle inequality, improve the environment, and boost London's economy. The Mayor is 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.

## Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's spending for 2020-21 with last year and set out why it has changed. 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.

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

Changes in spending	2020/21 £m
2019/20 council tax requirement	960.6
Inflation	244.8
Efficiencies and other savings	-150.8
New initiatives	512.1
Other changes (for example, fares revenue and government grants)	-555.8
<b>2019/20 council tax requirement</b>	<b>1,010.9</b>

### Finding out more

More information on the budget is available on the GLA website at [www.london.gov.uk/budget](http://www.london.gov.uk/budget) or telephone (020) 7983 4000.

# Environment Agency South East 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 5,200 km 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.

<b>Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee</b>	<b>2019/20 £'000 (Restated)</b>	<b>2020/21 £'000</b>
Gross Expenditure	110,146	101,860
Levies Raised	11,577	11,807
<b>Total Council Tax Base</b>	<b>5,086</b>	<b>5,163</b>

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 per cent.

The total local levy raised has increased from £11,576,942 in 2019/20 to £11,807,323 for 2020/21.

For more information on the Environment Agency visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

# Western Riverside Waste Authority

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 civic amenity waste.

The estimated costs to constituent councils for 2020/21 compared to the original budgeted cost in 2019/20 are shown in the table below.

Council	2020/21 Direct costs £'000	2020/21 Levy £'000	2020/21 Total costs £'000	2019/20 Total costs £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) %
Hammersmith & Fulham	9,133	848	9,981	10,252	(271)	(2.71)
Kensington and Chelsea	9,673	1,028	10,701	10,935	(234)	(2.14)
Lambeth	14,301	1,176	15,477	15,744	(267)	(1.70)
Wandsworth	12,459	1,426	13,885	14,335	(450)	(3.14)
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,566</b>	<b>4,478</b>	<b>50,044</b>	<b>51,266</b>	<b>(1,222)</b>	<b>(2.38)</b>

Total net costs to constituent councils have reduced by 2.4% compared to the original budget for 2019/20.

For more information on Western Riverside Waste Authority visit [www.wrwa.gov.uk](http://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 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.

Inner London	£13,065,200	
Greater London	£10,317,753	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£23,382,953</b>	<b>(0%)</b>



