

# YOUR COUNCIL TAX AND THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2022-23 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, and which have become even more apparent as a result of the current cost of living crisis. It supports job creation and London's businesses (both large and small), 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, securing funding to maintain the capital's transport infrastructure 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 youth services and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live.

The budget prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police Service and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe, including violence reduction initiatives and initiatives to improve opportunities for young Londoners. In light of the significant reductions in fare revenues and property tax income following the pandemic some difficult decisions have been unavoidable. However, this budget remains focused on delivering a swift and sustainable recovery 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 £31.93 (or 61p per week) to £395.59. 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 COVID-19 funding arrangements. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £118.46.

Council Tax (£)	2021-22	Change	2022-23
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	267.13	10.00	277.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	56.87	1.93	58.80
GLA	22.57	0.00	22.57
Transport services	17.09	20.00	37.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>363.66</b>	<b>31.93</b>	<b>395.59</b>

## 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
- ◆ tackling the underlying causes of crime through the rollout of 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 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. 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, 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
- ◆ opening the central London section of the Elizabeth line (the operational name for Crossrail) in the first half of 2022, followed by the full line opening with through services as soon as possible to increase central London's rail capacity by ten per cent. This will follow the successful opening of the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station in September 2021
- ◆ continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, by investing £4.9 billion to allow 116,000 affordable home starts within London by 2023 and an additional 35,000 starts by 2026, as well as allocating resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping
- ◆ tackling the climate emergency through creating a new £90 million fund alongside the continued roll out of the Mayor's £50 million Green New Deal for London fund. The Mayor has already expanded the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the North and South Circular roads in Autumn 2021 to tackle air pollution

- ◆ 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.

## Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's planned spending for 2022-23 with last year and sets out why it has changed. The GLA's planned gross expenditure is lower this year. This overall reduction is mainly due to the need to repay deficits in council tax and business rates income due to the impact of the pandemic albeit the Mayor has increased his proposed spending on services including policing. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra resources for the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade and to secure funding to maintain existing transport services. There has also been a 1.7 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).

<b>How the GLA's budget is funded (£ million)</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Gross expenditure	14,950.3
Government grants and retained business rates	-6,974.8
Fares, charges and other income	-6,781.5
Change in reserves	19.6
<b>Amount met by council taxpayers</b>	<b>1,213.6</b>

<b>Changes in spending (£ million)</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
2021-22 council tax requirement	1,096.6
Net change in service expenditure and income	-1,034.7
Change in use of reserves	759.2
Government grants and retained business rates	391.3
Other changes	1.2
<b>Amount met by council taxpayers</b>	<b>1,213.6</b>