

YOUR COUNCIL TAX AND THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Introduction

This is Sadiq Khan's third budget as the Mayor of London. It is built around his vision of a London where nobody feels left behind and where everyone has the opportunity they need to fulfil their potential. 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.

Sadiq Khan will not tolerate any waste of public money, particularly against a background of tightening resources from the Government over the last decade. This year's budget has required some tough choices. It will improve the key services Londoners need. That means ensuring transport fares are more affordable and building more homes. The budget provides resources to support jobs and growth, tackle rough sleeping and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live too. It also provides extra resources from council tax and business rates for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe. This will help offset the ongoing impact of real terms cuts in government grant since 2010.

Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £26.28 (or 50p per week) to £320.51. 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 £78.38.

Council Tax (£)	2018-19	Change	2019-20
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	218.13	24.00	242.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	50.22	2.78	53.00
GLA	23.84	-0.46	23.38
TfL (Transport)	2.04	-0.04	2.00
Total	294.23	26.28	320.51

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 will be frozen until at least 2020. This will save travellers around £40 million a year. A new bus and tram one hour Hopper fare has also been introduced;
- ◆ continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, using £4.8 billion of funding to support starts of 116,000 new affordable homes by 2022;
- ◆ providing the best policing service possible within the funding made available by the Government with resources being provided in his Budget for an additional 1,300 police officers in 2019-20;
- ◆ providing extra resources to support disadvantaged young Londoners and protect vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence;
- ◆ providing sufficient resources to the London Fire Brigade to ensure that first and second fire engines arrive, on average, at emergency incidents within six and eight minutes respectively;
- ◆ 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 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 introduce the Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London to tackle local air pollution;
- ◆ making public transport more accessible for everyone. Step-free access is planned to be introduced at a further 15 suburban tube stations by Spring 2020. All new Elizabeth line stations will be step free; and
- ◆ funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts and culture, help tackle inequality, improve the environment, and boost London's economy.

Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's spending for 2019-20 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 and the fire service. 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 1.9 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: london.gov.uk/budget (tel: 020 7983 4000).

How the GLA budget is funded (£ million)	2019-20
Gross expenditure	12,232.6
Government grants and retained business rates	-4,754.5
Fares, charges and other income	-6,522.1
Use of reserves	4.6
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	960.6

Changes in spending (£ million)	2019-20
2018-19 council tax requirement	865.7
Inflation	235.9
Efficiencies and other savings	-243.2
New initiatives	641.1
Other changes (for example fares revenue and government grants)	-538.9
2019-20 council tax requirement	960.6