

# YOUR COUNCIL TAX AND THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Introduction

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 (Metropolitan 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. Find out more about our budget at: [london.gov.uk/budget](https://london.gov.uk/budget) (tel: 020 7983 4000).

<b>How the GLA's budget is funded (£ million)</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
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 taxpayers</b>	<b>1,010.9</b>

<b>Changes in spending (£ million)</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
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>Amount met by council taxpayers</b>	<b>1,010.9</b>