

Information on your **Council Tax 2025/26**



Council Tax freeze



Dear Resident

Wandsworth Council is freezing your Council Tax for the third year in a row. You will continue to pay the lowest Council Tax in the country.

Sound financial management is at the heart of everything we do. Wandsworth has one of the lowest levels of debt and some of the highest financial reserves in London, allowing us to freeze the main element of Council Tax and invest in what matters most to you:

- **7 rings, 7 days guarantee:** call us on 020 8871 6000 and we will answer in 7 rings. Report graffiti, a dangerous pothole, or a damaged street sign and we will fix it in 7 days.
- **Free bulky waste collections:** every household now gets two free bulky waste collections every year. We are expanding our monthly Mega Skips and we guarantee to keep your weekly waste and recycling collections.
- **Safer neighbourhoods:** we have a network of over 1,200 CCTV cameras to monitor the borough 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and are investing in our parks, town centres, and public spaces to make them safer and more welcoming for everyone.

Looking after our most vulnerable residents is crucial. We will continue to provide excellent care for our older residents and support the NHS. An increase of 2 per cent in the adult social care precept this year will help fund this vital work.

Together, we're making Wandsworth an even better place to live.

P.S. If you have any questions or feedback on our Council services, please email me at simon@wandsworth.gov.uk

Simon Hagg

Leader of Wandsworth Council



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Council tax is staying low this year

Wandsworth residents will benefit from the lowest council tax bills in the country. Wandsworth Council continues to offer a council tax reduction scheme (more details on the following pages) and is working with partners to provide a range of other support and advice to help reduce the bills and maximise the income of residents. Crisis payments are also available for those who need immediate support. Use our

[Support Calculator](#) to find out what you could be entitled to and visit our [Cost of Living Hub](#) for more details about the full range of help and support available.

If you need help, we are here to support you. Our dedicated phone line 020 8871 6000 is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (except bank holidays), and under our new 7 Rings Guarantee, your call will be answered within seven rings.



Help with grants,
bills and benefits

Help for families

Where to turn in
a crisis and more

visit:
wandsworth.gov.uk/hub



Contacts

Council tax service:

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

Website

www.wandsworth.gov.uk

Contact us online

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/counciltax

Sign up for online services

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax

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)

Benefits service including council tax reduction enquiries:

Benefits Service
Wandsworth Council
PO Box 500
London SW18 2PN

Website

www.wandsworth.gov.uk

Contact us online

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/contact/benefits

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 and you are in receipt of either Pension Credit, or a qualifying disability or out of work benefit

or

- Less than £6,000 if you are employed

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.

If you are on Universal Credit or any other benefit you will need to apply separately for council tax reduction as this is not paid as part of your entitlement.

To find out more about our local scheme or to make an application for council tax reduction visit **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

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**

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.

Ukrainian nationals may be entitled to a discount of up to 50%. This is only applicable for those who have received a visa under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Email the Council Tax Service counciltax@wandsworth.gov.uk for more information.

Sign up for Council Tax online services 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.

New Premiums

As part of its plans to bring empty or underused homes back into use, the Council intends to use discretionary powers provided by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 from 1 April 2025.

Long-term empty premium

Existing premium charges - Properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than **two** years are charged an additional premium of 100% council tax. This premium increases to 200% for properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than **five** years and increases to 300% for properties that have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than **ten** years. This is regardless of any change of ownership during that period.

New premium charges - From 1 April 2025 the additional premium of 100% will be charged if a property is unoccupied and unfurnished for more than **one** year rather than after two years.

Second home premium

Second homes are defined on any day as a dwelling that is substantially furnished, and not someone's sole or main residence.

Existing premium charges – None.

New premium charges - From 1st April 2025, properties that are considered second homes will be charged an additional premium of 100% council tax.

Exceptions

The government has legislated to provide exceptions to certain classes of property from the long-term empty premium and second home premium. Details of these exceptions can be found on our website 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 Office Agency (VOA) maintains the Council Tax Valuation List. This includes placing new properties within a Council Tax band and changing bands for properties when necessary. To understand why your property is in a certain band, please go to GOV.UK and search: '**How domestic properties are assessed for Council Tax bands**'. The values for each band are as follows:

April 1991 Property Values

Band A up to £40,000	Band E up to £120,000
Band B up to £52,000	Band F up to £160,000
Band C up to £68,000	Band G up to £320,000
Band D up to £88,000	Band H 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.

If you believe that the banding is wrong, please contact the Valuation Office Agency via their website www.gov.uk/contact-voa

If you make an appeal, you still have to pay your council tax based on the current band, until the appeal is decided.

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 as per the latest bill issued, 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:

Valuation Tribunal Service

Ground Floor

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Email: appeals@valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Telephone: 0303 445 8100

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. To speak to an advisor you will need to call Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

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 20 working days.

Our service performance

The figures below show our performance in meeting service standards during 2023/2024. The previous year's figures are in brackets.

- We authorised 99% (97%) of all council tax refunds within 15 working days.
- We collected 97.7% (96.7%) of council tax.
- We received 33 (23) complaints.
- The number of direct debit accounts increased by 2,922 from 103,845 to 106,767.



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

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 2025/26 compared with last year's amounts.

Main part of the borough	2024/25 £	2025/26 £
Band A	640.77	660.05
Band B	747.55	770.06
Band C	854.35	880.06
Band D	961.14	990.07
Band E	1,174.74	1,210.09
Band F	1,388.32	1,430.11
Band G	1,601.91	1,650.12
Band H	1,922.29	1,980.15
Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators' area (including Conservators' levy)		
Band A	666.87	686.78
Band B	778.00	801.25
Band C	889.15	915.70
Band D	1,000.29	1,030.17
Band E	1,222.59	1,259.10
Band F	1,444.87	1,488.03
Band G	1,667.16	1,716.95
Band H	2,000.59	2,060.35

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.

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Increase
Wandsworth Council (average)	417.43	417.48	0.0%
Adult social care*	79.94	89.89	2.0%
Total Wandsworth Council (average)	497.37	507.37	2.0%
GLA	471.40	490.38	4.0%
Total	968.77	997.75	3.0%

*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. The House of Commons again approved this precept for 2025/26 with a maximum level set at 2 per cent.

Council Tax 2025/26

Current legislation allows Wandsworth Council to increase the main element of its council tax charge by up to 3 per cent without requiring a referendum in order to gain public approval. For 2025/26 Wandsworth Council has chosen to **freeze** this part of the charge.

A 2 per cent increase will be charged as a precept to fund adult social care.

The band D levy charged by the Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators to fund the upkeep of their commons is £40.10 for 2025/26, which is an increase of 2.4 per cent on 2024/25.

The average band D council tax for 2025/26 is therefore £507.37 which is an **increase** of 2.0 per cent on 2024/25 and is below the referendum threshold of a 5 per cent increase (3 per cent for main element + 2 per cent for adult social care). The average council tax charge is a blended rate of the amounts paid by those properties that attract the additional commons levy.



Wandsworth Council

The table below shows the council’s expenditure plans for 2025/26 in comparison with 2024/25 budget position.

	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	25/26 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	24/25 £m
Health						
Adult Services Operations	160.8	141.9	49.1	41.1	111.7	100.8
Commissioning & Quality Standards	26.2	25.0	2.7	2.4	23.5	22.6
Business Resources	5.5	4.9	1.3	0.8	4.2	4.1
Public Health	4.3	3.8	33.8	31.2	-29.6	-27.4
Community Safety	1.7	1.2	0.3	0.0	1.3	1.2
Assurance and Innovation	2.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	2.8	1.9
Health & Care Integration	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Total	201.5	178.9	87.4	75.4	114.1	103.5
Environment						
Arts Service	1.6	0.9	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.9
Climate Change	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6
Leisure	25.2	21.8	8.6	6.5	16.5	15.3
Highways Operations & Street Scene	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	0.1	0.1
Waste	33.8	30.7	2.6	2.6	31.2	28.1
Total	63.9	56.9	14.1	11.8	49.8	45.1



Photo: Courtney Hale, Rawpixel

	Gross Expenditure		Income		Net Expenditure	
	25/26	24/25	25/26	24/25	25/26	24/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children's						
Children's Social Care	59.9	54.1	5.6	5.7	54.3	48.4
Place and Partnerships	18.0	17.8	1.1	1.4	16.9	16.3
Education Standards and Inclusion	21.8	21.1	10.4	9.7	11.4	11.4
Business Resources	25.0	24.0	4.5	4.3	20.5	19.7
Total	124.7	116.9	21.6	21.1	103.1	95.8
Finance						
General Services						
- Chief Executive and other Departments	15.5	15.2	2.2	2.2	13.3	12.9
- Finance	27.5	16.7	47.4	46.0	-19.9	-29.3
Revenue Services	144.7	144.4	135.9	135.9	8.8	8.5
Property Services	4.2	4.2	7.3	7.5	-3.2	-3.3
Economic Development	3.2	3.1	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.8
Other Environmental & Regulatory Services	5.1	4.8	1.3	1.3	3.8	3.5
Total	200.2	188.4	195.5	194.2	4.7	-5.8
Housing						
Private Sector Housing	1.2	1.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
Housing Services	67.1	55.9	36.3	32.8	30.8	23.1
Housing Management & Service Strategy	2.0	1.6	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.7
Total	70.3	58.9	37.8	34.3	32.5	24.6
Transport						
Planning & Transport	5.9	5.1	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.5
Traffic & Engineering	40.4	38.8	44.2	42.7	-3.8	-3.9
Total	46.3	44.0	47.0	45.3	-0.7	-1.4
Non Service Specific Grants	0.0	0.0	70.4	57.6	-70.4	-57.6
Contingency	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Charges Between Services	10.6	9.6	10.6	9.6	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure on Services	717.5	657.6	484.4	449.4	233.1	208.2

	2025/26 £m	2024/25 £m
Special Levy		
Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators	1.1	1.1
Other Levies		
Greater London Pensions Fund Authority	0.05	0.05
Inner London Pensions Fund Authority	0.8	0.8
Western Riverside Waste Authority	1.4	1.4
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	0.4	0.4
Environment Agency	0.4	0.3
Council Services and Levies	237.3	212.2
Contribution to/Use of Reserves and Balances	-27.3	-12.5
Local Authority Finance Settlement	-133.6	-126.3
Collection Fund Surplus	-2.0	-2.0
Council Tax Requirement	74.4	71.4
(Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)		

The council works out the tax for band D by dividing the council tax requirement of £74.4 million, less the Conservators' levy, by the tax base. This gives a figure of £499.69 (including the precept to fund adult social care). The tax base (146,613) 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 £1,125,557 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 28,070. Dividing their levy by this tax base gives the additional £40.10, 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 additional amount paid by taxpayers at band D in this area is therefore £0.95 (2.4 per cent) higher than in the previous year.

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

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/the-council/how-the-council-works/council-finance/

or write to:

[Director of Financial Management,](#)
[Wandsworth Council,](#)
[Town Hall,](#)
[Wandsworth High Street,](#)
[London SW18 2PU](#)

Telephone: (020) 8871 6499

Email: accountancy@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

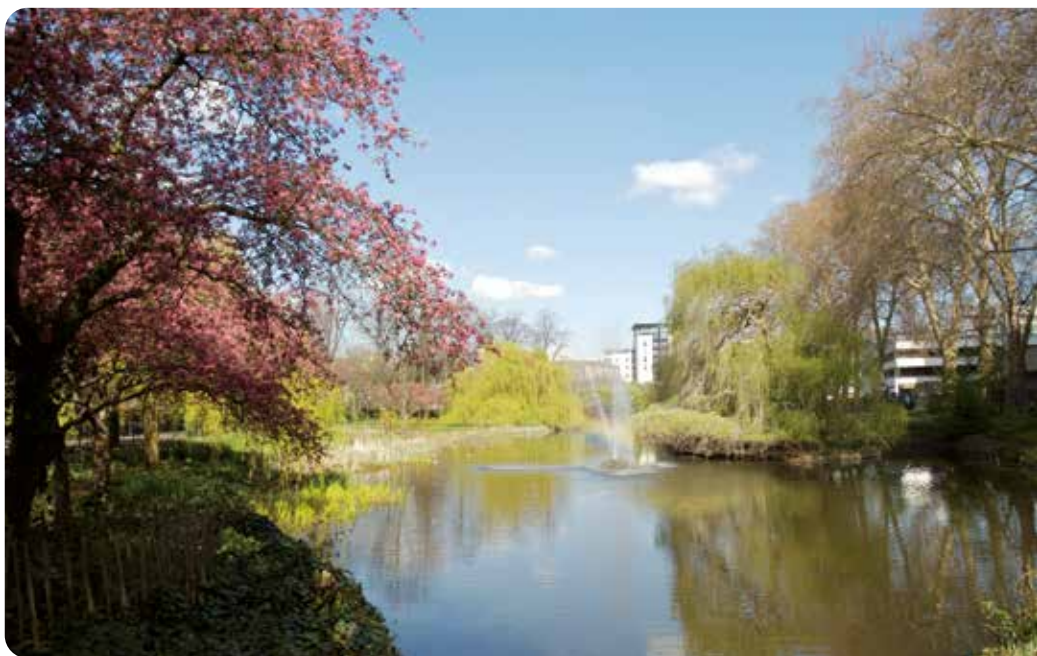
Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators can be contacted at:

[Manor Cottage,](#)
[Windmill Road,](#)
[Wimbledon Common,](#)
[London SW19 5NR](#)

Telephone: (020) 8788 7655

Email: rangersoffice@wpcc.org.uk

www.wpcc.org.uk



Greater London Authority

Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for 2025-26 sets out how he will fund his plans to continue building a fairer, safer, and greener London for everyone and provides resources to improve key public services in the capital. The budget ensures investment to tackle crime, build more affordable homes, reduce street homelessness, improve our transport network, and ensure London remains a world-leader in tackling air pollution and the climate crisis.

The budget prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and London Fire Brigade (LFB) to keep Londoners safe. This includes resources for violence reduction initiatives, support for victims of crime, additional funding for frontline police officers, continued reform of the MPS and the delivery of projects to divert vulnerable young people away from gangs and violence. It also confirms funding to continue Universal Free School Meals in London's state primary schools for a further academic year until July 2026.

Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £18.98 (or 37p per week) to £490.38. The additional income from this increase in council tax will fund the MPS and the LFB. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £171.25.

Band D Council Tax	2024/25 £	Change £	2025/26 £
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	305.13	14.00	319.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	66.74	4.98	71.72
GLA	22.44	0.00	22.44
Transport for London	77.09	0.00	77.09
Total	471.40	18.98	490.38

Investing in frontline services

This budget will enable the Mayor to continue fulfilling his key priorities for London. This includes:

- 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 Taxi card and Dial-a-Ride schemes
- Providing £147.5 million to continue to fund universal free school meals for London's estimated 287,000 state primary school children for a third academic year. By July 2026 it is estimated that this programme will have saved London families up to £1,500 per child since its introduction in September 2023

- Ensuring the MPS has the resources it needs to tackle violent crime by investing additional resources in front line policing and crime prevention. The Mayor has doubled investment in policing to help tackle crime, including recurring funding for 1,300 additional police officers funded from council tax and business rates income. While the Mayor provides MOPAC and the MPS with as much funding as possible, the impact of significant real-terms national government cuts over the last 14 years has left the MPS in a difficult financial position
- Tackling the underlying causes of crime through the rollout of funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners to 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. The Mayor has funded more than 500,000 positive opportunities to help divert vulnerable young Londoners away from crime – including through London's Violence Reduction Unit
- Providing resources to roll out a transformation programme to support the LFB in implementing the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and other key improvements. The LFB now responds to emergencies faster and is rated as outstanding in how it responds to major and multi-agency incidents
- Freezing bus and tram fares in 2025 and retaining the one-hour Hopper fare thus making transport more affordable for millions of Londoners. The Superloop network will also be expanded
- Building on the success of delivering the Elizabeth line on its full timetable and route. The Elizabeth line has increased central London's rail capacity by ten per cent and saw over 500,000 passenger journeys between its opening date in 2022 and early 2025. This has made it the busiest rail line in the UK. This follows on from the opening of the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station in September 2021
- Rolling out new trains on the Piccadilly line, with the first new trains serving customers from 2025 and upgrading the signalling on the District and Metropolitan lines
- Continuing to improve accessibility across TfL's network, increasing the availability of step-free access and toilets. In 2025-26, TfL will increase investment in step-free schemes to make progress towards its goal of halving step-free journey times across the network, as well as its target of making 50 per cent of London Underground stations fully accessible. All 41 Elizabeth line stations are now step-free
- Continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, by investing £1.5 billion in 2025-26 to increase the number of Londoners who have a safe, decent and affordable home. The Mayor will also allocate resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping
- Investing in schemes designed to make walking, cycling and public transport safer, cleaner and more appealing in partnership with London boroughs.

Summary of GLA Group budget

The following tables compare the GLA Group's planned spending for 2025-26 with last year and sets out why it has changed.

The GLA's planned gross expenditure is higher this year. This reflects the additional resources the Mayor is investing in policing and the fire brigade. Overall, the council tax requirement has also increased for this reason. There has been a 2 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase.

Find out more about our budget at: www.london.gov.uk/budget

How the GLA budget is funded	2025-26 £m
Gross expenditure	17,961.6
Government grants and retained business rates	-7,676.0
Fares, charges and other income	-8,312.4
Change in reserves	-391.3
Amount met by council tax payers	1,581.9

Changes in spending	2025-26 £m
2024/25 council tax requirement	1,490.3
Net change in service expenditure and income	348.8
Change in use of reserves	53.4
Government grants and retained business rates	-327.2
Other changes	16.6
Amount met by council tax payers	1,581.9

Environment Agency

Thames 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 5200 kilometres 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.

Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Gross Expenditure	154,702	126,785
Levies Raised	12,776	13,030
Total Council Tax Base	5,365	5,453

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%.

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £12,775,615 in 2024/2025 to £13,029,850 for 2025/2026..

For more information on the Environment Agency visit
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Western Riverside Waste Authority

The Western Riverside Waste Authority, as a levying body, provides the following information.

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 Household Waste and Recycling Centre waste.

The estimated costs to constituent councils for 2025/26 compared to the original budgeted cost in 2024/25 are shown in the table below..

Council	2025/26 Direct costs £'000	2025/26 Levy £'000	2025/26 Total costs £'000	2024/25 Total costs £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) %
Hammersmith & Fulham	9,498	869	10,367	10,400	(33)	(0.3)
Kensington and Chelsea	10,421	970	11,391	10,856	535	4.9
Lambeth	16,350	1,165	17,515	16,892	623	3.7
Wandsworth	14,287	1,443	15,730	15,506	224	1.4
Total	50,556	4,447	55,003	53,654	1,349	2.5

For more information on Western Riverside Waste Authority visit www.wrrwa.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 2025/26, 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.

Inner London	£7,000,000
Greater London	£1,000,000
Total	£8,000,000

From 2022 onwards, a portion of the amount previously raised as levies is being paid into the LPFA Pension Fund to address a funding deficit in respect of former GLC, ILEA, and LRB employees.

As part of the 31 March 2025 triennial valuation, the Levy requirements will be reviewed and communicated to all the London Boroughs as part of the 2026/27 levy setting process.



Photo: Courtney Hale, Rawpixel

