

# Your council tax

A guide to what it pays for 2024/25



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EALING COUNCIL

# Council tax 2024/25

Dear resident

## **Far more demand for help, far less money to provide it with**

This letter helps explain the money available for our borough in the coming year, and how we have planned to spend it.

Putting our financial situation in context, Ealing Council is having to do more with much less money.

We are spending more on supporting the rising number of people who are becoming homeless. Last year, 4,360 families approached us for support because they were either homeless or about to be made homeless.

We do not expect the number of people and families asking us to help them find somewhere to live to reduce anytime soon. Despite what has been reported in the media recently, the cost-of-living crisis is not easing, and this is having a huge impact on people's ability to pay for their housing.

We are also supporting more children and young people with complex needs, who often need to live away from their homes. The cost of this care has also increased substantially. And this is true too for the social care support we provide to adults. Of course, we cannot turn people away in their time of need, despite this ever-increasing demand on our services.

Yet, since 2013, the funding we get from the government has been sliced in half – it has fallen by nearly 56% in real terms.

## **Protecting vital services**

Despite the tough times ahead of us, we will continue to enable and empower the people who need our help most, and we will also continue to invest in helping to make each one of our 7 towns even more amazing places full of purpose and community spirit.

For the year ahead, we agreed to allocate:

- £11.6 million more to adults' social care
- £20.6 million extra for children's social care
- £5 million to housing and our environment, with £2.4 million from this amount to be invested in tackling homelessness

We have also pledged to spend £150 million on new temporary accommodation properties to reduce the number of people being placed in commercial hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation.

## Council tax in 2024/25

Like London's other councils, we have no choice but to raise council tax by 2.99% to meet these pressures. When the government set out the details of this year's financial settlement for councils in the autumn statement, they made it clear that they anticipated and expected local councils would meet the rising costs of providing services by increasing council tax to the maximum level allowed – 2.99%.

We are also having to add the government's 2% adult social care precept, helping with the increasing costs of caring for the borough's older people and adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Financial support is available through the council to the people who are struggling most to pay their bills, including council tax. Information is available on the council's website, go to a search engine online and search for "Ealing Council council tax reduction".

## Plans for the future

Our record of managing our finances with care and prudence means that Ealing is a well-run council, and we're not in the same dire financial situation as many other councils. The financial challenges we face are serious, but the council's ambitions for the borough and for Ealing residents can still be achieved.

In the years ahead, we want to give our communities what they need to connect with friends and neighbours so that people can help and support each other. Time and again, whether through the pandemic or during the cost-of-living crisis, communities have pulled together.

We know Ealing residents want to live in towns and neighbourhoods full of pride and identity and we also know that they often know better than the council how to make that a reality. We want to empower communities to do even more, and that's what this budget will help achieve.

More decisions will be made by communities, creating stronger resilient towns and neighbourhoods, which in turn will lead to locally led economic growth.

We will continue to do the things that residents say are important to them: things like keeping the streets clean and supporting schools to continue delivering excellent education for our young people – especially for children with special education and disabilities.

We will also continue to work hard on attracting further investment into the borough, leading to more good jobs and more genuinely affordable housing.

And we will continue to progress our plans to fully realise the historic ambition to deliver a new regional park - which we hope will be as transformative for west London as the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has been for east London - as well as creating a new sports facility at Gurnell and a new swimming lido.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Mason".

**Councillor Peter Mason**  
Leader of Ealing Council



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Donnelly".

**Councillor Steve Donnelly**  
Cabinet member for inclusive economy

# Ealing's General Fund Revenue Budget



Where Ealing Council's money comes from	Income £'000	Percentage %	
Dedicated Schools Grant (net of academy recoupment)	426,957	37.0%	<div style="width: 37.0%;"></div>
Council Tax Payers	181,825	15.7%	<div style="width: 15.7%;"></div>
Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant	181,549	15.7%	<div style="width: 15.7%;"></div>
Income from Sales, Fees, Charges & Rents	136,608	11.8%	<div style="width: 11.8%;"></div>
Retained Business Rates (incl Section 31 Compensation Grant and Top Up Grants)	104,818	9.1%	<div style="width: 9.1%;"></div>
Children's and Adults Social Care Support Grants	29,567	2.6%	<div style="width: 2.6%;"></div>
Public Health Grant	27,417	2.4%	<div style="width: 2.4%;"></div>
Revenue Support Grant	21,798	1.9%	<div style="width: 1.9%;"></div>
Other Grants, Contributions & Income	14,262	1.2%	<div style="width: 1.2%;"></div>
Improved Better Care Fund Grant	12,680	1.1%	<div style="width: 1.1%;"></div>
Adult Social Care Discharge Grant	6,202	0.5%	<div style="width: 0.5%;"></div>
Homelessness Prevention Grant	5,950	0.5%	<div style="width: 0.5%;"></div>
New Homes Bonus	5,310	0.5%	<div style="width: 0.5%;"></div>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,154,944</b>	<b>100%</b>	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>

\*as at publication date some of the grant and other income values are estimates which will be reflected in operational budgets as they become available in-year

Where Ealing's money goes to	Gross Expenditure £'000	Pennies in a £	
Childrens Services	497,357	43.1	
Resources including Housing Benefit Subsidy	229,441	19.9	
Adults and Public Health Services	181,250	15.7	
Housing and Environment	106,108	9.2	
Corporate items including Treasury Management	75,449	6.5	
Levies	29,075	2.5	
Economy and Sustainability	21,534	1.9	
Strategy and Change	14,731	1.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,154,944</b>	<b>100%</b>	

What your council tax pays for	Band D Equivalent £	Percentage %	
Ealing services	£1,240.77	63.7%	
West Waste	£114.93	5.9%	
Concessionary Fares	£109.14	5.6%	
Other Levies	£12.10	0.6%	
<b>Ealing's Share</b>	<b>£1,476.94</b>	<b>75.8%</b>	
<b>GLA Share</b>	<b>£471.40</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	
<b>Total Band D equivalent</b>	<b>£1,948.34</b>	<b>100%</b>	

# Budgeted General Fund Expenditure and Funding 2023/24 and 2024/25

<b>Budgeted Expenditure and Funding 2023/24 and 2024/25</b>	<b>2023/2024 Gross Expenditure £m</b>	<b>2023/2024 Net Expenditure £m</b>	<b>2024/2025 Gross Expenditure £m</b>	<b>2024/2025 Net Expenditure £m</b>
Childrens Services	483.724	78.191	497.357	92.498
Adults and Public Health Services	166.528	102.409	181.250	108.923
Economy and Sustainability	20.750	6.360	21.534	7.978
Housing and Environment	100.291	15.252	106.108	22.028
Resources	227.160	40.178	229.441	42.134
Strategy and Change	13.765	9.287	14.731	10.245
<b>Sub totals</b>	<b>1,012.217</b>	<b>251.678</b>	<b>1,050.420</b>	<b>283.806</b>
Corporate items (including treasury management, centrally held Growth)	71.689	9.602	75.449	(0.999)
<b>Total Expenditure on Ealing's Services</b>	<b>1,083.906</b>	<b>261.280</b>	<b>1,125.869</b>	<b>282.807</b>
Levies		25.401		29.075
<b>Ealing's Budget Requirement</b>		<b>286.681</b>		<b>311.882</b>
Revenue Support Grant		(20.444)		(21.798)
Retained Business Rates, Section 31 & Top up Grants		(98.161)		(104.818)
Collection Fund Surplus (-) / Deficit (+)		3.003		(3.441)
<b>Ealing's Council Tax Requirement</b>		<b>171.079</b>		<b>181.825</b>
Tax Base (equivalent Band D Properties)		121,612.9		123,109.5
<b>BAND D Council Tax (Ealing)</b>		<b>£1,406.75</b>		<b>£1,476.94</b>
<b>Net Expenditure per person<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>Net Expenditure per Resident £</b>	
Ealing's Budget Requirement per person				849.55
Ealing's Council Tax Requirement per person				495.28

<sup>1</sup> Ealing's resident population as per the ONS Census Population 2021 is 367,115

## GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

### Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2024-25 financial year sets out his priorities, including supporting Londoners through the current cost-of-living crisis. The budget also supports job creation and London's business community, our city's future growth and economic success and the Mayor's work to continue building a safer, fairer and greener London for everyone.

This year's budget will provide resources to improve the key public services Londoners need and help address the cost-of-living crisis. This includes extending the Mayor's universal free school meals programme for all state primary school children for a further academic year until at least July 2025, freezing TfL pay as you go and other non-government regulated fares for the next twelve months and delivering more genuinely affordable homes. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, fund skills and retraining programmes, help rough sleepers off the streets, invest in services for children and young people and make London a fairer and greener place to live. Moreover, it prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and London Fire Brigade (LFB) to keep Londoners safe, including violence reduction initiatives, support for victims of crime, funding to maintain frontline officer numbers, continued reform of the MPS and the delivery of projects to divert vulnerable young people away from gangs and violence.

In light of the conditions imposed as a result of government funding deals, it has been necessary to provide additional resources through local taxation income, including council tax, to maintain London's transport system and preserve and expand the bus network.

### Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £37.26 (or 72p per week) to £471.40. The additional income from this increase in council tax 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 funding agreements. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £166.27.

<b>Band D Council Tax (£)</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	292.13	13.00	305.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	62.48	4.26	66.74
GLA	22.44	0.00	22.44
Transport for London	57.09	20.00	77.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>434.14</b>	<b>37.26</b>	<b>471.40</b>

## Controlling costs at City Hall and delivering the Mayor's key priorities

The Mayor's 2024-25 budget includes just under £500 million of savings and efficiencies, including from the more efficient use of office accommodation and technology and sharing back office and support functions across the GLA Group family. These savings have allowed the release of resources to help meet the Mayor's key priorities.

The Mayor has already taken steps to improve air quality in London by introducing the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in central London in April 2019, which was expanded to the North and South Circular roads in Autumn 2021 and London-wide from August 2023. The Mayor has created a £210m scrappage scheme providing financial assistance to help eligible Londoners scrap or retrofit the highest polluting vehicles. He has continued to roll out his Green New Deal for London to address the climate emergency, with the objective of helping to create jobs and to double the size of the capital's green economy by 2030. He will also invest over £350 million in 2024-25 through his Adult Education Budget to help tackle unemployment, support Londoners to secure better paid jobs and improve their household circumstances.

The Mayor will continue to ask the government to provide the maximum possible ongoing financial support to London businesses and Londoners to assist them through the current challenging economic situation, including the impact of rising food and fuel inflation, rents and mortgages. The Mayor has also responded to the cost-of-living crisis by providing £140 million of additional funding to extend his universal free school meals programme for London's estimated 287,000 state primary school children, which commenced in September 2023, for the 2024-25 school year. This programme is expected to save London families up to £1,000 per child over two years.

The Mayor will also work with London's business community, key investors and other stakeholders to grow our economy and ensure that London and Londoners' interests are protected following the UK's departure from the European Union. He will provide funding for new projects to bring communities together, tackle social inequality and support London's businesses, including projects to help small and medium sized firms.

## The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

The Mayor's top priority is keeping Londoners safe and his Police and Crime Plan for 2022-25 sets out his vision for achieving this in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The four key themes of the Plan are:

- reducing and preventing violence including making London a city in which women and girls and young people are safer – and feel safer
- increasing trust and confidence in the MPS ensuring that it engages with Londoners and treats them fairly
- better supporting victims – improving the service and support that victims receive from the MPS and the criminal justice service
- protecting people from being exploited or harmed by reducing the number of young people and adults who are criminally exploited or harmed as well as keeping people safe online.

The Mayor continues to spearhead efforts with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to build an MPS that is trusted, representative of London and delivers the highest possible service to every community in our city through the New Met For London (NMfL) programme. An additional £189 million investment has been allocated to improve the MPS's effectiveness and increase trust and confidence amongst Londoners in the police service.

The MPS is also facing sustained and ongoing financial pressures as it continues to deal with the challenges and associated costs of policing the nation's capital. In response, the Mayor is investing an additional £151 million in 2024-25 in policing and crime prevention. This includes investing an extra £6.5 million in London's Violence Reduction Unit so that more action can be taken to help divert young Londoners away from gangs and crime.

The Mayor is raising the police element of his council tax precept paid in the 32 London boroughs in 2024-25 by £13 for a typical Band D property, as assumed in government calculations of police spending power. In all, through his decisions in this and previous budgets, the Mayor has funded an additional 1,300 police officer posts and 500 extra Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) from locally raised council tax and business rates revenues.

## Transport for London (TfL)

TfL has faced significant financial challenges since the pandemic. The Mayor continues to work with the government to secure a sustainable long-term funding settlement for TfL to allow him to continue to invest in the transport network while making it more reliable and accessible. The Mayor's priorities for TfL, subject to funding constraints where applicable, and key achievements include:

- Freezing TfL fares (excluding central government regulated fares such as travelcards) in 2024 with off peak fares being introduced on Fridays all day for an initial three month trial period between March and May 2024
- 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 (supplemented by free travel for those aged 60+ before 9am on Fridays initially for three months from March to May 2024), the disabled, armed forces personnel in uniform and eligible armed services veterans and protecting the Taxicard and Dial-a-Ride schemes
- 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 is forecast to see upwards of 200 million passenger journeys per annum making 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
- Enhancing capacity on the London Underground and rail services, and upgrading key stations such as Bank/Monument station, Old Street and Elephant and Castle as well as securing government funding to make Leyton and Colindale stations step-free
- Making public transport more accessible for everyone including making more tube and Overground stations step-free over the next 12 months. All 41 Elizabeth line stations are now step-free
- Delivering the local regeneration and housing benefits arising from completing the extension of the London Overground on the Gospel Oak to Barking Line to serve Barking Riverside
- Expanding capacity and commencing rolling out new trains on the DLR network in 2024
- Maintaining the Bus and Tram one-hour Hopper fare and investing to sustain existing journey times and reliability on the bus network
- Providing additional funding for the rolling out of additional bus services including the Superloop network of 10 express bus routes which will improve connections and journey times between key outer London town centres and transport hubs

- Tackling the climate emergency including the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) London-wide to tackle air pollution in August 2023 supported by a £210 million vehicle scrappage scheme for small businesses and Londoners to help them switch to cleaner vehicles or retrofit their existing ones and
- Investing in schemes designed to make walking, cycling and public transport safer, cleaner and more appealing in partnership with London boroughs.

## London Fire Commissioner (LFC)

A new Community Risk Management Plan came into effect in January 2023 covering the period to 2029, replacing the previous London Safety Plan. The Mayor has provided resources to roll out a transformation programme to support the London Fire Brigade (LFB) in implementing the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and other key improvements.

In 2024-25 the LFC will be investing in operational services to address the changing risks in London, including the introduction of new firefighting techniques and equipment as well as rolling out additional training to firefighters. There will also be a continued focus on improving the LFB's culture, including the roll out of leadership training at all levels and continuing to embed a new set of values.

## London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)

The LLDC was set up to ensure that the city benefits from a long-term legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Mayor's 2024-25 budget provides funding to complete the construction of East Bank, one of the world's largest and most ambitious cultural and education districts, in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It will bring an additional 1.5 million visitors to the park and surrounding area each year, and more than 2,500 jobs will be created, generating an estimated £1.5 billion for the local economy. The LLDC is not funded from council tax.

## Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

The OPDC has been established to support the creation of 65,000 new jobs and at least 24,000 new homes in west London over the next 20 years. It will build on the regeneration benefits which High Speed 2 (HS2), the Elizabeth line and the Great Western Mainline stations at Old Oak Common are expected to bring locally. The Mayor's 2024-25 budget provides additional resources to enable the corporation to continue the delivery of its programme. The OPDC is not funded from council tax.

## Summary of the GLA Group budget

The tables below show where the GLA's funding comes from and the reasons for the year on year change in the budget. It also explains how the GLA has calculated the sum to be collected from council tax (the council tax requirement).

How the GLA's budget is funded (£ million)	2024-25
Gross expenditure	17,480.4
Government grants and retained business rates	(7,433.2)
Fares, charges and other income	(8,130.3)
Change in reserves	(426.6)
<b>Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)</b>	<b>1,490.3</b>

Changes in spending (£ million)	2024-25
2023-24 council tax requirement	1,353.1
Net change in service expenditure and income	485.3
Change in use of reserves	43.7
Government grants and retained business rates	(272.3)
Other changes	(119.5)
<b>Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)</b>	<b>1,490.3</b>

## Detailed budget by service area

The table below compares the GLA Group's planned expenditure on policing, fire and other services (including transport) in 2024-25 with 2023-24. LLDC and OPDC are not funded from council tax.

The GLA's planned gross expenditure is higher this year. This reflects the additional resources the Mayor is investing in policing, the fire brigade and transport services. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra resources for the MPS and the LFB and to secure funding to maintain existing transport services including buses and the tube network.

There has been a 1.4 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).

Summary of Spending and Income (£ million)	Police (MOPAC)		Fire (LFC)		Other Services (incl. GLA, TfL, LLDC and OPDC)		GLA Group Total	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
(figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)								
Gross expenditure	4,533.1	4,797.2	534.5	579.2	11,165.0	12,104.1	16,232.6	17,480.4
Government grants and business rates	(3,100.5)	(3,274.3)	(284.6)	(293.8)	(3,616.8)	(3,865.1)	(7,001.9)	(7,433.2)
Other income (incl. fares and charges)	(329.4)	(403.6)	(48.1)	(54.5)	(7,149.7)	(7,672.2)	(7,527.2)	(8,130.3)
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>1,103.2</b>	<b>1,119.2</b>	<b>201.8</b>	<b>230.9</b>	<b>398.5</b>	<b>566.8</b>	<b>1,703.5</b>	<b>1,916.9</b>
Change to level of reserves	(193.6)	(155.6)	(6.7)	(19.5)	(150.1)	(251.6)	(350.4)	(426.6)
<b>Council tax requirement (income)</b>	<b>909.6</b>	<b>963.7</b>	<b>195.1</b>	<b>211.4</b>	<b>248.4</b>	<b>315.2</b>	<b>1,353.1</b>	<b>1,490.3</b>