

Council Tax and Business Rates in Barnet

2023/24



Caring for people, our places and the planet

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BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

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Message from the Leader of the Council

Our vision for Barnet is of a successful city suburb with thriving town centres where our 26,440 businesses are supported to grow and flourish, and where new businesses are welcomed and encouraged.

I believe making Barnet a destination that attracts visitors with a vibrant arts, sports and cultural offer is key to this, and we are working with businesses and residents to co-produce a new Culture Strategy for the borough, with ambitious plans to bid for London Borough of Culture.

Our focus is on Barnet being a great place to grow up, study, work, start a business and enjoy life. We want our places to have a real creative buzz, where it is easy for entrepreneurs to innovate, collaborate and connect.

The ambitious Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme - one of the largest in Europe - is well underway. It is delivering a new net zero carbon neighbourhood, Brent Cross Town, in partnership with Related Argent. Set around 50 acres of green parks and playing fields, it will include 6,700 homes, retail and leisure facilities, and three-million square feet of office space that will create 25,000 jobs. Our new train station, Brent Cross West, will open this year linking the area to central London in just 12 minutes.

The regeneration of Edgware and North Finchley town centres is now in early stages of development, and we will be commencing a major public space improvement project in Finchley Central this year to help the high street to recover and to attract footfall. We are working with Town Teams borough-wide so that, wherever your business is in Barnet, we are helping you build your success.

Work to install gigabit speed broadband networks is progressing at pace, with our partnerships enabling over 20,000 homes to

be connected in 2022, and full fibre availability across Barnet growing to over a third of all premises. Working with all London boroughs we have bid to the Greater London Authority for a new voucher scheme to help support businesses with the cost of installing new fibre connections.

Although Business Rates are set by central government and we have no control over the amount, they help pay for the infrastructure, improvements and services that make Barnet the place you have chosen to start and grow your business.

I know these are difficult economic times, and many businesses that were just beginning to recover following the pandemic are now faced with higher inflation, interest rates and energy costs.

To help during this cost-of-living crisis we launched a £1.5m support package last year to reach almost 1,000 companies across the borough. This targeted support included business health checks, mentoring and workshops in digital marketing and social media.

Our aim is to put sustainability at the heart of local recovery, to support a more circular economy and place even greater emphasis on 'shop local, buy local'.

We will continue to prioritise getting the basics right, including investing £500,000 more in enhanced street-cleaning, £1.8m more to upgrade the borough's CCTV, and £250,000 more to repair potholes and pavements.

We are a council that cares for people, our places and the planet, and I want to thank you for the enormous contribution you make to the success of the borough.



**Councillor Barry Rawlings,
Leader of Barnet Council**

Council Budgets 2023/24

This gives a broad outline of gross council spending in the coming year.

Barnet Council's total spending for the coming year is planned to be £900.133m.

Despite reduced grant funding from government and increased demand on services we are continuing to prioritise frontline services. We have done this by making efficiency savings across all services, looking at how our services are delivered and prioritising services for those most in need.

Gross Expenditure by Service Type	2023/24 £'m
Adults and Health	151.701
Assurance (incl. electoral services and internal audit)	7.271
Childrens Family Services	73.735
Childrens Service DSG (Schools)	267.223
Support services (including IT, estates, customer service)	42.311
Corporate Expenses (Housing Benefits, capital financing, levies and inflation)	269.759
Environment	14.916
Housing & Development	5.152
Planning & Regulation	4.070
General Fund Total	836.136
*Housing Revenue Account	63.997
Total Council	900.133

*The provision of social housing under the Housing Revenue Account is not funded by Council Tax, these services are funded by tenant rents and service charges.

How we spend your money

Council spending (millions)

Adults and Health £151.701m

Includes: Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention, Leisure, Sports & Physical Activities, Corporate Health & Safety and Green Spaces & Leisure.

Assurance (incl. electoral services and internal audit) £7.271m

Includes: Internal Audit, Counter Fraud Operations, Electoral Service, Governance, Organisational Resilience, Information Management, Assurance & Business Development, Community Safety.

Children's Family Services £73.735m

Includes: Children in Care, Safeguarding, Support for Vulnerable Families, Youth Activities, Fostering and Adoption.

Children's Services DSG (Schools) £267.223m

Includes: Education Management, High Needs Support. Also includes Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Nurseries.

Support services (including IT, estates, customer service) £42.311m

Includes: Commercial & IT Services, Human Resources & Organisational Development, Communications, Estates and Strategy.

Environment £14.916m

Includes: Street Scene and Transport & Highways (includes Parking & Infrastructure).

Corporate Expenses £269.759m

Includes: Housing Benefits, Financial Planning, Insurance, Revenue & Benefits, Grants, Finance Business Partnering, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Closure, Treasury Management & Pension Finance.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) £63.997m

Planning & Regulation £4.070m

Includes: Highway and Pavement Maintenance, Regulatory Services, Trading Standards, and Environmental.

Housing & Development £5.152m

Includes: Growth & Development (Housing & Regeneration)

How are we doing?

Barnet is a great place to live and work but we have big ambitions for it to be even better. We have a new vision for Barnet: one that puts Caring for People, our Places and the Planet at the heart of everything we do.

In the autumn of 2022, we engaged with residents, businesses and communities to develop this shared vision and our new ways of working, which will turn it into a reality. We know we can only achieve this vision by being an engaged and effective council, one that works at a neighbourhood level with community partners. We will also ask for and listen to residents' and communities' views on how we run our services and invest in our places, giving them a say in decisions that affect them.

We want you to be on this journey with us. So, please get involved and help us unlock our potential as a borough together.

Caring for People

- Work closely with organisations at a local level to fight poverty and tackle inequalities which affect everything from health to education and work opportunities; ensuring no one is held back, whatever their background
- Create a more family friendly borough, giving our children and young people the best possible start in life, with excellent education and support to grow
- Enable all residents – particularly our older and disabled communities – to live well so they can lead fit, healthy and happy lives, feeling safe in their own homes and as part of a supportive community

Caring for our Places

- Enable residents to have their say in how we breathe life back into our streets, town centres and neighbourhoods, making them clean, safe and welcoming, and hubs for communities to enjoy their unique characters
- Provide affordable, good-quality homes for a wide range of household needs, all located within easy reach of essential services, transport and public amenities, green spaces and served by a strong local economy
- Become a borough of fun; a place to enjoy ourselves, where people can meet, experience arts, culture, events, sports and hobbies that reflect our diverse communities

Caring for the Planet

- Respond to the climate emergency and start the journey to becoming a net zero council by 2030 and a net zero borough by 2042, working with local people, communities and businesses so all can share in the benefits of greener living
- Improve our local environment, so that residents enjoy clean air and waterways and reduced flooding from extreme weather
- Look after our precious parks and green spaces in ways to attract and support a wide range of wildlife, and to make them happy places to have fun, relax and improve our health and wellbeing

An Engaged and Effective Council

- Give more power and resources to community groups and voluntary, charity and faith organisations to tackle and solve local issues, recognising and valuing their local knowledge and expertise
- Form stronger partnerships between the council and local organisations so that residents and communities can have their say in important decisions and can benefit from better joined-up services and investment in their neighbourhoods
- Ensure our council services are easily accessible to all and that every time residents contact the council they have a good experience

What we're delivering for you



Caring for people

- We launched a new **£2m** residents' support fund to help people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, taking our total support to over **£9m**



- **1,000s** of residents enjoyed our biggest ever Black History Month, bringing together the borough's communities to celebrate with over **70** events
- Our carers helped **5,475** older people to stay in their own homes and enabled more than **2,500** to be discharged from hospital – more than ever before

Education

- Our secondary schools ranked third in England for **Attainment 8** for the last 2 years
- **Ofsted rating: 98.3%** of Barnet's schools are rated '**Good**' or '**Outstanding**' and we are in the top 10% of the country
- **100%** of children whose parents/carers applied on time received an offer of a Reception place



Caring for our places

- Our new community skips service has been used by more than **2,000** residents
- We're investing an extra **£1.8m** in CCTV upgrades across the borough



- We've made more than **16,600,000** bin collections and cleared **8,074** fly-tips
- We've started work to deliver **1,000 new council homes** at **50%** of market rental rates
- We're making Barnet a '**Borough of Fun**', where people can enjoy themselves and connect with others. We are developing a new Culture Strategy and have launched a community events programme that has already supported **54** local groups to hold events
- With one of the **larger public library services** in London, we run an active range of activities from reading groups and rhyme-time sessions to art, craft and music workshops. We will hold our next **literary festival** in May 2023



Caring for the planet

NET ZERO BY 2030



- We've declared a climate and biodiversity emergency and pledged to be a **net zero council by 2030** and a **net zero borough by 2042**



- We're installing **510** more electric vehicle charging points



- We've installed decarbonisation measures to **17 buildings**, which will reduce carbon emissions by **287 tonnes of carbon** per year

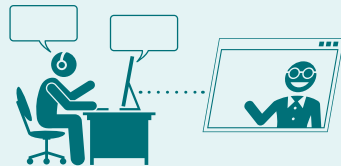


An engaged and effective council

- We're **involving communities** more closely in shaping our services and local areas. We've set out how in our new **Community Participation Strategy**



- A new call-back option added to our phone service and **British Sign Language** and **ReciteMe** tools in our online service will make it easier for people to contact us



- We've started to **webcast** council and committee meetings to improve accessibility and transparency in decision-making and will shortly be rolling out **hybrid meetings** to make it easier for people to get involved



What you pay

The amount of Council Tax payable for homes in each valuation band, before any discounts, reliefs or benefits, is:

Valuation Band	Range of values	Proportion of Band D charge	2023/2024 charge TOTAL	of which Barnet receives LBB	GLA receives GLA
A	Up to £40,000	6/9	£1,224.11	£934.68	£289.43
B	£40,001 – £52,000	7/9	£1,428.12	£1,090.46	£337.66
C	£52,001 – £68,000	8/9	£1,632.14	£1,246.24	£385.90
D	£68,001 – £88,000	9/9	£1,836.16	£1,402.02	£434.14
E	£88,001 – £120,000	11/9	£2,244.20	£1,713.58	£530.62
F	£120,001 – £160,000	13/9	£2,652.23	£2,025.14	£627.09
G	£160,001 – £320,000	15/9	£3,060.27	£2,336.70	£723.57
H	More than £320,000	18/9	£3,672.32	£2,804.04	£868.28

You can find the valuation band for your home on the front of your bill. Valuation bands are set by the Valuation Office and not the council.

web: www.gov.uk/voa/contact

tel: 03000 501501

Your Contact Details

The Revenues Service routinely uses SMS/text messages to contact residents about their Council Tax account. This includes our processes for arrears. If you fail to pay your Council Tax on time we will make attempts to contact you via your mobile, landline telephone and/or email address. These messages provide an informal reminder before we begin formal enforcement. If you receive a SMS/text and you are concerned whether it is genuine please refer to the Council Tax pages of our website where more information about this service can be found.

Appeals against valuation bands

If you are considering appealing against your band please remember that valuation bands are based upon property values on 1 April 1991 – so recent purchases are not the best evidence of value for Council Tax purposes.

There are only limited occasions when taxpayers can challenge their banding.

For further details of the appeals procedure or enquiries about the banding of your property, contact the Valuation Office.

Remember

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of any tax you owe. If your appeal is successful you will receive a refund of any overpaid tax.

Who has to pay Council Tax?

The person living in the property with the greatest legal right to it is responsible for paying Council Tax.

To work out who is responsible for your home, look down the list below until you come to the category of resident that applies to you:

- The owner of the property (who owns the freehold)
- A person who owns the lease
- A tenant (including council tenants)
- Someone who has a licence to live in the property
- Someone who just lives there.

If no adults live in the property as their main home, the owner or person entitled to possession is responsible for paying the Council Tax bill.

In some special cases, including houses in multiple occupation (such as bedsits), it is the owner who is responsible for paying the Council Tax and not the residents.

A resident is a person aged 18 years or over who lives in the dwelling as their only or main home.

Joint owners or tenants are jointly liable for one Council Tax bill for the dwelling. Husbands and wives and civil partners of liable people are also jointly responsible for paying the bill.

Exemptions

Some properties may qualify for an exemption. This means that no Council Tax is paid on them. If you think you are entitled to an exemption, please contact us (see page 11).

Exemptions – properties occupied only by:

- a person(s) who is (are) severely mentally impaired
- full-time students (and their spouses or dependants who are not British citizens and not allowed to work or claim benefits in this country)
- school or college leavers
- visiting forces
- UK armed forces accommodation
- people aged under 18
- foreign diplomats or senior officials of international organisations headquartered in the UK
- dependent relatives living in a separate dwelling forming part of a larger property.

The 100 per cent exemption for homes undergoing major repair (Class A) has been replaced with a Class D discount of 0 per cent.

The 100 per cent exemption for homes that are unoccupied and unfurnished (Class C) has been replaced with a Class E discount of 0 per cent.

Exemptions – unoccupied properties which:

- are owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- were previously occupied by someone who has gone into prison or who has moved to receive personal care in a hospital or home on a long-term basis
- are left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person
- are awaiting probate or letters of administration to be granted (and for up to six months after) following the death of the last occupier
- have been repossessed and are unoccupied
- are the responsibility of a Bankrupt's Trustee
- are empty because their occupation is forbidden by law or planning conditions
- are awaiting occupation by a Minister of Religion
- is a pitch or a mooring which does not have a caravan or houseboat on it.

Claims for exemption should be made by contacting us through our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or writing to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ. Alternatively, please phone 020 8359 2000 (select option 2) for further advice.

You can also get further information about exemptions, discounts and other reductions from our website:

www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax

Fighting fraud in Barnet

Do you suspect or know of anyone committing fraud against the London Borough of Barnet?

If you do, please contact the Corporate Anti Fraud Team on our 24 hour Fraud Hotline: 020 8359 2007 or email: caft@barnet.gov.uk

Instalments to pay your Council Tax

Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay and offers a choice of six different payment dates. You can set up a Direct Debit on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/directdebit. Please refer to the back of your Council Tax demand notice for other methods of paying your Council Tax in instalments.

Your Council Tax Demand is for the full financial year from April to March, but you can pay in monthly instalments. These are usually over 10 months; if you would like to spread payments over 12 months we must receive your application in writing by your first April instalment to qualify for the full 12 months.

Contact us on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or write to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ.

Alternatively please phone: 020 8359 2000 (select option 2) for further advice.

Appeals against liability

You can appeal:

- if you disagree that a dwelling is chargeable
- if you disagree that you are liable to pay Council Tax on a particular dwelling
- if you disagree that a discount or exemption has not been applied or that no reduction for disabilities has been given.

If you wish to appeal you should initially contact us on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or write to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ. Please clearly state that you are making an appeal.

Adult Social Care Precept

Costs for adult social care are unpredictable, and councils are required by law to meet eligible social care needs. The cost of social care depends on how many people require care and support for their individual needs. In Barnet we have both a growing and ageing population and demand for social care is increasing. At the same time the costs of providing care are rising. The precept provides more care for older people including those with dementia. The precept will also help to pay for services which help individuals look after themselves such as lunch clubs and befriending services.

In 2016/17 the government allowed councils to apply a social care precept of up to 2 per cent on Council Tax to meet the increasing costs of adult social care. Barnet applied a social care precept of 1.7 per cent to Council Tax in 2016/17. In 2017/18, the government allowed councils the flexibility of applying a further social care precept of 6 per cent over 3 years on Council Tax to spend exclusively on adult social care, (including care for the elderly) and the council set the social care precept at 3 per cent on Council Tax and applied a further precept of 3 per cent in 2018/19. This meant the council could not apply a further increase to the social care precept in 2019/20.

For 2020/21 the government permitted an increase for the Adult Social Care Precept of 2 per cent.

For 2021/22, the government extended the ability to apply a 3 per cent Adult Social Care Precept.

For 2022/23, the government extended the ability to apply a 1 per cent Adult Social Care Precept to help fund the increasing cost pressures that councils are experiencing in relation to the provision of Adult Social Care.

For 2023/24, the government has permitted an increase for the Adult Social Care Precept of 2 per cent.

Discounts

Full Council Tax is charged on a property if there are two adults or more living there. If only one adult lives in the property we will reduce your bill by 25 per cent.

When counting the number of adults at a property there are certain people we will disregard. If after disregarding people only one person is counted, a 25 per cent discount can be granted. People who are disregarded are listed below:

- full-time students, student nurses or foreign language assistants and dependants or foreign spouses of students
- school and college leavers under 20 where they left school after 1 May, having finished a qualifying course of education
- over 18 year olds who have child benefit paid for them
- severely mentally impaired
- people whose main home is a hospital, residential care home, nursing home or hostel
- in prison
- members of religious communities who have no income or capital of their own
- employed as care workers for more than 24 hours per week and paid £44 per week or less
- living in the same property as a disabled person they are caring for (other than a husband, wife, partner or child under 18)
- diplomats or senior officials of international organisations headquartered in the UK
- visiting forces
- apprentices earning less than £195 per week
- YTS trainees under 25.

From 1 April 2014, where a property is an annexe used by the owner or tenant of the main dwelling, a 50 per cent discount will apply for the annexe.

Empty properties

If a home is unfurnished and unoccupied you must advise the council.

Certain other vacant properties are exempt if other criteria are met (see page 12).

The owner or person who is entitled to possession is liable to pay the full Council Tax.

Second homes

The council changed the second home discount percentage with effect from 1 April 2013 – the 10 per cent discount for second homes has been reduced from 10 per cent to 0 per cent.

A second home is a property that is furnished but is no-one's main home, including a furnished let between tenancies.

The bill for a caravan or boat that is a second home will be reduced by 50 per cent.

Most discounts and exemptions can be applied for at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax, where you can also ask further questions. Alternatively, please write to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ.

Empty Home Premium

Any home that has been empty and unfurnished for more than two years is charged a premium on its Council Tax. From 1 April 2019 the law changed, allowing the council to charge a larger premium and further increases are set for this year:

From 1 April 2023:

where the property has been empty for more than two years but less than five years the premium is 100%.

where the property has been empty for more than five years but less than 10 years the premium is 200%.

where the property has been empty for more than 10 years the premium is 300%.

Council Tax discretionary relief scheme

Barnet Council has a discretionary discount policy to help you to reduce your Council Tax liability if you are struggling to pay your council tax bill. This is in accordance with Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Applications must be made online and will be considered on an individual basis and depend on your personal and financial circumstances.

You can apply by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-financial-advice/barnet-resident-support-fund.

If you require further advice please contact the Welfare Team on tel: 020 8359 2442 for assistance.

Council Tax Support

The key features of Barnet's Council Tax Support scheme, that came into effect on 1 April 2019, are:

1. Pensioners continue to be treated as they would be under the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme
2. Everyone of working age, except those that fall into a protected group, will have to pay a minimum contribution of 28 per cent of their Council Tax liability.
3. Entitlement for working age, except those that fall into a protected group, will no longer be calculated using a complicated means test. Instead it will be calculated using a simple banding system taking into account earned income.

4. The capital limit will be £6,000. This means if you have capital over this amount there will be no entitlement to support.
5. A minimum income floor will apply for self-employed people meaning if they declare earnings less than minimum wage then an assumed income will be calculated using minimum wage and expected number of hours to be worked.
6. Everyone of working age, except those that fall into a protected group, will no longer have child care costs included in the calculation of their award.

You may be able to reduce your Council Tax if you are on a low income or claim benefits. How much the reduction is depends on your individual circumstances.

You can find more information about Barnet's Council Tax Support scheme at: www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax

Reductions for people with disabilities

You may get your bill reduced if anyone in your household has a room, an extra bathroom or kitchen or extra space to meet special needs arising from a disability.

This could be reduced to the valuation band directly below your existing one.

If you think you might be entitled to a reduction, please request an application form. You can contact us through our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or by writing to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ. Alternatively, please phone 020 8359 2000 (select option 2) for further advice.

Change of circumstances

If you are in receipt of a discount, exemption or reduction to your Council Tax and you have a change in your circumstances during the year which may affect this, you must let the council know within 21 days of the change.

Non-Domestic Rates explained

Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements introduced from 1 April 2013, authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally. The money, together with revenue from council taxpayers, locally generated income and grants from central government, is used to pay for the services provided by local authorities in your area. Further information about the business rates system, may be obtained at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates and at www.barnet.gov.uk/business/business-rates.

Business Rate Supplements

The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 enables levying authorities – county councils, unitary district councils and, in London, the Greater London Authority – to levy a supplement on the business rate to support additional projects aimed at economic development of the area. This power has also been extended to the mayors of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Liverpool City Region, West of England, and West Midlands combined authorities. Business Rate Supplements (BRS) are not applicable to properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or below, and authorities have discretion to increase that threshold. The total maximum BRS which may be levied by a levying authority is 2p per pound of rateable value. Levying authorities have the power to apply such reliefs to the BRS as they think appropriate and in such cases must include an explanation of the rules for the application of those reliefs in the final prospectus for the BRS.

The business rate supplement applicable in London is being levied by the Greater London Authority in relation to the Crossrail project, which delivered the Elizabeth line. The rateable value threshold in 2023-24 for the Crossrail BRS is £75,000. Further information may be found in the Crossrail BRS final prospectus which is available at www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs

Business Rates Instalments

Payment of business rate bills is automatically set on a 10-monthly cycle. However, the Government has put in place regulations that allow ratepayers to require their local authority to enable payments to be made through 12 monthly instalments. If you wish to take up this offer, you should contact the local authority as soon as possible.

National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier

The local authority works out the business rates bill for a property by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate non-domestic multiplier. There are two multipliers: the national non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. The Government sets the multipliers for each financial year, except in the City of London where special arrangements apply.

Ratepayers who occupy a property with a rateable value which does not exceed £50,999 (and who are not entitled to certain other mandatory relief[s] or are liable for unoccupied property rates) will have their bills calculated using the lower small business non-domestic rating multiplier, rather than the national non-domestic rating multiplier.

The current multipliers are shown on the front of your bill.

Rateable Value

Apart from properties that are exempt from business rates, each non-domestic property has a rateable value which is set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. They compile and maintain a full list of all rateable values, available at www.gov.uk/voa. The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of your bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date specified in legislation. For the current rating list, this date was set as 1 April 2021.

The Valuation Office Agency may alter the valuation if circumstances change. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can also check and challenge the valuation shown in the list if they believe it is wrong.

Further information about the grounds on which challenges may be made and the process for doing so can be found on the VOA website: www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-check-your-rateable-value-is-correct.

Revaluations

All non-domestic property rateable values are reassessed at revaluations. The most recent revaluation took effect from 1 April 2023. Revaluations ensure that business rates bills are up-to-date, more accurately reflect current rental values and relative changes in rents. Frequent revaluations ensure the system continues to be responsive to changing economic conditions.

Business Rate Reliefs

Depending on individual circumstances, a ratepayer may be eligible for a rate relief (i.e. a reduction in your business rates bill). There are a range of available reliefs. Some of the permanent reliefs are set out below but temporary reliefs are often introduced by the Government at Budgets. You should contact your local authority for details on the latest availability of business rates reliefs and advice on whether you may qualify. Further detail on reliefs is also provided at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates or at www.barnet.gov.uk/business/business-rates.

Small Business Rates Relief

If a ratepayer's sole or main property has a rateable value which does not exceed an amount set out in regulations, the ratepayer may receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for this property of up to a maximum of 100%. The level of reduction will depend on the rateable value of the property – for example eligible properties below a specified lower threshold will receive 100% relief, and you may receive partial tapered relief up to a specified upper threshold. The relevant thresholds for relief are set out in regulations and can be obtained from your local authority or at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Generally, this percentage reduction (relief) is only available to ratepayers who occupy either-

- (a) one property, or
- (b) one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed the limit set in regulations.

The aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in (b), must also not exceed an amount set in regulations. For those businesses that take on an additional

property which would normally have meant the loss of small business rate relief, they will be allowed to keep that relief for a fixed additional period. Full details on the relevant limits in relation to second properties and the current period for which a ratepayer may continue to receive relief after taking on an additional property can be obtained from your local authority or at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by the ratepayer who is in receipt of relief (other changes will be picked up by the local authority). The changes which should be notified are-

- (a) the property falls vacant,
- (b) the ratepayer taking up occupation of an additional property, and
- (c) an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief.

Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club Relief

Charities and registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the club and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the club (or of that and other clubs).

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Unoccupied Property Rate Relief

Business rates are generally payable in respect of unoccupied non-domestic property. However, they are generally not payable for the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain other properties (for example industrial premises). Full details on exemptions can be obtained from your local authority or from www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief.

Transitional Rate Relief

At a revaluation, some ratepayers will see reductions or no change in their bill whereas some ratepayers will see increases. Transitional relief schemes are introduced at each revelation to help those facing increases and relief is applied automatically to bills if entitled. Further information about transitional arrangements and other reliefs may be obtained from the local authority or the website www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Local Discounts

Local authorities have a general power to grant discretionary local discounts and to give hardship relief in specific circumstances. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Subsidy Control

The award of discretionary reliefs is considered likely to fall into the UK subsidy control regime. Further information can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime>.

Rating Advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS – website www.rics.org) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV – website www.irrv.org.uk) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct. Before you employ a rating adviser, you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.

Information Supplied with Demand Notices

Information relating to the relevant and previous financial years in regard to the gross expenditure of the local authority is available at <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/Council%20Tax%20%26%20Business%20Rates%202022%20to%202023%20booklet.pdf>

A hard copy is available on request by writing to the Council or by phoning 020 8359 2735.

Council Tax details 2023/24

Annual Budget and Performance Report

The net expenditure figures below represent the amount of Council Tax required to meet the combined needs of London Borough of Barnet and Barnet's share of the Greater London Authority (GLA) for 2023/24. The tax levied is based on there being the equivalent of 153,073 Band D properties (150,834 in 2022/23) in Barnet giving the standard charge of £1,836.16 which reflects a 1.80% increase in the Council Tax and a 2.0% increase in the Social Care precept (Barnet share only).

	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23
	net expenditure	per Band D property	per head of population	net expenditure
	£	£	£	£
Direct Barnet Council Services	281.048	1,836.03	721.93	252.505
Plus levies and contributions:				
Environment Agency	0.362	2.32	0.91	0.355
Lea Valley Regional Park	0.389	2.33	0.92	0.357
London Pension Funds	0.049	3.31	1.30	0.506
Traffic Control Signals Unit	0.511	2.84	1.12	0.435
North London Waste Authority	10.773	76.39	30.04	11.693
Concessionary Fares	9.394	59.71	23.48	9.140
Coroners Court	0.320	2.09	0.82	0.320
London Boroughs Grants	0.296	1.93	0.76	0.296
Apprenticeship Levy	0.340	1.96	0.77	0.300
	303.482	1,988.91	782.04	275.607
Contribution from balances and reserves	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.000
Barnet's Requirements (see Budget)	303.482	1,988.91	782.04	275.607
Less:				
Collection Fund Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.000
Business Rates	(81.110)	(426.96)	(167.88)	(65.357)
Revenue Support Grant	(7.759)	(42.58)	(16.74)	(6.518)
Barnet's element of Council Tax requirement	214.612	1,519.36	597.42	203.732
GLA Precept	66.455	0.00	0.00	59.668
Total Council Tax requirement	281.067	1,519.36	597.42	263.400

Budget

	Note	2023/24			2022/23		
		Expenditure	Income	Net expenditure	Expenditure	Income	Net expenditure
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults and Health	¹	198,457	(46,756)	151,701	169,986	(42,211)	127,775
Assurance (incl. electoral services and internal audit)	²	7,908	(638)	7,271	8,431	(847)	7,584
Children's Family Services	³	83,471	(9,736)	73,735	87,053	(11,160)	75,893
Children's Service DSG (Schools)	⁴	267,223	(267,223)	0	246,557	(246,557)	0
Commercial, Management, Back Office*	⁵	54,671	(12,360)	42,311	49,822	(11,471)	38,351
Corporate Expenses (Housing Benefits, Capital Financing, Levies and Inflation)	⁶	275,526	(204,994)	70,532	267,895	(204,871)	63,023
Environment	⁷	46,623	(31,708)	14,916	47,068	(33,453)	13,615
Housing & Development*		30,395	(25,243)	5,152	31,078	(25,014)	6,064
Planning & Regulation	⁸	23,036	(18,966)	4,070	22,682	(18,607)	4,075
Total Service Budget		987,310	(617,623)	369,686	930,571	(594,191)	336,380
Specific Grants		0	(66,204)	(66,204)	0	(60,773)	(60,773)
Barnet's Budget Requirement		987,310	(683,828)	303,481	930,571	(654,964)	275,607
Business Rates Retention		0	(58,978)	(58,978)	0	(45,625)	(45,625)
Business Rates Top Up		0	(22,132)	(22,132)	0	(19,731)	(19,731)
Revenue Support Grant		0	(7,759)	(7,759)	0	(6,518)	(6,518)
Barnet's Element of Council Tax requirement		987,310	(772,697)	214,612	930,571	(726,839)	203,732
GLA Precept		66,455	0	66,455	59,668	0	59,668
Total Council Tax requirement		1,053,765	(772,697)	281,067	990,239	(726,839)	263,400

Notes

- Includes: Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention, Leisure, Sports & Physical Activities, Corporate Health & Safety and Green Spaces & Leisure
- Includes: Internal Audit, Counter Fraud Operations, Electoral Service, Governance, Organisational Resilience, Information Management, Assurance & Business Development, Community Safety.
- Includes: Children in Care, Safeguarding, Support for Vulnerable Families, Youth Activities, Fostering and Adoption.
- Includes: Education Management, High Needs Support. Also includes Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Nurseries.
- Includes: Commercial & IT Services, Human Resources & Organisational Development, Communications, Estates and Strategy
- Includes: Street Scene and Transport & Highways (includes Parking & Infrastructure).
- Includes: Housing Benefits, Financial Planning, Insurance, Revenue & Benefits, Grants, Finance Business Partnering, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Closure, Treasury Management & Pension Finance.
- Includes: Highway and Pavement Maintenance, Regulatory Services, Trading Standards, and Environmental Health

Why the cost of Barnet's services has changed

The statement below briefly indicates the major changes in Barnet's net service budget between that of 2022/23 at £336.380m and that of 2023/24 at £369.686m and the changes to the Council Tax requirement 2022/23 of £263.400m and that of 2023/24 of £281.067m. Inflationary pressures and additional costs arising from a growing population have meant that the council has had to increase budgets in specific areas. To balance the budget, savings and efficiencies have been identified.

	£m
Barnet Services Net Budget 2022/23	336.380
Service Pressures	19.670
Contingency for Risks and Other Expenditure	7.090
Inflation	17.745
Savings Required to Balance Budget	(11.199)
Barnet Services Net Budget 2023/24	369.686

Council Tax requirement

The Council Tax at Band D is £1,836.16 for 2023/24. The tax base in Barnet has increased from 150,834 to 153,073. The change in the Council Tax requirement is set out in the table below.

	Number of properties
Council Tax Base 2022/23	150,834
Council Tax Base 2023/24	153,073
Increase in Tax Base	2,239

	Barnet £'m	GLA £'m	Total £'m
Council Tax Requirement in 2022/23	203.732	59.668	263.400
Increase due to tax base - Barnet	3.025		3.025
Increase due to tax base - GLA		0.886	0.886
Increase due to rate change - Barnet	7.856		7.856
Increase due to rate change - Barnet		5.901	5.901
Council Tax Requirement in 2023/24	214.612	66.455	281.067

Outstanding loans

At 31 March 2022, the council's outstanding long-term loan terms totalled £589.093m. The average rate of borrowing on the council's outstanding long-term debt is 2.90%.

Capital Programme

The council is planning to spend £1,034.129 million on capital projects from 2023/24 onwards as part of an ongoing programme of investment in buildings, roads, equipment and other assets. The table below gives a brief summary of capital expenditure plans.

Service	£'m					Total
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
General Fund Services	193.157	244.081	129.562	64.327	6.681	637.808
Housing Revenue Account	97.969	110.188	76.941	63.848	47.376	396.321
Total	291.125	354.269	206.502	128.175	54.057	1,034.129

Greater London Authority (GLA)

Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2023-24 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 - inequalities which have become even more apparent as a result of the current cost of living crisis. It supports job creation and London's business community, 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 and help address the cost of living crisis. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, funding to maintain the capital's transport services and programmes to tackle 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 services for children and young people and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live. Moreover, it prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe, including violence reduction initiatives, support for victims of crime, recruitment drives for additional frontline officers and projects to divert vulnerable young people away from the criminal justice system.

In light of the significant reductions in fares revenue since the pandemic, it has been necessary to provide additional resources through local taxation income to maintain London's transport system including investing in preserving the bus network. However, this budget remains focused on delivering a swift

and sustainable economic recovery across the capital as well as 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 £38.55 (or 74p per week) to £434.14. 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 £142.01.

Council Tax (£)	2022-23	Change	2023-24
MOPAC (Met Police)	277.13	15.00	292.13
LFC (Fire Brigade)	58.80	3.68	62.48
GLA	22.57	-0.13	22.44
Transport Services	37.09	20.00	57.09
Total (£)	395.59	38.55	434.14

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

The Mayor's budget includes significant savings across the GLA Group in 2023-24, including tens of millions of pounds over the first five years following moving City Hall from Tower Bridge to the Royal Docks. These savings have allowed him to release resources to help meet his key priorities. His budget includes plans to invest £6.9 billion to allow 116,000 affordable homes starts within London by the end of this year and an additional 165,000 affordable homes starts by 2026, as well as allocating resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.

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. The Mayor has also created a £110m scrappage scheme providing financial assistance to help eligible Londoners scrap or retrofit their highest polluting vehicles to prepare for the planned expansion of the ULEZ London-wide from 29 August 2023. 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. This work is being supported in 2023-24 by the allocation of an additional £134 million to be used towards environmental improvement projects in order to help deliver the Mayor's target to ensure London achieves carbon net zero by 2030.

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 interest rates. He will also maintain investment in skills and retraining to help tackle unemployment and support Londoners to secure better paid jobs, as well as supporting the advice sector to help Londoners impacted by the cost of living crisis. The Mayor is also responding to the cost of living crisis by providing £130 million of new funding to ensure all primary school pupils can receive free school meals in the 2023-24 school year.

The Mayor will also work with London's business community, key investors and other stakeholders to support the economic recovery 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 boost London's economy, including

supporting projects to help small and medium sized businesses.

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

The Mayor published his Police and Crime Plan for 2022-25 in March 2022. This sets out the Mayor's vision for a city in which Londoners are safer – and feel safer. His key priorities include providing a better criminal justice service in London to ensure victims of crime are better supported, keeping children and young people safe, tackling the harm caused by drugs, reducing reoffending by the most violent and high-risk groups and preventing hate crime. He has taken steps to ensure London's police service has the resources it needs to put more officers on the streets to suppress violence, including dealing with violence against women and girls, and responding to the demands and pressures of policing a capital city. He has also provided resources to tackle domestic violence and is increasing investment in violence reduction initiatives.

The Plan also outlines the action the Mayor is taking to continue to hold the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to account, ensuring all Londoners have trust and confidence in their police force and standards within the wider force are improved. The budget supports the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner in delivering this vital work.

The Mayor published his Action Plan in November 2020 to improve trust and confidence in the MPS and to address community concerns about disproportionality in the use of certain police powers affecting Black Londoners. The Mayor has committed, as part of the action plan, to invest £1.7 million per annum, for a three year period from 2021-22 to 2023-24, to develop greater community involvement in police officer training and in the recruitment and progression of Black officers in the MPS.

The MPS must rise to meet these challenges at a time of acute financial pressure. As a result of the net reduction in resources from the Home Office for policing between 2010 and 2019, the MPS had to close more than 100 police stations and remove over 3,300 Police Community Support Officers and 4,500 police staff in order to minimise reductions to front line officer numbers.

The Mayor is raising the police element of his council tax precept paid in the 32 London boroughs (but not the City of London which has its own police force) by £15 for a typical Band D property, as assumed in government calculations of police spending power. The additional revenues will help raise £22 million to fund the recruitment of 500 additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). In all, through his decisions in this and previous budgets, the Mayor has funded an additional 1,300 police officer posts from locally raised revenues.

Transport for London (TfL)

TfL has faced significant financial challenges as a result of the reduced levels of ridership due to the pandemic since March 2020, which has led to a reduction in fare revenues. 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:

- 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.
- Completing the final stages to deliver the full operation of and timetable for the Elizabeth line by no later than May 2023. The line has increased central London's rail capacity by ten per cent and saw over 100 million passenger journeys during its first eight months. This follows on from the opening of 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. All Elizabeth line stations will be step free.
- Delivering the local regeneration and housing benefits arising from completing the extension of London Overground on the Gospel Oak to Barking Line to serve Barking Riverside in July 2022.
- 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.
- Continuing the electrification of London Buses so that all are emission free by 2037 at the latest.
- Tackling London's toxic air quality including extending the ULEZ London-wide. The Mayor has introduced a £110 million vehicle scrappage scheme for small businesses and Londoners in receipt of low income and disability benefits.

- 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)

The Mayor's funding ensures that the London Fire Brigade's (LFB) first and second fire engines attending an incident arrive 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. 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 is providing resources to roll out a transformation programme so that the LFB can implement the recommendations of the Grenfell fire inquiry, including investing in the new vehicles and equipment required. The London Fire Commissioner, with the full support of the Mayor, is also committed to implementing the deep-rooted reform needed to the culture and systems within the LFB.

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 2023-24 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.

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 2023-24 budget provides additional resources to enable the Corporation to start early delivery of its programme.

Summary of 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

How the GLA budget is funded (£ million)	2023-24
Gross expenditure	16,232.6
Government grants and retained business rates	-7,001.9
Fares, charges and other income	-7,527.2
Change in reserves	-350.4
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	1,353.1

Changes in spending (£ million)	2023-24
2021-22 council tax requirement	1,213.6
Net change in service expenditure and income	-108.4
Change in use of reserves	-278.3
Government grants and retained business rates	942.8
Other changes	-416.6
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	1,353.1

Detailed budget by service area

The table below compares the GLA Group's planned expenditure on policing, fire and other services (including transport) in 2023-24 with 2022-23. 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 Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade and to secure funding to maintain existing transport services including buses and the tube network. There has been a 1.6 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: www.london.gov.uk/budget.

Crossrail BRS Ratepayer Communication For 2023-24

What is the Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail) and how will it benefit your business?

The Elizabeth line is London's newest railway. It connects the outer suburbs and Heathrow airport to the West End, the City and Canary Wharf. As such, it is vital to the future of London's economy. The increased earnings it will bring – from new jobs and quicker journeys – will benefit businesses across London. It was named the Elizabeth line in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The Elizabeth line has been the single largest investment in London's infrastructure for decades. It employed up to 14,000 people at the peak of construction. The central section opened in May 2022 and in November 2022, direct Elizabeth line services into central London from Reading, Heathrow, Shenfield and Abbey Wood began. The final timetable across the entire railway is expected to be in place by no later than May 2023.

To find out more, visit tfl.gov.uk/modes/elizabeth-line/, call the helpline on 0343 222 1234 or go to tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/

Developments in the funding of Crossrail

The previous Mayor of London agreed a funding settlement with the government in 2010 for the Crossrail scheme. The Mayor and the Secretary of State for Transport agreed revised funding packages for Crossrail in December 2018 and November 2020.

How will London's businesses help fund Crossrail?

In April 2012, the previous Mayor introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on new developments in London to finance Crossrail. The charging schedule changed in April 2019. The developer pays this levy.

Business ratepayers of larger properties have contributed through a special Crossrail

Business Rate Supplement (BRS) since April 2010.

Under the current funding package, the GLA is expected to contribute a total of around £7 billion towards Crossrail. This is financed through the MCIL and the BRS. The BRS will need to be levied until the GLA's Crossrail related borrowing is repaid. This should be no later than March 2041, in line with the published Crossrail BRS prospectus.

Does my business have to pay the Crossrail BRS?

Your rates bill makes clear if you are liable to pay the BRS. It applies only to assessments (for example business and other non-domestic premises) with a rateable value above £75,000. This year the threshold has been increased from £70,000 to £75,000 reflecting the impact of the 2023 business rates revaluation. This higher threshold means that at least 86 per cent of the capital's non-domestic properties will be exempt from paying the BRS in 2023-24.

How much do I pay if my property's rateable value is above £75,000?

The Crossrail BRS multiplier for 2023-24 remains at 2p per pound of rateable value. Reliefs for the Crossrail BRS will apply on the same basis and at the same percentage rate as for your national non-domestic rates (NNDR) bill. However, there is no transitional relief scheme for the BRS.

Keeping you up to date

We will give ratepayers an annual update over the lifetime of the BRS.

Contact for more information

020 7983 4100 • crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk;
www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs
Finance, GLA, City Hall, London E16 1ZE

Environment Agency South East Region

The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011.

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		
	2022/2023	2023/2024
	'000s	'000s
Gross Expenditure	£109,376	£139,806
Levies Raised	£12,282	£12,526
Total Council Tax Base	5,214	5,297

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 £12,281,930 in 2022/2023 to £12,526,341 for 2023/2024

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Lee Valley Regional Park is a unique leisure, sports and environmental destination for all residents of London, Essex and Hertfordshire. The 26 mile long, 10,000 acre Park, much of it formerly derelict land, is partly funded by a levy on the council tax. This year there has been a 9% increase in this levy. Find out more about hundreds of great days out, world class sports venues and award winning parklands at www.visitleevalley.org.uk

	2022/2023	2023/2024
	£m	£m
Authority Operating Expenditure	15.1	15.5
Authority Operating Income	(7.0)	(7.3)
Net Service Operating Costs	8.1	8.2
Financing Costs - Debt servicing/repayments	0.5	2.0
- Capital investment	1.3	0.9
Total Net Expenditure	9.9	11.1
Net use of Reserves	(0.1)	(0.5)
Total Levy	(9.8)	(10.6)

Further details on how this budget is spent and the amount each council contributes can be found at www.leevalleypark.org.uk.