

## Council tax 2023-2024

This booklet gives details of the council tax in Lewisham for the financial year April 2023 to March 2024.

### Statement concerning adult social care funding

Statement concerning adult social care funding The Secretary of State 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 was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care. This year's council tax increase of 4.99% includes the maximum 2.99% uplift in the general council tax element and a further 2% rise for the ring-fenced adult social care precept.

### About the council tax

The rate of council tax you pay depends on which valuation band your home is placed in. The banding of domestic properties is set by the Valuation Office, and is based on the open market value as at 1 April 1991. If you think your home is in the wrong band you have six months from the date you become liable in which to appeal. You can find out more about when you can challenge your band and what you need to do at [gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band](https://www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band). If you challenge your band, you must continue to pay at your current band until your appeal is decided.

You can contact the VOA at [gov.uk/contact-voa](https://www.gov.uk/contact-voa). If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact the VOA on 03000 501 501.

### Who is liable?

There is one council tax bill for each dwelling, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette etc. and whether it is owned or rented. If only one person lives in a dwelling they will be the liable person. Where two or more people live in a dwelling a hierarchy of liability is used to work out who is liable. The person highest on the list will be responsible for paying the council tax bill as follows:

- a resident owner-occupier who owns either the leasehold or freehold of all or part of the property
- a resident statutory or secure tenant
- a resident licensee
- a resident
- an owner where no-one is resident.

A resident is anyone aged 18 years or over who lives in the dwelling as their only or main home. Whether a property is treated as your main home depends on a number of factors, such as how much time you spend there and whether it is your family home. You cannot have more than one main home for council tax purposes.

Two or more people can be jointly liable for council tax in respect of the same dwelling, and they are each jointly and severally liable to pay the full council tax charge. This situation will apply to:

- persons with the same legal interest in the dwelling (e.g. they are joint tenants or joint owners.)
- residents who are married, live together as a couple or who are civil partners

In some cases the owner, not the resident, is liable to pay the council tax for the following types of property:

- residential care homes, nursing homes or hostels
- houses of multiple occupation

- properties inhabited by religious communities
- properties occupied by resident staff
- properties used by ministers of religion from which they perform their duties.

### **Reductions to your council tax**

If you live on your own, you can apply for a 25% discount off your council tax bill. Even if you share your home, you may still be entitled to a discount of 25%, 50% or 100% if you, or those you share with, are not counted towards paying council tax. These people are known as being disregarded and include:

- full time students
- student nurses
- apprentices
- anyone who is 18 or 19 and still at school or is in full time further education
- anyone with a severe mental illness (SMI)
- carers
- anyone who is 25 or under who has previously been looked after by a council (**from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018**).
- prisoners
- anyone who is in a residential care home or nursing home
- members of religious communities
- members of visiting forces
- anyone who is in a hostel or shelter
- diplomats, members of international headquarter, etc.
- foreign language assistants.

You will need proof of your status: for example a student certificate, a doctor's certificate, or a letter from your prison etc.

### **Empty properties**

The Council has a duty to reduce the number of properties left unoccupied and encourage owners to bring housing stock back into use. Please refer to the next section for more details.

If you own a property, which is not anyone's sole or main residence and is furnished, for example a landlord between tenants, you are no longer entitled to any reduction. Prior to 1 April 2013 you may have been entitled to a 10% discount. The same applies if you own a second or holiday-home; you are no longer entitled to any reduction in your council tax from 1 April 2013.

If your property is empty and unfurnished, there is no longer a reduction available from 1 April 2023. Prior to 1 April 2023 you may have been entitled to up to 28 days 100% discount.

### **How do I know if my property is exempt from council tax?**

Some properties are exempt because they are empty, or because they are occupied only by people who are disregarded. The maximum amount of time for which a property can be made exempt depends on the reason for the exemption. The exemption classes are:

**Class A** - an unoccupied property requiring or undergoing major structural repair to make it habitable. **Following a change in legislation on 1 April 2013, there is no longer any period of exemption available.** Prior to this date an exemption lasting a maximum of 12 months was available. Any property

previously in receipt of a Class A exemption will have to pay the full council tax charge irrespective of whether the property remains uninhabitable.

If your property is undergoing major structural work and is unfit for habitation you may apply to the Valuation Office to have your property taken out of rating. You can contact the VOA at [gov.uk/contact-voa](http://gov.uk/contact-voa). If you are unable to use the online service you can contact the VOA by phone on 03000 501 501. You must continue to pay the council tax charge pending the outcome of any such application.

**Class B** - an unfurnished property owned by a charity for a period of six months since it was last occupied (as long as the property was last occupied by members of the charity). After the six months have expired no further discount is available.

**Class C** - Prior to 1 April 2013 a Class C exemption lasting a maximum of six months was available. Following a change in legislation if a property is empty and substantially unfurnished, a 100% discount lasts a maximum of four weeks only. No further reduction is applicable after this period.

Properties which are left empty and substantially unfurnished for a period of two years or more will attract a long-term empty premium of 100%.

If a property has already been empty for 5 years or more you will pay a 200% premium.

If a property has already been empty for 10 years or more you will pay a 300% premium.

The empty homes premium is based upon the property, and not property ownership.

A change of ownership will have no impact on the premium, you will be responsible for the premium from the date of purchase. The additional charge can only be removed by bringing a property back into use.

If the premium affects you we will send you a Council Tax bill.

**Class D**- a property that is empty because the previous occupant is in prison or has been detained under the Mental Health Act. The exemption lasts for as long as the person is detained.

**Class E** - a property that is empty because the previous occupant has now moved permanently to either a hospital, a residential care home or a nursing home.

**Class F** - a property that is empty because the sole occupier has died. If probate is required the exemption will last until probate or letters of administration are granted and, for a further six months after that date. If probate is not required, the exemption will last for six months from the date of death. Once the initial exemption expires, a further 100% discount for a maximum of 4 weeks may be granted if the property remains unfurnished. If the property is furnished no further reduction can be awarded.

**Class G** - a property that is empty because occupation is prohibited by the law. This exemption lasts for as long as occupation is prohibited. As of 1 April 2007, this exemption also applies if a planning condition prevents occupancy.

**Class H**- a property that is empty awaiting occupation by ministers of religion. This exemption lasts for as long as the property remains empty.

**Class I** - a property that has been left empty because the resident is living elsewhere in order to receive personal care (but not in a hospital, nursing home etc). This exemption lasts for as long as the property remains empty.

**Class J** - a property that has been left empty because the resident is living elsewhere in order to provide personal care. This exemption lasts for as long as the property remains empty.

**Class K** - a property that has been left empty because the resident(s) are living elsewhere as full time students. This exemption lasts for as long as the property remains empty.

**Class L** - an empty property that has been repossessed by a mortgagee such as a bank or building society. The exemption lasts until the property is sold.

**Class M** - properties that are university or college halls of residence or hostels owned by charitable bodies used solely for student accommodation. This exemption is indefinite.

**Class N** - a property that is occupied only by full-time students as their term-time address. This exemption lasts as long as all the occupants remain full-time students.

**Class O** - barracks, messes and married quarters used by the armed forces. This exemption is indefinite and is granted whether this property is occupied or not.

**Class P** - a property occupied by members of visiting forces. This exemption is indefinite.

**Class Q** - an empty property where the liable person is a trustee in bankruptcy. This exemption is indefinite.

**Class R** - a pitch not occupied by a caravan or a mooring not occupied by a boat. This exemption is indefinite.

**Class S** - a property occupied solely by a person or persons aged under 18. This exemption lasts until the occupant becomes 18. As people under the age of 18 can't be held liable for council tax, the owner, landlord or guardian will be made liable but given the exemption.

**Class T** - unoccupied annexes which cannot be occupied without a breach of planning control. This exemption is indefinite.

**Class U** - a property occupied only by the severely mentally impaired. This exemption remains as long as all of the occupants are severely mentally impaired.

**Class V** - the main residence of a diplomat or persons working for certain international organisations. This exemption is indefinite.

**Class W** - an annex occupied by a dependant relative who is aged 65 or over or who is severely disabled. This exemption is indefinite.

**From 1 April 2014, annexes occupied by relatives aged under 65 or those who aren't severely disabled may qualify for a 50% discount.**

Discounts and exemptions must be applied for in writing, either by applying online at [www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/counciltax/reductions](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/counciltax/reductions) by completing an application form or by letter. You will need to supply proof of any qualifying benefits. Please contact us for further information.

### **People with disabilities**

If your property has been adapted or has special facilities because someone who lives there is physically disabled, you may qualify to be charged at a lower valuation band. To qualify for a lower tax band you must have:

- added an extra bathroom or kitchen for the disabled person to use or

- adapted the property to allow enough room for a wheelchair to be used inside at all times
- a room that is mainly used to meet the needs of the disabled person.

The band reduction will only remain in place for as long as the disabled person occupies the property as their main residence. Please contact us for further information.

### **Changes in your circumstances**

You must notify us immediately if you move; if there is a change to the number of people living in your property or if your entitlement to a reduction changes. Failing to inform us promptly of a change in your circumstances could result in you having to repay a large debt if you have been paying the wrong amount of council tax. You can be prosecuted for knowingly claiming a reduction to which you are not entitled.

## **Liability appeals**

If you think you are not liable for council tax, or have been refused a discount or exemption to which you think you are entitled, you have the right of appeal. You should write in the first instance to the London Borough of Lewisham, Council Tax, PO Box 58993, London SE6 9GZ. If you are unable to resolve your dispute directly with the council you can contact the Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) at [appeals@valuationtribunal.gov.uk](mailto:appeals@valuationtribunal.gov.uk). If you are unable to use the online service you can contact the VTS on 0303 445 8100. You must continue to pay the council tax charge pending the outcome of any appeal.

## **Council tax reduction scheme**

On 1 April 2013 the Government replaced council tax benefit with a local council tax reduction scheme for people on low income.

If you are of working age you will no longer get all your council tax paid, regardless of your circumstances. This is because the Government has reduced the grant it gives the Council. Pensioners will not be affected by these changes.

To find out if you are eligible with help towards paying your council tax bill please visit [Lewisham council tax rebate scheme](#)

## **Did you know you can do all the following online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?**

- Make payments
- Set up a direct debit
- Request a payment arrangement whatever stage your account may be at.
- Report a missing payment
- Apply for a refund if you've overpaid
- Tell us about a move or change of address
- Tell us about a name change
- Apply for a single person discount if you live alone
- Apply for a student reduction
- Apply for disabled relief
- Tell us about an empty property
- Apply for a severely mentally impaired reduction
- Apply for a full time student reduction
- Apply for a reduction for someone in detention
- Apply for a carer or careworker discount
- Tell us about someone who has died.
- Supply us with evidence
- Submit an enquiry about a summons or bailiff action.

Log on to [Lewisham council tax](#) and select the option you require.

## **If you still need to talk to someone:-**

Call on 0208 690 9666 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 3pm

Write to us at London Borough of Lewisham, Council Tax, PO Box 58993, London SE6 9GZ.

Please note we do not offer a face-to-face general enquiry service at Laurence House.

## **Privacy Notice**

Lewisham Council is committed to maximising the income and access to services of its residents as efficiently and responsibly as possible. To this end, the Council seeks to share the information held across its databases with each other. The Council seeks to utilise the information held to process

entitlements and service access without the need for additional application completion from the individual resident wherever possible.

Sharing information across council departments seeks to keep repeated information gathering and form completion to a minimum. The Council considers this to be a legitimate reason to share information. Where information is shared there is always the potential to uncover conflicting information and potential fraud, the Council also considers this a legitimate reason to share information as we have a duty to protect the Public Purse.

In all cases requests for information will be collected and shared across Council departments only with sufficient detail to enable a decision to be made.

The information, where necessary may also be passed to third parties such as the Department for Work and Pensions, Lewisham Homes, Housing Associations, Child Benefit Centre, Social Services, Anti Fraud and Corruption, South London and Maudsley and the Primary Care Trust, Housing and Council Tax Benefits, the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Customs and Revenues. This will be necessary where the potential entitlement or service is not administered by the Council. We will share information wherever statutory law allows.

The Council seeks to reassure residents that all information will be shared in a secure manner. For example, the Council has access to the Secure Gateway to share information with the Department for Work and Pensions. Internally, the Council will share information via nominated officers. Where information is deemed to be more sensitive, such information will only be shared where it is necessary to enable a decision to be reached and will be shared in a secured fashion.

Wherever we request information from you, we will include a declaration to sign to permit the sharing of information to take place. You will have the option, as part of this declaration to opt out of the sharing process. If consent is withheld, then the benefit or service to which the initial application applies only will be processed.

If you want to know more about the information we have about you, or the way we use and share the information you, may visit our web site at [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk). If you do not have access to the internet or wish to obtain a written copy of the information please contact a member of the Revenues Department on 020 8314 8448 for further details.

### **Comments, compliments or complaints**

Please let us know how we can improve the council tax service. Our two-stage procedure aims to provide a fair and easy process for you to resolve a complaint, or highlight any areas of concern.

### **Paying your council tax**

**Payments are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of the month unless you opt to pay by direct debit.**

#### **Direct debit**

If you have a bank or building society account, Direct Debit is the easiest and safest way to pay. You can spread your payments over 10 or 12 monthly instalments or you can opt to pay weekly, every Friday. If you opt to pay monthly you can choose one of three payment dates (1<sup>st</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>).

Payments are made directly from your bank or building society account. We will tell you how much the payment will be. You do not need to fill in another form or set up new payments each year - we will do this for you. If there is a mistake, you can get a refund immediately from your bank or building society. You can cancel the arrangement at any time.

You can set up a Direct Debit online using our secure site at [Lewisham Council - Pay your council tax](#) Please have your council tax account number and bank details ready.

### Debit/credit card

You can pay your council tax by debit or credit card by using our automated TouchTone service by telephoning 020 8690 8707 anytime day or night. This system validates your account details before your payment is completed, ensuring that your payment is allocated swiftly. To use the TouchTone service you will need to have your eight digit council tax account number and your debit or credit card details ready.

Alternatively you can make a payment on the [Lewisham Council website](#) and select pay your council tax. This is a secure website which validates your account details before your payment can be completed making it quicker, easier and safer than paying online via your own banks website.

### PayPoint

In local shops or wherever you see the PayPoint sign. You can use them whenever the shops are open, including weekends and evenings and there is no charge. You can only make payments by cash. All you need is a bill with a bar code on it. Please go to [PayPoint site locator](#)

### Post Office

You can pay your council tax at your local post office by cash, cheque debit or credit card. All you need is a bill with a bar code on it. The cashier will scan the bar-code and give you a receipt for your payment. **Please note postdated cheques cannot be accepted.**

**However, you choose to pay, please ensure you quote your 8 digit council tax reference number only when making payments. This will ensure your payment is allocated to your account promptly.**

### If you don't pay

If you do not pay on time, you will be taken to court and additional costs will be added to your account. If the balance remains unpaid it may be passed to an Enforcement Agent for collection.

The steps taken by Enforcement Agents and the level of fees charged are prescribed in legislation. £75 will be incurred as soon as a liability order is passed to them followed by £235 if they don't get a response to their letter and they pay you a visit. If goods are taken and put up for sale, there is a further fee of £110. The last two sets of fees also attract a further 7.5% charge on arrears over £1500.

Additional recovery action can be taken if you do not pay which is detailed in the [council tax code of collection](#).

### Council tax property bands and budget requirement

#### Council tax for band D homes

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Lewisham Services	1,252.77	1,295.26
Adult Social Care	168.45	196.87
Greater London Authority	395.59	434.14
Total Council Tax	1,816.81	1,926.27

#### Council tax property bands 2023-24

Band	Property Value on 1 April 1991 (£)	Total Council Tax (£)	Ratio of Band D charge payable
A	Up to 40,000	1284.19	6/9
B	40,001-52,000	1,498.20	7/9



C	52,001-68,000	1,712.24	8/9
D	68,001-88,000	1,926.27	9/9
E	88,001-120,000	2,354.34	11/9
F	120,001-160,000	2,782.39	13/9
G	160,001-320,000	3,210.46	15/9
H	Over 320,000	3,852.54	18/9

## Levy Bodies

Levy bodies for Lewisham	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Change £
LPFA	1,262,746	1,262,746	0
Lee Valley Regional Park	210,335	210,123	(212)
Environment Agency	209,476	210,113	637
<b>Total Levies</b>	<b>1,682,557</b>	<b>1,682,982</b>	<b>425</b>

## Last year's spending (£000s) 2022-23

Services	Gross Expenditure* £000's	Gross Income* £000's	Net Revenue Expenditure £000's
Children & Young People	733,371	(672,434)	60,937
Community Services	175,670	(93,912)	81,758
Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm	88,864	(67,497)	21,367
Corporate Services	253,770	(180,739)	73,031
Chief Executive	12,292	(775)	11,517
<b>Total Cost of Lewisham Services</b>	<b>1,263,967</b>	<b>(1,015,357)</b>	<b>248,610</b>
Collection Fund (surplus)/deficit			2,407
<b>Less government grants:</b>			
Other Government Pooled Funding			(493)
Business rates baseline			(124,171)
<b>Cost of Lewisham services to be paid by council tax</b>			<b>126,353</b>
Consisting of:			
Social Care Precept			1,227
Council Tax			126,353
<b>Other services ( precepts )</b>			
Greater London Authority			35,170
<b>Total cost of all services to be paid by council tax</b>			<b>161,523</b>

\*Estimated breakdown of Expenditure and Income

\*Estimated breakdown of Expenditure and Income

## This year's spending (£000s) 2023-24

Services	Gross Expenditure* £000's	Gross Income* £000's	Net Revenue Expenditure £000's
Children & Young People	763,272	(686,183)	77,089
Community Services	189,768	(95,642)	94,126
Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm	103,987	(76,251)	27,737
Corporate Services	262,447	(209,625)	52,822
Chief Executive	12,508	(602)	11,906
<b>Total Cost of Lewisham Services</b>	<b>1,331,982</b>	<b>(1,068,303)</b>	<b>263,679</b>
Collection Fund (surplus)/deficit			0
<b>Less government grants:</b>			
Other Government Pooled Funding			0
Business rates baseline			(131,106)
<b>Cost of Lewisham services to be paid by council tax</b>			<b>132,573</b>
Consisting of:			
Social Care Precept			2,525
Council Tax			130,048
<b>Other services ( precepts )</b>			
Greater London Authority			<b>38,573</b>
<b>Total cost of all services to be paid by council tax</b>			<b>171,146</b>

\*Estimated breakdown of Expenditure and Income

\*Estimated breakdown of Expenditure and Income

## Greater London Authority

### 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.

<b>Band D Council Tax (£)</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	277.13	15.00	292.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	58.80	3.68	62.48
GLA	22.57	-0.13	22.44
Transport Services	37.09	20.00	57.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>395.59</b>	<b>38.55</b>	<b>434.14</b>

### **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 the sum to be collected from council tax (the council tax requirement).

<b>How the GLA's budget is funded (£ million)</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
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

<b>Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)</b>	<b>1,353.1</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Changes in spending (£ million)</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
2022-23 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
<b>Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)</b>	<b>1,353.1</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 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](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	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
(figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)								
Gross expenditure	4,269.2	4,533.1	508.6	534.5	10,172.5	11,165.0	14,950.3	16,232.6
Government grants and business rates	-2,992.3	-3,100.5	-277.6	-284.6	-3,704.9	-3,616.8	-6,974.8	-7,001.9
Other income (incl. fares and charges)	-303.4	-329.4	-44.2	-48.1	-6,433.9	-7,149.7	-6,781.5	-7,527.2
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>973.5</b>	<b>1,103.2</b>	<b>186.8</b>	<b>201.8</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>398.5</b>	<b>1,194.0</b>	<b>1,703.5</b>
Change to level of reserves	-124.0	-193.6	-6.1	-6.7	149.7	-150.1	19.6	-350.4
<b>Council tax requirement (income)</b>	<b>849.5</b>	<b>909.6</b>	<b>180.7</b>	<b>195.1</b>	<b>183.4</b>	<b>248.4</b>	<b>1,213.6</b>	<b>1,353.1</b>

### 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 2023/24, 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 and, in brackets, the percentage change on the previous year

- Inner London £7,000,000 (-46%)
- Greater London £1,000,000 (-90%)
- Total £8,000,000 (-66%)

### 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](http://www.visitleevalley.org.uk).

#### **Budget/levy changes – 2023/2024 (£'million)**

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m
Authority operating expenditure	15.1	15.5
Authority operating income	(7.0)	(7.3)
Net service operating costs	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Financing costs – debt servicing/repayments	0.5	2.0
- new capital investment	1.3	0.9
<b>Total net expenditure</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Net use of Reserves</b>	<b>(0.1)</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>
<b>Total levy</b>	<b>(9.8)</b>	<b>(10.6)</b>

Further details on how this budget is spent and the amount each council contributes can be found at [Lee Valley Park website](#).

### Environment agency

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:

	2022/2023 (£000s)	2023/2024 (£000s)
Gross expenditure	109,376	139,806
Levies raised	12,282	12,526



	<b>2022/2023 (£000s)</b>	<b>2023/2024 (£000s)</b>
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.