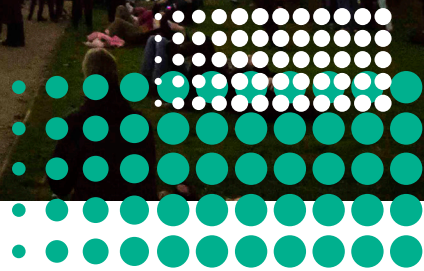


Your Guide

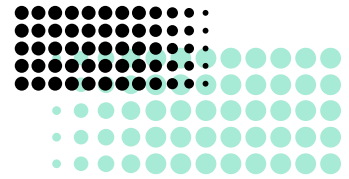


Council Tax 2019/20

www.walthamforest.gov.uk/counciltax



Waltham Forest



Clare Coghill
Leader of the Council

Dear Resident

We have been working hard to ensure that the services our residents rely on continue to get better and that everything we do is focused on our aim to help improve our residents' quality of life.

However, since 2010 we have made over £120 million of savings, brought about by a reduction in Government funding. The way that Government funds councils is due to change significantly from 2020 and this directly affects how much Council Tax all of us pay now and in the future.

This reduction in funding, coupled with increased demand for our services, means that Waltham Forest Council, like authorities across the country, will have to put up Council Tax this year.

The Council maintains its strong record of sensible and careful financial management. We are in a stable financial position, unlike many other local authorities which are struggling to balance the books.

To illustrate the increase in pressures and cost of our vital services, for the first time ever, half of our total budget now goes on social care services. These are the children's and adult services that the most vulnerable in our society rely upon. Demand has increased for these services for a variety of reasons, including an ageing population. For this reason, we will need to raise our portion of your Council Tax by 2.99%.

The Government has partially recognised the urgent need for more money to fund adult social care – and in 2016/17 introduced an additional element of the Council Tax charge, called the Adult Social Care Precept. The Council is proposing to raise this portion of Council Tax by 1%. However, the Council remains concerned that it is still nowhere near enough to pay for the growing cost of social care in Waltham Forest.

There will also be an increase in the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept, which includes additional police funding and is outside the control of Waltham Forest Council. This means that council tax will rise by 4.89% overall. For an average household living in a Band D property this would mean an extra £1.52 per week.

We work hard to maximise the money we get from other sources to help deliver improved services for our residents. Perhaps the most successful has been being named the Mayor of London's first London Borough of Culture, an award that came with £1.35 million from the Mayor of London and City Bridge Trust. January's opening event 'Welcome to the Forest' attracted more than 70,000 people. Our exciting programme, taking place across the whole borough, will make the very best use of the money made available from the Mayor of London.

We were also awarded £1.4 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for work on connecting communities across the borough, work that will not only help newcomers to the borough, but also help all residents access the vast wealth of community organisations and groups available in Waltham Forest.

On top of this, we have successfully bid for £26 million from the GLA to build more council homes in the borough to help with our aim of ensuring our residents have a decent roof over their head. Building towards this goal, we also aim to increase the amount of affordable housing on new developments in the borough, at the same time as building the key infrastructure improvements that will support this new housing.

We continue to work well with our partners, such as Transport for London, to deliver improvements for commuters and for those travelling around our borough. During the past year, Blackhorse Road Station has seen significant improvements and we are finalising discussions about improvements to Leyton Station, including making it step-free access.

Despite the financial challenges, over the past 12 months alone, the borough has:

- Spent £10.8 million on highways improvements across the borough.

- Planted more than 1,500 new trees by the end of this year (2018/19), taking us to more than 50,000 in the borough (the highest figure ever).
- Continued our commitment to improving air quality by supporting cycling initiatives across the borough, including free cycle hire, cycle parking facilities, cycle maintenance checks and training courses.
- Open the Feel Good Too Centre in Leyton following an £11 million investment.
- Invested £25,000 in each ward – a total of £500,000 across the borough – on 59 improvement schemes for local parks, open spaces and play areas.
- Invested £2.1 million in The Junction in Leyton, to provide a ground-floor Family and Children Centre with Adult Learning Services classrooms above, which will host courses leading to work.

Through our new Creating Futures programme we will continue to grow our local economy, create new income sources and invest in health, arts, culture and leisure, while continuing to support residents' life chances with more affordable housing, improving adults and children's services, and getting more people into employment.

Waltham Forest is a great place to live, and we will continue to do all we can to help improve our residents' quality of life.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Clare Coghill
Leader of Waltham Forest Council



Who has to pay the Council Tax bill?

The person(s) living in the property, who has the most secure interest in it, is responsible for paying the council tax bill. To work out who is responsible for paying the council tax in your home, please look down the list. If number '1' applies to someone living in your home, that person is responsible for paying the bill. If number '1' does not apply, continue to look down the list until you come to a category that applies to someone living in your property.

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

If no adults live in the property as their main home, the owner or leaseholder of the property is responsible for paying the council tax bill.



Council tax charges 2019/20

The valuation band for your home is shown on the front of your bill.

The amount of Council Tax payable for homes in each valuation band, before any discounts, reliefs or benefits in the billing year 2019/2020 is:

Valuation Band	Value of your home on 1 April 1991	Total Charge for 2019/20	LBWF Basic share	Adult Social Care precept	GLA share
A	Up to and including £40,000	£1129.30	£850.72	£64.91	£213.67
B	£40,001 – £52,000	£1317.52	£992.51	£75.72	£249.29
C	£52,001 – £68,000	£1505.73	£1134.29	£86.54	£284.90
D	£68,001 – £88,000	£1693.95	£1276.08	£97.36	£320.51
E	£88,001 – £120,000	£2070.38	£1559.65	£119.00	£391.73
F	£120,001 – £160,000	£2446.82	£1843.23	£140.63	£462.96
G	£160,001 – £320,000	£2823.25	£2126.80	£162.27	£534.18
H	More than £320,000	£3387.90	£2552.16	£194.72	£641.02

The amount of Council Tax payable last year (2018/19) for comparison purposes was:

Valuation Band	Value of your home on 1 April 1991	Total Charge for 2018/19	LBWF Basic share	Adult Social Care precept	GLA share
A	Up to and including £40,000	£1076.65	£824.40	£56.10	£196.15
B	£40,001 – £52,000	£1256.09	£961.79	£65.45	£228.85
C	£52,001 – £68,000	£1435.53	£1099.19	£74.80	£261.54
D	£68,001 – £88,000	£1614.97	£1236.59	£84.15	£294.23
E	£88,001 – £120,000	£1973.85	£1511.39	£102.85	£359.61
F	£120,001 – £160,000	£2332.73	£1786.18	£121.55	£425.00
G	£160,001 – £320,000	£2691.62	£2060.99	£140.25	£490.38
H	More than £320,000	£3229.94	£2473.18	£168.30	£588.46

Examples of how the increase in your bill was calculated:

Band C example

Band C	2018/19	2019/20	% Increase £ Increase	Explanation
Basic Council Tax	£1099.19	£1134.29	2.99% £35.10	The increase in LBWF basic share of council tax is calculated by multiplying the core (LBWF basic share plus adult social care precept) 2018/19 figure of £1173.99 by 2.99%.
LBWF Adult Social Care Precept	£74.80	£86.54	1.0% £11.74	This is calculated on the “ core ” council tax element. For 2019/20 the 1% precept is calculated by multiplying the core amount for 2018/19 i.e. £1173.99 by 1%. This equates to an increase of £11.74 on the 2018/19 precept of £74.80, bringing the total social care element up to £86.54.
Total Core LBWF*	£1173.99	£1220.83	3.99%	This comprises a 2.99% core council tax increase and a 1% social care precept. This calculation is set by regulation to determine whether the proposed increase is in line with the appropriate annual referendum limits. This is an increase of £46.84 (2018/19 figure £1173.99 multiplied by 3.99%).
GLA receipt	£261.54	£284.90	8.9%	This represents an increase of £23.36.
Total Bill	£1435.53	£1505.73	4.9% £70.20	This represents an increase of £70.20 and is comprised of £23.36 (GLA), £11.74 (Adult Social Care) and £35.10 (Core council services).

*Total Core LBWF is Basic Council Tax plus Adult Social Care added together

Band E example

Band E	2018/19	2019/20	% Increase £ Increase	Explanation
Core Council Tax	£1511.39	£1559.65	2.99% £48.26	The increase in LBWF basic share of council tax is calculated by multiplying the core (LBWF basic share plus adult social care precept) 2018/19 figure of £1614.24 by 2.99%.
LBWF Social Care Precept	£102.85	£119.00	1.0% £16.15	This is calculated on the “ core ” council tax element. For 2019/20 the 1% precept is calculated by multiplying the core amount for 2018/19 i.e. £1614.24 by 2%. This equates to an increase of £16.15 on the 2018/19 precept of £102.85, bringing the total social care element up to £119.00.
Total Core LBWF*	£1614.24	£1678.65	3.99%	This comprises a 2.99% core council tax increase and a 1% social care precept. This calculation is set by regulation to determine whether the proposed increase is in line with the appropriate annual referendum limits. This is an increase of £64.41 (2018/19 figure £1614.24 multiplied by 3.99%).
GLA receipt	£359.61	£391.73	8.9%	This represents an increase of £32.12.
Total Bill	£1973.85	£2070.38	4.9% £96.53	This represents an increase of £96.53 and is comprised of £32.12 (GLA), £16.15 (Adult Social Care) and £48.26 (Core council services).

*Total Core LBWF is Basic Council Tax plus Adult Social Care added together

Instalments to pay your Council Tax

Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay and it is the councils preferred method of payment and offers a choice of six different monthly payment dates (1st, 6th, 10th, 15th, 21st and 28th). To set up a Direct Debit visit us online at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/counciltaxdirectdebit

Your council tax demand is for the full financial year from April 19 to March 20. These are usually paid by ten monthly instalments but you also have the option to pay by 12 monthly instalments. For the full twelve months please contact us by emailing revenueservices@walthamforest.gov.uk before your April instalment is due.

Non Direct Debit instalments will automatically be set to the first of the month, however you can change your instalments to the 9th or 25th of the month. Other payment methods are detailed on the back of your bill.

It is important that your payment reaches us by your due instalment date to prevent a reminder, possibly a summons notice and your right to pay by instalments may be lost.



Adult Social Care Precept

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities that have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.)

The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019–20."



Council Tax Support – Help to pay your bill

You may be entitled to Council Tax Support (CTS) if you are:

- On benefits
- Working and on a low income
- Unemployed
- A pensioner

How much help can I get?

The amount of CTS you get, generally depends on your income and savings and the income and savings of anyone else who lives in your home. You cannot get CTS if you are under the eligible pension age and have more than £6,000 in savings, stocks and shares or other capital. If you are over eligible pension age the capital limit is £16,000 unless you receive Guarantee Pension Credit or combined Saving and Guarantee Pension Credit.

Anyone under the eligible pension age who is liable to pay Council Tax will have to pay at least 24 per cent of their Council Tax bill in the financial year 2019/20. To find out more or make a claim, visit:

www.walthamforest.gov.uk/service-categories/benefits-and-support

Second Adult Reduction

You can claim Second Adult reduction if you have another adult living with you, and this has prevented you from getting a Single Person Discount. The second adult must be on a low income and cannot be your partner, jointly liable for Council Tax with you, or an occupant who is not counted as an adult for council tax purposes, for example, an adult who is severely mentally impaired.

If you are struggling to pay your Council Tax, please visit our website at

www.walthamforest.gov.uk/local-ctax-support



Exempt properties

Some properties may qualify for an exemption. This means that no council tax is paid on them. The following tables show the different classes of exemptions available for both occupied and unoccupied properties. If you think you are entitled to an exemption, please apply online at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/counciltax

Occupied properties	
Class	Description
M	Student halls of residence
N	Properties occupied only by full-time students (and their spouses or dependants who are not EU citizens)
O	Armed forces accommodation for non-visiting forces
P	Armed forces accommodation for visiting forces
S	Properties occupied only by a person or persons aged under 18
U	Properties occupied only by a person(s) who is (are) severely mentally impaired
V	Properties where the person responsible for paying is a diplomat
W	A property that is one of at least two dwellings in a single property, occupied by a dependant relative of a person living in another dwelling in the property

It's easy – just complete the form, attach any supporting documents and submit to us online.

Unoccupied properties	
Class	Description
B	Unoccupied properties that are owned by a body established for charitable purposes only, which is unoccupied and has been so for a period of less than 6 months since the last occupation day, and was last occupied in furtherance of the objects of the charity
D	Unoccupied properties, which are the sole or main residence of a person who has gone into prison
E	Unoccupied properties, which are the sole or main residence and were previously occupied by someone who is now living in a hospital, residential care home, nursing home or hostel
F	Unoccupied properties where the personal representative of a person who has died, is waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted. This exemption will also apply for up to six months after probate or letters of administration have been granted
G	Unoccupied properties where it is prohibited by law to occupy
H	Unoccupied properties that are awaiting ministers of religion to move in, who will perform their duties from them
I	Properties left unoccupied by people who have moved to receive personal care elsewhere
J	Properties left unoccupied by people who have moved to provide personal care to another person who lives elsewhere
K	Unoccupied properties which are owned and were previously occupied by a student or someone who became a student within six weeks of leaving the property
L	Unoccupied properties which have been repossessed by a mortgage lender
Q	Unoccupied properties where the person responsible for paying is a trustee in bankruptcy
R	A pitch or a mooring which is not occupied by a caravan or a boat
T	Unoccupied properties which are within the same curtilage of a main building, but are difficult to let because of their situation, for example, granny annexes



Discounts

Full council tax is charged on the property if there are at least two adults aged 18 or over living in the property. If you are the only adult living in your home we will usually reduce your bill by 25 per cent.

You can also qualify for a 25 per cent discount if all the other adults in your home are:

- full-time students, foreign language assistants or student nurses
- dependants or foreign spouses of students
- 18/19 year olds who have child benefit paid for them
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- people whose main home is a hostel, hospital, residential care home or nursing home
- people in prison
- people who live in the same property as a person they care for (other than a husband, wife, partner or child under 18)
- members of religious communities who have no income or capital of their own.

Help for Care Leavers

If you are a care leaver you may be entitled to a reduction on your Council Tax. If you are entitled to this your Council Tax may be reduced to nil for the billing year.

In order to qualify for this you must meet the following criteria:

- aged between 18 and 25
- was looked after by the council for at least 13 weeks since being aged 14 and
- was looked after by the council on the date that you ceased to be of compulsory school age.

If you meet the criteria and want to apply for this reduction you should first apply for Council Tax Support –

<https://walthamforest.gov.uk/content/council-tax-support>

If you are already in receipt of this you can apply for the additional reduction using our Discretionary Council Tax Hardship award form using the link above.

You may be asked to provide evidence of your care leaver status.

Foster Carers Discount

Waltham Forest residents who are approved Foster Carers for Waltham Forest children can claim a reduction in their Council Tax. This scheme is run by the foster carers team. If you think you may qualify please contact the team at **www.fosteringwalthamforest.co.uk** or telephone 020 8496 3000.

Empty properties

There are no exemptions or discounts available for properties that are empty or undergoing structural repair or works. The full council tax will be charged.

Empty Homes Premium

If you have a property that has been left empty and substantially unfurnished for more than two years an additional levy called Empty Home Premium will be charged in addition to the council tax charge.

The Empty Home Premium charge will increase from 1 April 2019 to 100% of the Council Tax charge for the band the property is in. Meaning you will be billed for two times the Council Tax charge. For example a long-term empty property in Band C with the premium applied would be charged £3,011.46 (Band C charge of £1,505.73 x 2).



Reductions for people with disabilities

You may be able to get your council tax bill reduced if you, or anyone living in the property, have a disability and have had certain features in your home changed.

These changes could include:

- an extra bathroom, toilet or kitchen for the use by the person with a disability
- space inside your home for use of a wheelchair. The wheelchair must be used indoors
- a room other than a bathroom, kitchen or toilet, which is used mainly by the person with the disability.
This excludes a bedroom being used in the normal sense even if it is also used for treatment or therapy.

If you think you may be entitled to a reduction apply online at **www.walthamforest.gov.uk/counciltax**

It's easy – just complete the form, attach any supporting documents and submit to us online.



Council tax appeals

The Listing Officer at the Valuation Office, not the Council, deals with all matters relating to council tax valuation and banding appeals.

If your enquiry is about the Council Tax Band given to your property, you need to contact the Valuation Office Agency at www.gov.uk/contact-voa or telephone **03000 501 501**.

You may also appeal if:

- you think you are not responsible for paying the council tax, or that the amount payable is incorrect
- you have claimed for a discount or exemption and this has not been granted
- you think any item on your bill has been worked out incorrectly
- a claim for disability reduction has not been granted
- you disagree with the date on a completion notice.

If you wish to appeal about any of the above matters, please contact the Revenues and Benefits Service at

The Revenues and Benefits Service
PO Box 856
London
E17 9PN

Please clearly mark your letter as Council Tax Appeal.

This right of appeal does not mean that you do not have to pay your council tax. You should continue to pay your original council tax bill while your appeal is outstanding. If you do not pay, we will take recovery action to collect unpaid council tax. You may have to pay court costs if this happens.

If an appeal is successful, any overpayment of council tax will either be refunded or used to offset any outstanding council tax.

How to make a suggestion or complaint

We welcome your comments and we want to know whether the service we provide is satisfactory. If you wish to comment about our service, please visit our website at https://portal.walthamforest.gov.uk/service/contact_us



How your council tax is calculated

The total amount required from taxpayers is the net cost of services provided by us, together with those of the various precepting and levying bodies. From this is deducted the contribution from the Government and the retained NNDR income.

Adjustments are then made to take account of any estimated surplus or deficit on the collection fund. The resulting sum is divided by the council tax base (76,084 band 'D' equivalent properties reduced to reflect council tax benefits) to arrive at the council tax.

Outstanding borrowing

We fund certain expenditure from loans. At March 2019 the outstanding balance of such loans is estimated at £270 million. No part of these liabilities are payable to, or recoverable from, other billing or precepting authorities, although 63% of the debt relates to the ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account.

Details of spending on council services

Our estimated expenditure on services for 2019/20 is shown below. A comparison with 2018/19 is given.

	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Dedicated Schools Budget	176,940	164,950
Families – Other support for schools	27,896	27,794
Families – Children & Young People	42,579	43,179
Families – Adults group	76,595	75,192
Families – Public Health	15,932	15,511
Neighbourhoods & Commercial	31,756	31,466
Corporate Expenditure	9,795	9,640
Families – Housing & Growth	8,181	8,775
Economic Growth	7,200	7,420
Corporate Development	2,919	2,661
Finance & Governance	5,647	4,092
Services Total	405,440	390,680
Add contingency estimate	7,551	12,683
Interest & Capital Charges	3,684	(153)
Depreciation Contra Entry	(32,407)	(30,829)
Contribution To/(From) Funds	4,513	699
Sub-Total	388,781	373,080
Levies counting as Waltham Forest expenditure	8,091	9,732
Budget Required	396,872	382,812

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 0% decrease 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

Budget/Levy Changes 2018/19 to 2019/20

	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m
Authority Operating Expenditure	11.2	10.6
Authority Operating Income	(3.3)	(2.7)
Net Service Operating Costs	7.9	7.9
Financing Costs – Debt Servicing/repayments	0.5	0.5
– Capital investment	1.2	1.2
Total Net Expenditure	9.6	9.6
Total Levy	(9.6)	(9.6)

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

London Pensions Fund Authority

The London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) raises a levy each year to meet expenditure on premature retirement compensation and outstanding personnel matters for which LPFA is responsible and cannot charge to the pension fund. These payments relate to former employees of the Greater London Council (GLC), the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and the London Residuary Body (LRB).

For 2019/20, 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	£13,065,200
Greater London	£10,317,753
Total	£23,382,953 (0%)

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 5,200 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		
	2018/2019 £'000	2019/2020 £'000
Gross Expenditure	86,424	112,919
Levies Raised	11,351	11,577
Total Council Tax Base	5,001	5,085

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 £11,351,056 in 2018/2019 to £11,576,942 for 2019/2020.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

For more information and to apply for all discounts and exemptions. Go online at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/counciltax

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Introduction

This is Sadiq Khan's third budget as the Mayor of London. It is built around his vision of a London where nobody feels left behind and where everyone has the opportunity they need to fulfil their potential. It supports London's future growth and economic success, building on our City's thriving economy, extraordinary creativity, tolerance, diversity and openness to the world.

Sadiq Khan will not tolerate any waste of public money, particularly against a background of tightening resources from the Government over the last decade. This year's budget has required some tough choices. It will improve the key services Londoners need. That means ensuring transport fares are more affordable and building more homes. The budget provides resources to support jobs and growth, tackle rough sleeping and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live too. It also provides extra resources from council tax and business rates for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe. This will help offset the ongoing impact of real terms cuts in government grant since 2010.

Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £26.28 (or 50p per week) to £320.51. The additional income raised will fund the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £78.38.

Council Tax (£)	2018/19	Change	2019/20
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	218.13	24.00	242.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	50.22	2.78	53.00
GLA	23.84	-0.46	23.38
TfL (Transport)	2.04	-0.04	2.00
Total Levy	294.23	26.28	320.51

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

The Mayor's budget includes significant efficiency savings across the GLA Group in 2019-20. This has allowed him to release resources to help meet his key priorities. This includes plans to invest £4.8 billion to support starts of 116,000 new affordable homes in London by 2022. He will also continue to provide extra funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners and increase investment in green spaces. In addition, he is taking steps to improve air quality in London by introducing a new Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London from April 2019. He is setting up a £48 million fund for small businesses and Londoners on low incomes to encourage them to scrap polluting diesel vehicles.

The Mayor will also work with London's business community and key investors to ensure London's interests are protected. He will put Londoners' economic opportunities centre stage in light of the uncertainty arising from the UK's expected departure from the European Union. He will provide funding for new projects to bring communities together, tackle social inequality and boost London's economy.

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

The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan – a Safer City for Londoners 2017-21 – sets out his strategy for policing over the next three years. His key priorities include improving the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), providing a better criminal justice service in London and keeping children and young people safe. He will also tackle domestic violence which particularly affects women and girls and stand up against hate crime, intolerance and extremism.

The MPS has to rise to meet these challenges at a time of acute financial pressure. As a result of the reductions in Home Office grant for policing over the last decade, it has had to close more than 100 police stations and remove 2,800 police support staff and Police Community Support Officer roles in order to protect officer numbers.

To keep Londoners safe, the Mayor is raising the police element of his council tax precept by £24 for a typical Band D property. He will also maintain an additional £59 million of funding through business rates. This will fund an additional 1,300 police officers but will not compensate for the government's cuts to police funding since 2010.

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Transport for London (TfL)

London's population is forecast to grow by one million in the next decade. TfL is investing to make the transport network more reliable and accessible. The Mayor's priorities for TfL include:

- making transport more affordable. Single bus fares, single pay as you go fares on the Tube and DLR and the charges for the Santander cycle hire scheme will be frozen until at least 2020. This will save travellers an estimated £40 million in 2019-20;
- the introduction of the new Bus and Tram one-hour Hopper fare and investing to improve journey times and reliability on the bus network;
- working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes providing free 24-hour travel for the over 60s, the disabled, armed forces personnel in uniform and eligible war veterans and protecting the Taxicard and Dial a Ride schemes. Discounts on travelcards are also available for apprentices;
- increasing capacity on the London Underground and rail services and maintaining the Night Tube and Night Overground services;
- extending the Barking Gospel Oak line to Barking Riverside and expanding capacity on the DLR and tram network;
- planning for the Bakerloo line extension to south east London and new river crossings in east London;
- working to complete the Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail) – which will increase central London's rail capacity by ten per cent – and the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power station as soon as possible;
- continuing work to develop Crossrail 2 and working towards the release of more TfL land to provide new affordable workspaces and homes across London;
- introducing an Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London from April 2019 to tackle local air pollution and adopting a Vision Zero plan which will help to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on London's roads;
- making public transport more accessible for everyone. Step-free access is planned to be introduced at a further 15 suburban tube stations by Spring 2020. All new Elizabeth line stations will also be step free; and
- investing a record £2.3 billion by 2024 through his Healthy Streets scheme to fund a range of schemes designed to make walking, cycling and public transport safer, cleaner and more appealing. This includes funding for major new high-quality cycle routes between Brentford and Olympia, Tower Bridge and Woolwich, Tottenham and Camden and Hackney and the Isle of Dogs.

London Fire Commissioner (LFC)

The Mayor's funding ensures that the London Fire Brigade's first and second fire engines attending an emergency incident arrive, on average, within six and eight minutes respectively. He is also supporting the Brigade's investment in new vehicles and equipment, and the continued promotion of community safety and fire prevention across London.

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 2019-20 budget provides funding for the development of a world class cultural and education district, East Bank, in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. This is expected to create 3,000 new jobs, attract 1.5 million additional visitors and bring £2.8 billion of economic value to east London.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

The OPDC will help create 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 High Speed 2 (HS2), the Elizabeth line and the Great Western Mainline stations at Old Oak Common will bring locally.

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

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).

How the GLA Group budget is funded (£ million)	2019/20
Gross expenditure	12,232.6
Government grants and retained business rates	-4,754.5
Fares, charges and other income	-6,522.1
Use of reserves	4.6
Amount met by council tax payers	960.6

Changes in spending (£ million)	2019/20
2018-19 council tax requirement	865.7
Inflation	235.9
Efficiencies and other savings	-243.3
New initiatives	641.1
Other changes (for example fares revenue and government grants)	-538.9
2019/20 council tax requirement	960.6

Detailed budget by service area

The table below compares the GLA Group's expenditure on policing, fire and other services (including transport) in 2019-20 with 2018-19.

The GLA's gross expenditure is higher this year. This is mainly due to the impact of extra investment planned by the Mayor in transport, policing and the fire service. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra funding for the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade. There has also been a 1.9 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: london.gov.uk/budget (tel: 020 7983 4000).

Summary of Spending and Income (£ million) (figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)	Police (MOPAC)		Fire (LFC)		Other Services (incl. GLA, TfL, LLDC and OPDC)		GLA Group Total	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Gross expenditure	3,331	3,556.7	435.8	450.3	8,411.1	8,225.6	12,178.4	12,232.6
Government grants and business rates	-2,397.3	-2,656.4	-250.9	-245.7	-1,990.1	-1,852.4	-4,638.3	-4,754.5
Other income (incl. fares and charges)	-263.8	-278.5	-36.9	-38.3	-5,863.3	-6,205.3	-6,163.9	-6,522.1
Net expenditure	670.4	621.8	148.0	166.3	557.8	167.9	1,376.2	956.0
Change to level of reserves	-29.0	103.4	0.0	-7.1	-481.5	-91.7	-510.5	4.6
Council tax requirement (income)	641.4	725.2	148.0	159.2	76.3	76.2	865.7	960.6

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