



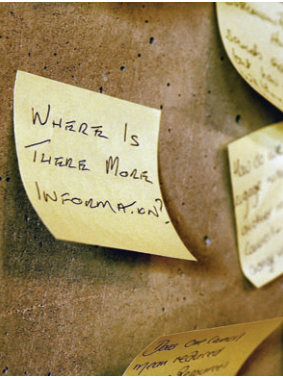
Business Rate

National Non-Domestic Rate Explanatory Notes **2011/2012**

For information about your Business Rates bill, including small business rate relief and payment methods

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உங்களால் இந்த கடிதத்தை படிக்க இயலவில்லை என்றால் தயவு கூர்ந்து கிங்ஸ்டன் உதவி மையத்தை நீங்களோ அல்லது உங்களை சார்ந்த எவராவது தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும். தொடர்பு கொள்ள வேண்டிய எண் 020 8547 5757

Introduction

The impact of the global financial downturn continues to have a big impact on the lives of us all, whether as family members, local businesses or the providers of local public services.

Although Kingston was hit particularly hard by the Local Government Finance Settlement announced by the Government in December, I am pleased to say that we have been able to freeze Council Tax for local residents in 2011/12. The reductions in public sector funding were even more severe than had been anticipated and have presented your Council with an enormous financial challenge in the coming years.

For most authorities the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn indicated a cash reduction of around 20% to be made over four years. In December we were informed that Kingston would experience a reduction of more than 24% in just two years!

Traditionally Kingston has received less through government grant than almost any other area in the country, and yet it was hit by one of the biggest reductions. Kingston's funding from central government has been reduced by a massive 14.3% next year, which will mean making savings of £13.4m – a reduction of 10% on our net budget.

The Council prepared for a reduction in public spending during the last two years by changing the way it is organised and how it provides services. As a result, overall spending has been reduced by £4.36m and during the last year alone we reduced the senior management staff bill by 12.5%. That programme provides the basis for the service and financial plans now being put forward, which will continue to deliver change and savings in the years ahead. It is anticipated that up to 200 jobs will be lost within the next two years and we have a target of reducing senior management costs by a further 12%.

Despite the lack of funding, there are considerable opportunities for innovative communities such as Kingston that are prepared to work together. We know that one organisation alone cannot deliver all of those things that matter most for local people. By working in partnership we can build on our strengths, to commission and deliver services in new ways, and ensure that we continue to provide the very best outcomes for everyone in the borough.



Councillor Derek Osbourne
Leader of the Council

Business Rate explanatory notes

Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates)

Non-Domestic Rates, or Business Rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who are responsible for non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Except in the City of London where special arrangements apply, the rates are pooled by central government and redistributed to local authorities according to a government formula based upon local need. This money, together with revenue from council tax payers, revenue support grant provided by the Government and certain other sums, is used to pay for the services provided by your local authority and other local authorities in your area.

If you would like to contact the Business Rate section please see the back of your Demand Notice for details on how to do so.

Business Rate Supplements(BRS)

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.

Business Rate Supplements (BRS) are not applicable to properties with

a rateable value of £55,000 or below, and authorities have discretion to increase that threshold. The total maximum BRS which may be levied by a levying authority is 2 pence 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.

A business rate supplement is being levied by the Greater London Authority in relation to The Crossrail project. Further information may be found in the BRS project prospectus, The Crossrail Business Rate Supplement prospectus.

Website:
www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs

Rateable value

Apart from properties that are exempt from Business Rates, each nondomestic property has a rateable value which is normally set by the valuation officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. It draws up and maintains a full list of all rateable values, available on their website at www.voa.gov.uk

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.

National Non-Domestic Rate

For the revaluation that came into effect on 1 April 2010, this date was set as 1 April 2008.

The valuation officer may alter the value if the circumstances of the property have changed. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can also appeal against the value shown in the list if they believe it is wrong.

Further information about making appeals can be found on the VOA website www.voa.gov.uk or from your local Valuation Office:

*District Valuer
Valuation Office Agency
2nd Floor
1 Francis Grove
Wimbledon
London SW19 4DT.*

Telephone – 020 8276 8600

Successful appeals against values shown in the rating list that came into force on 1 April 2010 will normally be backdated to that date, although there are exceptions to this.

Further information about these arrangements may be found on the VOA website.

National Non-Domestic Rate multiplier

The local authority works out the Business Rates bill by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate multiplier. There are two

multipliers; the standard non-domestic rating multiplier (43.3 pence) and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier (42.6 pence). The former is higher to pay for small business rate relief.

The Government sets the multipliers for each financial year for the whole of England. The Government normally changes both multipliers every year in line with inflation. By law, the multipliers cannot go up by more than the rate of inflation apart from some minor adjustments to counteract losses from appeals and, in relation to the standard multiplier, to pay for small business rate relief.

In the year of a revaluation it is set at a level which will keep the total amount raised in rates after the revaluation the same as before, plus inflation for that year. The current multipliers are shown on the front of your bill.

Transitional arrangements

Property values normally change a lot as a result of a general revaluation. Transitional relief arrangements help to phase in the effects of these changes by limiting the increases in bills. To help pay for the limits on increases in bills, there also has to be limits on those properties where revaluation leads to reduced bills. Transitional relief is awarded automatically and is applied each year.

Rate Relief

Transitional relief applies only to a property shown on the rating list at the time of the revaluation. If there are any changes to a property after 1 April 2010, then transitional relief will not normally apply to the part of the bill that relates to a change in the rateable value in respect of the changes made to the property after 1 April 2010.

If you qualify for transitional relief entitlement, then this will be shown on the front of the accompanying Demand Notice. Further information about transitional relief arrangements and other reliefs can be obtained from the Council's website: www.kingston.gov.uk

Unoccupied property rating

Business Rates will not be payable in the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain industrial properties. After this period, rates are payable in full unless the unoccupied property rate has been reduced by the Government by order.

In most cases, the unoccupied property rate is zero for properties owned by charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs. In addition, there are a number of exemptions from the empty property rate. Full details on exemptions can be obtained from the local authority. If the unoccupied property rate for

the financial year has been reduced by order, it will be shown on the front of this bill.

Partly occupied property relief

A ratepayer is liable for the full Business Rates whether a property is wholly occupied or only partly occupied. Where a property is partly occupied for a short time, the local authority has discretion to award relief in respect of the unoccupied part. Full details can be obtained from your local authority.

Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR)

For a temporary period of one year and from the 1 October 2010, entitlement to Small Business Rate Relief has been increased. This means that business rate liability can be further reduced for the first six months of 2011/12.

During the period of the enhanced scheme, the rateable value thresholds to qualify for Small Business Rate Relief remain unchanged from the standard scheme.

During the period of the enhanced scheme, the relief is double the standard level of entitlement.

The enhanced scheme will end on 30 September 2011. During September 2011, adjustment notices will be sent all recipients of Small

Rate Relief

Business Rate Relief who will be due to have their rate bill for the second half of the year increased in accordance with the standard scheme.

The standard scheme is available at 50% for ratepayers occupying single properties with a rateable value up to £6,000. During the period 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011, this is doubled to a 100% reduction.

For ratepayers of property with a rateable value of more than £6,000, relief declines on sliding scale until it is 0% for properties with a rateable value of £12,000 or more. During the period from 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011, the enhanced scheme sliding scale ranges from 100% to 0%. During the period 1 October 2011 to 31 March 2012, the standard scheme sliding scale ranges from 50% to 0%.

The 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 have a rateable value less than £2,600.

The rateable value of the property mentioned in **A**, or the aggregate rateable value of all properties mentioned in **B**, must be under £18,000 outside London, or £25,500 within London. The scheme is funded through a supplement on

the rate bills of those businesses not eligible for the relief. The supplement is built into the standard non-domestic rating multiplier. However, ratepayers of eligible business properties with rateable values between £12,000 and £18,000 (£25,500 within London) do not have to contribute towards the relief and will have their bills calculated using the lower small business Non-Domestic rating multiplier.

When an application for relief is granted, the application will not need to be renewed unless the ratepayer's circumstances change. Any change in a ratepayer's circumstances which will affect their eligibility to small business rate relief, must be notified to the Council by the ratepayer at the time of the change in their circumstances. The Government has now removed the need for claims to be renewed at each revaluation.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by the ratepayer (other changes will be picked up by the local authority). The changes which must be notified are:

(a) the ratepayer taking up occupation of a property they did not occupy at the time of making their application for relief, and

(b) 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.

Payment methods

Notification of these changes must be given to the local authority within four weeks of the day after the day on which the change happened. If this happens, there will be no interruption to the ratepayer's entitlement to the relief. A notification that the ratepayer has taken up occupation of an additional property must be by way of a fresh application for relief; notice of an increase in rateable value must be given in writing.

Full details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply for this relief are available from the local authority.

Charity and registered 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 Club and is wholly (or mainly) used for charitable purposes, or as a Registered Community Amateur Sports Club.

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Full details can be obtained from the local authority. An application form can be downloaded from the Council's website: www.kingston.gov.uk

Non-profit making organisation relief

The local authority has discretion to give relief to Non-Profit Making Organisations. Full details can be obtained from the local authority. An application form can be downloaded from the Council's website: www.kingston.gov.uk

Hardship relief

The local authority has discretion to give relief in special circumstances. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

2009/10 Business Rates Deferral Scheme

During 2009/10 ratepayers were invited to apply to postpone payment of some of their rate liability for 2009/10. Applications for this scheme closed 31 March 2010. Successful applicants were able to defer 60% of the increase in their bills compared to 2008/9. The payment of deferred balances started in 2010/11 and ends in 2011/12.

Rating advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. Appeals against rateable values can be made free of charge. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of

Payment methods

Chartered Surveyors (www.rics.org.uk) and the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (www.irrv.org.uk) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct that are 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.

Payment of Non-Domestic rates

Bills issued at the beginning of the year may be paid by a maximum of ten monthly instalments, which are due to be received by Kingston Council from April 2011 to January 2012. If you move during the year, the number of instalments may be reduced. Details of your instalments are shown on the enclosed bill.

Payments of Non-Domestic Rates

These can be made as:

- Monthly (payments are due on 1 April and the first day of each of the following 9 months)
- Half Yearly (Payments are due on 1 April and 1 September)
- Yearly (Payments are due on 1 April)

Payments

Kingston Council accepts payment by:

Direct debit

Payments are automatically debited from your bank/building society account on either the first or the fifteenth day of each month. You can set up Direct Debit payments by registering to use online services on the Council's website: www.kingston.gov.uk or by telephone or by completing a form. It is fully guaranteed against amounts being debited without prior notice and no renewal is required, unless you change your bank details or the arrangement is cancelled.

Automated credit transfer (BACS)

Your instruction to BACS will need to include Kingston Council's bank details:

National Westminster Bank –
Sort code 606002
(Account number 44720939).

You will also need to quote your National Non-Domestic Rate account number, as shown on your bill.

IBAN GB28 NWBK 6060 0244
720939

BIC/SWIFT NWBK GB2L

Payment methods

Online credit card/debit card

Payment by debit or credit card (there will be a charge for payments made by credit card) may be made online at www.kingston.gov.uk.

This is a 24 hour service operating every day. Please quote your Non Domestic Rate account number.

24 hour automated telephone

Automated Telephone Payment Number – 0845 359 1111.

Follow the voice prompts and enter payment and card details via your telephone keypad. Payments will be accepted using Maestro, Delta, Solo, Electron Visa and Mastercard debit cards and Mastercard and Visa credit cards. Charges apply to credit card payments.

Standing order

You should obtain the necessary forms from your bank instructing them to pay The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. Kingston Council's bank details are:

National Westminster Bank –
Sort code 606002
(Account number 44720939).

Always quote your National Non-Domestic Rate account number, as shown on your bill. Return the completed form to your own bank.

Cheque by post

Cheques should be made payable to: The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (and not to any individual) and sent to:

*Payment Section
Finance Directorate
The Royal Borough of
Kingston upon Thames
Guildhall 2
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 1EU.*

Please note:

- You will not be issued with a payment book
- Include your account number on the back of all cheques
- Receipts will not be issued unless a stamped self addressed envelope is sent with the cheque

Do not put cash in the letter box of any Kingston Council premises.

Difficulty paying

If you have difficulty making payments by any of the above mentioned methods you should contact the Rates Office to discuss your payment options.

Payment methods

Online Services

You can keep a check on your Non-Domestic Rate account on Kingston Council's website – www.kingston.gov.uk

Registration is quick and simple. You can register by using the link from the Council's website. The services available include being able to view your business rate account balance, check you instalments, see the notices recently sent to you and set up and change a Direct Debit. Additional services are also planned to come online over the coming months.

Late payments

Instalment payments are due on or before the due date shown on your bill.

If your payment is late, the recovery cycle will start:

- On the first occasion that an instalment is missed a reminder notice will be issued. If, following issue of a notice, your instalments are not brought completely up to date: a Summons may be issued for hearing at the Magistrates' Court. In this event you may be liable for legal costs (which could be substantial).

- If notices are issued on any two occasions during the financial year and a third default occurs, even though instalments may have been bought up to date each time, the right to pay by instalments will be lost and the full balance will become payable. If necessary the full balance may be recovered by issuing a Summons for hearing at the Magistrates' Court (as above).
- Where payment of the outstanding Rates, together with costs, is not received before the date of the Hearing, the Magistrates may grant the Council a Liability Order, and additional costs may be awarded.
- If a suitable arrangement is not made when the Liability Order is granted, bailiffs may be used to recover the outstanding debt.



Your Council Tax

How is your Council Tax calculated?

1. We plan services for the coming year, and then calculate their costs, deduct any income from fees, charges, grants and all other income.
2. The payment to the GLA is added. This includes the contribution to the 2012 Olympic Games (£20 for a Band D).

3. Then we deduct the amount of grant due from Central Government.
4. The resulting total is then divided between the number of properties, taking account of the Council Tax property bands.

The Council Tax for this year will be the same as 2010/11. The figures below show the increase from last year's Band D Council Tax, split between the Council's share and the GLA precept.

Your Band D Council Tax at a glance

| | 2010-11 Band D Tax £ | 2011-12 Band D Tax £ | Change £ | Change % |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Kingston Council's net spending | 2,316.01 | 2,181.83 | (134.18) | (5.79%) |
| Change in Reserves | (30.61) | 17.49 | 48.10 | |
| Less Specific Government Grant | (331.74) | (164.99) | 166.75 | (50.27%) |
| Less Council Tax Freeze Grant | 0 | (33.82) | (33.82) | |
| Budget requirement | 1,953.66 | 2,000.51 | 46.85 | 2.40% |
| Less Government Formula Grant | (600.94) | (626.85) | (25.91) | 4.31% |
| Less Surplus from Collection Fund | 0.00 | (20.94) | (20.94) | |
| | 1,352.72 | 1,352.72 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Less W&PCC levy | (0.51) | (0.54) | (0.03) | 5.88% |
| Kingston Council | 1,352.21 | 1,352.18 | (0.03) | 0.00% |
| Greater London Authority | 309.82 | 309.82 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Band D Tax (excluding WPC) | 1,662.03 | 1,662.00 | (0.03) | 0.00% |
| Add W&PCC Levy | 23.85 | 24.87 | 1.02 | 4.28% |
| Band D Tax (including WPC) | 1,685.88 | 1,686.87 | 0.99 | 0.06% |

Your Council Tax

What does this mean for you – how much do you pay?

Every household in the borough is sent one Council Tax bill and the amount each pays depends upon which property valuation band your home falls in. Property values are currently based upon property market values as at April 1991. The Band D tax forms the basis of the Council Tax charge for all properties and those in other bands pay a proportion of this Band D tax.

Your council tax bill shows your property tax band. Your Council Tax bill also includes the Precept collected for the Greater London Council. So the band D tax totals £1,662.00 for 2011/12 and this and all other tax bands are shown in the tables below. Some properties in the borough that are within three-quarters of a mile of Wimbledon Common pay an additional amount for the upkeep of the Common.

Property Tax Bands (A to H)

| | 2010–11 | Decrease | 2011–12 | 2011–12 (Inc W&PCC) |
|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Band A | £1,108.02 | (£0.02) | £1,108.00 | £1,124.58 |
| Band B | £1,292.69 | (£0.02) | £1,292.67 | £1,312.01 |
| Band C | £1,477.36 | (£0.02) | £1,477.34 | £1,499.44 |
| Band D | £1,662.03 | (£0.03) | £1,662.00 | £1,686.87 |
| Band E | £2,031.37 | (£0.04) | £2,031.33 | £2,061.73 |
| Band F | £2,400.71 | (£0.04) | £2,400.67 | £2,436.59 |
| Band G | £2,770.05 | (£0.05) | £2,770.00 | £2,811.45 |
| Band H | £3,324.06 | (£0.06) | £3,324.00 | £3,373.74 |

Tax Setting – Royal Borough of Kingston and the Greater London Council (analysis)

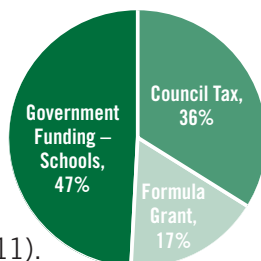
| | Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kingston Council (£) | 901.45 | 1,051.70 | 1,201.94 | 1,352.18 | 1,652.66 | 1,953.15 | 2,253.63 | 2,704.36 |
| Greater London Authority (£) | 206.55 | 240.97 | 275.40 | 309.82 | 378.67 | 447.52 | 516.37 | 619.64 |
| Total (£) | 1,108.00 | 1,292.67 | 1,477.34 | 1,662.00 | 2,031.33 | 2,400.67 | 2,770.00 | 3,324.00 |

Net spending on Borough Services

Spending on Borough Services

Where does the money come from?

The main sources of funding of the Council's revenue budget come from Central Government – Dedicated Schools Funding Grant and Formula Grant – and from the Council Tax. The proportion of the council's net budget (excluding schools) which is met from the Council Tax is one of highest in London at 68% – the London average percentage of services funded from local tax is 45% (2010/11).



Where is the money spent?

This table shows the level of council spending on each service. It excludes the £122.3 million spent on Schools, (as the grants have been offset), or the payment to the GLA.

| | Original Budget 2010/11 £000 | Budget 2011/12 £000 |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adult Social Care | 38,275.5 | 45,720.6 |
| Learning & Children's Services | 20,943.6 | 25,944.3 |
| Place & Regeneration | (1,265.7) | (2,058.8) |
| Environment | 22,063.3 | 22,537.0 |
| Neighbourhoods | 4,262.1 | 4,210.3 |
| One Council Services | 17,436.8 | 21,497.1 |
| Other Corporate Services | 14,538.4 | 14,100.0 |
| Concessionary Fares Scheme | 4,017.6 | 4,517.6 |
| Other Levies | 674.4 | 668.0 |
| Contribution to (+) or from (-) reserves | 0.0 | 1,099.0 |
| Specific Government Grants | 0.0 | (10,370.0) |
| Council Tax Freeze Grant | 0.0 | (2,125.6) |
| Royal Kingston Borough Planned Net Spending | 120,946.0 | 125,739.5 |
| RBK Tax Base | 61,907 | 62,854 |
| Band D Tax | £1,953.66 | £2,000.51 |

Notes:

- Changes in the method of government funding mean that comparable grant figures for 2010/11 are included in service totals.
- The Council Tax Freeze grant is new for 2011/12 and there is no comparable figure for 2010/11.

Reasons for change in the budget

Revenue Budget 2011–12 – Reason for the increase in Spending

Changes made to this year's budget are set out in the following table:

| | £000 | £000 |
|---|---------|----------------|
| Original Budget 2010/11 | | 120,945 |
| ADD: | | |
| One off items 2010/11 not available 2011/12 | | 225 |
| Inflation & Contractual Commitments | 3,433 | |
| Revenue effect of the capital programme | 384 | |
| | <hr/> | 3,817 |
| <i>Changes from Outside Bodies</i> | | |
| London Wide Concessionary Fares (RBK Share of cost) | 500 | |
| Levies | (6) | |
| | <hr/> | 494 |
| <i>Budget Growth</i> | | |
| Adult Social Care | 1,400 | |
| Children's Services | 800 | |
| Waste Management | 623 | |
| Highways maintenance | 700 | |
| Reduced Income (Economic downturn) | 705 | |
| Other Items | 445 | |
| | <hr/> | 4,673 |
| Allowance for redundancy costs | 1,200 | |
| Contribution to reserves | 1,099 | |
| | <hr/> | 2,299 |
| <i>Changes to external funding</i> | | |
| Net reduction in specific government grants | 10,096 | |
| NHS Funding to meet social care costs | (1,512) | |
| Council Tax Freeze Grant | (2,126) | |
| | <hr/> | 6,458 |
| Budget Reductions | | (13,172) |
| Original Budget 2011/12 | | 125,739 |

Other information – Levying Bodies

The Council Tax you pay includes amounts collected on behalf of other statutory bodies, known as levying bodies. These bodies pay for the net cost of their services by issuing a levy on each billing authority in their area, after deducting all other sources of income raised. The money due is included in your Council Tax bill, and

is paid over to each body during the year. Unlike the GLA precept, levies have to be included as part of the Council's own budget calculations and hence are included in the calculation of the Council's own band D tax. The amounts that have been included are shown in the tables below together with the equivalent tax charge for a band D property.

Levies – 2011/12

| | TOTAL LEVY RAISED 2011–12 £m | Amount paid by RBK 2011–12 £m | Band D Tax 2011–12 £ |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Environment Agency | | | |
| – Thames Regional Flood Defence Committee | 10.0 | 0.123 | 1.96 |
| Lee Valley Regional Park Authority | 12.0 | 0.186 | 2.96 |
| London Pensions Fund Authority | 23.4 | 0.325 | 5.17 |
| Total – General levies | 45.4 | 0.634 | 10.09 |
| Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators | 0.97 | 0.034 | 24.87 |

Levies – 2010/11 (for comparison)

| | TOTAL LEVY RAISED 2010–11 £m | Amount paid by RBK 2010–11 £m | Band D Tax 2010–11 £ |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Environment Agency | | | |
| – Thames Regional Flood Defence Committee | 10.0 | 0.123 | 1.99 |
| Lee Valley Regional Park Authority | 12.2 | 0.189 | 3.05 |
| London Pensions Fund Authority | 24.6 | 0.331 | 5.34 |
| Total – General levies | 46.9 | 0.643 | 10.38 |
| Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators | 0.92 | 0.031 | 23.85 |

The W&PCC Levy is only paid by those properties that are within three quarters of a mile of the Wimbledon Common.



Introduction

Boris Johnson's third budget continues to deliver on his priority to provide taxpayer value and protect front line services. For three years running he has frozen the GLA's element of the Council Tax for residents of the 32 London boroughs, as well as fulfilling his manifesto commitment that Band D households would continue to pay only 38p a week for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In the current economic climate the public sector must do more with less, delivering improved public services for no extra cost. The Mayor will continue to invest in his priorities by increasing front-line policing levels, improving public transport, investing in better local green spaces to make our city cleaner and greener, working to increase young people's opportunities and ensuring the 2012 Games leave a lasting legacy to lengthen London's lead as the World's Best Big City.

Council Tax and Budget Information

The GLA's take of the Council Tax at Band D will remain at £309.82 or £5.96 a week (£81.87 for residents of the City of London). The table below shows how the Council tax is allocated.

| Council Tax | 2010–11 | Change | 2011–12 |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| MPA (Police) | 216.83 | 11.12 | 227.95 |
| LFEPFA (Fire) | 59.57 | -7.37 | 52.20 |
| GLA | 30.91 | -0.58 | 30.33 |
| TfL (Transport) | 4.02 | -2.03 | 1.99 |
| Collection Funds | -1.51 | -1.14 | -2.65 |
| Total Band D (£) | 309.82 | 0.00 | 309.82 |

Investing in Front Line Services

The Mayor has put value for money at the very heart of his administration and has controlled costs tightly as well as ruthlessly cutting out waste. His budget will protect vital front line services by:

- Focusing resources on tackling violence against women and young people and reducing levels of gang, gun and knife crime. The Mayor will also provide resources to increase police numbers adding a further 400 warranted officers on the transport system. The number of uniformed police officers will remain higher in 2011–12 than when the current Mayor was elected.
- Upgrading the Tube which will increase capacity by 30 percent, delivering Crossrail and maintaining London's bus network and existing concessionary travel schemes, including the 24 hour Freedom Pass.
- Extending the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme and improving London's green spaces.
- Delivering 50,000 more affordable homes by 2012 and funding three new rape crisis centres.

2012 Olympics and Paralympics

The GLA will seek to ensure the benefits of the Games are seen London wide in order to deliver a lasting legacy.

Summary of GLA Group Budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's expenditure for 2011–12 with the previous year and the reasons for the changes. Overall the budget requirement (funded from general grants and council tax) will increase by 0.4%. This represents a reduction in real terms based on expected retail price inflation levels in 2011–12. More information on the budget is available on the GLA website at www.london.gov.uk (Tel 0207 983 4000).

| Changes in spending | £m |
|---|--------------|
| 2010–11 Budget requirement | 3,263 |
| Inflation | 124 |
| Efficiencies and other savings | -419 |
| Investment in new and existing services | 395 |
| Other changes (including income growth) | -80 |
| 2011–12 Budget requirement | 3,283 |

| How the GLA budget is funded £m | 2010–11 | Change | 2011–12 |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| Gross Expenditure | 13,969 | -868 | 13,101 |
| Fares, charges and other income | -5,557 | -388 | -5,945 |
| Government grants for specific purposes | -4,648 | 595 | -4,053 |
| General Government grants | -2,336 | -5 | -2,341 |
| Use of reserves | -500 | 681 | 181 |
| Surplus in council tax collection funds | -5 | -3 | -8 |
| Amount met by council tax payers £m | 923 | 12 | 935 |

Useful contacts

KingstonFirst (Business Improvement District)

Telephone: 020 8547 1221

e-mail: info@kingstonfirst.co.uk

web: www.kingstonfirst.co.uk

Kingston Chamber of Commerce

Telephone: 020 8541 4441

e-mail: marketing@kingstonchamber.co.uk

web: www.kingstonchamber.co.uk

Kingston College Centre for Business Enterprise

Telephone: 020 8546 2151

e-mail: info@kingston-college.ac.uk

web: www.kingston-college.ac.uk

Business Link

Telephone: 0845 6009006

Web: www.businesslink.gov.uk

Department for Business Innovation & Skills

Telephone: 020 7215 5000

Web: www.bis.gov.uk

GoGreen working with Positive Environment Kingston (PEK)

Telephone: 020 8947 0055

e-mail: gogreen@southlondon.biz

web: www.southlondon.biz

South London Business

Telephone: 020 8681 0053

Web: www.southlondonbusiness.co.uk

The Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP)

Telephone: 020 7954 4500

e-mail: info@londonchildpoverty.org

web: www.londonchildpoverty.org.uk

Contacting Kingston Council

We have service specialists at the end of the phone to help you get the information that you need as quickly as possible and at the first point of contact.

Benefits: 020 8547 5001

Environment: 020 8547 5002

Housing: 020 8547 5003

Children, Schools & Families: 020 8547 5004

Adult Care: 020 8547 5005

Culture, Leisure & Libraries: 020 8547 5006

Income, Council Tax & Payments: 020 8547 5007

All other general enquiries: 020 8547 5000

For details of our online services visit – www.kingston.gov.uk