

YOUR COUNCIL TAX AND THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Introduction

This is Sadiq Khan's second 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 opportunities 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 ever tightening resources from the Government. 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 affordable homes. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, tackle rough sleeping and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live. The Mayor will also provide 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 impact of continuing real terms cuts in government grant.

Council tax for GLA Services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £14.21 (or 27p per week) to £294.23. The additional income raised is being applied to fund the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade. A Band D council taxpayer in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £76.10.

Council Tax (£)	2017-18	Change	2018-19
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	206.13	12.00	218.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	48.01	2.21	50.22
GLA	23.80	0.04	23.84
TfL (Transport)	2.08	-0.04	2.04
Total	280.02	14.21	294.23

Investing in frontline services

This budget will enable the Mayor to fulfil his key priorities for London in his current term. These include:

- ◆ making transport more affordable. Single bus fares, single pay as you go fares on the Tube and DLR and Santander cycle hire scheme charges will be frozen until at least 2020. This will save travellers around £40 million a year. A new bus and tram one hour Hopper fare has also been introduced
- ◆ continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, using £3.15 billion of funding to support starts of 90,000 new affordable homes by 2021
- ◆ providing the best policing service possible within the funding made available by the Government which continues to fall in real terms year on year
- ◆ providing extra resources to support disadvantaged young Londoners and protect vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence
- ◆ providing sufficient resources to the London Fire Brigade ensure that first and second fire engines arrive at emergency incidents within six and eight minutes respectively
- ◆ working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes 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, commencing the operation of Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail) through central London by the end of 2018 and his introduction of the Night Tube and Night Overground services
- ◆ making public transport more accessible for everyone. Step-free access is planned to be introduced at five more London Underground stations in 2018-19 and funding has been secured for a further 13. All Elizabeth line stations will also be step free and
- ◆ funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts and culture, help tackle inequality, improve the environment, and boost London's economy

Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's spending for 2018-19 with last year and set out why it has changed. The GLA's gross expenditure is higher this year. This is mainly due to the impact of additional 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 alongside. There has also been a 2.4 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: london.gov.uk/budget (tel: 020 7983 4000).

How the GLA budget is funded (£ million)	2018-19
Gross expenditure	12,178.4
Government grants and retained business rates	-4,638.3
Fares, charges and other income	-6,163.9
Use of reserves	-510.5
Amount met by council tax payers	865.7

Changes in spending (£ million)	2018-19
2017-18 council tax requirement	804.8
Inflation	227.3
Efficiencies and other savings	-324.2
New initiatives	296.2
Other changes (for example fares revenue and government grants)	-138.4
2018-19 council tax requirement	865.7