

Your Council Tax 2022/23

Cllr Graham Henson
Leader of Harrow Council



Dear resident

With local Government at the forefront of the response to both public health and economic crises caused by the pandemic, it is not surprising that the past year has had a significant impact on our already difficult finances.

Harrow remains one of the lowest funded Councils both within London and nationally. Our Revenue Support Grant, our main source of funding from central government, has reduced by 97% over the past decade to just £1.6million, making us more reliant on Council Tax to fund our vital services. We think this is the wrong time for the Government to expect families to pay more.

Funding reductions coincide with growing service demand, but we have received no extra funding to meet demographic or inflationary pressures, leaving us to raise an additional £81million to meet need in our frontline services.

This is why we are having to raise Council Tax by 2.99% this year, including a precept for Adult Social Care, in line with Central Government's expectations. We have already made savings of £98.4million and continue to do everything in our power to run services as efficiently as possible, investing in the areas you tell us are important to you. Our strong emphasis on partnership working with police, the voluntary and community sector and businesses, is helping us achieve better outcomes in our services, helping us remain one of the safest boroughs in London, and improving engagement with our diverse communities in Harrow.

We know our residents are feeling the pinch with the rising cost of living and want to reassure you that there is support available. As well as our Council Tax Support scheme, we have been helping residents get essentials like food, clothing and utilities through the Household Support Fund; supporting renters in arrears through the Winter Fund; our schools have been continuing the Free School Meals scheme in holidays; we have paid out more than £70million in support grants to local businesses in the pandemic, and more than £640,800 in self-isolation payments for low paid workers affected by Covid.

We are also working with Citizens Advice to help people access the Emergency Support Scheme to get extra help with things like rent and bills. Please remember, if you are struggling go to www.harrow.gov.uk/benefits to find out what help is available to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Henson', written over a horizontal line.

Cllr Graham Henson
Leader of Harrow Council



Adult Social Care Precept within your Council Tax

The government is leaving local councils to raise much of the money needed to address a national crisis in social care funding. We are therefore, as the government expects us to, also applying the government's Adult Social Care precept of 1 per cent on council tax to help ensure that local care needs are met.

The table below shows, for a band D property, the overall increase in pounds in your Council Tax for 2022/23 when compared with 2021/22, including the increase for Adult Social Care. It also shows the amount of your council tax which goes to Harrow and the amount which goes to the Greater London Authority.

Comparison with previous year	2021/22	2022/23	Change £	Change %
Harrow Council General Expenditure	£1,425.94	£1,457.76		
Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept*	£172.76	£188.74		
Sub-Total	£1,598.70	£1,646.50		
Greater London Authority	£363.66	£395.59		
Total Council Tax payable	£1,962.36	£2,042.09	+ £79.73	+4.06%

* The Council Tax attributable to Harrow Council includes £188.74 for the average band D property, which is the cumulative precept amount, charged between 2016/17 to 2022/23, to fund Adult Social Care.

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 from the financial year 2016-17. It was originally made in respect of the financial years up to and including 2019-20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew this offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to the approval of the House of Commons.

For more information on your Council Tax, go to www.harrow.gov.uk/counciltaxguide