



March 2021

This has been an extraordinary year, which has put extraordinary pressures on council finances. From extending social care services, issuing business grants in lockdown, and providing support to our most vulnerable residents, Harrow Council has been at the forefront of the local Covid response.

The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on people in Harrow compared with other boroughs. But this has not been reflected in our share of government support, with Harrow receiving the 8th lowest share of Emergency Funding in London.

Harrow remains one of the lowest funded councils both in London and nationally. The Council's Revenue Support Grant, our main source of funding from government, has been cut by 97% since 2013 to just £1.6million, a reduction of £50.5million. We receive no additional funding to meet demographic or inflationary pressures.

The government has chosen to ask councils to raise council tax by 5% this year instead of providing us with the funding we need centrally. Like the overwhelming majority of councils, we felt we had no choice but to accept the government's guidance.

We believe this is the wrong decision and that this is the wrong time for government to ask families to pay more. However, we will do everything in our power to continue running services as efficiently as possible and to invest in the areas you tell us are most important to you.

Harrow has shown what we can achieve when we pull together. The pandemic has made us even stronger as a community and I am proud of the way people have come together during this crisis. It's what makes Harrow great and it's what will see us through in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Henson', written in a cursive style.

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 3 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 2021/22 when compared with 2020/21, 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	2020/21	2021/22	Change £	Change %
Harrow Council general expenditure	£1,395.64	£1,425.94		
Adult Social Care (ASC) precept	£127.08	£172.76		
Greater London Authority	£332.07	£363.66		
Total Council Tax payable	£1,854.79	£1,962.36	+107.57	+5.8%

* The Council Tax attributable to Harrow Council includes £172.76 for the average band D property, which is the cumulative precept amount, charged between 2016/17 to 2021/22, 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