



As leader of Harrow Council, I work hard to ensure our residents receive value for money and Harrow's budget next year will once again be balanced. But with rising demands on our essential services and inadequate funding from government, we have taken the difficult decision to increase council tax.

As one of the lowest funded councils in London, Harrow has been hit particularly hard by years of austerity. We are continuing to deliver huge efficiencies in the way we work and spend, and generate income, while fighting to secure the funding you deserve.

Despite these massive challenges, we are committed to protecting your services. We have increased our adult social care spend by 55% and continue to invest in our children and schools, street cleaning and maintenance, community services and culture.

I know this increase will be challenging for some of our residents and our council tax support scheme will continue to help those most unable to pay. So please accept my thanks on behalf of our service users. Here's a taste of what we do, thanks to you.

Cllr Graham Henson
Leader of Harrow Council

"I'm Steve and I'm part of the crew that clears up illegally dumped rubbish. We hate fly-tips as much as you do so we act on reports within 24 hours and fine and prosecute anyone caught dumping illegally. We've issued thousands of pounds in fines so far – money that goes back into your services."



The Firs residential centre, rated Outstanding by Ofsted for 10 years in a row, provides short breaks for children with complex needs. Charlotte Mansell, whose daughter Phoebe has been coming to the Firs for nine years, says: "It is a life saver for Phoebe and the family. The Firs has helped us so much – it's given us family time with our other children which we don't always get."

"I'm Kim and I attend the Employability course for disabled learners at Wiseworks. I've found out I'm good at lots of things and I'm looking forward to receiving my certificate. I have advanced in my learning and I also get support from day centre officers in the class. I wouldn't want to be stuck without doing something."



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 2 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 2019/20 when compared with 2018/19, 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	2018/19	2019/20	Change £	Change %
Harrow Council general expenditure	£1,324.79	£1,366.49		
Adult Social Care (ASC) precept	£69.90	£97.79		
Greater London Authority	£294.23	£320.51		
Total Council Tax payable	£1,688.92	£1,784.80	+£95.88	+5.67%

* The Council Tax attributable to Harrow Council includes £97.79 for the average band D property, which is the cumulative precept amount, charged between 2016/17 to 2019/20, to fund Adult Social Care.

Council Tax increase for 2019/20	% increase
Harrow Council (Band D charge)	+ 2.99%
Adult Social Care (ASC) precept*	+2%
Greater London Authority Precept	+8.9%

"The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has 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 is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax for financial years 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."

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