



As Leader of Harrow Council I am passionate about keeping our services open for residents and ensuring you receive value for money.

Once again our Budget will be balanced but with a continued rise in demand for essential services with less funding from government we have taken the difficult decision to increase Council Tax.

We've seen our funding from government almost disappear – a 97 per cent cut in our government grant has seen our funding reduce from £52m to £1.6m over the past seven years. Increased demand for social care across all age groups and for pupils with special educational needs, and a need to invest in vital frontline services has created budget gaps. Council Tax has had to fill those gaps and now makes up almost 80 per cent of our £168m budget.

Despite these cuts, I am proud of what we are achieving – we are continuing to make services more efficient and invest in our children and adults services, families, schools and libraries, keeping the streets clean, supporting vulnerable people and cracking down on those who break the rules.

With rising costs in living I know that this increase will be a challenge for some of you, which is why we have invested in our council tax support scheme – making it easier for more of those most unable to pay to get help.

Please accept my thanks – working together we're making a real difference to people's lives. Here's a flavour of just some of what we do, thanks to you.

Cllr Graham Henson

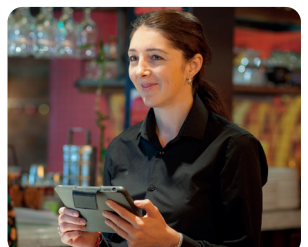
Leader of Harrow Council

“I'm Maria. I've been through the care system in Harrow and now want to be a social worker – I have two offers to start university in September. My leaving care worker, Gabriella, inspired me to follow this career. She's helped me find a job and a place of my own to live. Gabriella's helped with finances and with my mental health. She's always been there for me and I can talk to her whenever I need to.”



“I'm Joe and I'm part of the enforcement team investigating fly-tips. We're targeting fly-tipping hot spots around Harrow. You may have noticed our crime scene tape and witness boards or seen me going through illegally dumped rubbish. We've issued thousands of pounds in fines so far – that goes back into your services.”

“I'm Ancuta and Xcite helped me with training and finding a job. When I moved to Harrow I struggled to find work, even though I've worked in the hospitality sector for 10 years. My friend told me about Xcite. They suggested a range of courses to improve my skills and find a better paid job, all for free. So far I've done a food hygiene course and am thinking about what else I can do.”



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 2020/21 when compared with 2019/20, 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	2019/20	2020/21	Change £	Change %
Harrow Council general expenditure	£1,366.50	£1,395.64		
Adult Social Care (ASC) precept	£97.79	£127.08		
Greater London Authority	£320.51	£332.07		
Total Council Tax payable	£1,784.80	£1,854.79	+ 69.99	+3.92%

* The Council Tax attributable to Harrow Council Includes £127.08 for the average band D property, which is the cumulative precept amount, charged between 2016/17 to 2020/21, 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.

Subject to the 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 2020-21."

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