

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2021-22 financial year sets out his priorities to support London's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to tackle the huge social, health and economic inequalities which it has exposed and exacerbated. It supports job creation and London's business community, our city's future growth and economic success and the Mayor's vision to rebuild London as a greener, cleaner and safer city with stronger and more cohesive communities.

This year's budget will provide resources to improve the key public services Londoners need. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, securing funding to maintain and expand the capital's transport infrastructure and tackling toxic air pollution and the climate emergency. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, fund skills and retraining programmes, help rough sleepers, invest in youth services and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live.

The budget prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe, including violence reduction initiatives and initiatives to improve opportunities for young Londoners. In light of the significant reductions in fare revenues and property tax income due to the pandemic some difficult decisions have been unavoidable. However, this budget remains focused on delivering a swift and sustainable recovery from the pandemic, as well as building the better, brighter, fairer future all Londoners want and deserve.

Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £31.59 (or 61p per week) to £363.66. The additional income raised will fund the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade and will also go towards maintaining existing travel concessions for the under 18s and Londoners aged 60 and over. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £96.53.

Council Tax (£)	2020-21	Change	2021-22
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	252.13	15.00	267.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	55.28	1.59	56.87
GLA	22.69	-0.12	22.57
TfL (Transport)	1.97	15.12	17.09
Total	332.07	31.59	363.66

Investing in frontline services

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

- ensuring the Metropolitan Police have the resources they need to tackle violent crime – the Mayor has funded 1,300 additional police officer posts from locally raised council tax and business rates revenues;
- tackling the underlying causes of crime through the rollout of funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners access positive opportunities and constructive activities that allow them to make the most of their potential, as well as resources for new violence reduction initiatives;
- protecting vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence;
- providing enough resources to the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to ensure that first and second fire engines arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes on at least 90 per cent of occasions and 12 minutes on at least 95 per cent of occasions respectively, after being dispatched. The Mayor is also providing resources to rollout a transformation programme so that the LFB can implement the recommendations of the Grenfell fire inquiry. This includes investing in the new vehicles and equipment required;

- working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes for example, maintaining free bus and tram travel for under 18s as well as free off-peak travel across the network for Londoners aged 60+, the disabled, armed forces personnel in uniform and eligible armed services veterans and protecting the Taxicard and Dial a Ride schemes;
- continuing the Hopper bus fare, which makes transport more affordable for millions of Londoners;
- opening the central London section of the Elizabeth line (the operational name for Crossrail) in the first half of 2022, followed by the full line opening with through services as soon as possible to increase central London's rail capacity by ten per cent. TfL will also open the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power station in 2021;
- continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, by investing £4.4 billion to continue delivering 116,000 affordable home starts within London by 2023 and an additional 35,000 by 2026, as well as allocating resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping;
- tackling the climate emergency through continued roll out of a £50 million Green New Deal for London fund;
- investing in Healthy Streets to fund projects to enable more walking and cycling across London. The Mayor will also expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the North and South Circular roads in Autumn 2021 to tackle air pollution; and
- funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts, sports and culture, help tackle inequality and improve the environment.

Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's planned spending for 2021-22 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 extra investment planned by the Mayor in transport and policing. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra funding for the Metropolitan Police, the London Fire Brigade and maintaining existing concessionary free travel for under 18s and Londoners aged 60 and over. There has also been a 1.0 per cent decrease in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: www.london.gov.uk/budget.

How the GLA's budget is funded (£ million)	2021-22
Gross expenditure	13,804.4
Government grants and retained business rates	-8,453.9
Fares, charges and other income	-5,136.9
Change in reserves	883.0
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	1,096.6

Changes in spending (£ million)	2021-22
2020-21 council tax requirement	1,010.9
Inflation	176.7
Efficiencies and other savings	-196.3
New initiatives	383.3
Other changes (for example fares revenue and government grants)	-278.0
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	1,096.6