



Brent

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Brent Council Spending

Information for council tax and business rate payers

2018-2019

Message from the Leader of Brent Council Councillor Muhammed Butt

Dear Brent resident,

For several years now the funding Brent receives from central government has been significantly falling.

By April 2019, Brent Council will have saved £164million from its budget since 2010.

At the same time, more people with complex needs, including vulnerable older people, are finding themselves in need of council help.

Our population is growing at one of the quickest rates in the country, further increasing demand for local services, such as bin collections, schools, housing, libraries and leisure centres.

The council has worked extremely hard over recent years to become more efficient – including by using the latest technology and streamlining management – but put simply, significantly less money and more demand for what we do is putting huge pressure on the services we all value.

As a result, Brent has made the difficult decision to increase council tax by 4.99%, delivering and saving services for an extra £1.37 a week for a Band D home. For the price of a cup of tea each week, the council can continue to maintain the local services that are vital to the lives of so many of us.

Residents and businesses are also helping to overcome the challenges we face. Fortunately, Brent benefits from having residents who really love where they live, who take pride in their neighbourhoods, and who care about our local environment. As well as being the right thing to do, this lightens the load and saves us all money. For example:

- 121,000 households recycle regularly
- 40,000 people have signed up for online support through 'My Account' on www.brent.gov.uk
- 21,000 residents have downloaded the Cleaner Brent app to report illegally dumped rubbish and other issues on our streets
- 60,000 households pay their council tax through direct debit.

By taking these simple actions you are helping to make Brent a better place to live and work, despite the budget pressure we are under, and for that I am incredibly grateful. Thank you.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. A. Butt". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line underneath.

Councillor Muhammed Butt

Leader of Brent Council

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The council's spending plans

Services the council provides

The council provides a large number of essential local services, including:

- 2209 potholes and footway defects repaired
- 26,300 street lights maintained
- 315 miles of streets and pavements maintained
- 121,596 households have their rubbish collected
- 17,774 flytips cleared up
- 38% of rubbish sent for recycling, reuse, recovery and composting
- 5961 planning applications processed

In 2017:

- 110 parks and open spaces maintained
- 985 allotment plots across 22 sites
- 48,260 pupils being taught in Brent Schools
- 510 new school places created in 2017
- 4150 elderly and vulnerable adults receiving social care
- 1,750,913 leisure centre visitors
- 2,516,683 library visits

Paying for these services

Altogether the council plans to spend more than £1 billion in 2018-19 on services.

The majority of the money comes from government grants – for example, the council is estimated to receive £219 million in grant for schools and another £349 million subsidy to meet the cost of housing benefit for tenants in the private rented sector.

The council also receives rents from council tenants and other income from charges made for services that people use. The remainder of the spending, which is known as the council's budget requirement, is paid for by general government grants, council tax and business rates. This is shown in the following table:

| | £m |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Budget requirement | 266.7 |
| General government grants | -122.5 |
| Specific government grants | -29.2 |
| Total council tax requirement | 115.0 |

* Gross expenditure is the cost of council services before deducting income from government grants, fees and charges etc. Net expenditure is the cost to the council after deducting this income.

Changes in spending

Although government funding has reduced the council will still have to meet rising costs due to inflation and increased costs from:

- a long term trend of more people with social care needs due to the growing demands of an ageing population
- a rise in the amount the council needs to pay towards the cost of households in temporary accommodation
- higher landfill tax on the disposal of household waste

The council will deliver £12.9m in savings in 2018-19. However, the council is still committed to protecting frontline services as much as possible by concentrating on reducing our costs and overheads, eliminating waste and by prioritising spending on services and facilities that local people value.

A table showing the reasons for the change in council tax requirements between 2017-18 and 2018-19 is shown on page 9.

Brent's spending plans

| | 2018-2019 GROSS SPEND | NET SPEND | 2017-2018 GROSS SPEND | NET SPEND |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Community and Well-being | 168.4 | 121.6 | 168.6 | 119.4 |
| Council Housing | 57.7 | 0 | 58.5 | 0 |
| Children and Young People | 53.5 | 40.4 | 48.9 | 40.7 |
| Schools | 218.5 | 0 | 218.4 | 0 |
| Regeneration and Environment | 72.3 | 30.1 | 59.8 | 28.1 |
| Housing Benefit | 349.0 | 0 | 348.8 | 0 |
| Resources | 47.7 | 30.5 | 44.6 | 28.1 |
| Performance Policy & Partnerships | 10.7 | 9.6 | 10.6 | 10.0 |
| Direct Services | 977.9 | 232.2 | 958.2 | 226.3 |
| Other Budgets | 31.6 | 31.6 | 38.6 | 38.6 |
| Total local services provided by Brent | 1,009.5 | 263.8 | 996.8 | 264.8 |
| Levies | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Brent's budget requirements | 1,012.4 | 266.7 | 999.6 | 267.6 |
| Revenue Support Grant | | (0.0) | | (42.7) |
| Retained Business Rates | | (0.0) | | (36.6) |
| Business Rate Top up | | (0) | | (49.5) |
| Retained business rates from the London Pool | | (122.5) | | (0) |
| Specific Grants | | (29.2) | | (32.0) |
| Brent's council tax requirement | | 115.0 | | 106.9 |
| Greater London Authority | | 28.2 | | 26.1 |
| Council Tax requirements | | 143.2 | | 133.0 |

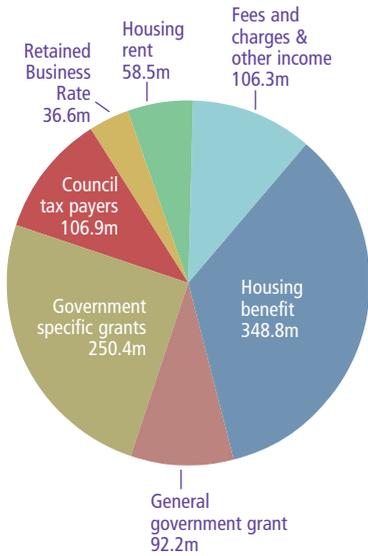
Notes

The figures for schools have been restated to exclude academy funding

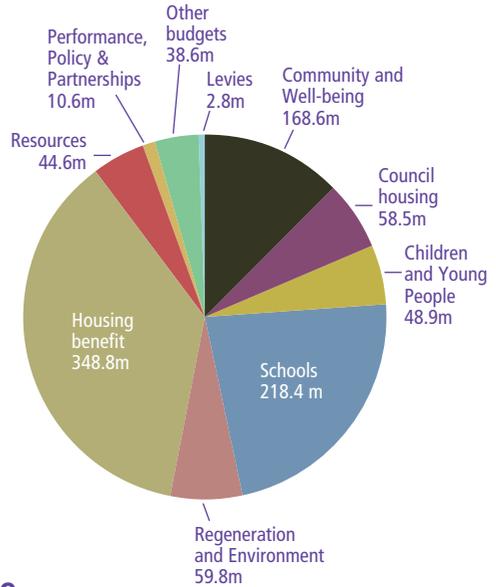
Brent's income and expenditure

2017-2018

Income (£)

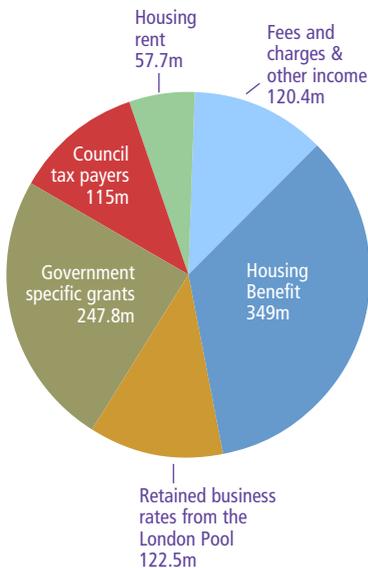


Expenditure (£)

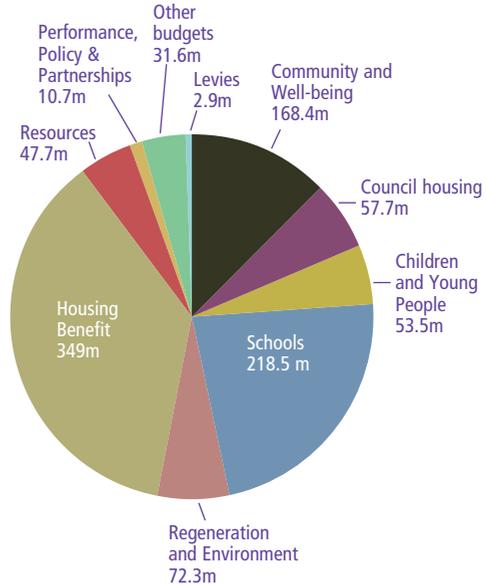


2018-2019

Income (£)



Expenditure (£)



Spending by the Greater London Authority

Introduction

This is Sadiq Khan's second budget as the Mayor of London. It is built around his vision of a London where nobody feels left behind and where everyone has the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential. It supports London's future growth and economic success, building on our City's thriving economy, extraordinary creativity, tolerance, diversity and openness to the world.

Sadiq Khan will not tolerate any waste of public money, particularly against a background of ever tightening resources from the Government. This year's budget has required some tough choices. It will improve the key services Londoners need. That means ensuring transport fares are more affordable and building more affordable homes. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, tackle rough sleeping and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live. The Mayor will also provide extra resources from council tax and business rates for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe. This will help offset the impact of continuing real terms cuts in government grant.

Council tax for GLA Services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £14.21 (or 27p per week) to £294.23. The additional income raised is being applied to fund the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade. A Band D council taxpayer in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £76.10.

| Council Tax (£) | 2017-18 | Change | 2018-19 |
|----------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| MOPAC (Met Police) | 206.13 | 12.00 | 218.13 |
| LFEPA (Fire Brigade) | 48.01 | 2.21 | 50.22 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| GLA | 23.80 | 0.04 | 23.84 |
| TfL (Transport) | 2.08 | -0.04 | 2.04 |
| Total | 280.02 | 14.21 | 294.23 |

Investing in frontline services

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

- Making transport more affordable. Single bus fares, single pay as you go fares on the Tube and DLR and Santander cycle hire scheme charges will be frozen until at least 2020. This will save travellers around £40 million a year. A new bus and tram one hour Hopper fare has also been introduced
- Continue to tackle London's housing crisis, using £3.15 billion of funding to support starts of 90,000 new affordable homes by 2021
- Providing the best policing service possible within the funding made available by the Government which continues to fall in real terms year on year
- Providing extra resources to support disadvantaged young Londoners and protect vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence
- Providing sufficient resources to the London Fire Brigade ensure that first and second fire engines arrive at emergency incidents within six and eight minutes respectively
- Working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes free 24 hour travel for the over 60s, the disabled, armed forces personnel in uniform and

eligible war veterans and protecting the Taxicard and Dial a Ride schemes. Discounts on travelcards are also available for apprentices

- Increasing capacity on the London Underground, commencing the operation of Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail) through central London by the end of 2018 and his introduction of the Night Tube and Night Overground services
- Making public transport more accessible for everyone. Step-free access is planned to be introduced at five more London Underground stations in 2018-19 and funding has been secured for a further 13. All Elizabeth line stations will also be step free and
- Funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts and culture, help tackle inequality, improve the environment, and boost London’s economy.

Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group’s spending for 2018-19 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 additional investment planned by the Mayor in transport, policing and the fire service. Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra funding for the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade alongside. There has also been a 2.4 per cent increase in London’s residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: www.london.gov.uk/budget (tel: 020 7983 4000).

How the GLA budget is funded (£m) 2018-19

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Gross expenditure | 12,178.4 |
| Government grants and retained business rates | -4,638.3 |
| Fares, charges and other income | -6,163.9 |
| Use of reserves | -510.5 |
| Amount met by council tax payers (£m) | 865.7 |

Changes in spending (£m) 2018-19

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 2017-18 council tax requirement | 774.3 |
| Inflation | 227.3 |
| Efficiencies and other savings | -324.2 |
| New initiatives | 296.2 |
| Other changes (for example fares revenue and government grants) | -138.4 |
| 2018-19 council tax requirement | 865.7 |

Further information

Valuation bands

How much you pay will depend upon which council tax band your property is in. There are eight bands, these reflect the market value of your property as at 1 April 1991. The bands and charges for 2018-19 are shown below:

| Band | Value of property | Council tax (£) |
|------|---------------------|-----------------|
| A | Up to £40,000 | 997.69 |
| B | £40,001 to 52,000 | 1,163.98 |
| C | £52,001 to 68,000 | 1,330.26 |
| D | £68,001 to 88,000 | 1,496.54 |
| E | £88,001 to 120,000 | 1,829.10 |
| F | £120,001 to 160,000 | 2,161.67 |
| G | £160,001 to 320,000 | 2,494.23 |
| H | £320,001 and over | 2,993.08 |

Levies

Some of the money the council receives each year is paid out to other public bodies as levies. These amounts are shown in the table below:

| | 2018-19 £m |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Lee Valley Regional Park | 0.3 |
| London Pensions Fund Authority | 0.3 |
| Environment Agency | 0.2 |
| West London Waste Authority | 2.1 |
| TOTAL | 2.9 |

Changes in spending

Changes in spending are summarised in the table below:

| Changes in Spending | £m |
|--|--------------|
| 2017-18 Council tax requirement | 106.9 |
| add cost pressures | 14.4 |
| add reduction in Government Grants | 9.9 |
| less service area savings | -12.9 |
| other central adjustments | -3.3 |
| 2018-19 Council tax requirement | 115.0 |

