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Brent Council Spending

Information for council tax and business rate payers

2019-2020

Message from the Leader of Brent Council Councillor Muhammed Butt

Dear Brent resident,

Deep and sustained central Government funding cuts to local councils across the country continue. In Brent's case, by 2020 the money we receive directly from central Government will have been cut by 79%. For another year we have needed to make very difficult decisions about what we can afford to protect.

We are now at a point where local authorities around the country are at real risk of financial failure. We've avoided that in Brent through careful budgeting and by improving efficiency. If we hadn't done so we'd now have to make more really painful decisions about services – from children's centres to litter picking – which we know residents rely on and value.

Regrettably, with much of our remaining money now coming from local taxes instead of from central Government, we now need to increase council tax. The vast majority of council's across the UK are in the same boat and are also putting up council tax this year.

I won't pretend that finding an extra £1.66 a week will be easy, and I know that this will be a pressure many of us could do without.

Nevertheless, in return, my commitment to you is that this council will continue working in the best interests of everyone who's made Brent their home. We will continue to strive to ensure ours is a more considerate borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy, and healthy.

Despite the financial pressures, we want to build a better Brent – a borough in which every resident has every opportunity to succeed.

With all of the above in mind, if you ever have any questions or concerns about what we are doing as a council, or if you are ever in need of some help or advice, please do get in touch using any of the contact details below.

Best wishes,



Councillor Muhammed Butt

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The council's spending plans

Services the council provides

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

- More than 4,100 elderly and vulnerable adults receiving social care from the council
- 48,249 pupils being taught in Brent schools
- 221 new school places created
- More than 122,000 households rubbish collected
- 24,399 cases of illegal dumped rubbish cleared up
- 5,327 planning applications processed in 2018 and 72 apprenticeships confirmed via Brent Works
- More than 26,000 streetlights maintained
- 315 miles of streets and pavement maintained
- 2,586 potholes filled or repaired
- 985 allotment plots across 22 sites
- 110 parks and open spaces maintained
- 2,536,835 library visits
- 1,753,790 leisure centre visits

Paying for these services

Altogether the council plans over £1 billion gross spending* in 2019-20 on services.

The majority of the money comes from government grants – for example, the council is estimated to receive £217 million in grant for schools and another £341 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	276.0
Specific grants	-34.0
Business rates retained	-120.0
Total council tax requirement	122.0

* 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:

- more people with social care needs in line the long term trend of an ageing population
- increases in the amount the council needs to pay toward the cost of households in hotels and other forms of temporary accommodation
- increased landfill tax on the disposal of household waste

The council will deliver £9.5m of savings in 2019-20. 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 2018-19 and 2019-20 is shown on page 9.

Brent's spending plans

	2019-2020 GROSS SPEND	NET SPEND	2018-2019 GROSS SPEND	NET SPEND
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Community and Well-being	203.9	125.0	198.8	123.9
Council Housing	54.3	0.0	57.7	0.0
Children and Young People	53.6	40.7	56.2	41.6
Schools	217.0	0.0	218.5	0.0
Regeneration and Environment	78.5	28.8	79.4	30.9
Housing Benefit	341.0	0.0	349.0	0.0
Resources	55.9	34.7	56.4	35.6
Performance Policy & Partnerships	11.1	9.5	11.8	10.2
Direct Services	1,015.3	238.7	1,027.8	242.2
Other Budgets	34.4	34.4	22.8	22.8
Total local services provided by Brent	1,049.7	273.1	1,050.6	265.0
Levies	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Brent's budget requirements	1,052.6	276.0	1,053.5	267.9
Retained Business Rates		(120.0)		(122.5)
Specific Grants		(34.0)		(30.4)
Brent's council tax requirement		122.0		115.0
Greater London Authority		31.0		28.2
Council Tax requirements		153.0		143.2

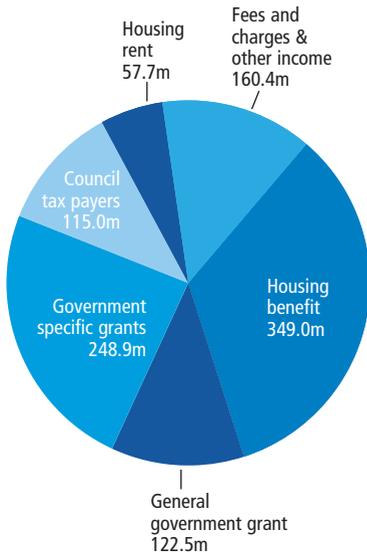
Notes

The figures for schools have been restated to exclude academy funding

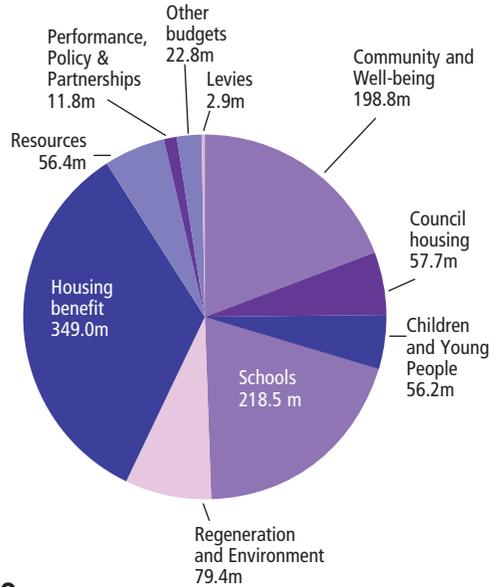
Brent's income and expenditure

2018-2019

Income (£)

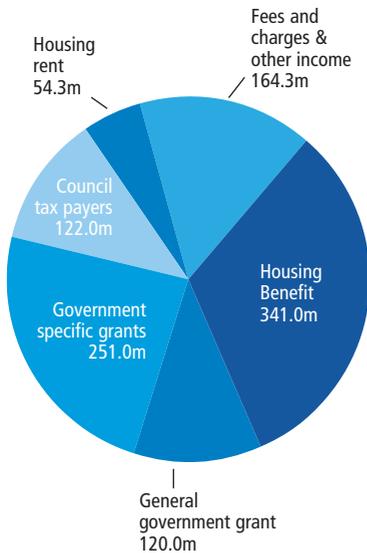


Expenditure (£)

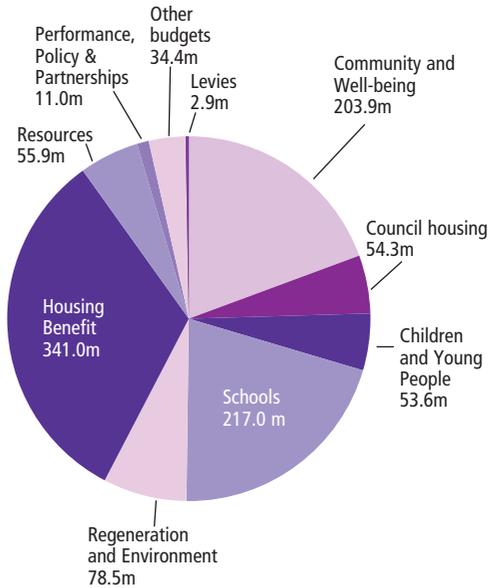


2019-2020

Income (£)



Expenditure (£)



Spending by the Greater London Authority

Introduction

This is Sadiq Khan's third 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 opportunity 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 tightening resources from the Government over the last decade. 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 homes. The budget provides resources to support jobs and growth, tackle rough sleeping and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live too. It also provides 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 ongoing impact of real terms cuts in government grant since 2010.

For councils like Brent with social care responsibilities, the Secretary of State has made the following statement to explain increases: "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."

Council tax for GLA Services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £26.28 (or 50p per week) to £320.51. The additional income raised will fund the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £78.38.

Council Tax (£)	2018-19	Change	2019-20
MOPAC (Met Police)	218.13	24.00	242.13
LFEPA (Fire Brigade)	50.22	2.78	53.00
GLA	23.84	-0.46	23.38
TfL (Transport)	2.04	-0.04	2.00
Total	294.23	26.28	320.51

Investing in frontline services

This budget will enable the Mayor to fulfil his key priorities for London. 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;
- Continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, using £4.8 billion of funding to support starts of 116,000 new affordable homes by 2022;
- Providing the best policing service possible within the funding made available by the Government with resources being provided in his Budget for an additional 1,300 police officers in 2019-20;
- 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 to ensure that first and second fire engines arrive, on average, 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 and working to complete the Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail), the Northern line extension to Battersea Power station and the Overground extension to Barking Riverside as soon as possible. The Mayor will also maintain the Night Tube and Night Overground services;
- Investing £2.3 billion in Healthy Streets by 2024 to fund projects to enable more walking and cycling across London. The Mayor will also introduce the Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London to tackle local air pollution;
- Making public transport more accessible for everyone. Step-free access is planned to be introduced at a further 15 suburban tube stations by Spring 2020. All new Elizabeth line stations will be step free;
- 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 2019-20 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, 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. There has also been a 1.9 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: london.gov.uk/budget (tel: 020 7983 4000).

How the GLA budget is funded (£m) 2019-20

Gross expenditure	12,232.6
Government grants and retained business rates	-4,754.5
Fares, charges and other income	-6,522.1
Use of reserves	4.6
Amount met by council tax payers (£m)	960.6

Changes in spending (£m) 2019-20

Council tax requirement	865.7
Inflation	235.9
Efficiencies and other savings	-243.2
New initiatives	641.1
Other changes (for example fares revenue and government grants)	-538.9
2019-20 council tax requirement	960.6

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 2019-20 are shown below:

Band	Value of property
A	Up to £40,000
B	£40,001 to 52,000
C	£52,001 to 68,000
D	£68,001 to 88,000
E	£88,001 to 120,000
F	£120,001 to 160,000
G	£160,001 to 320,000
H	£320,001 and over

Changes in spending

Changes in spending are summarised in the table below:

	£m
2018-19 Council tax requirement	115.0
add cost pressures	18.0
add reduction in Government Grants	-1.0
less service area savings	-9.5
other central adjustments	-0.5
2019-20 Council tax requirement	122.0

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:

	2019-20 £m
Lee Valley Regional Park	0.2
London Pensions Fund Authority	0.4
Environment Agency	0.2
West London Waste Authority	2.1
TOTAL	2.9

