

A GUIDE TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2025/26



£5,000
Prize Draw
Returns

Don't miss out,
DETAILS INSIDE...

From your new civic
centre, **Bromley is...**

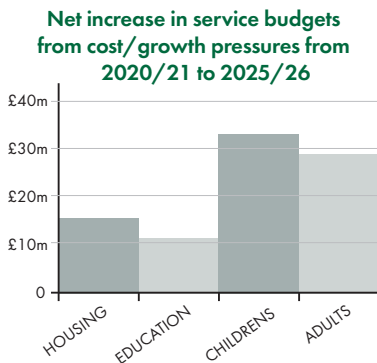
- Supporting residents with 'Outstanding', low-cost services
- Enhancing parks and protecting green places
- Prioritising investment in libraries and leisure centres



Bromley
calls for
fairer
government
funding.
READ MORE...

Unprecedented cost pressures

A total of £88m in net cost increases have been faced by the Council since 2020/21, which is more than the size of the current Environment department budget, for comparison. This is driven particularly by rocketing costs for Children's and Adult's Social Care, alongside the need to provide housing for homeless families.



Reducing costs by transforming services

The Council is tackling these cost rises head on, with every service being examined for potential savings as part of a council wide transformation programme, which has identified annual savings of £19m for the coming financial year alone.

Investing to save on Children's care

Our 'Outstanding' Children's services deliver local, high-quality care for children who need it, including the most vulnerable, with our Youth Justice service also being rated 'Outstanding' this year. Now by investing in our own children's home and creating an in-house therapeutic fostering service for children with more complex needs, we are both enhancing the care we can provide and reducing reliance on expensive placements and specialist providers from the private sector.

Securing housing for Bromley

Wherever possible, residents facing homelessness are supported to remain in their homes or helped to find alternatives. Where this is sadly not possible, the Council provides housing and pursues the most cost-effective options in securing the required properties. New 'Bromley homes for Bromley people' are being built on underused sites across the borough to help reduce reliance on costly nightly-paid accommodation. Housing acquisition programmes are then also used to purchase the required housing, keeping as close to the borough as possible. A total of 800 properties are already being secured through joint investments with partners, with a further programme to purchase 50 properties having been agreed, which will prioritise empty homes.





Message from the Executive Councillor for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Dear Resident,

As you know our priority will always be to deliver the high-quality services that you deserve, while ruthlessly driving efficiency wherever possible to keep costs to our council taxpayers to an absolute minimum.

Yet the unprecedented cost pressures we, like all local authorities, are facing are severely constraining the options available to us. We have faced years of rising costs particularly for Children's Social Care and in providing housing for homeless families. A further £32.4m in cost pressures is being projected this new financial year and government funding over many years has been simply insufficient to deal with the scale of this challenge.

Some local authorities have failed to deal with these pressures, as a growing number across the country face issuing Section 114 notices to effectively declare bankruptcy and many others, including seven London boroughs having recently sought emergency government funding, including permission to significantly hike up council tax.

Our careful financial management over many years has shielded us for now with a balanced budget delivered this year, but a projected 'budget deficit' of £26.6m remains for 2026/27. We need Government to provide adequate funding to be able to address this, and importantly to distribute this funding fairly by rewarding rather than punishing efficient, low-cost authorities such as Bromley.

Despite these challenges and the tough scrutiny we are placing on all our services to produce savings, Bromley has been filled with success this year, with many examples throughout this booklet, including the investment we have prioritised for our libraries and leisure centres, which will also minimise costs over the long term.

I am also pleased to share that we are again running our £5,000 council tax prize draw for those paying your council tax by direct debit, which helps save us costs that can instead be spent on your Council services. I had the pleasure of delivering the good news to last year's winner, so don't miss your chance this year and thank you to all those who already pay in this way.

Kind regards

Councillor Christopher Marlow

Are you in the
£5,000
prize draw?

Simply pay your council tax by direct debit and you could win £5,000!

Paying by direct debit is quick and convenient, and is the lowest cost method for council tax collection, meaning more of your payment can be spent on council services.

You can manage this and get bills, statements and further services through your MyBromley Account.

Log in or register at

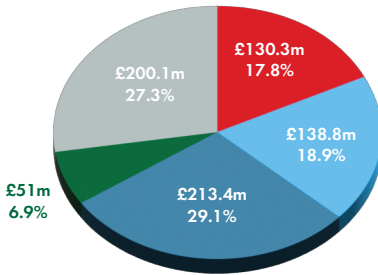
www.bromley.gov.uk/mybromleyaccount

How is the Council funded

Your council tax is extremely important for supporting the services all residents rely on and it is kept as low as possible in Bromley. However, council tax only covers around 30% of funding for Council services.

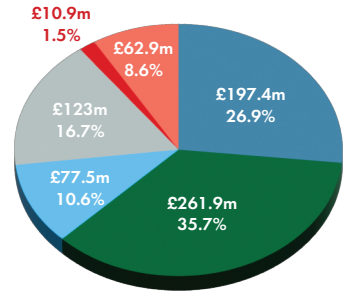
Greater and fairer government funding is needed to meet the rising costs being faced for the statutory services that the council must provide, such as housing for homeless families and in Children’s and Adult social care.

Funding of The Council’s Services 2025/26



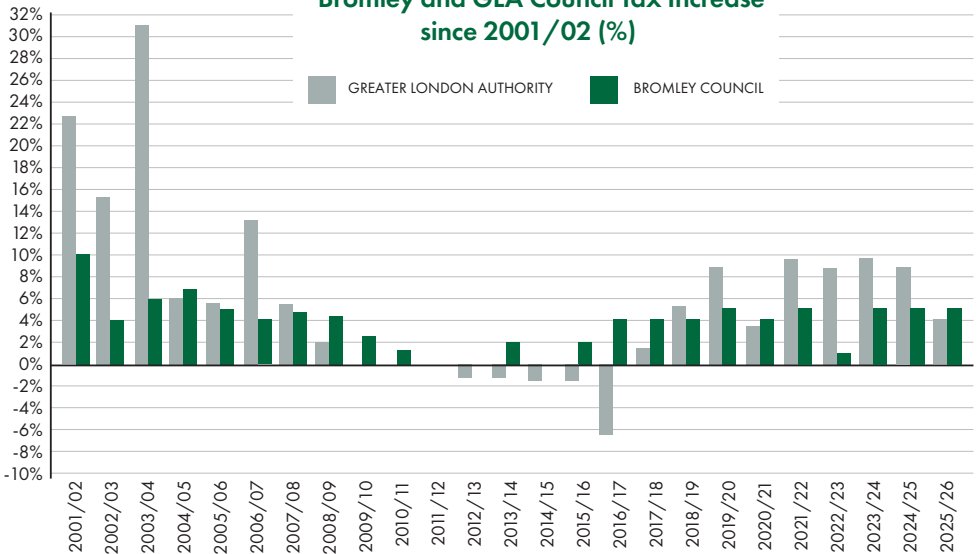
- Specific Grants
- Council Tax
- Dedicated Schools Grant
- Business Rates Retention
- Other - Fees and Charges etc

Where the Money Goes 2025/26



- Adult Care & Health
- Children, Education and Families
- Environment & Community Services
- Housing
- Freedom Pass Costs
- Other Council Services (Including Levies)

Bromley and GLA Council Tax Increase since 2001/02 (%)



How much will I pay?

Bromley's Council Tax requirement will result in a Council Tax bill for a Band D property of £2,042.46 in 2025/26.

Bromley and Greater London Authority Council Tax for a Band D property for this year compared to last year

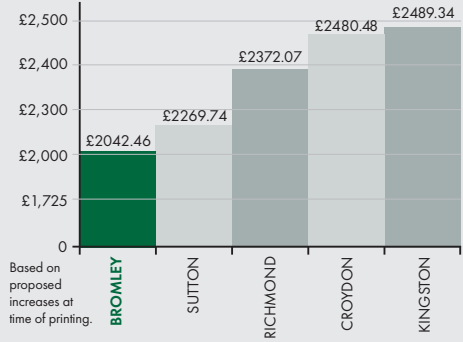
Taxing authority	2024/25	2025/26	Increase%
Bromley	£1,478.31	£1,552.08	4.99%
GLA	£471.40	£490.38	4.03%
Total	£1,949.71	£2,042.46	4.76%

Property Band	Council Tax £.p	
	2024/25	2025/26
A	1,299.81	1,361.64
B	1,516.44	1,588.58
C	1,733.07	1,815.52
D	1,949.71	2,042.46
E	2,382.98	2,496.34
F	2,816.25	2,950.22
G	3,249.52	3,404.10
5	3,899.42	4,084.92

Bromley calls for fairer Government funding

Careful financial management and low-cost services has kept Bromley's council tax rate low compared to other boroughs. Bromley's longstanding campaign for fairer Government funding is continuing, along with the call for additional funding to meet unprecedented cost rises across local government.

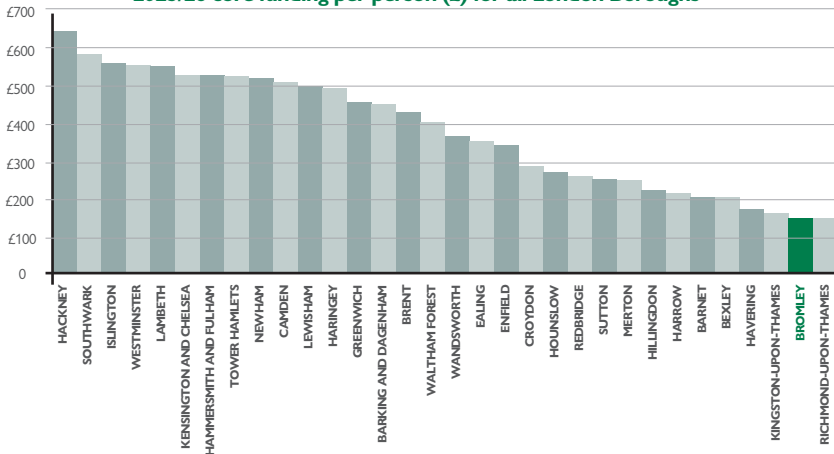
2025/26 Band D Council Tax rates compared to outer South London Boroughs



EXTRA £80.4 MILLION PER YEAR

The amount Bromley would get if it received the average Central Government settlement for London.

2025/26 core funding per person (£) for all London Boroughs



How does the national insurance rise affect Bromley?

As business owners across the borough will know, Employer's National Insurance contributions are increasing to 1.5% this year, which costs the Council as well.

The Council use various partner contractors to save costs in providing services for residents, including for waste collection and care homes, for instance. Increases in national insurance contributions will now add significantly to these costs and without further funding, this could cost the Council £2.6m per year for delivering services through this value-for-money model.



Smart investments

By making long-term decisions and reducing liabilities where possible, including making the best use of our properties, the Council can prioritise spending on services and invest where it is most needed.

Top performing investments have also made Bromley's pension scheme one of the top performing in the country, limiting the Council's contributions and directly saving £6m per year.

Supporting Bromley's businesses

The Council is continuing to support Bromley's economy and attract investment to the borough. Supporting local aspiring entrepreneurs and existing businesses to grow is key to this, with tailored business support available through the **Bromley Business Growth programme**.

The highly popular Start Up Bromley initiative, has supported over 800 entrepreneurs and businesses with regular expert-led sessions through Bromley's library network. A host of further support programmes are also available, including to help businesses expand into new markets, build their online presence or reduce their running costs.

www.bromley.gov.uk/BromleyBusinessGrowth



Cost saving civic centre move

By moving your civic centre to the purpose-built offices at Churchill Court, in the heart of Bromley town centre, millions are being saved on running costs and maintenance liabilities. The wider site also generates rental income for the Council and allows partner services to be brought into the wider site, with the new Bromley Health and Wellbeing Centre to house our health partners and GP surgery later this year. This move is part of a wider strategy to retain only the properties needed for council services, allowing investment to be prioritised where it is most needed.



Leisure centre transformation



The Walnuts and West Wickham leisure centres are one such priority, with works under way on the major refurbishment of both centres to be completed next year. New pools, gyms and changing rooms are amongst the improvements being delivered, which will also deliver essential repairs, including a new heating system fit for the future.

Investing in our libraries

Careful planning has also allowed for upgrades and repairs across the borough's library network to be undertaken, minimising future maintenance costs. This recognises the important role of libraries for many residents across the borough, which collectively issue over one million items each year. Beckenham and Burnt Ash Library reopened recently following essential works, with the refurbished and reconfigured West Wickham Library set to open soon.



Protecting Bromley's green spaces

There are over 160 parks and open green spaces across the borough, which the Council has long protected against development, including through strict Planning policy.



London's leading recycling borough

Bromley has for many years led London in recycling, being crowned the top recycling borough in 2023 and 2024 following many years of high performance. Over 58,000 tonnes of waste are recycled or composted each year, making up almost half of household waste, with virtually none being sent to landfill. Residents are thanked for the important part they play in this achievement through their recycling and waste reduction efforts.

As well as supporting the environment, recycling and waste minimisation help to minimise costs, meaning more is available for further council services.



Enhancing our parks

Over 35 initiatives have already been completed with support from the Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund, with thanks to Friends and resident groups who have supported. More children's play equipment, outdoor gyms and conservation improvements can now be enjoyed as a result, with more still to come. Streets have also been made that bit greener from 5,000 new street trees around the borough after the final phase of the Tremendous tree planting programme.

