

A GUIDE TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2024/25



Making **Bromley** Even Better with...

- London's top recycling borough
- 'Outstanding' Ofsted for Children's services
- Most library items issued in London

£5000
Prize Draw

FREE ENTRY
DETAILS INSIDE...



Transforming Bromley and saving council tax payer money



Top recycling

As London's top recycler, The Council is cutting costs and minimising waste with the help of residents.



Managing council properties

Multi-million cost-saving move into a new civic centre at Churchill Court is progressing, with other properties being released to the private sector, saving future council costs and generating funds.



LED Street lights

Saving £1 m per year from converting all 28,000 Bromley street lamps to LEDs, while also replacing 8,000 older concrete lamp columns.



Transforming services

Saved over £102m from a four-year transformation programme and other savings to reduce the council's growth/cost pressures, with the next phase to continue next year.



Increasing income

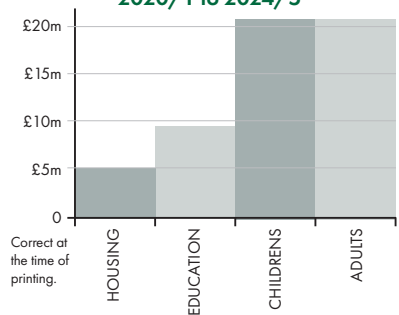
The Council looks for various opportunities to boost income streams, including careful investment, which is expected to generate around £18m in 2024/25

Cost increases

The Council set its budget and council tax level this year against the context of much-publicised national cost and growth pressures including for key local authority services.

Adults' and children's social care, special educational needs and housing services have all seen a significant increase in demand and costs needed to support these vital services for residents.

Net increase in service budgets from cost/growth pressures from 2020/1 to 2024/5





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

Dear Resident

While we continue to deliver high-performing services at a low cost for Bromley residents, this year's council tax is set against severe financial pressures affecting all local government due to the after effects of COVID and high inflation. Some authorities are already effectively bankrupt through issuing a Section 114 Notice, with Croydon being the most local example in recent times, but with other examples across the country and even more now teetering on the edge. Careful financial management over many years has put Bromley in a comparatively strong position. This is despite us receiving the second lowest proportional Government grant in London at £123 per person, against an average of £330 and Hackney's £556.

We expect the situation to remain challenging in the coming years, given growing demand for adults' and children's social care and the rising cost of housing Bromley's homeless families. Despite this, we always endeavour to keep council tax as low as possible, and despite the unprecedented challenges, our increase this year of 4.99% is still smaller than the increase in Greater London Authority's precept of 8.6%. This marks the fourth year in a row that the GLA's tax increase has been over 3% higher than The Council's.

Finally, thanks to those already paying your council tax by direct debit. This saves The Council money while saving you time, and enters you automatically into a £5,000 tax-free prize draw – a win-win all round!

Kind regards

Councillor Christopher Marlow

Don't miss the £5,000 prize draw!

All residents who pay their council tax by direct debit are automatically entered into a prize draw, with the chance to win £5,000 - tax-free!

Paying council tax by direct debit is quick and easy, with almost three quarters of residents paying this way already. You can sign up online at www.bromley.gov.uk/MyBromleyAccount

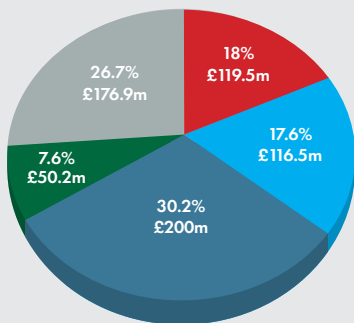
By paying council tax by direct debit, this also saves The Council costs, which could otherwise be spent on important council services.

How We Deliver Your Services

The Council continues to successfully deliver services for residents while upholding a commitment to careful financial management and long-term planning.

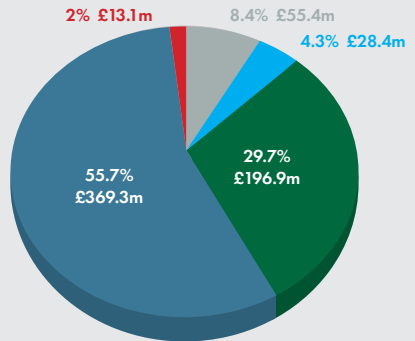
As the cost pressures on services continue, with Bromley also receiving low Central Government funding compared to other boroughs, increasingly difficult options for services must be looked at in the coming years as part of delivering the balanced budget.

Funding of The Council's Services 2024/25

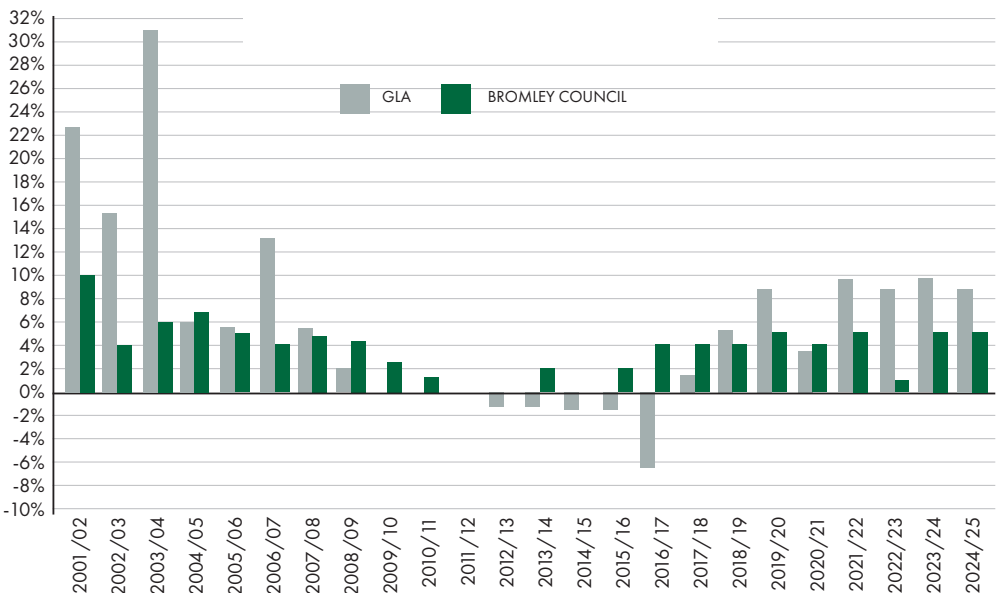


- Specific Grants
- Council Tax
- Dedicated Schools Grant
- Business Rates Retention
- Other - Fees and Charges etc

Where the Money Goes 2024/25



- People Dept
- Place Dept
- Delegated Schools Budget
- Chief Executive
- Other (Including Levies)



How much will I pay?

Bromley's Council Tax requirement will result in a Council Tax bill for a Band D property of £1949.71 in 2024/25.

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

Taxing authority	2023/24	2024/25	Increase%
Bromley (general)	£1,218.25	£1,260.35	2.99%
Bromley (ASC precept)	£189.80	£217.96	2.00%
Bromley (total)	£1,408.05	£1,478.31	4.99%
GLA	£434.14	£471.40	8.58%
Total	£1,842.19	£1,949.71	5.84%

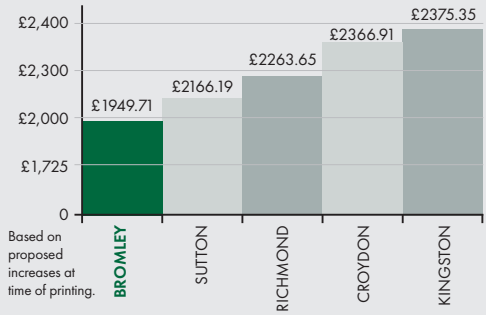
Property Band	Council Tax £.p	
	2023/24	2024/25
A	1,228.13	1,299.81
B	1,432.81	1,516.44
C	1,637.50	1,733.07
D	1,842.19	1,949.71
E	2,251.57	2,382.98
F	2,660.94	2,816.25
G	3,070.32	3,249.52
H	3,684.38	3,899.42

How Bromley Compares

Bromley's council tax rate and level of funding from Central Government remains low compared to other boroughs.

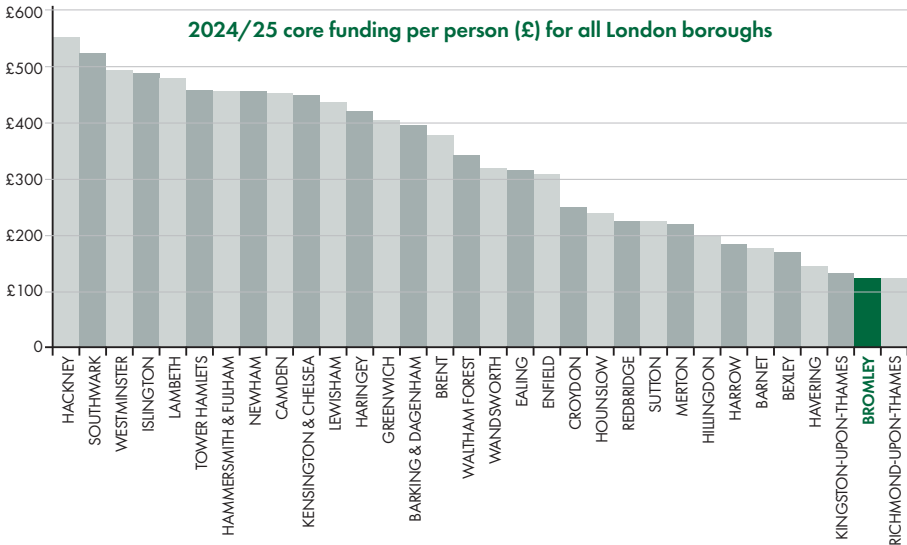
Bromley continues to call for fair funding between local authorities to ensure residents get the services they need and deserve.

2024/25 Band D Council Tax rates compared to outer South London Boroughs



Extra £53.7million per year

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



The tough inspections, carried out by Ofsted to ensure children are kept safe, gave Bromley the highest rating in all categories:

1. Impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families – **Outstanding**
2. Experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – **Outstanding**
3. Experiences and progress of children in care – **Outstanding**
4. Experiences and progress of care leavers – **Outstanding**
5. Overall effectiveness – **Outstanding**

Outstanding Children's Services

Only a handful of local authorities in the country have achieved Outstanding across the board for Children's Services under Ofsted's latest tougher inspection regime, with Bromley achieving this outstanding result in all inspection categories.

Bromley's "effective, high-quality services" were praised by inspectors, who recognised the relentless hard work that goes into providing the support and opportunities for young people who cannot be cared for within their own families.

Find out more about social care services at www.bromley.gov.uk/SocialCare

Building Affordable Housing

The Council are continuing to secure affordable housing locally, including through working with partner housing associations and through building on council land.

Following the first stage of the 'Bromley homes for Bromley people' programme which saw 60 new affordable homes across the borough, works are now underway in West Wickham, Orpington and at Bromley North, with further schemes also being explored.



Homes for Ukraine



Since the start of the war, 840 Ukrainian guests have been housed in Bromley thanks to the compassion of Bromley residents, with a weekly Ukraine Support Hub also being run by The Council to provide information and advice as needed.

To find out more, visit www.bromley.gov.uk/Ukraine

Top recycling again!



Bromley has once again been crowned the top recycling borough in London, continuing the sustained performance of recent years, with residents again thanked for their recycling and waste reduction efforts that made this possible.

48.7 per cent of all household waste was recycled in 2022/23, with the remainder of the borough's waste largely being sent to an Energy Recovery Facility and virtually zero being sent to landfill. The amount of waste being disposed of also fell by 6% or 7.5 tonnes.

As well as supporting the environment, recycling and waste minimisation reduces costs, helping to free up funds for further council services.

Bromley, with service partner Veolia, operate a range of recycling collection services, including green garden waste collection at £70 a year.

Find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/Waste

Supporting Residents

Efforts to tackle loneliness across the borough have continued this year, with Bromley holding its first Tackling Loneliness Summit. A partnership approach is key to Bromley's strategy, as seen this Christmas when almost 5,000 Christmas cards were sent from various schools and children's groups to those in need of some festive cheer.

A renewed commitment was also made to support Bromley's armed forces community through the signing of the armed forces covenant, with this work ongoing.

A warm welcome is also found throughout Bromley's library network, which as well as issuing over 1.5 million items each year, has friendly staff at the ready to support residents as needed.



London's Greenest Borough

With more than 6,150 acres of parks, nine green flag recognised green spaces, and over 60,000 streets and park trees across the borough, there's a reason that Bromley is considered London's greenest borough.

The Council is continuing to protect and enhance this status with improvements to parks and green spaces and through the Tremendous tree planting which has already seen over 3,000 trees planted since the programme began.

Park Projects Underway!



The green light has already been given on 33 park improvements across the borough funded by the £1m Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund, with some improvements completed and more still to come!

Find out more at
www.bromley.gov.uk/JubileeParksFund

Beckenham Bandstand Restored



The specialist restoration of the much-loved bandstand, where David Bowie famously performed, is on the verge of completion, and is anticipated to be back in use this summer. Dedicated residents and Bowie fans are being thanked for their support in making this a reality. This includes the Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground, just one of the amazing Friends of Parks groups across the borough.