

Council Tax and Business Rates in Barnet

2020/21

We are currently updating this booklet in light of Central Government's recent information around Coronavirus relief for businesses. Please bear with us and we will share more detail in due course.

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Message from the Leader of the Council

Barnet is a welcoming home to more than 23,000 businesses. We are continuing to support entrepreneurialism, employers, and a strong jobs market - all of which are essential to creating a thriving borough.

Business Rates help pay for the services that make Barnet a great place for people to live, work, and study - people who are your customers and employees. Revenue from Business Rates also enables us to invest in infrastructure and support services essential for growing and sustaining business. You can find out more information about Business Rates at: www.barnet.gov.uk/business/business-rates

We still face a tough financial landscape to close a budget gap of £71.7 million between now and 2025, with £17.3 million in savings to be made in the new financial year alone. This is on top of the £174 million that we have saved since 2010. Despite this background we are finding ever more innovative ways to make Barnet a great place to do business.

At a grassroots level, the ever-popular 'Barnet's Big Idea' competition nurtures budding local entrepreneurs and students, giving them the platform to showcase their business ideas and vie for winning a share of the £10,000 prize fund. The annual Pop-Up Business School that we run at Brent Cross shopping centre is well-established. Over two weeks, we help people develop their commercial ideas and knowledge through workshops that teach them the essentials of building a business from scratch.

For more established enterprises, our support programmes have advised and assisted more than 250 businesses over the past year.

We want to put Barnet on the map, so we are launching Barnet Live – a networking and knowledge-sharing expo to develop new business opportunities. The expo will feature 60 exhibitors and host more than 400 delegates in June 2020, so stay tuned for more information.

On a broader level, significant progress is being made in fulfilling our ambition for Brent Cross to become North London's premier destination for business, retail, leisure and living. This is one of the biggest growth programmes of its kind in the capital.

We have moved a step closer to building the new Brent Cross West Thameslink station which is on track to open in 2022. The £40 million station will connect Brent Cross to Kings Cross St Pancras, with up to eight trains an hour. The 15-minute ride will dramatically improve journey times between Barnet and the M1 corridor and central London.

The Brent Cross South development, delivered jointly with developer Argent Related, is on track to create a new town centre replete with 6,700 homes, three-million square feet of commercial space and 25,000 jobs.

I would like to thank the many thousands of businesses that make a huge contribution to Barnet and its extraordinary growth.



Councillor Dan Thomas,
Leader of Barnet Council

Council Budgets 2020/21

This gives a broad outline of gross council spending in the coming year.

Barnet Council's total spending for the coming year is planned to be £950.264m.

Despite uncertainty over funding from government, we are continuing to prioritise frontline services. We have done this by making efficiency savings across all services and prioritising services for those most in need.

Service type	£m
Adults and Health	152.902
Assurance (incl. electoral services and internal audit)	6.941
Children's Family Services	79.246
Children's Service DSG (Schools)	230.680
Commercial, Management, Back Office, Housing & Development	73.497
Environment	60.793
Corporate Expenses (Housing Benefits, Capital financing, and levies)	261.080
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	61.533
Planning & Regulation	23.594
Total	950.264

How we spend your money

Council spending (millions)

Adults and Health £152.902m

Includes: Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention, Leisure, Sports & Physical Activities, Corporate Health & Safety

Assurance (and electoral services and internal audit) £6.941m

Includes: Internal Audit, Counter Fraud Operations, Electoral Service, Governance, Organisational Resilience, Information Management, Assurance & Business Development and Community Safety.

Children's Family Services £79.246m

Includes: Children in Care, Safeguarding, Support for Vulnerable Families, Youth Activities, Fostering and Adoption.

Children's Services DSG (Schools) £230.680m

Includes: Education Management, High Needs Support. Also includes Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Nurseries.

Commercial, Management and Back Office, Housing & Development £73.497m

Includes: Commercial & IT Services, Growth & Development (Estates, Housing & Regeneration), Human Resources & Organisational Development, Communications and Strategy.

Environment £60.793m

Includes: Street Scene, Transport & Highways (includes Parking & Infrastructure) and Green Spaces & Leisure.

Corporate Expenses £261.080m

Includes: Housing Benefits, Financial Planning, Insurance, Revenue & Benefits, Grants, Finance Business Partnering, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Closure, Treasury Management & Pension Finance.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) £61.533m

Planning & Regulation £23.594m

Includes: Highway and Pavement Maintenance, Regulatory Services, Trading Standards, and Environmental Health.

How are we doing?

Barnet continues to be an attractive and successful borough. The council delivers a wide range of services and a summary of how we are performing is published online at: www.barnet.gov.uk/performance

Barnet is a place where people want to live, work and study. Our most recent residents' survey found that 85 per cent of people are satisfied with Barnet as a place to live and 65 per cent of people are satisfied with the way the council runs things.

Barnet has some of the best schools in the country, with 97 per cent of primary, secondary and nursery schools rated as good or better by Ofsted. GCSE results are well above the national average, with Barnet schools ranking second in the country for Progress 8 and Attainment 8. Our strength-based approach to adult social care offers residents more control over the way they live their lives with increased resilience and independence. We have expanded the care and support options available to older and vulnerable residents, such as extra care homes, technology services, employment support and supported living, which has enabled us to maintain low levels of new admissions to residential care (6.2 admissions per 100,000 population for working age adults and 378 admissions per 100,000 population for older adults), which compares favourably to our neighbouring London boroughs. We have also enhanced health care support to care homes to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and facilitate smooth hospital admissions and discharges, helping to keep delayed transfers of care low (3.23 per 100,000 population attributable to adult social care).

Ofsted undertook a full inspection of our Children's Services in May 2019 and judged them to be good on all four domains: help and protection services; services to children in care and care leavers; leadership and management of social care practice; and overall effectiveness.

Barnet has several major growth and regeneration schemes, including in Brent Cross Cricklewood and Colindale, as well as estate schemes at West Hendon, Grahame Park, Dollis Valley, Stonegrove and Spur Road; and infill schemes at Granville Road and Upper and Lower Fosters. These schemes will see the development of thousands of new homes in the borough. Preventing people from becoming homeless continues to be a priority for the council, with 935 homelessness preventions in 2019¹. Whilst households in temporary accommodation is at our lowest level for over five years (2,466²).

1 April to December 2019

2 April to December 2019

How are we doing?

continued

Through the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership, we work with other public sector agencies to address crime and anti-social behaviour, ensuring Barnet remains one of the safest boroughs in London. Our crime rate at 71.9 remains well below the London average of 89.9. In 2019, significant work has gone into addressing repeat anti-social behaviour (ASB), with new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) put in place at repeat ASB locations in Burnt Oak, Edgware Town Centre, Childs Hill and High Barnet to address street drinking. These PSPOs have shown to be effective in reducing ASB, and alcohol related calls to the London ambulance service.

We have continued to invest in the borough's roads and pavements through the Network Recovery Plan, with £12million committed for the next two years (2020/21 and 2021/22). Over 160 carriageway and footway schemes planned for 2019/20 have been completed³. Several schemes to improve safety, parking and local transport have been undertaken as part of Transport for London's Local Implementation Plan. Emergency defects are completed within a two hour timeframe.

We are committed to improving services for residents and customers, including the number and range of services available online. A new website was launched in February 2019, making it easier and quicker for customers to access key information and complete tasks online. There are more people using our online services than ever before, with an 85 per cent increase in web volumes and an 11 per cent reduction in phone volumes compared to 2018⁴.

3 April to December 2019

4 Data for Q3 19/20

What you pay

The amount of Council Tax payable for homes in each valuation band, before any discounts, reliefs or benefits, is:

Valuation Band	Range of values	Proportion of Band D charge	2020/2021 charge	of which Barnet receives	GLA receives
A	Up to £40,000	6/9	£1,070.56	£849.18	£221.38
B	£40,001 – £52,000	7/9	£1,248.99	£990.71	£258.28
C	£52,001 – £68,000	8/9	£1,427.41	£1,132.24	£295.17
D	£68,001 – £88,000	9/9	£1,605.84	£1,273.77	£332.07
E	£88,001 – £120,000	11/9	£1,962.69	£1,556.83	£405.86
F	£120,001 – £160,000	13/9	£2,319.55	£1,839.89	£479.66
G	£160,001 – £320,000	15/9	£2,676.40	£2,122.95	£553.45
H	More than £320,000	18/9	£3,211.68	£2,547.54	£664.14

You can find the valuation band for your home on the front of your bill. Valuation bands are set by the Valuation Office and not the council.

web: www.gov.uk/voa/contact

tel: 03000 501501

Your Contact Details

The Revenues Service routinely uses SMS/text messages to contact residents about their Council Tax account. This includes our processes for arrears. If you fail to pay your Council Tax on time we will make attempts to contact you via your mobile, landline telephone and/or email address. These messages provide an informal reminder before we begin formal enforcement. If you receive a SMS/text and you are concerned whether it is genuine please refer to the Council Tax pages of our website where more information about this service can be found.

Appeals against valuation bands

If you are considering appealing against your band please remember that valuation bands are based upon property values on 1 April 1991 – so recent purchases are not the best evidence of value for Council Tax purposes.

There are only limited occasions when taxpayers can challenge their banding.

For further details of the appeals procedure or enquiries about the banding of your property, contact the Valuation Office.

Remember

Making an appeal does not allow you to withhold payment of any tax you owe. If your appeal is successful you will receive a refund of any overpaid tax.

Who has to pay Council Tax?

The person living in the property with the greatest legal right to it is responsible for paying Council Tax.

To work out who is responsible for your home, look down the list below until you come to the category of resident that applies to you:

- The owner of the property (who owns the freehold)
- A person who owns the lease
- A tenant (including council tenants)
- Someone who has a licence to live in the property
- Someone who just lives there.

If no adults live in the property as their main home, the owner or person entitled to possession is responsible for paying the Council Tax bill.

In some special cases, including houses in multiple occupation (such as bedsits), it is the owner who is responsible for paying the Council Tax and not the residents.

A resident is a person aged 18 years or over who lives in the dwelling as their only or main home.

Joint owners or tenants are jointly liable for one Council Tax bill for the dwelling. Husbands and wives and civil partners of liable people are also jointly responsible for paying the bill.

Exemptions

Some properties may qualify for an exemption. This means that no Council Tax is paid on them. If you think you are entitled to an exemption, please contact us (see page 11).

Exemptions – properties occupied only by:

- a person(s) who is (are) severely mentally impaired
- full-time students (and their spouses or dependants who are not British citizens and not allowed to work or claim benefits in this country)
- school or college leavers
- visiting forces
- UK armed forces accommodation
- people aged under 18
- foreign diplomats or senior officials of international organisations headquartered in the UK
- dependent relatives living in a separate dwelling forming part of a larger property.

The 100 per cent exemption for homes undergoing major repair (Class A) has been replaced with a Class D discount of 0 per cent.

The 100 per cent exemption for homes that are unoccupied and unfurnished (Class C) has been replaced with a Class E discount of 0 per cent.

Exemptions – unoccupied properties which:

- are owned by a charity (exempt for up to six months)
- were previously occupied by someone who has gone into prison or who has moved to receive personal care in a hospital or home on a long-term basis
- are left empty by someone who has moved to provide personal care to another person
- are awaiting probate or letters of administration to be granted (and for up to six months after) following the death of the last occupier
- have been repossessed and are unoccupied
- are the responsibility of a Bankrupt's Trustee
- are empty because their occupation is forbidden by law or planning conditions
- are awaiting occupation by a Minister of Religion
- is a pitch or a mooring which does not have a caravan or houseboat on it.

Claims for exemption should be made by contacting us through our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or writing to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ. Alternatively, please phone 020 8359 2000 (select option 2) for further advice.

You can also get further information about exemptions, discounts and other reductions from our website:

www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax

Fighting fraud in Barnet

Do you suspect or know of anyone committing fraud against the London Borough of Barnet?

If you do, please contact the Corporate Anti Fraud Team on our 24 hour Fraud Hotline: 020 8359 2007 or email: caft@barnet.gov.uk

Instalments to pay your Council Tax

Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay and offers a choice of six different payment dates. You can set up a Direct Debit on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/directdebit. Please refer to the back of your Council Tax demand notice for other methods of paying your Council Tax in instalments.

Your Council Tax Demand is for the full financial year from April to March, but you can pay in monthly instalments. These are usually over 10 months; if you would like to spread payments over 12 months we must receive your application in writing by your first April instalment to qualify for the full 12 months.

Contact us on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or write to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ.

Alternatively please phone: 020 8359 2000 (select option 2) for further advice.

Appeals against liability

You can appeal:

- if you disagree that a dwelling is chargeable
- if you disagree that you are liable to pay Council Tax on a particular dwelling
- if you disagree that a discount or exemption has not been applied or that no reduction for disabilities has been given.

If you wish to appeal you should initially contact us on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or write to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ. Please clearly state that you are making an appeal.

Adult Social Care Precept

Costs for adult social care are unpredictable, and councils are required by law to meet eligible social care needs. The cost of social care depends on how many people require care and support for their individual needs. In Barnet we have both a growing and ageing population and demand for social care is increasing. At the same time the costs of providing care are rising. The precept provides more care for older people including those with dementia. The precept will also help to pay for services which help individuals look after themselves such as lunch clubs and befriending services.

In 2016/17 the government allowed councils to apply a social care precept of up to 2 per cent on Council Tax to meet the increasing costs of adult social care. Barnet applied a social care precept of 1.7 per cent to Council Tax in 2016/17. In 2017/18, the government allowed councils the flexibility of applying a further social care precept of 6 per cent over 3 years on Council Tax to spend exclusively on adult social care, (including care for the elderly) and the council set the social care precept at 3 per cent on Council Tax and applied a further precept of 3 per cent in 2018/19. This meant the council could not apply a further increase to the social care precept in 2019/20.

For 2020/21, the government has extended the ability to apply a 2 per cent Adult Social Care Precept to help fund the increasing cost pressures that councils are experiencing in relation to the provision of Adult Social Care. An Adult Social Care Precept of 2 per cent has been applied to council Tax for 2020/21.

Discounts

Full Council Tax is charged on a property if there are two adults or more living there. If only one adult lives in the property we will reduce your bill by 25 per cent.

When counting the number of adults at a property there are certain people we will disregard. If after disregarding people only one person is counted, a 25 per cent discount can be granted. People who are disregarded are listed below:

- full-time students, student nurses or foreign language assistants and dependants or foreign spouses of students
- school and college leavers under 20 where they left school after 1 May, having finished a qualifying course of education
- over 18 year olds who have child benefit paid for them
- severely mentally impaired
- people whose main home is a hospital, residential care home, nursing home or hostel
- in prison
- members of religious communities who have no income or capital of their own
- employed as care workers for more than 24 hours per week and paid £44 per week or less
- living in the same property as a disabled person they are caring for (other than a husband, wife, partner or child under 18)
- diplomats or senior officials of international organisations headquartered in the UK
- visiting forces
- apprentices earning less than £195 per week
- YTS trainees under 25.

From 1 April 2014, where a property is an annexe used by the owner or tenant of the main dwelling, a 50 per cent discount will apply for the annexe.

Empty properties

If a home is unfurnished and unoccupied you must advise the council.

Certain other vacant properties are exempt if other criteria are met (see page 11).

The owner or person who is entitled to possession is liable to pay the full Council Tax.

Second homes

The council changed the second home discount percentage with effect from 1 April 2013 – the 10 per cent discount for second homes has been reduced from 10 per cent to 0 per cent.

A second home is a property that is furnished but is no-one's main home, including a furnished let between tenancies.

The bill for a caravan or boat that is a second home will be reduced by 50 per cent.

Most discounts and exemptions can be applied for at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax, where you can also ask further questions. Alternatively, please write to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ.

Empty Home Premium

Any homes that have been empty and unfurnished for more than two years are charged a premium of up to 100% on top of their normal Council Tax. From the 1 April 2020 this premium will increase to 200% if the property has remained empty and unfurnished for 5 years or more.

There are some exceptions to this:

- where the property has been left unoccupied because the owner is required contractually to live elsewhere in England or Wales because of their job and they pay Council Tax at that address they will only pay 50 per cent of the full charge
- where a property has been left unoccupied and is an annexe to another property which is being used as the sole or main residence of the owner, they will not have to pay the 50 per cent premium if the property has been empty for more than two years.

Council Tax discretionary relief scheme

Barnet Council has a discretionary discount policy to help you to reduce your Council Tax liability if you are struggling to pay your council tax bill. This is in accordance with Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Applications must be made in writing and will be considered on an individual basis and depend on your personal and financial circumstances. You can download a form at www.barnet.gov.uk/counciltax

If you require further advice please contact the Discretionary Housing Payment Team on tel: 020 8359 2442 for assistance.

Council Tax Support

The key features of Barnet's Council Tax Support scheme from 1 April 2019 are:

1. Pensioners continue to be treated as they would be under the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme
2. Everyone of working age, except those that fall into a protected group, will have to pay a minimum contribution of 28 per cent of their Council Tax liability.
3. Entitlement for working age, except those that fall into a protected group, will no longer be calculated using a complicated means test. Instead it will be calculated using a simple banding system taking into account earned income.

4. The capital limit will be £6,000. This means if you have capital over this amount there will be no entitlement to support.
5. A minimum income floor will apply for self-employed people meaning if they declare earnings less than minimum wage then an assumed income will be calculated using minimum wage and expected number of hours to be worked.
6. Everyone of working age, except those that fall into a protected group, will no longer have child care costs included in the calculation of their award.

You may be able to reduce your Council Tax if you are on a low income or claim benefits. How much the reduction is depends on your individual circumstances.

You can find more information about Barnet's Council Tax Support scheme at: www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax

Reductions for people with disabilities

You may get your bill reduced if anyone in your household has a room, an extra bathroom or kitchen or extra space to meet special needs arising from a disability.

This could be reduced to the valuation band directly below your existing one.

If you think you might be entitled to a reduction, please request an application form. You can contact us through our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/council-tax or by writing to: Barnet Council, Local Taxation, PO Box 237, Erith, DA8 9HJ. Alternatively, please phone 020 8359 2000 (select option 2) for further advice.

Change of circumstances

If you are in receipt of a discount, exemption or reduction to your Council Tax and you have a change in your circumstances during the year which may affect this, you must let the council know within 21 days of the change.

Non-Domestic Rates explained

Non-Domestic Rates

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Under the business rates retention arrangements introduced from 1 April 2013, authorities keep a proportion of the business rates paid locally. The money, together with revenue from council taxpayers, locally generated income and grants from central government, is used to pay for the services provided by local authorities in your area. Further information about the business rates system, may be obtained at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates and at www.barnet.gov.uk/business/business-rates.

Business Rate Supplements

The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 enables levying authorities – county councils, unitary district councils and, in London, the Greater London Authority – to levy a supplement on the business rate to support additional projects aimed at economic development of the area. This power has also been extended to the mayors of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Liverpool City Region, West of England, and West Midlands combined authorities. Business Rate Supplements (BRS) are not applicable to properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or below, and authorities have discretion to increase that threshold. The total maximum BRS which may be levied by a levying authority is 2p per pound of rateable value. Levying authorities have the power to apply such reliefs to the BRS as they think appropriate and, in such cases, must include an explanation of the rules for the application of those reliefs in the final prospectus for the BRS.

The business rate supplement applicable in London is being levied by the Greater London Authority in relation to the Crossrail project. The rateable value threshold in 2020-21 for the Crossrail BRS is £70,000. Further information may be found in the Crossrail BRS final prospectus which is available at www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs.

Rateable Value

Apart from properties that are exempt from business rates, each non-domestic property has a rateable value which is set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. They compile and maintain a full list of all rateable values, available at www.gov.uk/voa. The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of your bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date specified in legislation. For the current rating list, this date was set as 1 April 2015.

The Valuation Office Agency may alter the valuation if circumstances change. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can also check and challenge the valuation shown in the list if they believe it is wrong.

Further information about the grounds on which challenges may be made and the process for doing so can be found on the VOA website: www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-check-your-rateable-value-is-correct.

National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier

The local authority works out the business rates bill for a property by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate non-domestic multiplier. There are two multipliers: the national non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. The Government sets the multipliers for each financial year, except in the City of London where special arrangements apply.

Ratepayers who occupy a property with a rateable value which does not exceed £50,999 (and who are not entitled to certain other mandatory relief[s] or are liable for unoccupied property rates) will have their bills calculated using the lower small business non-domestic rating multiplier, rather than the national non-domestic rating multiplier.

The multiplier for a financial year is based on the previous year's multiplier adjusted to reflect the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation figure for the September prior to the billing year. The current multipliers are shown on the front of your bill.

Business Rates Instalments

Payment of business rate bills is automatically set on a 10-monthly cycle. However, the Government has put in place regulations that allow ratepayers to require their local authority to enable payments to be made through 12 monthly instalments. If you wish to take up this offer, you should contact the local authority as soon as possible.

Revaluations

All non-domestic property rateable values are reassessed at revaluations. The most recent revaluation took effect from 1 April 2017. Revaluations ensure that business rates bills

are up-to-date, more accurately reflect current rental values and relative changes in rents. Frequent revaluations ensure the system continues to be responsive to changing economic conditions.

Unoccupied Property Rate Relief

Business rates are generally payable in respect of unoccupied non-domestic property. However, they are generally not payable for the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain other properties (for example industrial premises). Full details on exemptions can be obtained from your local authority or from www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief.

Business Rate Reliefs

Depending on individual circumstances, a ratepayer may be eligible for a rate relief (i.e. a reduction in your business rates bill). There are a range of available reliefs. Some of the permanent reliefs are set out below but temporary reliefs are often introduced by the Government at Budgets. You should contact your local authority for details on the latest availability of business rates reliefs and advice on whether you may qualify. Further detail on reliefs is also provided at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates or at www.barnet.gov.uk/business/business-rates.

Small Business Rates Relief

If a ratepayer's sole or main property has a rateable value which does not exceed an amount set out in regulations, the ratepayer may receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for this property of up to a maximum of 100%. The level of reduction will depend on the rateable value of the property – for example eligible properties below a specified lower threshold will receive 100% relief, and you may receive partial tapered relief up to a specified

upper threshold. The relevant thresholds for relief are set out in regulations and can be obtained from your local authority or at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Generally, this percentage reduction (relief) is only available to ratepayers who occupy either-

- (a) one property, or
- (b) one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed the limit set in regulations.

The aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in (b), must also not exceed an amount set in regulations. For those businesses that take on an additional property which would normally have meant the loss of small business rate relief, they will be allowed to keep that relief for a fixed additional period. Full details on the relevant limits in relation to second properties and the current period for which a ratepayer may continue to receive relief after taking on an additional property can be obtained from your local authority or at www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by the ratepayer who is in receipt of relief (other changes will be picked up by the local authority). The changes which should be notified are-

- (a) the property falls vacant,
- (b) the ratepayer taking up occupation of an additional property, and
- (c) an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief.

Charity and Community Amateur Sports Club Relief

Charities and registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the club and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the club (or of that and other clubs).

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

Transitional Rate Relief

At a revaluation, some ratepayers will see reductions or no change in their bill whereas some ratepayers will see increases.

Transitional relief schemes are introduced at each revaluation to help those facing increases. This relief has been funded by limiting the reduction in bills for those who have benefitted from the revaluation. Transitional relief is applied automatically to bills. Further information about transitional arrangements and other reliefs may be obtained from the local authority or the website www.gov.uk/introduction-to-business-rates.

Local Discounts

Local authorities have a general power to grant discretionary local discounts and to give hardship relief in specific circumstances. Full details can be obtained from the local authority.

State Aid

The award of discretionary reliefs is considered likely to amount to state aid. However, it will be state aid compliant where it is provided in accordance with the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013. The De Minimis Regulations allow an undertaking to receive up to €200,000 'de minimis' aid over a rolling three-year period. If you are receiving, or have received, any 'de minimis' aid granted during the current or two previous financial years (from any source), you should inform the local authority immediately with details of the aid received.

Rating Advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS – website www.rics.org) and the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV – website www.irrv.org.uk) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct. Before you employ a rating adviser, you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.

Council Tax details 2020/21

Annual Budget and Performance Report

The net expenditure figures below represent the amount of Council Tax required to meet the combined needs of London Borough of Barnet and Barnet's share of the Greater London Authority (GLA) for 2020/21. The tax levied is based on there being the equivalent of 147,813 Band D properties (145,560 in 2019/20) in Barnet giving the standard charge of £1,605.84 which reflects a 1.99% increase in the Council Tax and a 2.0% increase in the Social Care precept (Barnet share only).

	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2019/20
	net expenditure	per Band D property	per head of population	net expenditure
	£	£	£	£
Direct Barnet Council Services	223,300,317	1,510.69	551.49	222,409,630
Plus levies and contributions:				
Environment Agency	338,049	2.29	0.83	335,000
Lea Valley Regional Park	345,966	2.34	0.85	360,000
London Pension Funds	499,959	3.38	1.23	511,000
Traffic Control Signals Unit	463,264	3.13	1.14	476,800
North London Waste Authority	13,570,383	91.81	33.52	11,796,000
Concessionary Fares	15,496,031	104.84	38.27	15,450,450
Coroners Court	320,000	2.16	0.79	320,000
London Boroughs Grants	293,535	1.99	0.72	295,000
Apprenticeship Levy	300,000	2.03	0.74	300,000
	254,927,504	1,724.66	629.61	252,253,880
Contribution from balances and reserves	0	0.00	0.00	(5,357,436)
Barnet's Requirements (see Budget)	254,927,504	1,724.66	629.61	246,896,444
Less:				
Collection Fund Adjustment	0	0.00	0.00	0
Business Rates	(60,364,230)	(408.38)	(149.08)	(68,600,000)
Revenue Support Grant	(6,283,212)	(42.51)	(15.52)	0
Barnet's element of Council Tax requirement	188,280,062	1,273.77	465.00	178,296,444
GLA Precept	49,084,263	332.07	121.23	46,653,436
Total Council Tax requirement	237,364,325	1,605.84	586.23	224,949,880

Budget

	Note	2020/21			2019/20		
		Expenditure	Income	Net expenditure	Expenditure	Income	Net expenditure
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults and Health	¹	152,902	(33,165)	119,736	146,010	(34,893)	111,117
Assurance (incl. electoral services and internal audit)	²	6,941	(237)	6,704	8,416	(1,017)	7,399
Children's Family Services	³	79,246	(9,867)	69,379	71,655	(5,538)	66,117
Children's Service DSG (Schools)	⁴	230,680	(230,680)	-	222,358	(222,358)	-
Commercial, Management, Back Office, Housing & Development	⁵	73,497	(34,251)	39,246	69,127	(35,208)	33,919
Environment	⁶	60,793	(35,277)	25,516	65,535	(31,313)	34,222
Corporate Expenses (Housing Benefits, Capital Financing, Levies and Inflation)	⁷	261,080	(198,445)	62,635	332,381	(273,591)	58,790
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)		61,533	(61,533)	-	62,708	(62,708)	-
Planning & Regulation	⁸	23,594	(21,499)	2,095	22,645	(21,292)	1,353
Total Service Budget		950,264	(624,954)	325,310	1,000,835	(687,918)	312,917
Specific Grants			(54,308)	(54,308)		(47,399)	(47,399)
Special Parking Account			(16,075)	(16,075)		(13,265)	(13,265)
Specific Reserves				0		(5,357)	-5,357
Barnet's Budget Requirement		950,264	(695,337)	254,928	1,000,835	(753,939)	246,896
Business Rates Retention			(40,554)	(40,554)		(68,600)	(68,600)
Business Rates Top Up			(19,810)	(19,810)			0
Revenue Support Grant			(6,283)	(6,283)			0
Collection Fund Adjustment				0			0
Barnet's Element of Council Tax requirement		950,264	(761,984)	188,280	1,000,835	(822,539)	178,296
GLA Precept		49,084		49,084	46,654		46,654
Total Council Tax requirement		999,348	(761,984)	237,364	1,047,489	(822,539)	224,950

Notes

- Includes: Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention and Leisure, Sports & Physical Activities, Corporate Health & Safety
- Includes: Internal Audit, Counter Fraud Operations, Electoral Service, Governance, Organisational Resilience, Information Management, Assurance & Business Development, Community Safety.
- Includes: Children in Care, Safeguarding, Support for Vulnerable Families, Youth Activities, Fostering and Adoption.
- Includes: Education Management, High Needs Support. Also includes Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Nurseries.
- Includes: Commercial & IT Services, Growth & Development (Estates, Housing & Regeneration), Human Resources & Organisational Development, Communications and Strategy
- Includes: Street Scene, Transport & Highways (includes Parking & Infrastructure) and Green Spaces & Leisure
- Includes: Housing Benefits, Financial Planning, Insurance, Revenue & Benefits, Grants, Finance Business Partnering, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Closure, Treasury Management & Pension Finance.
- Includes: Highway and Pavement Maintenance, Regulatory Services, Trading Standards, and Environmental Health

Why the cost of Barnet's services has changed

The statement below briefly indicates the major changes in Barnet's net service budget between that of 2019/20 at £312.917m and that of 2020/21 at £325.310m and the changes to the Council Tax requirement of 2019/20 at £224.950m and that of 2020/21 at £237.364m. Inflationary pressures and additional costs arising from a growing population have meant that the council has had to increase budgets in specific areas. To balance the budget, savings and efficiencies have been identified.

	£m	%
Barnet Services Net Budget 2019/20	312.917	
Efficiency Savings, reduction and income	(17.311)	-5.53%
Grossing up of grants	1.824	0.58%
Service Pressures including Demographics	19.170	6.13%
Inflation	5.899	1.89%
Movement in Special Parking Account Appropriation	2.810	0.90%
Barnet Services Net Budget 2020/21	325.310	3.96%

Council Tax requirement

The Council Tax at Band D is £1,605.84 for 2020/21. The tax base in Barnet has increased from 145,560 to 147,813. The change in the Council Tax requirement is set out in the table below.

	Number of properties
Council Tax Base 2019/20	145,560
Council Tax Base 2020/21	147,813
Increase in tax base	2,253

	£m
Council Tax Requirement 2019/20	224.950
Barnet's increase in Tax Base	2.760
GLA Increase in Tax Base	0.722
Increase in Barnet Tax Rate	7.224
Increase in GLA Precept	1.709
Council Tax Requirement 2020/21	237.364

Outstanding loans

At 31 March 2019, the council's outstanding long-term loan terms totalled £304.08m. The average rate of borrowing on the council's outstanding long-term debt is 3.86%.

Capital Programme

The council is planning to spend £1,289,182 million on capital projects from 2019/20 onwards as part of an ongoing programme of investment in buildings, roads, equipment and other assets. The table below gives a brief summary of capital expenditure plans.

Service	Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2024/25						
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other Services	247,827	333,176	204,715	86,119	39,167	6,000	917,004
Housing - HRA	54,330	92,955	93,639	65,146	43,028	23,080	372,178
Total	302,157	426,131	298,354	151,265	82,195	29,080	1,289,182

Greater London Authority (GLA)

Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2020-21 financial year is built around his vision of a city where nobody is left behind, and opportunities are open to all. 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.

This year's budget will provide resources to improve the key services Londoners need. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, keeping transport fares as low as possible and tackling toxic air pollution and the climate emergency. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, help rough sleepers, invest in youth services and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live. Moreover, it provides extra resources from council tax and business rates for the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe. Over £100 million in additional funding is being provided by the Mayor to the police, for violence reduction initiatives and to improve opportunities for young Londoners. This will help offset the ongoing impact of the reductions in government funding over the last decade.

Council Tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £11.56 (or 22p per week) to £332.07. 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 £79.94.

Council Tax (£)	2019-20	Change	2020-21
MOPAC (Met Police)	242.13	10.00	252.13
LFC (Fire Brigade)	53.00	2.28	55.28
GLA	23.38	-0.69	22.69
TfL (Transport)	2.00	-0.03	1.97
Total (£)	320.51	11.56	332.07

Controlling costs at City Hall and delivering the Mayor's key priorities

The Mayor's budget includes significant savings across the GLA Group in 2020-21. This has allowed him to release resources to help meet his key priorities. This includes plans to invest £4.8 billion to support starts of 116,000 new affordable homes in London by 2022 and extra resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping. The Mayor will also increase investment in green spaces and provide £25 million of extra funding to support constructive activities for disadvantaged young Londoners. He has taken steps to improve air quality in London by introducing the Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London which will be expanded to the North and South Circular roads in autumn 2021. An additional £50 million has also been allocated to fund a Green New Deal for London to address the climate change emergency. The Mayor is also providing funding for around 1,000 cultural and community events across London and for the planting of thousands more street trees over the next year.

The Mayor will also work with London's business community and key investors to ensure London's interests are protected following the UK's departure from the

European Union. He will provide funding for new projects to bring communities together, tackle social inequality and boost London's economy including supporting projects to help over 6,400 small and medium sized businesses.

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)

The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan – a Safer City for Londoners 2017-21 - sets out his strategy for policing and community safety in the city. His key priorities include improving the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), providing a better criminal justice service in London and keeping children and young people safe. He will also provide resources to tackle domestic violence which particularly affects women and invest an extra £34 million on violence reduction initiatives.

The MPS must rise to meet these challenges at a time of acute financial pressure. As a result of the reductions in government resources for policing over the last decade, officer numbers fell to the lowest levels in fifteen years, and the MPS has had to close more than 100 police stations and remove 2,800 police support staff and Police Community Support Officer roles in order to protect officer numbers.

The Mayor is raising the police element of his council tax precept by £10 for a typical Band D property. He will also maintain an additional £59 million of funding through business rates. In all, through his decisions in this and previous budgets, the Mayor has funded an additional 1,300 officer posts from locally raised revenues.

Transport for London (TfL)

London's population is forecast to grow by one million in the next decade. TfL is investing to make the transport network more reliable and accessible. The Mayor's priorities for TfL include:

- making transport more affordable. Single bus fares, single pay as you go fares on the Tube and DLR and the charges for the Santander cycle hire scheme have been frozen again in 2020. This will save travellers an estimated £40 million a year;
- maintaining the Bus and Tram one-hour Hopper fare and investing to improve journey times and reliability on the bus network;
- working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes providing 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 rail services and maintaining the Night Tube and Night Overground services;
- extending the Barking Gospel Oak line to Barking Riverside and expanding capacity on the DLR and tram network;
- planning for the Bakerloo line extension to south east London and new river crossings in east London;
- working to complete the Elizabeth line (formerly Crossrail) - which will increase central London's rail capacity by ten per cent - and the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power station as soon as possible;

- developing plans and securing funding to deliver refurbished trains on the Central Line and a new spacious state of the art fleet on the Piccadilly line;
- introducing an Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London to tackle local air pollution which will be extended to the North and South Circular roads by autumn 2021;
- making public transport more accessible for everyone. By 2024 nearly 40 per cent of tube stations are expected to be step free. All new Elizabeth line stations will also be step free; and
- investing a record £2.3 billion by 2024 through his Healthy Streets scheme to fund a range of schemes designed to make walking, cycling and public transport safer, cleaner and more appealing in partnership with London boroughs.

London Fire Commissioner (LFC)

The Mayor's funding ensures that the London Fire Brigade's first and second fire engines attending an emergency incident arrive, on average, within six and eight minutes respectively. The Mayor is also providing resources to roll out 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.

London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)

The LLDC was set up to ensure that the city benefits from a long-term legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Mayor's 2020-21 budget provides funding for the development of a world class cultural and education district, East Bank, in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. This is expected to create 3,000 new jobs, attract 1.5 million additional visitors and bring £2.8 billion of economic value to east London.

Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

The OPDC has been established to support the creation of 65,000 new jobs and at least 24,000 new homes in west London over the next 20 years. It will build on the regeneration benefits which High Speed 2 (HS2), the Elizabeth line and the Great Western Mainline stations at Old Oak Common are expected to bring locally.

Summary of GLA Group budget

The tables below show where the GLA's funding comes from and the reasons for the year on year change in the budget. It also explains how the GLA has calculated the sum to be collected from council tax (the council tax requirement).

How the GLA budget is funded (£ million)	2020-21
Gross expenditure	13,365.9
Government grants and retained business rates	-5,486.6
Fares, charges and other income	-6,787.3
Use of reserves	-81.1
Amount met by Council Tax payers	1,010.9

Changes in spending (£ million)	2020-21
2019-20 council tax requirement	960.6
Inflation	244.8
Efficiencies and other savings	-150.8
New initiatives	512.1
Other changes (for example fares revenue and grants)	-555.8
Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)	1,010.9

Detailed budget by service area

The table below compares the GLA Group's expenditure on policing, fire and other services (including transport) in 2020-21 with 2019-20.

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, adult education and the fire service as well as additional business rates receipts being paid over to the Government to support

local services elsewhere in England. 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 1.6 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).

Summary of Spending and Income (£ million) (figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)	Police (MOPAC)		Fire (LFC)		Other Services (incl. GLA, TfL, LLDC and OPDC)		GLA Group Total	
	2019-20 21	2020- 21	2019-20 21	2020- 21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
Gross expenditure	3,556.7	3,885.3	450.3	489.5	8,225.6	8,991.1	12,232.6	13,365.9
Government grant and business rates	-2,656.4	-2,786.3	-245.7	-266.1	-1,852.4	-2,434.1	-4,754.5	-5,486.6
Other income (incl. fares and charges)	-278.5	-280.0	-38.3	-39.8	-6,205.3	-6,467.5	-6,522.1	-6,787.3
Net expenditure	621.8	819.0	166.3	183.6	167.9	89.5	956.0	1,092.0
Change to level of reserves	103.4	-51.9	-7.1	-15.0	-91.7	-14.2	4.6	-81.1
Council Tax requirement (income)	725.2	767.1	159.2	168.6	76.2	75.2	960.6	1,010.9

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Lee Valley Regional Park is a unique leisure, sports and environmental destination for all residents of London, Essex and Hertfordshire. The 26 mile long, 10,000 acre Park, much of it formerly derelict land, is partly funded by a levy on the council tax. This year there has been a 0% increase in this levy. Find out more about hundreds of great days out, world class sports venues and award winning parklands at www.visitleevalley.org.uk

Budget/Levy Changes- 2019/2020 to 2020/2021		
	2019/20 £m	2020/21 £m
Authority Operating Expenditure	10.9	15.1
Authority Operating Income	(3.0)	(7.9)
Net Service Operating Costs	7.9	7.2
Financing Costs – Debt servicing/repayments	0.5	0.9
Financing Costs – Capital investment	1.2	1.2
Total Net Expenditure	9.6	9.3
Total Levy	(9.6)	(9.6)

Further details on how this budget is spent and the amount each council contributes can be found at: www.leevalleypark.org.uk.

Crossrail Business Rate Supplement (BRS)

What is Crossrail and how will it benefit your business?

Crossrail is London's newest railway. It will connect the outer suburbs and Heathrow airport to the West End, City and Canary Wharf. As such, Crossrail is vital to the future of London's economy. The increased earnings it will bring – from new jobs and quicker journeys – will benefit businesses across London. When it opens, it will be named the Elizabeth line in honour of Queen Elizabeth II.

Crossrail is the single largest investment in London's infrastructure for decades. It employed up to 14,000 people at the peak of construction. Work is now continuing to complete the project and stations along the route as soon as possible with the section through central London expected to open in 2021.

To find out more, visit www.crossrail.co.uk call the Crossrail 24 hr Helpdesk on 0345 602 3813

or email helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk

Developments in the funding of Crossrail

The previous Mayor of London agreed a funding settlement

with Government in 2010 for the Crossrail route. The Mayor and the Secretary of State for Transport announced a revised funding package for Crossrail on 10 December 2018.

How are London's businesses helping fund Crossrail?

In April 2012, the previous Mayor introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy (MCIL) on new developments in London

to finance Crossrail. This is paid for by the developer.

Business ratepayers of larger properties have contributed through a special Crossrail Business Rate Supplement (BRS) since April 2010.

Under the December 2018 funding package, the GLA's total contribution towards Crossrail financed through the MCIL and BRS is expected to be around £6.1 billion. The BRS will need to be levied until the GLA's Crossrail related borrowing is repaid. This is expected to be some time in the mid to late 2030s, in line with the published prospectus. The policies for the BRS in 2020-21 remain unchanged from last year.

Does my business have to pay the Crossrail BRS?

Your rates bill makes clear if you are liable to pay the BRS.

The Crossrail BRS is applied only to assessments (for example business and other non-domestic premises) with a rateable value of over £70,000 on the local rating lists of the 32 London boroughs and City of London Corporation. This threshold means that around 85 per cent of non-domestic properties in London will be exempt from the BRS in 2020-21.

Crossrail Business Rate Supplement (BRS)

How much do I pay if my property's rateable value is above £70,000?

The Crossrail BRS multiplier for 2020-21 remains at 2p per pound of rateable value. Reliefs for the Crossrail BRS will apply on the same basis and at the same percentage rate as for your national non-domestic rates (NNDR) bill. However, no transitional relief is provided for the BRS.

Keeping you up to date

We will give ratepayers an annual update over the lifetime of the BRS.

Contact for more information

020 7983 4100 • crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk

www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs

Finance, GLA, City Hall London SE1 2AA

Contact for more information:
www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs

Alternatively you can contact us by
email: crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk
tel: **020 7983 4100**

Or write to us at:
Finance
Greater London Authority
City Hall
London SE1 2AA

Environment Agency South East Region

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 5200 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system and management of the risk of coastal erosion. The financial details are:

Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee		
	2019/2020	2020/2021
	'000s	'000s
Gross Expenditure	£100,146	£101,860
Levies Raised	£11,577	£11,807
Total Council Tax Base	5,085	5,163

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). However, under the new Partnership Funding rule not all schemes will attract full central funding. To provide local funding for local priorities and contributions for partnership funding the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees recommend through the Environment Agency a local levy.

A change in the gross budgeted expenditure between years reflects the programme of works for both capital and revenue needed by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to which you contribute. The total Local Levy raised by this committee has increased by 1.99%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £11,576,942 in 2019/2020 to £11,807,323 for 2020/2021.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk