

# Council Tax 2022/23





## Useful Council numbers

Automated payments – 020 3045 5200

Adoption and Fostering – 0800 783 7699

Bexley Local Offer - Special Educational Needs and Disability Support for 0-25 year olds – 020 3045 5677

Bexley Magazine – 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications

Births, deaths and marriages – 03000 415252

[registerofficebexley@kent.gov.uk](mailto:registerofficebexley@kent.gov.uk)

Council Tax & Housing Benefits – 0345 302 2317

Emergency Out of Hours Service – 020 8303 7777 / 020 8303 7171

Home Library Service – 020 3045 4565

Housing advice – 020 3045 3400

Temporary Accommodation – 020 3045 3155/ 020 3045 3156

Parking Services – 020 3045 3000

Adults Social Services - Residential care – 020 3045 5159

# [www.bexley.gov.uk](http://www.bexley.gov.uk)

Council news via email newsletters at

[www.bexley.gov.uk/newsupdates](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/newsupdates)

Register to vote at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

## How do I?

Contact the police when it is not an emergency on 101 or 0300 123 1212

Report a gas leak – 0800 111 999

Get health advice and reassurance – 111 [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk)

Report a leak or burst pipe to Thames Water - 0800 714 614 (24 hour leakline) or [#tweetaleak](https://twitter.com/tweetaleak) to [@thameswater](https://twitter.com/thameswater)

## Other useful contacts

Domestic Violence – 0808 2000 247

Job centre plus – 0345 604 3719

Resources Plus – 020 3045 3800

Citizens Advice Bureaux – 01322 517150

Age UK information and advice – 0800 678 1174

For other enquires call 0800 169 8787

Bexley Voluntary Service Council – 01322 524682

Bexley Foodbank - 07932 431350

For all other Council services please call our automated switchboard on 020 8303 7777 to request the department you require

## 100 + services online

Seven days a week + 24 hours a day | Apply - Pay – Find - Report



## Message from the Leader of the Council

Now that our lives are beginning to return to normal and we are learning to live with COVID, we have the chance to put some of our plans for improving the borough into action.

Despite uncertainty about the economic outlook, I am pleased to report that we have delivered a balanced budget for the 2022/23 financial year. It includes significant new investment in services that we know matter to you.



We will be investing in our waste and recycling services. Last year we moved to a new contractor. They are based locally and are already making improvements to the service. Our extra investment will support innovative new ways to keep the borough green and clean.

Our investment in grass cutting and grounds maintenance will help us keep the borough looking its best for residents and visitors.

We plan to invest more in our 'outstanding' Children's Services, as well as adult social care. During the pandemic, these services were under immense pressure but supported our most vulnerable residents through challenging times. Their great work will continue, and this investment will make sure that they are there for the people that need them.

We will be investing in resources to support those in need of housing. This is a national issue and we are working with our partners to increase the help we can offer.

The pandemic proved a particularly tough time for those facing domestic abuse. Our budget includes money to increase the support that we offer. We have already opened a new 'one stop shop' in Bexleyheath where people can go for help, advice and information.

Public services in the borough are provided by the Council and other organisations whose cost are partly met from your Council Tax. This booklet sets out where the money to pay for them comes from – and how it is spent.

We will continue to make our case for fair funding to the Government. There is no reason Bexley should get so much less money than some of our neighbours.

We will continue to work to provide the best possible value for your money on the services you value while also supporting those who need it most.

We aim to make Bexley somewhere people want to come to work, live and play. We will continue to work hard to make a positive difference to the lives of all our residents and make Bexley even better.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa O'Neill". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

Councillor Teresa O'Neill OBE  
Leader of the Council



## Council Tax for 2022/23

Bexley's Council Tax requirement will result in a Council Tax for band D property with two residents of £1,922.99 in 2022/23.

A comparison of Bexley's and the Greater London Authority's Council Tax for 2022/23 with last year is shown in the table below.

Taxing Authority	2021/22	2022/23	Change
London Borough of Bexley	£1,483.06	£1,527.40	2.99%
Greater London Authority	£363.66	£395.59	8.78%
Total Tax at Band D	£1,846.72	£1,922.99	4.13%

Valuation Band	Range of Values	2021/22	2022/23
A	Up to and including £40,000	£1,231.15	£1,282.00
B	£40,001 - £52,000	£1,436.34	£1,495.66
C	£52,001 - £68,000	£1,641.53	£1,709.33
D	£68,001 - £88,000	£1,846.72	£1,922.99
E	£88,001 - £120,000	£2,257.10	£2,350.32
F	£120,001 - £160,000	£2,667.48	£2,777.66
G	£160,001 - £320,000	£3,077.87	£3,204.99
H	More than £320,000	£3,693.44	£3,845.99

## Bexley's Budget and Council Tax Requirement 2022/23

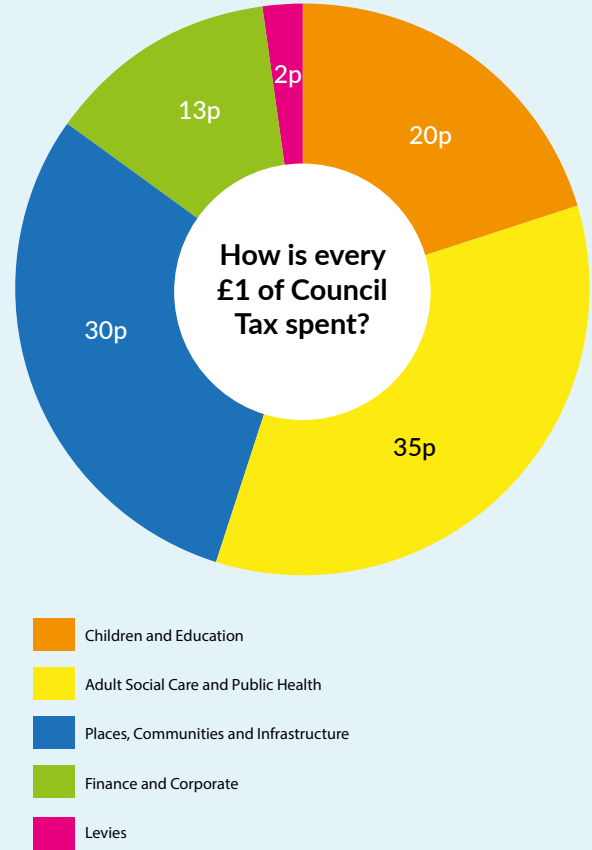
	2021/22			2022/23		
	Spending £m	Income £m	Net Spending £m	Spending £m	Income £m	Net Spending £m
Children and Education	53.128	(16.825)	36.303	52.060	(16.017)	36.043
Adult Social Care and Public Health	85.717	(37.603)	48.114	91.344	(37.197)	54.147
Place	74.020	(38.576)	35.444	79.398	(42.749)	36.649
Finance and Corporate	135.796	(112.041)	23.755	102.674	(76.150)	26.524
Schools DSG	72.843	(72.843)	0.000	78.282	(78.282)	0.000
<b>Spending on Services</b>	<b>421.504</b>	<b>(277.888)</b>	<b>143.616</b>	<b>403.758</b>	<b>(250.395)</b>	<b>153.363</b>
London-wide payments and levies			7.469			5.156
Net Financing Costs			13.106			10.091
Contingency Provision			5.177			2.700
<i>Centrally Held for Directorate Pressures</i>						
Adult Social Care and Public Health			2.160			7.283
Children and Education Services			2.000			2.442
Finance and Corporate Services			0.337			2.168
Place			3.227			5.514
Corporate			0.172			2.283
<b>Net Spending to be Financed</b>			<b>177.264</b>			<b>191.000</b>
Income from Business Rates and Revenue Support Grant			(41.874)			(43.825)
Other Core Grants			(14.846)			(22.177)
Use of Reserves, Balances and Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit			0.684			0.348
<b>Amount to be met from the Council Tax</b>			<b>121.228</b>			<b>125.346</b>
Taxbase			81,742			82,065
Bexley Council Tax			1,483.06			1,527.40



# What we spend

The Council has a good track record for financial management and efficiency, making year-on-year savings to keep costs down and improve services. Over the last 11 years we have saved £140m.

In 2022/23, the Council is expecting to raise £125m from Council Tax income and here is how we expect to spend the money.



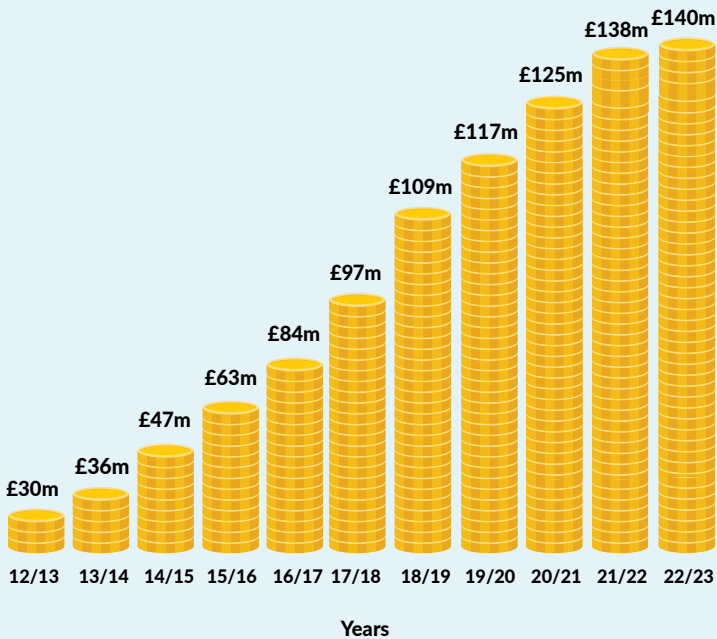
# Changes since last year

	£m
Net increase in Spending on Services	9.747
Demographic increases and Inflation	11.794
Decrease in Net Financing Costs	(3.015)
Decrease in Contingency	(2.477)
Income from Business Rates Multiplier Cap Grant	(1.951)
Increase in Other Core Grants	(7.331)
Decrease in London-wide payments and levies	(2.313)
Reduction in Use of Reserves, Balances and Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	(0.336)
<b>Increase in Council Tax Revenue</b>	<b>4.118</b>



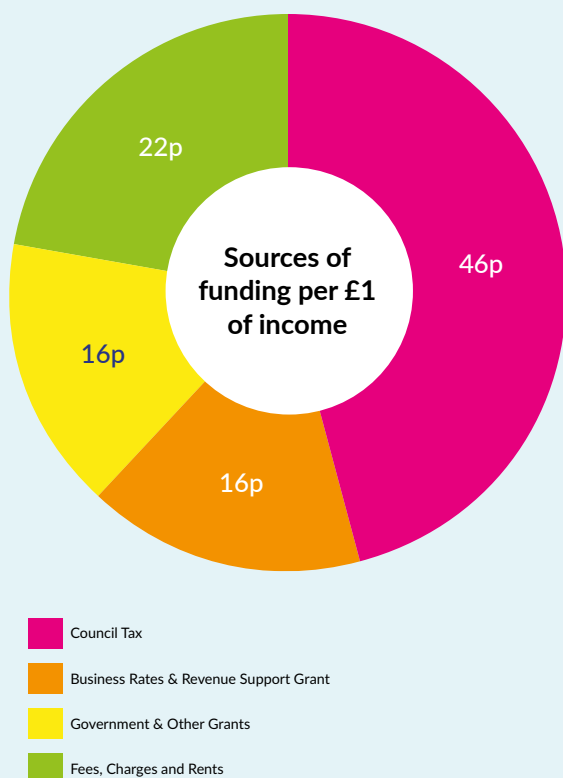
# What we have saved

The Council has a good track record for financial management.



## How is it paid for?

Council Tax is just one of the Council's sources of income.



## Adult Social Care Precept

The introduction of an adult social care precept was originally announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in 2015. In the 2016/17 local government finance settlement, the Government confirmed that there would be a 2% adult social care precept which would be available for four years up to 2019/20.

The 2017/18 settlement altered the annual limit to 3%, but with a total increase of 6%, for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20. A further 2% increase was allowed for 2020/21 and 3% in 2021/22.

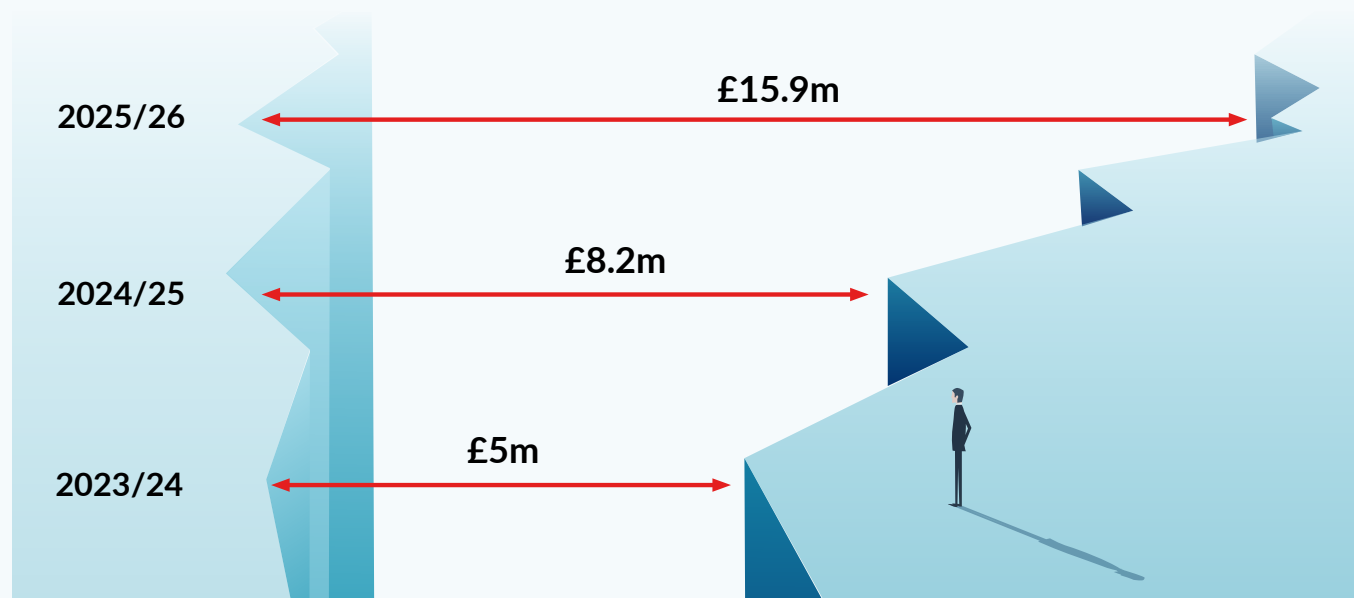
Financial Settlement 2022 indicated that further increases of 1% per year of Council Tax for the next three years up to and including 2024/25 would be allowed.



## The future budget gap

The Council has set a balanced budget for the 2022/23 financial year, however there are many challenges ahead. The forecasted budget gap is set to reach £15.944m by 2025/26 due to rising costs, pressures and demands on services and ongoing economic uncertainty. There continues to be increasing spending pressures in a number of key services, including Children's Social Care, Homelessness, Adult Social Care and families approaching the Council for support who have no access to the wider benefit system – known as No Recourse To Public Funds.

The uncertainty around the state of the economy over the next few years will also have an impact. With prospects of increasing inflation, the amount we pay for services is expected to increase and the current low interest rates means that the income we receive from our investing money continues to be lower than anticipated. Our challenge is to continue to provide good quality and affordable public services, while balancing our income and spending



## Environment Agency

### The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011.

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.

#### Environment Agency Southern Region

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood and coastal erosion risk management for 3540 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences in the area of the Southern 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:

Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee		
	2021/2022 '000s	2022/2023 '000s
Gross Expenditure	£56,932	£119,816
Levies Raised	£1,517	£1,548
Total Council Tax Base	1,859	1,891

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 2.0%

The total Local Levy raised has increased from £1,517,475 in 2021/2022 to £1,547,824 for 2022/2023.

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.

#### Environment Agency Thames Region

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		
	2021/2022 '000s	2022/2023 '000s
Gross Expenditure	£116,470	£148,034
Levies Raised	£12,042	£12,282
Total Council Tax Base	5,127	5,214

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 £12,042,289 in 2021/2022 to £12,281,930 for 2022/2023.

## Help with your finances, bills and Council Tax:

We know these are challenging and difficult times for many families and households and some face uncertainty and hardship. Help and advice is available and if you are experiencing difficulties or worried about your finances there are ways that the Council and organisations we work with can help.

If you are on a low income and having problems paying your Council Tax, you can apply for the Council Tax reduction scheme.

Anyone of working age is required to pay a minimum of the first 20% of their Council Tax bill, although pensioners will still be able to receive maximum support.

If you think you may qualify for help with paying your Council Tax then you can claim online at [www.bexley.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport)

If you wish to spread your payments over 12 instalments instead of 10 please contact us as soon as you receive the new Council Tax bill.

If you wish to seek financial advice from an independent body there are a number of organisations who can provide advice such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Christians Against Poverty, New Community Debt Advice Service, Step Change Debt Charity and Shelter. Further details are available on the Council's website

[www.bexley.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/counciltax)  
or  
[www.bexley.gov.uk/benefits-and-financial-help](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/benefits-and-financial-help)



The credit union is a not for profit financial co-operative that is open to residents and fully supported by the Council. Members can make regular savings and take out small loans.

More information can be found at: [www.gbcreditunion.com](http://www.gbcreditunion.com) or by ringing 020 8855 4344



## Introduction

The Mayor of London's budget for the 2022/23 financial year sets out his priorities to support London's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to tackle the huge social, health and economic inequalities which it has exposed and exacerbated, and which have become even more apparent as a result of the current cost of living crisis. It supports job creation and London's businesses (both large and small), our city's future growth and economic success and the Mayor's vision to rebuild London as a greener, cleaner and safer city with stronger and more cohesive communities.

This year's budget will provide resources to improve the key public services Londoners need. This includes delivering more genuinely affordable homes, securing funding to maintain the capital's transport infrastructure and tackling toxic air pollution and the climate emergency. The budget also provides resources to support jobs and growth, fund skills and retraining programmes, help rough sleepers, invest in youth services and make London a fairer and cleaner place to live.

The budget prioritises resources for the Metropolitan Police Service and London Fire Brigade to keep Londoners safe, including violence reduction initiatives and initiatives to improve opportunities for young Londoners. In light of the significant reductions in fare revenues and property tax income following the pandemic some difficult decisions have been unavoidable. However, this budget remains focused on delivering a swift and sustainable recovery and building the better, brighter, fairer future all Londoners want and deserve.

## Council tax for GLA services

The GLA's share of the council tax for a typical Band D property has been increased by £31.93 (or 61p per week) to £395.59. The additional income raised will fund the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade and will also go towards ensuring existing public transport services in London can be maintained, meeting requirements set by the government in COVID-19 funding arrangements. Council taxpayers in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £118.46.

Council Tax (£)	2021/22	Change	2022/23
MOPAC (Metropolitan Police)	267.13	10.00	277.13
LFC (London Fire Brigade)	56.87	1.93	58.80
GLA	22.57	0.00	22.57
Transport Services	17.09	20.00	37.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>363.66</b>	<b>31.93</b>	<b>395.59</b>



## Investing in frontline services

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

- ensuring the Metropolitan Police has the resources it needs to tackle violent crime – since 2019 the Mayor has funded 1,300 additional police officer posts from locally raised council tax and business rates revenues – while seeking to increase trust and confidence amongst Londoners in the police service
- tackling the underlying causes of crime through the rollout of funding to support disadvantaged young Londoners access positive opportunities and constructive activities that allow them to make the most of their potential, as well as resources for new violence reduction initiatives
- protecting vulnerable children and women at risk of abuse and domestic violence
- providing enough resources to the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to ensure that first and second fire engines arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes on at least 90 per cent of occasions and 12 minutes on at least 95 per cent of occasions respectively, after being dispatched. The Mayor is also providing resources to rollout 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
- working with London boroughs to maintain existing concessionary travel and assisted door to door transport schemes. This includes, for example, maintaining free bus and tram travel for under 18s as well as free off-peak travel across the network for older Londoners, the disabled, armed forces personnel in uniform and eligible armed services veterans and protecting the Taxicard and Dial a Ride schemes
- continuing the Hopper bus fare, which makes transport more affordable for millions of Londoners
- opening the central London section of the Elizabeth line (the operational name for Crossrail) in the first half of 2022, followed by the full line opening with through services as soon as possible to increase central London's rail capacity by ten per cent. This will follow the successful opening of the Northern line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station in September 2021
- continuing to tackle London's housing crisis, by investing £4.9 billion to allow 116,000 affordable home starts within London by 2023 and an additional 35,000 starts by 2026, as well as allocating resources to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping
- tackling the climate emergency through creating a new £90 million fund alongside the continued roll out of the Mayor's £50 million Green New Deal for London fund. The Mayor has already expanded the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the North and South Circular roads in Autumn 2021 to tackle air pollution
- investing in projects to enable more walking and cycling across London
- funding projects to bring Londoners together, promote arts, sports and culture, help tackle inequality and improve the environment.



## Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's planned spending for 2022/23 with last year and sets out why it has changed. The GLA's planned gross expenditure is lower this year. This overall reduction is mainly due to the need to repay deficits in council tax and business rates income due to the impact of the pandemic albeit the Mayor has increased his proposed spending on services including policing.

Overall the council tax requirement has increased because of the extra resources for the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade and to secure funding to maintain existing transport services. There has also been a 1.7 per cent increase in London's residential property taxbase. Find out more about our budget at: [www.london.gov.uk/budget](http://www.london.gov.uk/budget).

How the GLA's budget is funded (£ million)	2022/23
Gross expenditure	14,950.3
Government grants and retained business rates	-6,974.8
Fares, charges and other income	-6,781.5
Change in reserves	19.6
<b>Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)</b>	<b>1,213.6</b>

Changes in spending (£ million)	2021/22
2021-22 council tax requirement	1,096.6
Net change in service expenditure and income	-1,034.7
Change in use of reserves	759.2
Government grants and retained business rates	391.3
Other changes	1.2
<b>Amount met by council taxpayers (£m)</b>	<b>1,213.6</b>

## Be the first in line to get your £150 energy bill rebate

Pay your council tax by Direct Debit to make sure you get your £150 energy bill rebate from the Government as soon as it is available.

If you are in council tax bands A to D, you will receive the one-off cash payment in April to help with the increased cost of living.

Signing up to pay your council tax by direct debit means that we will have all the information we need to make the payment as soon as it is released.

If you do not have a direct debit set up, you will need to apply to the council for the rebate which will take longer.

You must be liable for the council tax bill at the property to be eligible for the rebate.

If you receive 100% council tax reduction you are still entitled to the rebate and can set up a direct debit to get it paid directly to you.

**Empty homes or second homes are not eligible for the rebate.**

Sign up for Direct Debit today. It's a quick, easy and secure way to pay.

Application details and dates of Government support for energy bills scheme are still to be confirmed.



If you would like the information in this document in a different format, please call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications/Graphics. The reference to quote is: 600615/4.22