

Your Council Tax



Dear Resident,

The last year has presented great challenges to our borough, as we've all grappled with the rising cost of living that continues to affect our daily lives. The council has once again been confronted with the continuing impact of the financial strain on local government, after years of underfunding from central government.

We're also dealing with the spiralling costs of providing vital services for our most vulnerable residents, such as temporary accommodation and social care. All of this means that, in the face of rising demand for our services, we are having to do more with less - much like many of our residents who are doing the same as the cost of living crisis bites.

Independent research has shown that government cuts have left services in Lambeth with £154 per person less than it needs – a shortfall of almost £49 million a year for the borough as a whole. But despite this funding gap, over the last 12 months Lambeth Council has continued to be on your side. To help alleviate the pressures on those who are having to choose between eating and heating, we launched a £10 million cost of living crisis response. This has helped those in Lambeth on the lowest incomes by expanding our Emergency Support Scheme, providing direct payments to households most affected by rising costs, expanding Free School Meal eligibility, and more.

Our ambition for Lambeth is to create a borough of equity and justice for all, and everything the council does is about delivering this ambition. This includes protecting vital services that reduce violence against women and girls, continuing our strong record of preventing homelessness, introducing free swimming for children under-11 and expanding the range of concessions as part of our new in-house leisure services, and ensuring we adapt Lambeth for the future by planting 5,000 new trees.

This commitment to looking after everyone in our borough is why our expanded council tax support scheme – one of the most generous in London – will reduce the Council Tax bills of over 18,000 low-income households to nil. Despite government plans to cut cost of living support this year, we will continue our cost of living support programme, providing financial support to our most financially at-risk residents.

We're able to do this because of good financial management that means Lambeth isn't facing the scale of financial challenges that dozens of councils across the country are. We'll continue to work hard to make local services more efficient, but to ensure we can continue to invest in your priorities, we are increasing Council Tax this year by 2.99 per cent, alongside the 2 per cent increase recommended by the government to fund adult social care. This means an increase of around £1.27 more per week on the

C. Powell

What we delivered for you in 2023/24



9,000
targeted payouts
to Lambeth's most
vulnerable residents



17,000
families received
Free School Meal
Holiday provision



3,749
kids attended
summer Holiday
Activity and Food
programme (HAF)



30,393
school places
provided in the
borough



1,700
new trees planted,
with another 3,500
to plant over the next
2 years



9,513
households
received additional
Council Tax discounts
of up to £70



96,000
housing repairs
completed



1,854
residents supported
into employment,
training or education



685,385
book loans from
Lambeth libraries –
plus 93,319 e-book
loans



1,833
households
protected from
homelessness



1,000
social rent homes
retrofitted



1,360
apprenticeships
started in Lambeth