

# Your Council Tax



Dear resident,

Our borough has confronted huge challenges over the past few years, from a pandemic to a cost-of-living crisis, resulting in levels of inflation not seen in this country for 40 years.

In response to these crises, Lambeth has been on your side, supporting our communities through these hardships. From our major cost of living support packages to the expansion of Free School Meals provision, we have been easing the pressures on those who are having to choose between eating and heating.

We know the impact that these crises have had on our residents, and the impact they have had on the council is no different, putting massive pressures on the delivery of local services.

Along with local authorities up and down the country, Lambeth Council faces an extremely challenging position in delivering these vital public services which our residents rely upon.

14 years of austerity, a failure by successive governments to address long term reforms, and reckless national economic mismanagement, combined with skyrocketing inflation and an unprecedented increase in demand for local services, has pushed local government to breaking point.

This has meant Lambeth has had to do more with less money, leaving the council with a significant funding gap in the years ahead. There are services the council is required to provide by law, statutory services which we take great pride in, but given the financial straits with the increase in demand this forces on us impossible choices in how they are funded.

These statutory services, such as social care and emergency housing for homeless families, support some of the most vulnerable members of our society and they make up the majority of the council's budget.

We have seen an unprecedented level of demand for emergency housing for families in the borough, which is costing the council more than £250,000 a night and over £60m this year, a direct result of the national housing crisis which impacts places like Lambeth most.

Lambeth has been able to support residents because we have managed our finances well through these crises. We are proud that we have maintained funding for services that support vulnerable residents such as our offer for care leavers, our work tackling food poverty or cleaning up toxic air for our children and young people, improving transport in local neighbourhoods, and providing refuge beds for women and girls who are victims of violence and domestic abuse.

Our ambition is to protect statutory services and create a borough of equity and justice for all. Everything the council does, including setting a balanced and sustainable budget, is about delivering this ambition.

To ensure we can continue to invest in these priorities, we are increasing Council Tax this year by the permitted 2.99%, alongside the 2% increase recommended by government to fund adult social care. This means an increase of around £1.33 per week on the average Band D property.

This isn't an easy choice; it is one taken to protect frontline services we all use and depend on. Lambeth's Council Tax will remain one of the lowest in the United Kingdom and our Council Tax Support scheme one of the more generous in London.

We'll continue to work hard for the people of our borough and to make local services even more efficient. By taking this decision, we can continue to invest in the statutory services that people rely on and build a more equitable and just Lambeth for all.

Yours sincerely

**Cllr Claire Holland**  
**Leader of Lambeth Council**



# What we delivered for you in 2024/25



**17,000**  
children received  
Free School Meal  
Holiday provision



**111,469**  
housing repairs  
completed



**1,133**  
households  
protected from  
homelessness



**811,155**  
loans from  
Lambeth Libraries



**1,400**  
apprenticeships  
started in Lambeth



**1,379**  
residents supported  
into employment,  
training or education



**33,873**  
school places  
provided in  
the borough



**26**  
parks with Green  
Flag status and 3  
with Green Flag  
Heritage awards



**Over 2,000**  
children signed  
up to Free School  
Meals through the  
council's expansion  
and auto-award  
initiatives



**40**  
voluntary and  
community  
organisations  
funded to provide  
cost of living  
support



**1,800**  
trees planted, with  
another 1,800 to  
plant next year



**4,044**  
children and  
young people  
attended Lambeth's  
Summer Holiday  
Activities and Food  
programme