

Your Council Tax



Dear resident,

We're very proud that, despite over a decade of funding cuts from central government, Lambeth Council has managed to protect the services that local people rely on. Throughout the cost of living crisis, Lambeth Council has been on your side: putting in place one of London's biggest cost of living support packages, helping thousands of local families access food and emergency support and expanding free school meals including through the school holidays so that more children have a hot, healthy meal every day.

We've been able to do this despite the worst budget crisis that local councils have ever faced, because we've always prioritised the services that support those who need help the most. And we've listened to what residents care about through our biggest-ever budget engagement exercise, with over 5,000 local people and community organisations giving their views on how the council should save money and raise more income.

We know that you want the council to be well-run and efficient, which is why we've slashed the number of senior managers, we're renting out council office space to generate income and we're making services more efficient through the use of technology. We also know that local people care about improving street cleaning, tackling anti-social behaviour and supporting vulnerable children, which is why we're maintaining spending on these services and have increased investment for vulnerable children in the last three years by over £30 million.

We're very proud that this investment is having a real impact on local people. Lambeth's Youth Justice Service was recently independently graded as good for the first time since before 2014 and this follows a long list of improvements this council has made across your public services, including:

- Our housing services receiving the second-highest rating from the regulator
- Every Lambeth secondary school is 'Good' or 'Outstanding'
- Our fantastic parks have been ranked as top three in London
- Our award-winning ten libraries being given 'Library of Sanctuary' status

And we're tackling the impacts of the national housing crisis head-on, by pushing ahead with our ambitious plans to start over 3,000 new homes on council land over the next 5 years, including much-needed family homes for those on our council housing waiting list.

Delivering great public services that you and your family can rely on is our ambition for Lambeth. To keep delivering those improvements, and to keep investing in pioneering work from cleaning up toxic air for our children and young people and improving transport in local neighbourhoods, to providing refuge beds for women and girls who are victims of violence and domestic abuse and tackling health inequalities, we are increasing Council Tax by 2.99%. This is alongside the 2% increase recommended by government to fund adult social care, and means an increase of around £1.40 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 entire country and funds a record of improving services and investment in our neighbourhoods and communities. We'll work hard to make sure every pound is spent well on improving local services, and by taking this decision, we can continue to build a more equal and just Lambeth for all.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Claire Holland
Leader of Lambeth Council

What we delivered for you in 2025/26



495

new homes received planning permission – including 147 affordable



26

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



17,000

children received Free School Meal Holiday provision



1,243

households successfully protected from homelessness – 760 through prevention work and another 483 households through relief activity



3,335

selective licences awarded to landlords, helping improve conditions and management across the private rented sector



66

Schools rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted inspectors



12,000

Trees planted, exceeding the programme's original target of 5,000 new trees



827,793

book loans – including e-books – from Lambeth libraries



45

school streets, tackling congestion outside schools, and cutting exposure to toxic air for our youngest residents



109,631

housing repairs completed



1,736

inspections carried out to assess conditions in privately rented homes



234

fewer homeless households in Temporary Accommodation