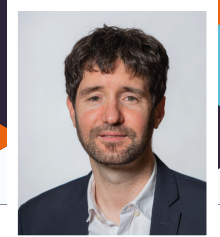


Your Council Tax 2023 - 2024



The council provides services that support people and help make our borough a great place to live, work and study. As costs continue to rise, the pressure to find money is increasing and more people need support.

We are in a stronger position than many to face these financial challenges because we have put the borough's finances in order, taken decisive action and started work to build effective community resilience. This means we can continue to focus on the key services our residents rely on, while addressing the financial pressures from the national economic crisis, rising demand and ongoing insufficient government funding.

More than half (57.5%) of everything the council spends each year goes towards providing social care to vulnerable adults, children and young people. This year we will be spending £161.3m on these vital services as well as supporting families affected by the cost of living crisis.

The decision to raise council tax is always difficult, but with costs rising and very little support from central government, we have no choice but to ask residents to pay a bit more for the services we deliver to everyone. Kingston's central grant has gone from £66m in 2010 to almost nothing this year. We receive some specific grant

funding but our core budget relies primarily on what we receive from council tax and business rates.

Your council tax has two elements, a part which is set by, and goes to, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and another part which is set by Kingston Council. The total increase in the Kingston element of your council tax for 2023-24 will be 4.99%, whilst the GLA is increasing its element by 9.7%. This is equivalent to approximately £1.66 a week extra for a Band D Household for the Kingston Council element and a further £0.74 a week for the GLA part. For more information on how your council tax is broken down, visit kingston.gov.uk/counciltax

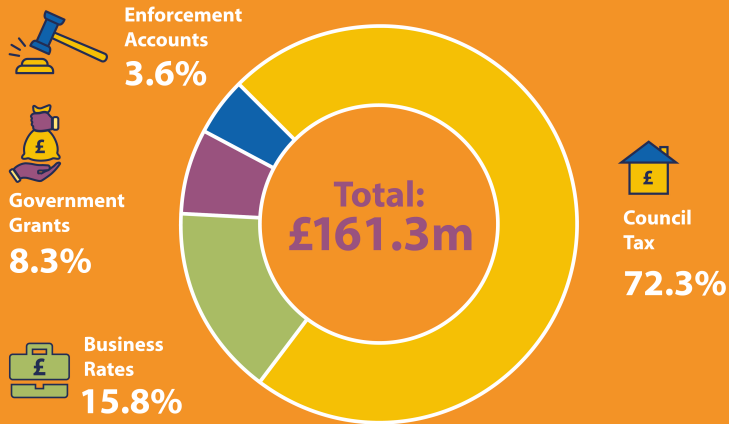
We know this is a difficult time for everyone and help is available for those who are on lower incomes or claiming certain benefits through the council tax reduction scheme. Find out what support you may be eligible for at kingston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who shared their comments on our budget proposals. We have listened to your feedback and will use it to shape future services and priorities.

Andreas

Councillor Andreas Kirsch
Leader of Kingston Council

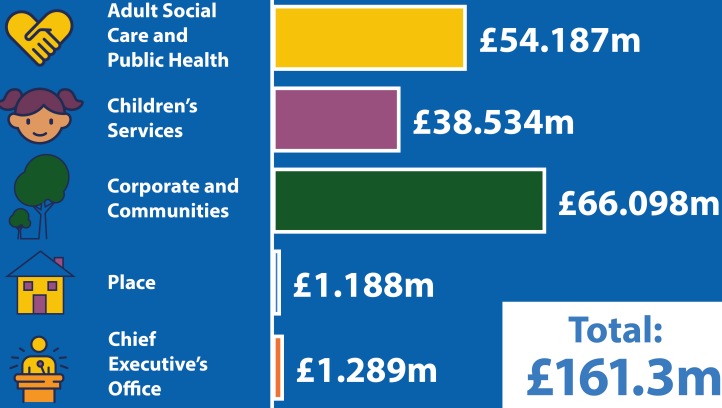
Where we will get our money from in 2023-24



* Council tax and Business Rates income figures net of prior year collection fund surpluses and deficits

Full budget by directorate

What we will spend our money on in 2023-24



Our services explained

- **Corporate and Communities** - this area covers the largest number of different council services including libraries, heritage, arts, community neighbourhoods teams, customer contact, community engagement, highways and sustainable transport, licensing and regulation, climate action, contract management, finance services, human resources, digital and IT, governance and democratic support.
- **Place** - includes all housing services, planning, regeneration, economic recovery, employment and skills.
- **Chief Executive's Office** - includes the Chief Executive Officer, three directors and subscriptions to local government organisations.

The budget for 2023-24 sets out the council's plans to continue to create a greener, fairer, safer borough, working together with communities, voluntary groups and partners to find more effective ways to offer services.

Examples of what we're spending the money on



- Investing in improving mental health assessments and care.
- We have recently opened a new specialist dementia care home.



- Opening a new specialist autism school in 2023.
- Further plans for two more schools.



- Removing single-use plastic from our buildings.
- Planting more trees and investing in our parks and green spaces.
- Encouraging more sustainable transport options across the borough.
- Increasing the number of school streets.
- Installing more electric vehicle charging points.
- Increasing recycling rates.
- Investment in highways and street lighting.
- Development of a Community Resilience Fund.
- Improving how customers contact and interact with the council.



- Delivering 78 new homes on 3 small sites across the borough.
- Investment in our libraries and public spaces.

Find out more

For more information about the council's budget, or if you'd like to receive your council tax bill electronically, visit kingston.gov.uk/counciltax

You can also sign up to our e-newsletter to keep up to date with the latest borough news at: kingston.gov.uk/newsletter or join our Let's Talk Kingston Resident Panel to get involved in projects across the borough at: kingstonletstalk.co.uk/kingston-panel

We are here for you

We know this is a challenging time with rising costs affecting us all. If you or someone you know is struggling, you can find information and advice on everything from budgeting and energy bills to food supplies, community spaces and health and wellbeing at kingston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport

You can access our services, report issues, make payments and more at kingston.gov.uk/i-need

If you have difficulty reading this document because of a disability, or would like it in a different format or language, please call our Contact Centre on **020 8547 5000**, or ask someone to call on your behalf.

