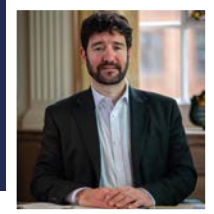


Your Council Tax

2025 - 2026



The council provides services that support people in need, as well as the everyday services that maintain the borough and keep it clean and safe for all.

Like most local authorities, we face huge financial challenges to deliver services as costs continue to rise, more people need support and we continue to manage the impact of significant long term underfunding.

As the local authority we have a duty to support our vulnerable residents and I also believe it is right that we care for those in need. For 2025-26 we will spend £190.67 million on delivering vital support and services across the borough. A total of 37% will go to delivering adult social care and 24% to children's services. A further 6% will be allocated to temporary accommodation for homeless families and individuals. That is 67% of the council's total budget on these areas alone.

We are working collaboratively across the council and with our partners and communities to transform our services and support residents in the best and most efficient way possible. This includes providing early support and using technology in innovative ways to help residents live more independent and fulfilling lives.

Our core budget relies primarily on what we receive from council tax and business rates. We only receive a small amount of grant funding and in these extremely challenging financial times, as costs and needs continue to rise, we have no choice but to ask residents to pay a bit more for the services we deliver.

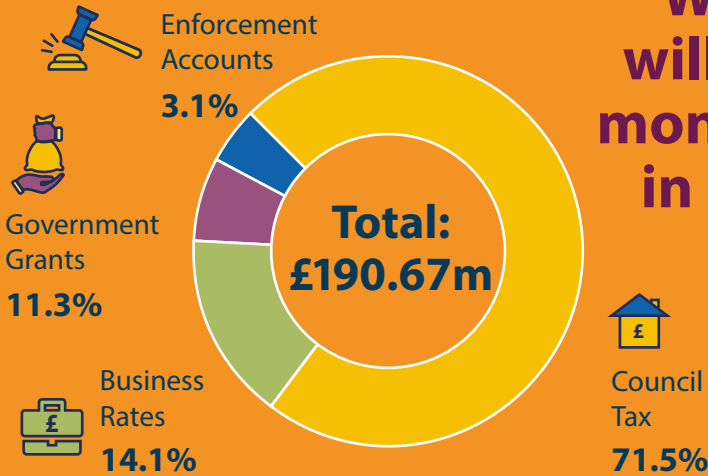
For the majority, your council tax has two elements, a part which is set by, and goes to, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and another part which is set by Kingston Council. The total increase in the Kingston element of your council tax for 2025-26 will be 4.99%, whilst the GLA is increasing its element by 4%. This is equivalent to approximately £1.83 a week extra for a Band D Household for the Kingston Council element and a further £0.37 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. Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to claim an exemption or discount on your council tax. Find out what support you may be eligible for at kingston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport

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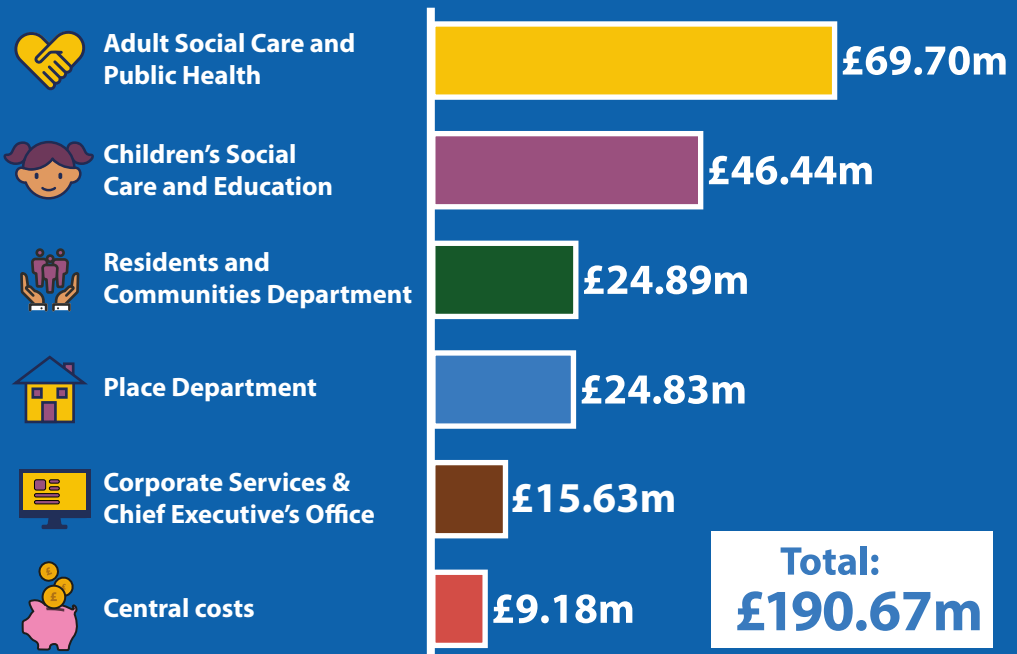
Councillor Andreas Kirsch
Leader of Kingston Council

Where we will get our money from in 2025-26



Full budget by department

What we will spend our money on in 2025-26



Our services explained

Residents and Communities Department

Includes customer contact, libraries & culture, waste & recycling, parks & green spaces, community safety and resilience planning.

Central costs

Includes pension contributions, general contingencies, interest & capital financing and levies.

Place Department

Includes all housing services, regeneration, highways & transport, planning and regulatory services.

Corporate Services & Chief Executive's Office

Includes digital & IT, finance, people & organisational development, democratic support and community engagement.

Examples of spend in 2024-25



- Supporting over 1,600 adults
- Delivering technology-enabled care services to enable vulnerable people to stay in their own homes and be independent for longer



- Supporting 1,050 children and young people in need
- Creating Family Hubs - support for children, young people and families in one accessible location
- Building a children's home for a small number of the most vulnerable children in care
- Making it safer for over 4,500 school children to walk, cycle or scoot to school through our school streets schemes



- Investing in and maintaining our highways and street lighting
- Encouraging more sustainable transport options, including free cycle training
- Investing in our parks, green spaces and public realm
- Maintaining a high level of recycling and delivering high quality waste services



- Building new council homes on sites across the borough
- Providing temporary accommodation for over 1,000 homeless people
- Delivering a new leisure centre in Kingston Town Centre



- Investing in digital technology to make services more accessible
- Improving digital connectivity across the borough (mobile data coverage and speed, CCTV)

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/engagement/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 kitchen and food bank locations, community spaces and health and wellbeing at kingston.gov.uk/costoflivingsupport and connectedkingston.uk

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.

