

A GUIDE TO YOUR COUNCIL TAX 2026/27



Delivering for **Bromley**

- Transforming libraries and leisure centres
- £29m saved this year with even more efficient services
- Half of waste recycled as we lead London recycling

Despite
£30.5m
less funding per
year for
Bromley from
Government
funding
announcement
READ MORE...



Bromley's challenges

A total of £121 m in net cost increases have been faced by the Council since 2020/21, which is more than two and a half times the size of the current Environment department budget, for comparison. This includes...

£9m net increase in Children's Services and Education costs projected for 2026/27

£16.8m net increase in Adult Services costs projected for 2026/27

£2.3m net increase in Housing services costs projected for 2026/27, as we house Bromley residents on the housing register

What we're doing

A new dedicated home for children is opening in the borough, with a further home being planned. We are looking to ensure more of the borough's children can remain local, closer to their support networks, while reducing our reliance on expensive placements and specialist providers from the private sector.

New technology is being used in Adult Social Care to improve services while minimising costs, with Magic Notes, an Assistive Technology, saving £1.8m alone. Magic Notes helps free up time for our social workers by generating reports from secure recordings, so residents can benefit from more attentive care assessments.

The Bromley Homes for Bromley People programme is building quality affordable housing across the borough to let to residents on the housing register. Five sites are already completed, most recently of 35 homes in Orpington, with further sites in progress. The council is also acquiring housing as close to the borough as possible, while supporting residents facing homelessness in remaining in their homes wherever possible.





Message from the Leader of Bromley Council, Councillor Colin Smith

Dear Resident,

I am certain from time to time, that many of you will have read a news article about a huge win on the National lottery and pondered what you would do personally with however many million pounds were up for grabs. Well, I've been haunted by two similar questions recently; **what more could Bromley do with an extra 112 million pounds per year and what on earth are other London Councils spending their extra funding on?**

This is the amount Bromley would receive each and every year with just the average Government settlement for London under the new funding arrangements, which amounts to about 32% of our annual net budget.

For some this may sound like a familiar story, as since the turn of the century Bromley has been losing out in the distribution of central government funding for local councils and we have been incessantly calling on Government to put this injustice right for Bromley ever since.

However, instead of answering these calls, especially in the face of the relentless cost pressures we're facing, with a further £33m in extra costs projected for this year, the Government's latest announcement does quite the opposite. Bromley will now be £22.2m worse off each year by 2028/29, rising to £30.5m factoring in projected inflation, which leads to the astonishing disparity above.

As frustrating as it may be, the Government has made its decision and isn't going to change it. We are on our own. Again.

I hope some of the good work highlighted here that we have managed with great difficulty to find the money for, gives you a sense of what more we could do with an extra £112m, be that the 8 refurbished libraries we have reopened in the last few years, the two transformations of leisure centres we are delivering in Orpington and West Wickham, or the new state-of-the-art health and wellbeing centre now operating in the heart of Bromley town centre.

Our focus, drive and vision remains undimmed – to continue driving down costs and carefully manage our finances over the longer term, whilst keeping your council tax as low as we possibly can under the circumstances, balanced against the need to prioritise the delivery of the services that residents want and deserve, to the standard you expect.

It is no easy task, but we press on.

Kind regards

Councillor Colin Smith

28%
cut
in Bromley's
government
funding

Bromley lose out in Government funding announcement

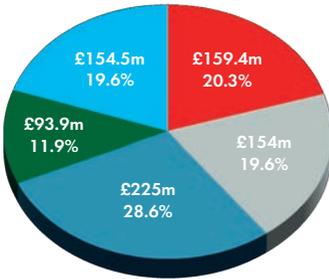
Bromley's Government grant is being reduced by £22.2m per year by 2028/29, representing a 22% reduction in core funding and 28% in real terms factoring in inflation. This is a significant reduction compared to London and even compared to Outer London, as Bromley would receive an additional £74.7m in 2026/27 with the average settlement per head for Outer London.

How is the Council funded

While your council tax is extremely important for supporting the services all residents rely on, this only covers around 30% of the funding for Council services. This is why the recently announced reduction in

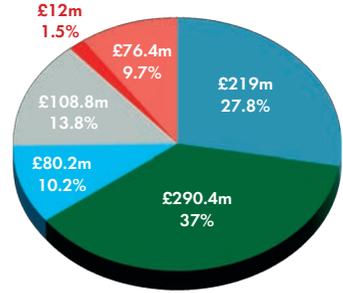
Government funding for Bromley is so significant, as this funding is used to meet the rising costs being faced for the statutory services that the council must provide, such as housing for homeless families and Adult and Children's social care.

Funding of The Council's Services 2026/27



- Specific Grants
- Council Tax
- Dedicated Schools Grant
- Business Rates Retention
- Other - Fees and Charges etc

Where the Money Goes 2026/27



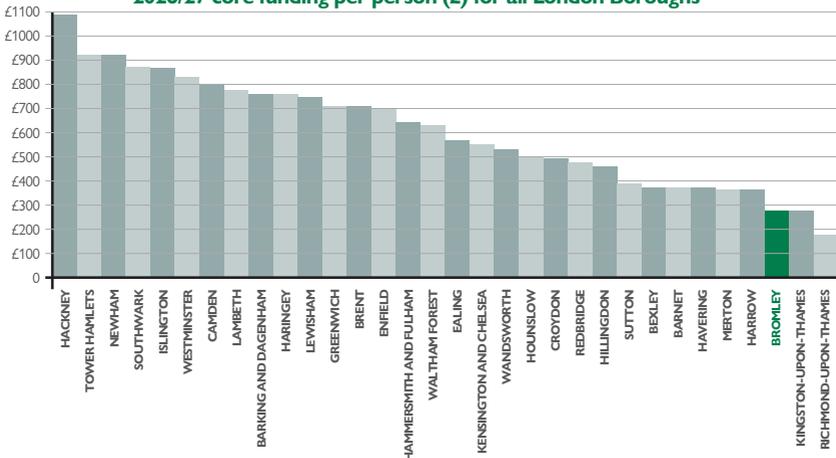
- Adult Care & Health
- Children, Education and Families
- Environment & Community Services
- Housing
- Freedom Pass Costs
- Other Council Services (Including Levies)

* Excludes the DSG deficit which is subject to review by Central Government

EXTRA £112 MILLION PER YEAR

The amount Bromley would get if it received the average Central Government settlement funding for London under the new arrangements

2026/27 core funding per person (£) for all London Boroughs



How much will I pay?

Bromley's Council Tax requirement will result in a Council Tax bill for a Band D property of £2,140.04 in 2026/27.

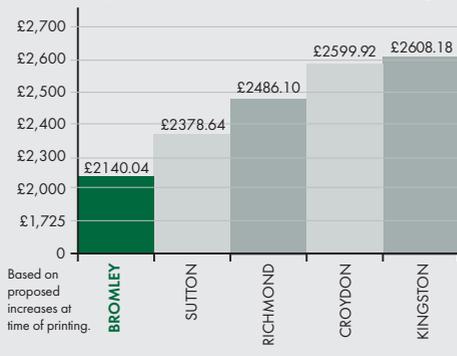
Bromley and Greater London Authority Council Tax for a Band D property for this year compared to last year

Taxing authority	2025/26	2026/27	Increase%
Bromley	£1,552.08	£1,629.53	4.99%
GLA	£490.38	£510.51	4.10%
Total	£2,042.46	£2,140.04	4.78%

Property Band	Council Tax £.p	
	2026/27	2025/26
A	1,426.69	1,361.64
B	1,664.47	1,588.58
C	1,902.26	1,815.52
D	2,140.04	2,042.46
E	2,615.61	2,496.34
F	3,091.17	2,950.22
G	3,566.73	3,404.10
H	4,280.08	4,084.92

Council Tax compared

2026/27 Band D Council Tax rates compared to outer South London Boroughs

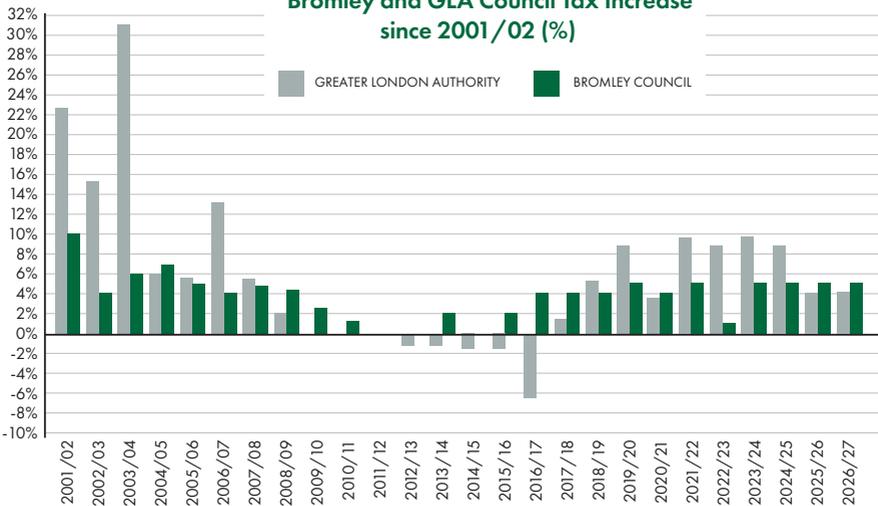


The simplest way to pay council tax is by direct debit

This saves worrying about late payments, is easy to set up, and is the lowest cost method for our council tax collection, meaning more can be spent on council services.

Manage this and further services through your MyBromley Account www.bromley.gov.uk/mybromleyaccount

Bromley and GLA Council Tax Increase since 2001/02 (%)



Success in tackling loneliness

Bromley's leading Loneliness Strategy brings together the work of the Council, voluntary groups and partners on a wide-range of initiatives to tackle loneliness, which now includes an online directory of over 1,500 related activities and groups. This work is paying off with Bromley now in first place in London amongst residents stating they have as much social contact as they want, according to the Social Care Outcomes Framework. Recognition for Bromley's Loneliness Champion was also received in the New Year's Honours List!

Bromley is continuing to develop support for the armed forces community. Local businesses and organisations are encouraged to join this journey by signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant, this is a nationwide pledge to treat with fairness and respect those who serve or have served in the armed forces, along with the wider armed forces community.



Employment service gets to work

Bromley Works, the Council's new employment and skills service, has launched an initial programme to support eligible residents into high-quality employment, in support of Bromley businesses and the local economy. The programme directly links residents seeking employment and employers with local vacancies, while offering targeted training and advice for those involved.

Support for local businesses is also provided through initiatives like Start Up Bromley, which has supported over 900 local businesses and entrepreneurs through the borough's libraries with free access to facilities, and tailored advice and support. Elsewhere, the borough's businesses are coming together as part of Opportunity Bromley, the borough's inward investment service led by local businesses to help the local economy to thrive.

Saving through smart investments

The Council's nationally recognised pension fund is a prime example of the careful investment the Council pursues to maximise value in support of service delivery. Consistently high returns over many years mean that the outstanding performance is generating an annual saving of £10m for the Council by reducing the employer's contribution. This saving will go to supporting Council services, while ensuring the pension fund remains fully funded to protect the contributions Council employees make over their careers.

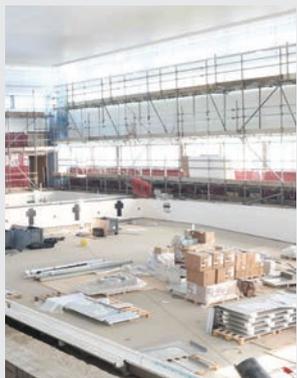


Delivering for Bromley town centre

The long-term future of the Churchill Theatre has been secured thanks to the sale of the site to Galliard Group, with the theatre's current operator Trafalgar Theatres now able to develop the theatre's fantastic offering and bring forward investment plans.



Elsewhere in the town centre, a state-of-the-art Health and Wellbeing Centre has now opened as part of Bromley's wider Civic Centre Building, bringing local health services together in a welcoming new environment. Bromley continues to support an enhanced offering for the town centre, with the recent Planning approval of plans to reconfigure the former Debenhams unit expected to attract a range of new leisure activities for residents.



Transforming leisure centres

The Walnuts Leisure Centre reopens this Spring following a complete transformation, with an expanded gym, competition-length swimming pool, new café, sauna and steam room. The multi-million-pound investment delivers essential repairs and a new heating system, ensuring the centre is fit for the future. Works are also underway on a brand-new West Wickham Leisure Centre following demolition works completed last year.

Loving our libraries

Refurbishment works have been completed on eight of the borough's libraries in recent years, ensuring they have the provisions needed to continue supporting residents for years to come. A range of exciting new features are also available across these libraries, from the Makerspace with a 3D printers in West Wickham, to the Cubbie to support neurodivergent residents in Mottingham, with each library brightened by a colourful mural from artist Alice Pattullo. Works are now progressing on creating a new home for Bromley Central Library in a prime high street location for late this year.



Parks, roads and recycling



Caring for our parks

There are over 160 parks and open green spaces across the borough, which the Council is protecting and enhancing, including with investment having been delivered from the Council's £1m Platinum Jubilee Fund. Pratts Bottom Open Space, Widmore Road Recreation Ground and Husseywell Open Space are amongst the latest green spaces to benefit from new playground equipment, with park improvements having been delivered across Bromley, as we continue to cherish the borough's green spaces.

Ramping up road repairs

Bromley is more than doubling its road resurfacing programme to over £5m in the coming year, as potholes created by the torrential rain this winter continue to be tackled. A trial of new 'super asphalt' is expected to speed up this process, which unlike traditional hot asphalt can be laid in any weather condition in 20 minutes on average.



Leading London for recycling

Bromley has for many years been leading London in recycling. Around half of Bromley's waste is now being recycled and almost zero waste goes to landfill, with over 60,000 tonnes being recycled or composted a year. Residents are thanked for their ongoing efforts in recycling and reducing waste that supports this record, which also helps to minimise costs in delivering these services for residents.

Local elections in Bromley are on Thursday 7 May

If you want to vote by post, please apply in good time and before 5pm on Tuesday 21 April



Find out more, including about voter ID, polling station locations and key election deadlines at www.bromley.gov.uk/LocalElection