

**Council Tax and Business
Rates Information 2010/11**

0%

council tax increase



10



We are focused on helping our residents and businesses in this difficult economic climate and, in order to help us achieve this, we have not increased Council Tax by a penny.

Newham has the lowest Council Tax in Outer London and we will continue to keep it affordable whilst providing better services.

We are spending more on the areas that matter most to you, including crime and anti-social behaviour, cleaner streets, and improving health.

You rightly expect the best and we are determined to have better schools, safer neighbourhoods and more employment for our residents. We are investing and working hard to achieve these goals and ensure that Newham is a place where people choose to live, work and stay.

What you get for your money

Council Tax money makes up 25 per cent of the money the council uses to provide services for you.

We use this money to provide an extensive range of services for the whole community.

Details of our income and spending can be found on pages 8-12.

We aim to provide the services you want and to constantly improve the services we offer, based on what matters most to you.

Contents

Highlights in 2009/10	6
Council Tax and the council's spending plans	8
Becoming more efficient	13
Council Tax information	14
Precepting and levying authorities	20
Greater London Authority	22
National non-domestic rates	28
Council Tax Benefit	34
How the council collects and processes your personal information	38

Here are some of the great things we did for you in 2009/10

(All figures quoted below are for April-December 2009)

Crime and anti-social behaviour

- 49 street scene enforcement officers have been recruited to tackle issues such as flytipping and getting rubbish bags off the streets
- the Council has funded 31 Police posts to operate in four safer neighbourhood teams
- the council has seized 33 dangerous dogs this year so far compared with 25 in the whole of 2008/09 and 13 the year before
- there have been 146 test purchases for selling alcohol to under 18s and as a result 10 businesses have been successfully prosecuted or cautioned for illegally selling alcohol to young people this year
- crimes using guns have fallen by 26 per cent when April-December 2009 is compared with April-December 2008.

Environmental improvements and recycling

- Visits have been made to households in the borough to assist in recycling, with the current rate of recycling improving from 15% in 2008/09 to 19% year to date
- almost £15 million has been spent on the Environmental Improvement Programme upgrading roads, pavements, parking/traffic schemes and lighting; this has included replacing 180,000 SqM of roads, 80,000 SqM of footways and 800 streetlights.

Parks and green spaces

- Central Park, Forest Lane Park and Stratford Park have again been awarded prestigious Green Flags for good standards of green space, management and maintenance with Memorial Park also winning the award for the first time
- £8.8 million has been invested in Newham's parks and open spaces across 25 sites in the borough; in addition, Central Park's £2m restoration was completed in early 2010.

Opportunities to get fit and stay healthy

- Young people futsal and football leagues were established, with both the Mayoral Football league and Futsal leagues having hundreds of young people competing in weekly competition
- free swims were started for 16s and under and 60s and over throughout Newham's four leisure centres with over 5,000 free swims each month, and a further 20,000 for the school summer holidays



- there has been a five per cent increase in people using our leisure centres, plus over £2m investment into the centres themselves
- one of the largest youth sports programmes in London was delivered over the summer
- three new sport and community hubs are opening following £6m investment - Memorial Recreation Ground, Newham Multi Sports Centre and Flanders
- expanding on the success of the Warm Centres programme, Summer Centres was launched, running from April to October at 28 locations, offering 50s and over free dance, sports and exercise classes, outings, bingo and board games, afternoon tea and bowls and a midsummer ball, with over 30,000 visits to the activities.

Improvements in education

- The proportion of young people in Newham schools achieving five or more A*-C GCSEs or equivalent across all subjects increased from 58 per cent in 2008 to 64 per cent in 2009
- the number achieving five or more A*-C GCSEs or equivalents including English and maths rose from 45 per cent in 2008 to 47 per cent in 2009.

Employment and volunteering opportunities

- Workplace (including the Mayor's Employment Project) has successfully helped 1,402 people into work.
- Volunteering numbers and opportunities increasing, with Newham being recognised as National best.

Housing

- Against a challenging economic backdrop, the council has delivered 459 affordable homes this year
- 198 homes which were vacant or derelict have been brought back into occupation by the council
- the Newham Handyvan service which offers a free odd jobs and small repairs service to elderly and disabled residents receiving benefits has carried out 759 jobs.

The Young Mayor

- Kaycee de Belen was elected as our third Young Mayor of Newham
- turnout, was high once again, with more than 7,000 young people aged between 11 and 18 voting in the election.

Your Council Tax helps to pay for hundreds of services that you use everyday from having your bins emptied to educating your children. At the council we work hard to try and ensure that you get value for money.

Each year the council works out how much it needs to run these services, as well as its day-to-day running costs for the next financial year.

It is this figure that helps to decide how much Council Tax you pay.

The council gets its money from the Government, Business Rates and Council Tax. The Government decides roughly what proportion of a council's spending will be met from Council Tax.

For 2010/11, the council needs to raise £93.7 million from Council Tax. The table below shows what the Tax is for each Council Tax band. Council Tax has been frozen at the same level for the last two years.

Council Tax Charge for 2010/11

Band	Value of your property	Maximum Council Tax payable £	Maximum for Newham Council's services £	Contribution to The Greater London Authority (GLA) £
A	Up to £40,000	836.97	630.42	206.55
B	£40,001-£52,000	976.46	735.49	240.97
C	£52,001-£68,000	1,115.96	840.56	275.40
D	£68,001-£88,000	1,255.45	945.63	309.82
E	£88,001-£120,000	1,534.44	1,155.77	378.67
F	£120,001-£160,000	1,813.43	1,365.91	447.52
G	£160,001-£320,000	2,092.42	1,576.05	516.37
H	Over £320,000	2,510.90	1,891.26	619.64

Your Council Tax bill shows which band your property is in.

Newham's Budget for 2010/11

	Last Year (2009/10)		This Year (2010/11)	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Service Budgets				
Adults, Community and Leisure	137.4	94.8	145.3	108.8
Children and Young People	126.3	95.2	128.9	94.9
Corporate and Strategic Management	6.0	4.0	11.3	7.4
Customer Services	14.5	12.0	23.0	6.9
Dedicated Schools Budget	333.0	0.0	330.2	0.0
Environment	187.8	47.1	176.8	70.9
Housing Revenue Account	114.5	0.0	115.0	0.0
Regeneration and Development	17.3	8.4	21.8	10.1
Resources	341.2	30.6	325.7	26.7
	1,278.0	292.1	1,278.0	325.7
Central Items				
Interest on investment of cash balances		(5.9)		(5.9)
Interest and Debt Repayment Provision		34.0		38.3
Payments for London-wide services (1)		0.8		0.7
Efficiencies and Savings		6.0		(1.5)
Capital Charges		(18.0)		(18.0)
Other General Budget Items		18.7		3.7
Area Based Grant		(35.5)		(46.7)
Money taken from General Reserve		(3.5)		(1.8)
Newham Council's Budget Requirement		288.7		294.5
Greater London Authority (1)		23.2		23.2
Total Budget for services provided for the Newham area		311.9		317.7

(1) for further details please see pages 22-27.

Changes in Newham's Spending Plans

	£m	£m
Newham's Budget 2009/10		288.7
Additional Costs		
Adults, Community and Leisure	14.0	
Corporate and Strategic Management	3.4	
Regeneration and Development	1.7	
Other services	4.0	
		23.1
Efficiency Savings		
Children and Young People	(6.4)	
Regeneration and Development	(0.5)	
Other service savings	(0.7)	
		(7.6)
Increase in Area Based Grant	(11.2)	
Pay and price increases	(0.2)	
Change in use of balances	1.7	
		(9.7)
Newham's Budget 2010/11		294.5

The Council Workforce

	2009/10	2010/11
Adults, Community and Leisure	752	676
Children and Young People	6,775	6,680
Corporate and Strategic Management	121	87
Customer Services	256	276
Environment	1,229	1,285
Housing Revenue Account	66	57
Regeneration and Development	142	238
Resources	1,132	1,092
Total Workforce	10,473	10,391

How Your Council Tax is Worked Out

2009/10		2010/11	Council Tax per Band D Dwelling	Percentage Increase in Council Tax
£000		£000	£	%
288,670	Newham's Budget Requirement	294,524		
	less			
(40,860)	Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(28,400)		
(177,028)	Business Rates	(195,581)		
70,782	Newham Requirement	70,543	945.63	0.0
23,191	Greater London Authority	23,112	309.82	0.0
93,973	Total to be raised from Council Tax	93,655	1,255.45	0.0

Newham's Budget Requirement Includes the Following Levies (amounts charged)

£000		£000
11,353	East London Waste Authority	12,242
150	Environment Agency (Flood Defence)	148
230	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	228
363	London Pensions Fund Authority	285

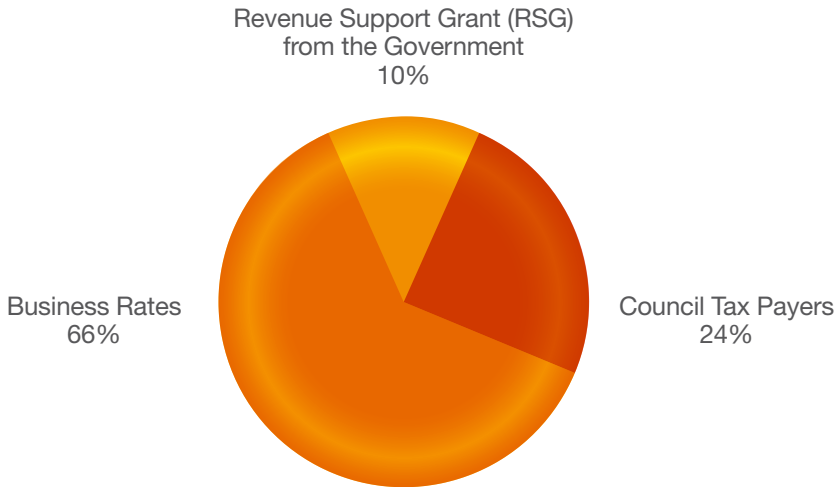
The Council Tax for Band D Dwellings =
$$\frac{\text{Newham and GLA requirements}}{\text{Council Tax Base}}$$

The Council Tax Base is the number of Band D or equivalent dwellings in Newham. The tax base used in calculating the Council Tax, assuming we collect 97% of all Council Tax for the year, is 74,599. The Government, however, uses a figure based on 100% collection.

Liabilities

Newham funds some of its capital expenditure (such as major works to houses and construction of schools) from borrowing. At 31 March 2009, the outstanding balance on these loans amounted to £997 million. Repayment of these loans, together with interest, is charged to the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

No amount is recoverable from or payable to other authorities (either billing or precepting).



Council's Statement of Accounts

Copies of the council's full statement of accounts can be found by visiting <http://www.newham.gov.uk/statementofaccounts0809/>

If you have any feedback on the statement of accounts please email chief.accountant@newham.gov.uk or write to the Chief Accountant, Financial Services, London Borough of Newham, Newham Dockside, 1000 Dockside Road, London E16 2QU.



Becoming More Efficient

All councils are required to measure and report the value of efficiency savings they have achieved since April 2008. An efficiency saving occurs when the cost of an activity falls, but its effectiveness is not reduced. The table below shows the value of efficiency savings achieved by the end of March 2009 and forecast to be achieved by the end of March 2010:

	By March 2009	By March 2010
London Borough of Newham	£12,460,000	£22,380,000
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority	£4,724,000	£12,885,000
Metropolitan Police Authority	£147,861,000	£298,618,000

The table below shows the value of gains forecast to be achieved by March 2009 for the average Band D dwelling and compares that with the average figure for similar authorities across England:

	Saving per Band D dwelling	National Average for similar authorities
London Borough of Newham	299	207
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority	4	4
Metropolitan Police Authority	101	54

Each year, councils are assessed by the Audit Commission on their use of resources and they have judged Newham council to be performing well.

What is Council Tax?

Council Tax is the local tax that helps pay for services provided by your council, such as housing, street lighting, cleaning, libraries and meals on wheels and those provided by the Greater London Authority such as the fire brigade, the police and other London wide organisations.

There is one Council Tax bill for each home, whether it is a house, bungalow, flat, maisonette or mobile home.

Owner-occupiers or resident tenants, including council and housing association tenants, usually have to pay Council Tax.

Council Tax is based on two things:

(a) the property and **(b)** personal circumstances.

Who pays Council Tax?

Normally the person living in the property will be responsible for paying the Council Tax, but there are instances where the landlord has to pay even if she/he does not live in the property. For example, if the property is:

- multi-occupied, rented by individuals who share facilities
- a care home or nursing home
- occupied by a religious community
- occupied by a minister of religion or
- where at least one of the residents is employed in domestic service for the owner or
- where the resident is an asylum seeker housed under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 by the National Asylum Support Service. You should tell the council if any of the above apply to you.

How has your Council Tax been worked out?

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is an executive agency of HMRC. It is responsible for, among other things, valuing domestic properties for Council Tax purposes, as well as handling appeals against bandings, in England and Wales.

Under the Council Tax, all homes in England are currently placed in one of eight value bands, based on their open market value on 1 April 1991.

How can I appeal against the valuation band allocated to my property?

If you think your property has been put into the wrong band, or you require further information, you should write to the listing officer. The address is Valuation Office Agency, Barking Office, 10th Floor, Crown House, Linton Road, Barking, Essex IG11 8HJ



Telephone: 020 8272 0100, Fax: 020 0272 0199

Web: www.voa.gov.uk or email: londonnorthgroup.vo@voa.gsi.gov.uk

The Government has limited the grounds for appeal, so you must contact the listing officer as soon as possible if you feel you have a case.

You must, however, continue to pay while your appeal is being considered. If your appeal is successful any overpaid amount will be refunded.

Bills addressed to the ‘Council Tax Payer’

The Council Tax bill is addressed to the person(s) the council believes is liable to pay. If it is addressed to the ‘Council Tax Payer’ you must contact the council immediately on 020 8430 2000 and pass on the name(s) of the person(s) responsible for paying the Council Tax.

Exemptions and discounts

The following is a list of exempt properties where no Council Tax charge is payable.

These properties must be unoccupied and:

- A** Requires, or is undergoing, or has undergone, major repair work to render it habitable, or is undergoing, or has undergone structural alteration. Such a dwelling will be exempt for a period, which is the shorter of:
 - a) a period of 12 months from the day on which it became vacant or;
 - b) a period beginning on the day which it became vacant and ending six months after the day such repairs or alterations are substantially completed.
- B** Owned by a charity and unoccupied for less than six months.
- C** Substantially unfurnished for less than six months.
- D** Left vacant by prisoners, except those jailed for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine.
- E** Left vacant by someone whose main residence is now a hospital, nursing home or care home.
- F** Where the qualifying person is the personal representative of a person, who has died, probate has not been made, or less than six months have elapsed since the day probate was granted.
- G** Occupation is prohibited by law or occupation is prevented by a planning condition.
- H** Held for the occupation of a minister of religion from which to perform their duties.
- I** Previously the main home of a person now living in another place (not a NHS hospital, or care home) so they can receive care.

- J** (As for class I), providing care instead of receiving it.
- K** Previously occupied only by one or more students and who are still students.
- L** Vacant following repossession by a mortgage lender.
- Q** The person is only liable as a trustee in bankruptcy.
- R** A home consisting of a pitch or mooring, which is not occupied by a caravan or a boat.
- T** Unoccupied annexe, which forms part of another property, or is situated within the area of another home and is difficult to let separately from that other property.

These properties may be occupied or unoccupied depending on the exemption

- M** A student hall of residence owned by an educational establishment or a charity.
- N** Property occupied wholly by student(s).
- O** Property owned by Secretary of State for Defence and held for armed forces, (not visiting forces).
- P** Property where the liable person has a relevant association with a visiting force.
- S** Property occupied only by persons under 18 years of age.
- U** Property occupied only by severely mentally impaired people or occupied together with one or more full time students.
- V** Property occupied by person(s) with Diplomatic Privilege/Immunity and not British Citizens.
- W** Where an annexe, or similar self-contained part of a property, is occupied by an elderly or disabled relative of the people living in the rest of the home. This will not be regarded as a separate home for Council Tax purposes.

Discounts

The full amount is payable where there are two or more people aged 18 or over living in a property. If only one person is living in a property a 25 per cent discount is applicable. However, a discount may still be given even if more than one person lives in the property. This is because some people are ignored when 'counting' how many residents live there, example if they are 'disregarded' (see following 'disregarded categories').

The charge will be reduced by 25 per cent if only one person is 'counted' as living there and by 50 per cent if no one is 'counted' as living there. The charge is not reduced for temporary absences.

Student liability

Full time students are excepted from being held jointly and severally liable for Council Tax if they live in the same property as someone who is not a full time student (including their spouse or partner), and the non-student has an equal level of interest in the property with them e.g. joint tenant.



Disregarded categories

The following is a list of people who are ignored when 'counting' the number of people in a property. Please contact us on 020 8430 2000 if you require further information or a claim form.

- Full-time students, student nurses, apprentices and youth training trainees
- patients resident in hospital
- people who are being looked after in a care home
- people who are severely mentally impaired
- people staying in certain hostel or night shelters
- 18 and 19 year olds who are at, or have just left, school or college
- care workers working for low pay, usually for charities
- people caring for someone with a disability who is not a spouse, partner, nor the parent if the person is under 18
- members of visiting forces and certain international institutions
- members of religious communities (monks and nuns)
- people in prison unless they have been jailed for non-payment of Council Tax or a fine.

Single resident: Only one person resides at the property and this person is liable to pay Council Tax.
DISCOUNT=25 per cent

All but one resident: More than one person resides at the property, but only one person is counted for Council Tax purposes.
DISCOUNT=25 per cent

All residents disregarded: All persons residing at the property are disregarded from paying Council Tax.
DISCOUNT=50 per cent

Single person disregarded: Only one person resides at the property and this person is disregarded from paying Council Tax.
DISCOUNT=50 per cent

Changes to discounts on second homes and long-term empties

The Government has changed the Council Tax legislation in relation to discounts awarded on second homes and properties that are left unfurnished and unoccupied.

Each local authority now has the power to determine the level of discount that it awards in these instances. Newham Council has decided to reduce the discount awarded on properties that are used as second homes from 50 per cent to 10 per cent.

For other long-term unoccupied properties, where no exemption is applicable, the discount has been reduced from 50 per cent to 0 per cent.

Exceptions to this are if the second property is essential as a condition of employment. Details of the charge printed on your bill indicates that council records show one of the following applies to your property.

Long-term empty: Property is unfurnished and unoccupied for a period in excess of six months.
DISCOUNT=0 per cent

Furnished between let: The property is no one's sole or main residence and is furnished e.g. furnished ready to be let.
DISCOUNT=10 per cent

Condition of employment: The property is required as a condition of employment where the occupiers have their sole or main residence elsewhere and are registered to pay their Council Tax there.
DISCOUNT=50 per cent

Furnished second home: The property is furnished but is no one's sole or main residence and is considered to be a second home e.g. one may have a permanent address elsewhere, pay Council Tax there and stay at this property during the weekend.
DISCOUNT=10 per cent

Boats staying in their moorings: Where these are unoccupied for the first six months 100 per cent exemption applies; where the boat is still empty after six months a 50 per cent discount applies
DISCOUNT=50/100 per cent



People with disabilities

If you, or someone who lives with you, needs an extra bathroom or kitchen, or extra space in your home to meet special needs due to a disability, the amount of Council Tax you pay can be reduced by one band, for example from “band B” to “band A”. Even if your property is listed as a “band A” property you could still be entitled to a reduction.

How to appeal against the council’s decision

If you disagree with the council’s decision regarding liability to pay Council Tax i.e. refusal to grant a discount, an exemption, or a disabled reduction, you should appeal in writing to: Council Tax and Benefit Services, PO Box 23504, London E15 4UU.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the appeal, or the council fails to reply within two months, then an appeal can be made to the Clerk of the Valuation Tribunal. The address of the Tribunal is 2nd Floor Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1DU. Telephone 020 7426 3900 or fax 020 7247 6598 or email: vtwhitechapel@vto.gsx.gov.uk

Please check your bill

If you think any of the above may apply to you and the discount, exemption or disabled relief is not included on your bill please call the contact centre on 020 8430 2000.

Likewise if your bill shows a discount or exemption which you are not entitled to, please phone the Council Tax section on 020 8430 2000. If you fail to do so you could face a penalty of £50. Council Tax records are checked against other council records to ensure that discount, disregards and exemptions are correctly applied.

Change in circumstance

You must inform the Council Tax section at Newham Council within 21 days if your circumstances change. For example if:

You are about to move – Please supply the date, your forwarding address and if possible the name of the new occupants of the property. Log on to www.newham.gov.uk and select **Council Tax** from the A-Z of services, then click on **Council Tax – change of address form** from the menu on the right.

People move in or out of your property – Please let us know immediately as it might affect your entitlement to a discount, benefit or your liability to pay.



Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Lee Valley Regional Park is a unique leisure, sports and environmental destination for all residents of London, Essex and Hertfordshire.

The 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park, much of it formerly derelict land, is partly funded by a levy on the council tax. This year there has been no increase in this levy. Find out more about hundreds of great days out, world class sports venues and award winning parklands at www.leevalleypark.org.uk.

Environment Agency Thames Region

The Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended). The Environment Agency, as a levying body for its flood defence functions, under the above regulations, provides the following information:

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood defence along 5,200 kilometres of main river and along tidal and sea defences, in the area of the Thames Regional Flood Defence Committee. Flood defence money is spent on the construction of new flood defence schemes, the maintenance of the river system and existing flood defences together with the operation of a flood warning system.

The financial details are:

Thames Regional Flood Defence Committee

	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Gross expenditure	96,798	113,089
Levies Raised	10,000	10,000
Total Council Tax Base	4,988	5,027

The majority of funding for flood defence comes directly from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). However, where there are schemes which do not attract central funding the agency may seek funding from county and metropolitan councils, unitary authorities and London boroughs in the form of a local levy. The local levy is shared on the basis of band D equivalents between all contributing bodies within the committee area.

The levy is being kept at the same level as balances are being used to fund the increased expenditure on flood defence projects.



London Pensions Fund Authority

The London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) raises a levy each year to meet pension costs and other employer liabilities for which LPFA is now responsible and cannot charge to the pension fund. These payments relate to former employees of the Greater London Council (GLC), the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and the London Residuary Body (LRB).

For 2010/11, the income to be raised by levies is set out below. The Greater London levy is payable by all boroughs, the Inner London levy only in Inner London boroughs (including the City of London). The figures show the total to be raised and, in brackets, the percentage change on the previous year.

• Inner London	£13,230,000	(+4.3%)
• Greater London	£11,388,000	(-5.0%)
• Total	£24,618,000	(-0.2%)



East London Waste Authority (ELWA)

ELWA has the statutory responsibility for the disposal of around 464,600 tonnes of household, commercial, industrial and civic amenity site waste (current volumes) collected by the London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge.

Waste disposal is carried out under a 25-year Integrated Waste Management Contract (IWMC) with Shanks. East London, supported by funding via the government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

Budget 2010/11

ELWA's total levy requirement is £40,825,000 (2009/10: £38,660,000).

The main reason for the rise of 5.6% is an increase in the payment to the waste management contractor in 2010/11, which reflects a further Government landfill tax rate rise of £8 per tonne and inflation increases. The levy increase has, however, been reduced by utilisation of ELWA's reserves. The major part of the ELWA Levy is apportioned on the basis of volumes of Household Waste with the remainder allocated according to the Council Tax Base.

The Levy on the London Borough of Newham for 2010/11 is £12,242,000 (2009/10: £11,353,000).

The Mayor of London's budget continues to deliver on his priority to provide taxpayer value and for the second year running he has frozen the GLA's element of the Council Tax for residents of the 32 London boroughs, and has ensured that Band D households continue to pay only 38p a week for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In the current economic climate the public sector must do more with less. This budget delivers sustained investment in key services without any extra cost to the council taxpayer. The Mayor will continue to invest in his priorities by maintaining front-line policing levels, improving public transport, investing in new local green spaces to make our city cleaner and greener, ensuring the capital emerges from the recession ready to compete and working to make London the World's Best Big City.

Council Tax and Budget Information

The GLA's take of the Council Tax for Band D is £309.82 or £5.96 a week. How this is made up is laid out below.

Council Tax	2009/10	Change	2010/11
GLA	29.50	+1.41	30.91
MPA (Police)	224.34	-7.51	216.83
LFEPa (Fire)	53.41	+6.16	59.57
TfL (Transport)	4.06	-0.04	4.02
Collection Funds	-1.49	-0.03	-1.52
Total Band D amount (£)	309.82	0.00	309.82

A band D Council Tax payer in the City of London, which has its own police force, and therefore does not fund the Metropolitan Police, will pay **£92.99**.



Investing in Front Line Services

When everyone is feeling the squeeze and people are feeling less secure in their jobs it is even more important that City Hall does all it can to do more with less, while improving public services and continuing the investment London so dearly needs to come out of recession ready to compete with the world.

Restructuring City Hall and Controlling Costs

The Mayor has put value for money at the very heart of his administration and has controlled costs tightly as well as ruthlessly cutting out waste. City Hall has been streamlined to deliver his priorities to Londoners more efficiently and effectively. There has been a net reduction of 13 per cent in the permanent staff headcount.

These back office savings release money which will fund the Mayor's key priorities: enabling three new Rape Crisis Centres to be established; improving London's parks and open spaces; delivering, at 50,000, the largest number of affordable homes in a single Mayoral term; ending entrenched rough sleeping by 2012 and delivering the largest buildings retrofit programme – making them cleaner and greener – ever attempted in London.

Policing

The Mayor's first priority is to make London safer. This budget enables the Police to continue to address youth violence as well as tackling gun and knife crime. There is also extra funding for Operation Blunt 2 to take knives off the streets and also to tackle rape crime.

The increasing problem of dangerous dogs will also be tackled more effectively.

Operation Herald, which is working to have clerical roles in police stations performed by civilians, will free up officers to go out on the beat. The budget will maintain the record numbers of uniformed crime fighters on public transport.





London's Transport System

Following the recession and the collapse of Metronet very difficult decisions on fares have had to be made to maintain vital transport investment, whilst protecting free and concessionary travel for London's elderly, young and those on low incomes. The Mayor has extended concessionary travel to the unemployed and Employment & Support Allowance claimants as well as those on income support. The Freedom Pass for older and disabled Londoners will continue to be valid 24 hours a day on TfL services. This means that 40 per cent of bus passengers will be travelling for free or at a substantial concessionary rate.

The backoffice savings that have had to be made by TfL to maintain frontline investment has more than doubled from last year, with £1.9 billion of planned savings between 2009-10 and 2012-13. These savings will help secure investment in current and future transport improvements including:

- Financing the main construction works for the Crossrail project, which will increase London's rail capacity by over 10%;
- Introducing Oystercard Pay As You Go on London's National Rail network making journeys for rail users both cheaper and easier;
- Completing the East London Line extension pushing the TfL network into new parts of East and South London;
- Continuing the upgrade of the Tube and introducing air conditioned trains for the District, Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines;
- Making London a genuine cycle-friendly city through completion of the first two cycle super highways and the launch of cycle hire

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The amount to be raised for the Games through the Council Tax remains at £20 – or 38p a week - for a Band D household.

This delivers on the Mayor's commitment that it would not increase. The GLA will seek to ensure the benefits of the Games are seen London-wide. The budget also includes an allocation for a new City Operations programme to ensure necessary preparations are made in the run-up to and during the Games.

London Fire Brigade and Emergency Planning

The LFEPA budget is being placed on a firmer footing after several years when it has had to balance its books by using up reserves. The authority is building on its recent successes in reducing fires, fire deaths and arson attacks as well as hoax calls.

The budget provides for four bulk extinguishing materials centres strategically located across London. LFEPA will also work with local communities to inform and educate about how to reduce the risk of fires and other emergencies, targeting those most at risk.

Summary of GLA Group Budget

The tables below provide information on the key funding sources for the GLA, including Council Tax and the reasons for the changes in the overall budget.

How the budget is funded	£m
Gross Expenditure	13,969
Fares, charges and other income	-5,557
Government grants for specific purposes	-4,648
General Government grants and redistributed business rates	-2,336
Paid out of reserves (TfL)	-489
Paid out of reserves (other bodies)	-11
Surplus in the council tax collection fund	-5
Amount met by council tax payers	923

Changes in spending	£m
2009-10 Budget requirement	3,203.8
Inflation	286.7
Efficiencies and other savings	-110.0
Growth for existing services and new initiatives	332.4
Other changes (including income growth)	-213.3
Planned movements in reserves, working capital and borrowings	-236.6
2010-11 Budget requirement	3,263.0



The table below compares the GLA group's expenditure by functional body in 2010-11 with the previous year. Overall the budget requirement (funded from general grants and council tax) will increase by 1.8% - a reduction in real terms based on expected retail price inflation levels in 2010-11.

More information on the budget is available on the GLA website at www.london.gov.uk (tel: 020 7983 4000).

£m	MPA		LFEP A	
	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11
Gross Expenditure	3,603.1	3,645.0	463.4	469.2
Specific Government Grants	-564.6	-606.6	-10.5	-10.8
Other Income (incl. fares and charges)	-398.2	-360.9	-21.1	-21.1
Net Expenditure	2,640.3	2,677.5	431.8	437.3
Change to Level of Reserves		-4.2	-15.6	0.0
Budget Requirement	2,640.3	2,673.3	416.2	437.3



TfL		LDA		GLA		Total	
2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11
7,594.0	9,160.0	431.3	338.3	139.9	356.4	12,231.7	13,968.9
7,594.0	-3,711.0	-405.1	-319.7			-4,016.2	-4,648.1
7,594.0	-4,948.0	-26.2	0.0	-12.8	-227.5	-4,199.3	-5,557.5
7,594.0	501.0	0.00	18.6	127.1	128.9	4,016.2	3,763.3
-805.0	-489.0		-18.6	8.2	11.5	-812.4	-500.3
12.0	12.0	Nil	Nil	135.3	140.4	3,203.8	3,263.0



Non-domestic rates

Non-Domestic Rates, or business rates, collected by local authorities are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services. Except in the City of London, where special arrangements apply, the rates are pooled by central government and redistributed to local authorities as part of the annual formula grant settlement.

The money, together with revenue from council tax payers, revenue support grant provided by the Government and certain other sums, is used to pay for the services provided by your local authority and other local authorities in your area.

Business Rate Supplements

The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 enables levying authorities - county councils, unitary district councils and, in London, the Greater London Authority - to levy a supplement on the business rate to support additional projects aimed at economic development of the area. Business Rate Supplements (BRS) are not applicable to properties with a rateable value of £55,000 or below, and authorities have discretion to increase that threshold. The total maximum BRS which may be levied by a levying authority is 2p per pound of rateable value. Levying authorities have the power to apply such reliefs to the BRS as they think appropriate and in such cases must include an explanation of the rules for the application of those reliefs in the final prospectus for the BRS.

This business rate supplement is being levied by The London Borough of Newham in relation to the Intention to levy a business rate supplement to finance the Greater London Authority's contribution to the Crossrail project – Final prospectus. Further information may be found in the BRS project prospectus, 'The Crossrail Business Rate Supplement – Final Prospectus'. www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs.



Rateable value

Apart from properties that are exempt from Business Rates, each non-domestic property has a rateable value which is set by the valuation officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. They draw up and maintain a full list of all rateable values, available on their website at www.voa.gov.uk

The rateable value of your property is shown on the front of this bill. This broadly represents the yearly rent the property could have been let for on the open market on a particular date. For the revaluation that came into effect on 1st April 2010, this date was set as 1st April 2008.

The valuation officer may alter the value if circumstances change. The ratepayer (and certain others who have an interest in the property) can appeal against the value shown in the list if they believe it is wrong. Further information about the grounds on which appeals may be made and the process for doing so can be found on the VOA website or from your local valuation office.



National non-domestic rating multiplier

The local authority works out the business rates bill by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the appropriate multiplier. There are two multipliers; the standard non-domestic rating multiplier and the small business non-domestic rating multiplier. The former is higher to pay for small business rate relief. Except in the City of London where special arrangements apply, the Government sets the multipliers for each financial year for the whole of England according to formulae set by legislation. Between revaluations the multipliers change each year in line with inflation and to take account of the cost of small business rate relief. In the year of revaluation the multipliers are rebased to account for overall changes to total rateable value and to ensure that the revaluation does not raise extra money for Government. The current multipliers are shown on the front of this bill.

Revaluation 2010 and transitional arrangements



All rateable values are reassessed every five years at a general revaluation. The current rating list is based on the 2010 revaluation. Five-yearly revaluations make sure each ratepayer pays their fair contribution and no more, by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one ratepayer reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. Revaluation does not raise extra money for Government.

Whilst the 2010 revaluation will not increase the amount of rates collected nationally, within this overall picture, over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities reduced and some ratepayers will see increases.

For those that would otherwise see significant increases in their rates liability, the Government has put in place a £2 billion transitional relief scheme to limit and phase in changes in rate bills as a result of the 2010 revaluation. To help pay for the limits on increases in bills, there also have to be limits on reductions in bills. Under the transition scheme, limits continue to apply to yearly increases and decreases until the full amount is due (rateable value times the appropriate multiplier). The scheme applies only to the bill based on a property at the time of the revaluation. If there are any changes to the property after 1st April 2010, transitional arrangements will not normally apply to the part of a bill that relates to any increase in rateable value due to those changes. Changes to your bill as a result of other reasons (such as because of changes to the amount of small business rate relief) are not covered by the transitional arrangements.

The transitional arrangements are applied automatically and are shown on the front of this bill. Further information about transitional arrangements and other reliefs may be obtained from [insert name of billing authority] or the website www.mybusinessrates.gov.uk

More information on revaluation 2010 can be found at www.voa.gov.uk

Unoccupied property rating

Business rates will not be payable in the first three months that a property is empty. This is extended to six months in the case of certain industrial properties. After this period rates are payable in full unless the unoccupied property rate has been reduced by the Government by order. In most cases the unoccupied property rate is zero for properties owned by charities and community amateur sports clubs. In addition, there are a number of exemptions from the unoccupied property rate. Full details on exemptions can be obtained from Newham council business rate section on 020 8430 3250. If the unoccupied property rate for the financial year has been reduced by order, it will be shown on the front of this bill.



Partly occupied property relief

A ratepayer is liable for the full non-domestic rate whether a property is wholly occupied or only partly occupied. Where a property is partly occupied for a short time, the local authority has discretion in certain cases to award relief in respect of the unoccupied part. Full details can be obtained from Newham council business rate section on 020 8430 3250.

Small Business Rate Relief

This relief is only available to ratepayers who apply to their local authority and who occupy either:

- (a) one property, or
- (b) one main property and other additional properties providing those additional properties each have a rateable value which does not exceed £2,599.

The rateable value of the property mentioned in (a), or the aggregate rateable value of all the properties mentioned in (b), must not exceed £17,999 outside London or £25,499 in London on each day for which relief is being sought. If the rateable value, or aggregate rateable value, increases above those levels, relief will cease from the day of the increase.

Ratepayers who satisfy these conditions will have the bill for their sole or main property calculated using the lower small business non-domestic rating multiplier rather than the national non-domestic rating multiplier



that is used to calculate the liability of other businesses. In addition, if the sole or main property is shown on the rating list with a rateable value which does not exceed £12,000, the ratepayer will receive a percentage reduction in their rates bill for this property of up to a maximum of 50% for a property with a rateable value of not more than £6,000.

If an application for relief is granted, provided the ratepayer continues to satisfy the conditions for relief which apply at the relevant time as regards the property and the ratepayer, they will not need to re-apply for relief in each new valuation period.

Certain changes in circumstances will need to be notified to the local authority by the ratepayer (other changes will be picked up by the local authority). The changes which must be notified are—

- (a) the ratepayer taking up occupation of a property they did not occupy at the time of making their application for relief, and
- (b) an increase in the rateable value of a property occupied by the ratepayer in an area other than the area of the local authority which granted the relief.

Notification of these changes must be given to the local authority within 4 weeks of the day after the day on which the change happened. If this happens, there will be no interruption to the ratepayer's entitlement to the relief. A notification that the ratepayer has taken up occupation of an additional property must be by way of a fresh application for relief; notice of an increase in rateable value must be given in writing.

Full details on the eligibility criteria and on how to apply for this relief are available from Newham Council business rate section on 020 8430 3250 or the Newham website at www.newham.gov.uk

Charity and registered community amateur sports club relief

Charities and registered CASCs are entitled to 80% relief where the property is occupied by the charity or the CASC, and is wholly or mainly used for the charitable purposes of the charity (or of that and other charities), or for the purposes of the CASC (or of that and other CASCs).

The local authority has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill. Full details can be obtained from the Newham website at www.newham.gov.uk



Non-profit making organisation relief

The local authority has discretion to give relief to non-profit making organisations. Full details can be obtained from the Newham website at www.newham.gov.uk.

Hardship relief

The local authority has discretion to give relief in special circumstances. Full details can be obtained from the Newham website at www.newham.gov.uk.



Deferred payment of 2009/10 rates liabilities

Ratepayers in 2009/10 were able to defer payment of 3% of their 2009/10 rates bill and, where applicable, 60% of the increase in that bill due to the ending of the 2005 rating list transitional relief scheme. The right to apply for deferral has now ended. For those ratepayers who applied for this scheme, the deferred amount to be collected in 2010/11 and 2011/12 will be included in the bills for each of those years respectively.

Rating advisers

Ratepayers do not have to be represented in discussions about their rateable value or their rates bill. Appeals against rateable values can be made free of charge. However, ratepayers who do wish to be represented should be aware that members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS – website www.rics.org) and the Institute and Revenues and Rating (IRRV – website www.irrv.org.uk) are qualified and are regulated by rules of professional conduct designed to protect the public from misconduct. Before you employ a rating adviser, you should check that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise, as well as appropriate indemnity insurance. Take great care and, if necessary, seek further advice before entering into any contract.





Who can apply?

If you are the person liable to pay Council Tax you can apply for Council Tax Benefit.

How to apply?

You need to fill in one of our Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit application forms. There are three ways you can get a form:

- visit one of our Local Service Centres
- phone us on 020 8430 2000
- write to us at Newham Benefits Service, PO Box 23504, London E15 4UU.

Besides filling in the form you will need to show us papers to support your application. For example, we have to see something with your National Insurance number on.

We always ask for originals. We cannot accept copies. But instead of putting originals in the post you can take them to a Local Service Centre for checking.

If you make an application for Pension Credit, Income Support or income-based Jobseekers' Allowance

You can claim Council Tax Benefit at the same time as claiming Income Support, Jobseekers' Allowance or Employment Support Allowance from Jobcentre Plus over the phone. Once you have supplied all the necessary information to support your benefit claims to Jobcentre Plus they will send details of your Council Tax Benefit claim to us.

If you apply for Pension Credit, you can also claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit at the same time over the phone. Call The Pension Service on 0800 99 1234.



How much will you get?

The amount of your Council Tax Benefit depends on things like:

- the Council Tax band you are in
- your income and savings
- who lives with you
- your age and the age of anyone living with you.

The figures in the Ready Reckoner are only a guide. What you will actually get depends on the details of your claim. For example, you will get more help if someone has a disability or if you have childcare costs.

If your income is too high to qualify for main Council Tax Benefit, you might still qualify for a 'second adult rebate'.

To work out second adult rebate, we ignore your circumstances and your partner's circumstances. We only look at the income of other adults living with you.

Changes in circumstances?

You need to tell us about anything that might affect your Council Tax Benefit. Let us know straight away, otherwise you may lose benefit.

Things you need to tell us about include:

- your income, or the income of anyone who lives with you, going up or down
- your income stopping, or the income of anyone who lives with you stopping, or if anyone starts to receive a new type of income, including a social security benefit like Income Support or Jobseekers' Allowance
- you or anyone you live with starting or stopping work
- changes to your savings or investments, or to those of anyone living with you.

You also need to tell us if you change address. If you move inside Newham you don't need to apply again, as long as you tell us about the change as soon as possible. Your Council Tax Benefit will continue at the new address. If you move outside Newham you need to tell us about the change. But you will also need to apply again for Council Tax Benefit from the council whose area you have moved to.





Council Tax Benefit Ready Reckoner 2009/10

Income levels based on band C property
(Council Tax for band C = £1,115.96)

Single people age group with no discount	Max. weekly income
Under 25, not working	£158.85
Aged 25-59, not working	£172.45
Aged 60-64, not working	£239.60
Aged 65 or over, not working	£260.15
Aged 18 or over, not working, 1 child	£247.32
Aged 18 or over, not working, 2 children	£304.89
Under 25, working	£163.85
Aged 25-59, working	£177.45
Aged 60-64, working	£244.60
Aged 65 or over, working	£265.15
Aged 18 or over, working, 1 child	£272.32
Aged 18 or over, working, 2 children	£329.89
Couples age group (where neither partner is working)	
Both 18-59	£209.75
Both 18-59, 1 child	£284.72
Both 18-59, 2 children	£342.29
Both 60-64	£309.40
One or both 65 or over	£336.50



Couples (where one or both partners are working)

Both 18-59	£219.75
Both 18-59, 1 child	£294.72
Both 18-59, 2 children	£352.29
Both 60-64	£319.40
One or both 65 or over	£346.50



Based on a single person discount the figures would be:

Single people

Under 25, not working	£132.10
Aged 25-59, not working	£145.70
Aged 60-64, not working	£212.85
Aged 65 or over, not working	£233.40
Aged 18 or over, not working, 1 child	£220.57
Aged 18 or over, not working, 2 children	£278.14
Under 25 and working	£137.10
Aged 25-59, working	£150.70
Aged 60-64, working	£217.85
Aged 65 or over, working	£238.40
Aged 18 or over, working, 1 child	£245.57
Aged 18 or over, working, 2 children	£303.14

The Data Controller is the London Borough of Newham and we are responsible for the collection and processing of your personal information.

Processing includes the organisation, retrieval, consultation, use and deletion or destruction of information and its disclosure to other agencies. The information you provide will be processed mainly in connection with the administration of Council Tax.

Your personal information may however, be processed by other council services where appropriate to facilitate the provision of services in respect of any of the council's activities including (but not limited to) benefits, to verify data accuracy, housing, environmental health and care services. There may be a need to share with external partners and organisations e.g. health and other local authorities or information may be used in the prevention and detection of fraud and crime. A full list of what information we control and process and for what purposes is set out in the council's data protection notifications filed annually with the Information Commissioner.

All information collected will be processed and held securely under the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998. For further information on data protection, the council's use of information sharing, please contact the information governance team on 020 8430 3737 or information.governance@newham.gov.uk.

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Where to go for further information

Here are some of the services available through
Newham Council, for a full listing of all our
services please go to our website
www.newham.gov.uk

Advice for 14 – 19 year-olds:
020 8430 6362
www.newhamsussed.co.uk

Anti-social Behaviour Hotline:
0800 731 3300

Business Rates:
020 8430 3250
email: business.rate@newham.gov.uk

Children and Families Information Service:
0800 074 1017
www.newham.gov.uk

Council Tax:
020 8430 2000

Jenkins Lane Reuse
and Recycling Centre:
0800 389 9918

Local Service Centres:
www.newham.gov.uk

Recruitment Site:
www.newham.gov.uk/jobs

Street Cleansing:
020 8430 2000
[www.newham.gov.uk/
streetcleansing](http://www.newham.gov.uk/streetcleansing)

Workplace:
020 3373 1101
www.newhamworkplace.co.uk

For general enquiries please call
020 8430 2000 or visit www.newham.gov.uk



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from sustainable forestry.

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