

2011/12

How we can **help your business**

How to find support and services for Westminster businesses and information about the council's budget

Did you know...

...you can sign up to a free newsletter to find out what we are doing for local businesses at westminster.gov.uk/businesssignup



City of Westminster

Westminster City Council

Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP

020 7641 6000
westminster.gov.uk



City of Westminster

Introduction

We are committed to ensuring that everyone in Westminster has equal access to our services.

To help you contact the council we offer the following:

Website – westminster.gov.uk

Main Switchboard – 020 7641 6000

Textphone/Minicom – This allows hearing impaired customers to have a text-based conversation with the council using their textphone/minicom or computer.

- 020 7641 8222 (Social Services)
- 0845 070 0281 (Council tax, housing benefit and council tax benefit)
- 020 7641 8000 (All other council enquiries)

Videophone – Contact us on 020 7641 6000 or 020 7641 8222 (Textphone/Minicom) if you require access to a British Sign Language Interpreter.

Large format – Copies of this document are also available in large print. For a free copy call 020 7641 8088.

Translation – If you would like this document translated into your first language see the back of this booklet.



Dear business rate payer,

If Westminster is to grow and prosper, it will be driven by our businesses.

Times are tough, and we are determined to support you. Over the past year, we have:

- **extended the Business Improvement District** (BID) programme to get extra investment for business areas. In the last year alone, our BIDs delivered over £5.5 million investment for Westminster's businesses
- **set up Business Information Points** at four libraries, giving entrepreneurs and the business community access to computers, databases, contacts and all the latest research
- invested £2.5 million in relocating 140 creative businesses into a new **55,000 square metre affordable workspace** in one of Westminster's most deprived wards
- implemented a **Creative Industries Programme** to support a sector responsible for over 69,000 local jobs.

We need your help

We would like to do even more – which is why we are pushing for more of your business rates to be invested in the local area – but we need your help. You give £1.4bn in tax every year, but we get back only £142m to invest in Westminster: we keep just one pound in every ten that you contribute. We have begun a campaign for local authorities to be given greater freedom over business rates, and we need your help to strengthen our cause. Go to westminster.gov.uk/businessratescampaign to see what we're doing and to give us your support.

Westminster wants to remain as the most enterprise-friendly local authority in the country. Keeping more business rates locally will help give a voice to business demands and ensure that business needs are addressed when setting local priorities.

	£(1,000s)
Westminster businesses pay in business rates	£1,402,895
Total Westminster receives back	£142,548
Total loss for Westminster businesses	£1,260,347



“We are pushing for more of your business rates to be invested in the local area, but we need your help.”

Cllr Brian Connell, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Skills

To keep you informed of opportunities, funding and to build support for our business rates campaign, we have created a bi-monthly newsletter. You can sign up by going to westminster.gov.uk/businesssignup. Your details will be kept confidential and not passed to any third parties.

We are determined to do more

We are still determined to support our businesses over the coming year in other ways. Some of our key initiatives include:

- The launch of a **Business Innovation Centre** to provide affordable workspace and meeting rooms for start-ups, micro businesses and social enterprises – a joint venture between us and our private sector partners.
- Encouraging the development of further **Business Improvement Districts** to attract investment into areas with opportunities for growth.
- **Preparing for the 2012 Olympics.** With people from across the world coming to the heart of London, it is vital we make the most of the opportunity – both promoting our businesses and minimizing any potential disruption.
- **Continuing to promote Westminster** as a great destination for business and leisure tourism.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you in the future. I hope you will join our business rates campaign to ensure that Westminster is a prosperous and living city that serves our businesses and residents alike.

Cllr Brian Connell

Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Skills

How we can help *your* business

Important contacts and support
for Westminster businesses

Key

There are many different methods of contacting the council. To help you identify these, this guide uses various symbols:

- ☎ Telephone
- ✉ Text
- ✉ Email
- 🌐 Internet
- ✉ Postal address

All information correct at time of going to print, March 2011.

Westminster City Council 020 7641 6000
westminster.gov.uk
Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP



City of Westminster

Advisory Services Directory

Business Debtline

Free, confidential and independent advice designed to help businesses with cashflow or debt problems manage their way through financial difficulties.

🌐 **bdl.org.uk**
☎ 0800 197 6026

Business Link for London

Information, advice and support for starting, running and growing a business as well as tools and guides to help businesses during difficult economic times.

🌐 **businesslink.gov.uk**
☎ 0845 600 9006

CENTA

Hands on support for start-up and existing small businesses, from securing finance and expanding business ideas to training, mentoring and practical help on how to set up and run a business.

🌐 **centa.co.uk**
✉ **info@centa.co.uk**
☎ 020 7278 5757

CompeteFor

A website that allows the business community to compete for contract opportunities arising from Westminster City Council and the 2012 Olympic Games. It acts as a

brokerage service between potential suppliers and buyers throughout the council and the London 2012 supply chain, as well as other public sector organisations.

🌐 **competefor.com**
☎ 0845 217 7804

Creative Industries

A support programme for the creative industries, with bursaries available for training and trade missions.

🌐 **westminster.gov.uk/creative**

Crossrail

Crossrail Line 1 is a new rail scheme from Crossrail Ltd operating under the Transport for London umbrella. In Westminster there are 18 working sites in total. Crossrail will deliver new stations at Paddington, Bond Street and Tottenham Court Road.

🌐 **westminster.gov.uk/crossrail**

Education and Training

Invest in your staff and grow your business with a range of education and training courses across Westminster.

Westminster Adult Education Service

🌐 **waes.ac.uk**
☎ 020 7297 7297

Advisory Services Directory

Fashion Retail Academy

 fashionretailacademy.ac.uk
 020 7307 2345

London College of Beauty Therapy

 lcbt.co.uk
 020 7208 1300

Westminster Kingsway College

 westking.ac.uk
 0870 060 9800

City of Westminster College

 cwc.ac.uk
 020 7723 8826

Loans for Westminster Businesses

In addition to mainstream high street banks, The East London Small Business Centre can help London businesses raise finance, and GLE OneLondon offers loans and advice.




 goeast.org
 info@smallbusinesscentre.org.uk
 020 7377 8821

GLE OneLondon

 gle.co.uk/onelondon
 info@gle.co.uk
 020 7403 0300

London Apprenticeship Company (LAC)

The UK's first apprenticeship scheme to employ, train and hire out apprentices to employers.

 londonapprenticeship.co.uk
 info@londonapprenticeship.co.uk
 020 7963 8548

London Chamber of Commerce

A local, independent, non-profit making and non party-political organisation, funded by membership subscriptions.

 londonchamber.co.uk
 lc@londonchamber.co.uk
 020 7248 4444

Portobello Business Centre (PBC)

A business development agency offering a wide range of services for people who want to set up on their own and for established businesses. The centre offers courses, business advice and consultancy.

 pbc.co.uk
 info@pbc.co.uk
 020 7460 5050

Advisory Services Directory

Supply Cross River

Free expert advice to help businesses compete for new business across central London.

 supplycrossriver.co.uk
 supplycrossriver@westminster.gov.uk
 020 7697 1972

Supply2government

Supply2.gov.uk is the government's lower-value contract opportunity portal, providing details of public sector contracts with a value under £100,000. Register on the site to be informed of contracts relevant to your business.

 supply2.gov.uk
 info@supply2.gov.uk

Westminster Business Council (WBC)

WBC matches small, local businesses to Westminster's major businesses in order to provide opportunities to bid and win supply contracts as well as mentoring opportunities.

 westminsterbc.org.uk
 info@westminsterbc.org.uk
 020 3195 1028

Westminster Enterprise Centre

Free confidential, one to one business advice.

 enterprisecentre.org.uk
 kim@pdt.org.uk
 020 7266 0636




Westminster Works

An initiative set up to assist Westminster based employers with their recruitment and staff needs. Westminster Works also enables businesses to give something back to the community by helping people back into work and training.

 westminster.gov.uk/westminsterworks
 kyrsha_haynes@inpaddington.com
 020 3145 1206

Voluntary Action Westminster

Information about services and support for community and voluntary groups in Westminster.

 vawcvs.org
 general@vawcvs.org
 020 7723 1216

Council Services Directory

Building Control

Advice and support on how to meet building regulation requirements, street naming and numbering and public safety matters related to dangerous and temporary structures.

- [westminster.gov.uk/buildingcontrol](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/buildingcontrol)
- districtsurveyors@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 7230

Business Information Point (BIP)

A free information service with a wide range of resources to support existing and prospective businesses in Westminster. BIPs can be found in Church Street, Pimlico and Paddington libraries, with the largest at Westminster Reference Library.

- [westminster.gov.uk/businesslibraries](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/businesslibraries)
- bip@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 1300

Business Rates

Information on business rates, including payment methods, billing and our business rates campaign.

- [westminster.gov.uk/businessrates](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/businessrates)
- westminsterNDR@capita.co.uk
- 020 8315 2050

Check your rateable value

Your business rates bill is based on your rateable value, provided by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). You can check your rateable value and compare it with others on the VOA website. You can also get in touch if you need to let them know of any issues.

- [voa.gov.uk/valuation](https://www.voa.gov.uk/valuation)

N.B. Rateable values are not determined by the council. As such, queries should be directed to the Valuation Office Agency 03000 504 650 or [voa.gov.uk](https://www.voa.gov.uk)

Commercial Waste

Information about the council's commercial waste service for businesses within the city, offering up to three collection times per day in most areas, disposal of rubbish and recycling without the use of landfill sites and a cost effective service. A commercial waste customer service unit operates 24/7 and 365 days a year to handle queries or orders and a dedicated sales team manages all key account customers.

- [westminster.gov.uk/commercialwaste](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/commercialwaste)
- commercialwaste@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 6180

Council Services Directory

Environmental Action Line

A 24-hour hotline for most street-based issues including: recycling and waste collections, street cleansing, abandoned vehicles, graffiti and fly-posting, pavement and highways maintenance, street lighting (not traffic lights, which are Transport for London) and highways licensing (including temporary structures).

- 020 7641 2000
- 020 7245 5510
- [westminster.gov.uk/environment](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/environment)
- environmentalactionline@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 8000

Environmental Health

See: Food Safety, Health and Safety.

Food Safety

For inspections of food businesses, complaints about food safety in Westminster, advice on food safety or require food hygiene training.

- [westminster.gov.uk/food](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/food)
- foodsafety@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 1092

Health and Safety

To report unsafe working conditions or serious accidents at work, and for advice about health and safety at work legislation or training.

- [westminster.gov.uk/healthandsafety](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/healthandsafety)
- healthandsafety@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 1063

Libraries

Westminster's libraries can offer staff in Westminster businesses free book lending, CD and DVD rentals, events, activities and much more.

- [westminster.gov.uk/libraries](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries)
- 020 7641 1300

See: Business Information Point.

Licensing

To view the licensing register, or to apply for a range of premises and personal licences, including sale of alcohol, public entertainment, street trading and tables and chairs.

- [westminster.gov.uk/licensing](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/licensing)
- licensing.vsw1@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 8549

Neighbourhood Crime Reduction

To report concerns about crime in your area or to find out how to become more involved in local crime reduction initiatives.

- [westminster.gov.uk/crime](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/crime)
- civicwatch@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 1085
- Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP

Parking

- westminster.gov.uk/parking
- parkingenquiries@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7823 4567
- 020 7641 8000

Park Right

For a copy of the council's guide to parking.

- westminster.gov.uk/parkright

Pay by Phone

General enquiries and automated payment facility.

- westminster.gov.uk/paybyphone
- 020 7005 0055 (24 hrs, 7 days)

See: Westminster Car Club.

Planning

For information and advice on: planning policy, planning enforcement, planning permission, submitting or commenting on applications, details of historic planning decisions, conservation areas or listed buildings, and other general planning enquiries.

- westminster.gov.uk/planning
- planninginformation@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 2513

Special Events

Advice on staging events or filming in Westminster, including: crowd control, proposed locations and routes,

structural and technical safety, licensing, road closures and parking suspensions.

- westminster.gov.uk/events
 - speciale@westminster.gov.uk
 - 020 7641 2390
 - 020 7641 2616
- (Events in Westminster Parks and Gardens)

Street Licensing Enforcement

For information on illegal street trading, illegal tables and chairs, market inspections, the prosecution of prostitute carders, forecourt trading, estate agent boards and advertising boards.

- streetlicensingenforcementteam@westminster.gov.uk
- 020 7641 2362

Street Lighting

For information on street lighting, including: illuminated street furniture (e.g traffic signs), illuminated bollards and belisha beacons.

- westminster.gov.uk/streetlights
- 020 7641 2000

Westminster Car Club

A solution to your business travel needs. Over 6,500 cars available worldwide, including Minis, BMWs, and hybrid vehicles.

- westminster.gov.uk/carclub
- westminsterbusiness@zipcar.com
- 020 7183 7803

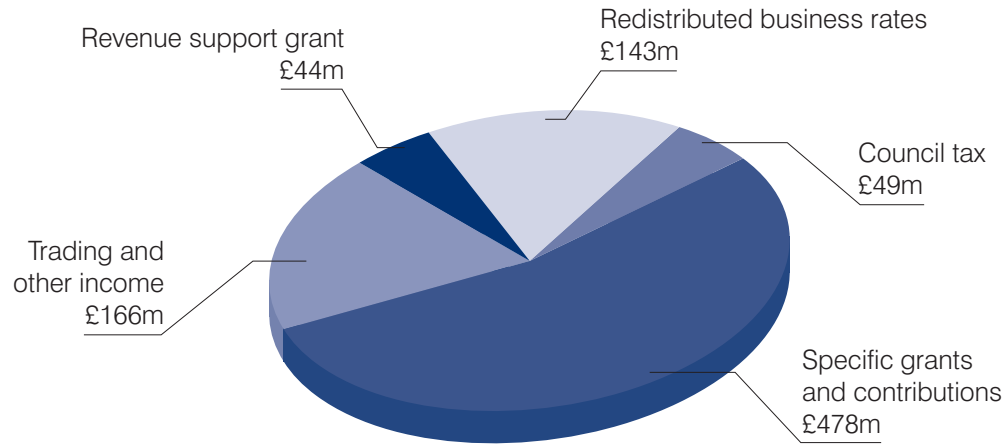
Budget

The following pages give details of the council's budget and information on the Greater London Authority and Crossrail

Budget overview

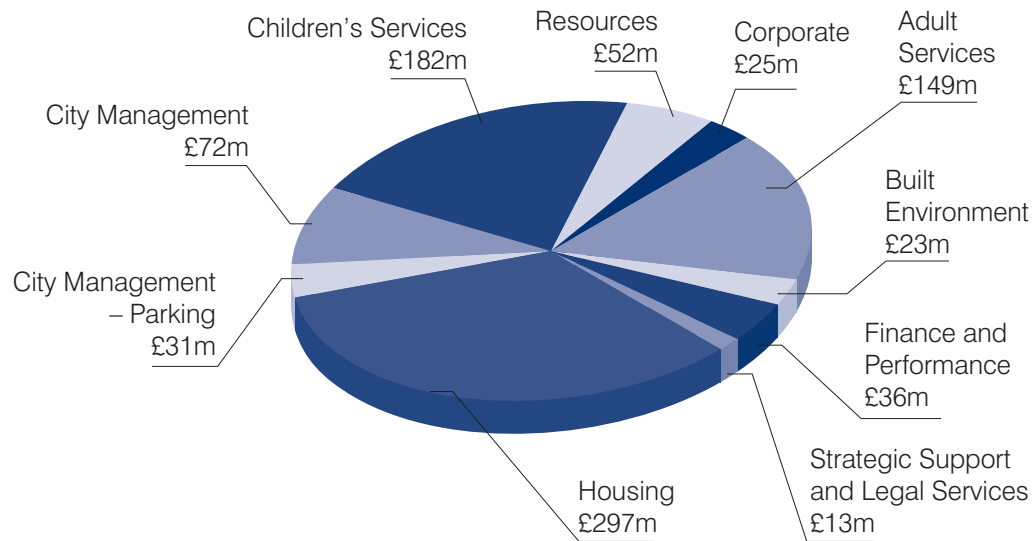
Where the council's income comes from

Total General Fund income 2011/12 £880m



How the money is spent

Total General Fund expenditure 2011/12 £880m



Council tax 2011/12

This table shows how the council tax for a Band D property is calculated. The actual amount payable by each council taxpayer is dependent on their property band and household composition.

Details of the make-up of your council tax	2010/11		2011/12	
	Total amount £,000	Amount per resident £	Total amount £,000	Amount per resident £
Westminster City Council budget requirement*	230,960	901.25	236,323	898.88
Less				
Revenue support grant	23,021	89.83	44,062	167.59
Redistributed non-domestic rates	158,475	618.40	142,548	542.20
Collection fund adjustments	49,464	193.02	49,713	189.09
	-512	-2.00	-626	-2.38
Westminster City Council	48,952	191.02	49,087	186.71
Greater London Authority	40,144	156.65	40,254	153.11
Totals	89,096	347.67	89,341	339.82
*Excluding £35,000 levy for Montpellier Square Garden Committee				
Population base (Revenue Support Grant Assumptions)			262,909	

Our budget

How it has changed from last year

Westminster City Council's Net Budget Requirement (its expenditure net of income and specific government grants and subsidies but before allowing for formula grant, area based grant and council tax income) for 2011/12 is £236.32 million, a decrease of £25.25 million over the 2010/11 budget. The reduction of £25m is largely the result of a corresponding net fall in central government funding (revenue support grant and area based grant). The key changes to the net budget are shown below.

Our budget: How it has changed from last year	
	£,000
Base	261,575
Changes	
Change in Levies	-106
Change in Use of Reserves	4,899
Service Improvements & Other Provisions	33,301
Service Efficiencies & Other Savings	-63,451
Change to Collection Fund Adjustment	105
Net variations	-25,252
2011/12 budget requirement	236,323

Our budget: What we spend and where it goes

2010/11 estimates			2011/12 estimates			
Gross expenditure £,000s	Income £,000s	Net expenditure £,000s	Class of Service	Gross expenditure £,000s	Income £,000s	Net expenditure £,000s
30,666	6,565	24,101	Central Services	22,950	6,670	16,280
72,952	37,767	35,185	Finance & Resources	72,165	44,903	27,262
27,329	6,181	21,149	Community Services	26,465	6,186	20,279
120,941	28,771	92,170	Society, Families & Adults	133,958	45,607	88,351
186,444	144,585	41,859	Children's Services	178,950	144,782	34,168
301,986	275,205	26,781	Housing	298,181	276,567	21,614
10,298	6,725	3,573	Built Environment	10,389	7,475	2,914
10,425	7,916	2,509	Business, Enterprise & Skills	9,284	7,317	1,967
40,062	91,371	-51,309	Parking & Transportation	30,649	78,330	-47,681
78,962	18,543	60,419	City Management	71,547	19,205	52,342
15,663	8,798	6,865	Corporate	23,067	7,411	15,656
895,728	632,427	263,302	Service expenditure sub total	877,605	644,453	233,152
			Area based grant (ABG) income			
2,646	30,615	-30,615	Levies	2,540		2,540
	181,487	-181,487	Revenue Support Grant & Business Rates		186,610	-186,610
	48,952	-48,952	Council Tax		49,087	-49,087
	4,894	-4,894	Use of / Contribution to Reserves	5		5
898,374	898,375	Nil	Total budget requirement	880,150	880,150	Nil

Greater London Authority

Introduction

Boris Johnson's third budget continues to deliver on his priority to provide taxpayer value and protect front line services. For three years running he has **frozen the GLA's element of the Council Tax** for residents of the 32 London boroughs, as well as fulfilling his manifesto commitment that Band D households would 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, delivering improved public services for no extra cost. The Mayor will continue to invest in his priorities by increasing front-line policing levels, improving public transport, investing in new local green spaces to make our city cleaner and greener, working to increase young people's opportunities and ensuring the 2012 Games leave a lasting legacy to lengthen London's lead as the World's Best Big City.

Council Tax and Budget Information

The GLA's take of the Council Tax at Band D will remain at £309.82 or £5.96 a week. The table below shows how the Council tax (at Band D) is allocated.

Council Tax	2010/11	Change	2011/12
MPA (Police)	216.83	11.12	227.95
LFEPA (Fire)	59.57	-7.37	52.20
GLA	30.91	-0.58	30.33
TfL (Transport)	4.02	-2.03	1.99
Collection Funds	-1.51	-1.14	-2.65
Total (£)	309.82	Nil	309.82

A Band D Council Tax payer in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £81.87.

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.

These back office savings have released money which is being used to deliver the Mayor's key priorities including: supporting three new Rape Crisis Centres; delivering 50,000 more affordable homes by 2012 - the largest number in a single Mayoral term, upgrading 50 sporting facilities prior to the 2012 Games to increase participation in sports and improving 11 rundown parks alongside planting 10,000 street trees to enhance London's public realm.

Policing

The Mayor's first priority is to make London safer. This budget enables the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) to continue to focus resources on preventing violence against women and young people and reducing the levels of gang, knife and gun crime.

Support for local policing through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be maintained in order to boost confidence in the Police Service. The Metropolitan Police will have the resources to recruit more warranted officers, putting an extra 400 uniformed police onto London's public transport network. Police officer numbers will be maintained at higher levels in 2011-12 than when the current Mayor came into office.

London's Transport System

In the face of a challenging public spending round, fare rises have remained as modest as possible in order to give TfL a predictable and steady funding stream to maintain the investment needed to improve London's transport system. All existing free and concessionary travel schemes, including the 24 hour Freedom Pass for older and disabled Londoners, free bus travel for those under 16 and half price bus travel for Londoners who are on income related benefits have been protected.

The Mayor has fought for and secured a four year funding settlement from the Government which maintains investment in London's transport infrastructure including:

- The financing of the main construction works for the Crossrail project, which will increase London's rail capacity by over 10%;
- The completion of the upgrade of the Tube network and completing the delivery of new air conditioned trains for the District, Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines;
- Completing the planned extensions of the DLR to Stratford International and the East London line to Clapham Junction and Highbury & Islington;
- Maintaining bus mileage at current levels and tackling overcrowding on the Croydon Tramlink;
- Making London a genuinely cycle-friendly city including extending the Barclays Cycle Hire Scheme before the 2012 Games and delivering 12 cycle superhighways by 2015.

The Mayor has listened to the wishes of local residents and businesses and abolished the Western Extension to the Congestion Charge zone. He is also working with London boroughs to improve road safety and deliver improvements to London's road network.

2012 Olympics and Paralympics

The amount to be raised through the Council Tax for the Games 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 and leave a lasting legacy.

London Fire Brigade

The budget for the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) will protect front line services in the London Fire Brigade. The Authority is building on its recent successes in reducing fires, fire deaths, arson attacks and hoax calls.

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 since last year.

How the budget is funded	£m
Gross Expenditure	13,101
Fares, charges and other income	-5,945
Government grants for specific purposes	-4,053
General Government grants	-2,341
Use of reserves	181
Surplus in council tax collection funds	-8
Amount met by council tax payers	935

Changes in spending	£m
2010-11 Budget requirement	3,263
Inflation	124
Efficiencies and other savings	-419
Growth for existing services and new initiatives	395
Other changes (including income growth)	-80
2011-12 budget requirement	3,283

The table below compares the GLA group's expenditure for the MPA, LFEPA and for Other Services in 2011-12 with the previous year. Overall the budget requirement (funded from general grants and council tax) will increase by 0.4% - a reduction in real terms of around 3% based on expected retail price inflation levels in 2011/12.

Summary of Spending and Income								
	Police (MPA)		Fire (LFEPA)		Other Services (including GLA and TfL)		Total	
£m	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
Gross expenditure	3,645.0	3,572.3	469.2	459.6	9,854.7	9,068.6	13,968.9	13,100.5
Specific government grants	-606.6	-516.7	-10.8	-11.7	-4,030.7	-3,524.9	-4,648.1	-4,053.3
Other income (incl. fares and charges)	-360.9	-307.8	-21.1	-19.2	-5,175.5	-5,618.1	-5,557.5	-5,945.1
Net expenditure	2,677.5	2,747.8	437.3	428.7	648.5	-74.4	3,763.3	3,102.1
Change to Level of Reserves	-4.2	-34.8	0.0	-19.3	-496.1	235.5	-500.3	181.4
Budget requirement	2,673.3	2,713.0	437.3	409.4	152.4	161.1	3,263.0	3,283.5

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

Crossrail business rate supplement

The Greater London Authority (GLA) introduced a business rate supplement (BRS) on 1 April 2010 to finance £4.1 billion of the costs of the £15.9 billion Crossrail project. Details on the progress of the project so far and the proposed policies for the BRS in the 2011-12 financial year are set out below.

What is Crossrail and how will it benefit London's economy?

Crossrail will provide a new modern railway across London connecting the outer suburbs and Heathrow to the West End, the City and Canary Wharf. It is key to the future growth of London's economy and the increased earnings - from new employment opportunities and transport time savings - will benefit businesses right across London. It will be by far the largest single investment in London's infrastructure for a generation or more, employing up to 14,000 people at the peak of construction.

Crossrail Ltd is committed to engaging regularly with local communities and business sectors to ensure that business' voice is heard. As part of Crossrail's approach to responsible procurement it will be using CompeteFor to ensure that Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are also included in the tendering process. Further information on Crossrail can be found at www.crossrail.co.uk, by calling the Crossrail 24 hr Helpdesk on 0345 602 3813 or by visiting Crossrail's Visitor Information Centres at 16-18 St Giles High Street, London WC2H 8LN and the Idea Store, 321 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BU.

Developments in the last 12 months

The Mayor of London agreed a funding settlement with the government in October 2010 which will allow Crossrail to be built on its agreed route and secure investment for the upgrade of the Tube. Crossrail is now under construction at all its central station sites across London and the first contracts have been awarded to enable the tunnelling works to begin in 2011.

How will London's businesses help to fund Crossrail?

The Crossrail BRS will be used to finance £3.5 billion worth of borrowing by the GLA and the repayment of this sum after the end of the Crossrail construction works. £800m of this was borrowed by the GLA in 2010-11 with a further £700m scheduled to be drawn down in 2011-12. A further £600 million will be applied to fund the Crossrail construction and financing costs. The GLA has already paid over £1 billion towards the project using revenues financed by the BRS. The GLA expects the Crossrail BRS will run for a period of between 24 and 31 years until its borrowing is repaid.

Does my business or organisation have to pay the Crossrail BRS?

The Crossrail BRS is applied only to assessments (e.g. business and other non domestic premises) on the local rating lists of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London Corporation which have a rateable value of more than £55,000. Over 80% of non domestic properties in London will therefore be exempt from the BRS as their rateable value is below this threshold. Your rates bill makes clear if you are liable to pay the BRS.

How much do I pay if my property's rateable value is above £55,000?

The Crossrail BRS multiplier for 2011-12 is 2p per pound of rateable value. Reliefs for the Crossrail BRS will apply on the same basis and at the same percentage rate as for your National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) bill although no transitional relief is provided for the BRS.

Keeping you informed

We will provide updates on the Crossrail BRS over its lifetime with your annual rates bills. Further information on the Crossrail BRS can be obtained by contacting the GLA or viewing our website:

Finance Division,
Greater London Authority,
6th Floor,
City Hall,
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs

crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk

020 7983 4100

Environment Agency Thames Region

The Council Tax (demand notices) (England) Regulations 2010.

The Environment Agency is a levying body for its flood defence function under the Water Resources Act 1991. It provides the following information in connection with the requirements of the above regulations.

The Environment Agency has powers in respect of flood defence for 5,200 kilometers of main river 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		
	2010/11 £,000	2011/12 £,000
Gross expenditure	113,089	86,484
Levies raised	10,000	10,000
Total council tax base	5,027	5,081

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 Equivalent between all contributing bodies within the Committee Area.

Changes in the Gross Budgeted expenditure between the years reflects the impact of the Government Spending Review and national prioritisation of capital projects.

The total Local Levy raised has remained the same in 2011/12 as in 2010/11 at £10,000,000.

Other budget information

Budget requirement

The table on page 17 shows the expenditure and income on the main classes of services administered by Westminster City Council.

Levies

The expenditure shown in the table on page 17 includes levies charged by the following authorities.

	2010/11 £,000	2011/12 £,000
London Pensions Fund Authority	1,993	1,900
Environment Agency*	258	256
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	395	384
	2,646	2,540

* Details of the Environment Agency finances are on page 24.

The London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) raises a levy each year to meet pensions costs and other employer liabilities for which LPFA is now responsible but cannot charge due 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 2011/12, 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 (-1.2%)
- Greater London £10,317,750 (-9.4%)
- Total £23,382,950 (-5.0%)

The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority was established by an Act of Parliament in 1966 to regenerate, develop and manage approximately 10,000 acres of the Lee Valley, which had become largely derelict, and transform it in to a unique leisure and nature conservation resource for the benefit of Hertfordshire, Essex and London. Its total levy for 2011/12 is £12m, of which the council bears £0.38m. Further details on how this budget is spent and the amount each council contributes can be found at www.leevalleypark.org.uk.

Montpelier Square

The Montpelier Square Garden Committee, which is elected by residents in the square, has issued a levy of £35,000 to meet its special expenses which amounts to £387.73 for a Band D property. The total Band D Council Tax for properties in this area including this levy and Westminster City Council and Greater London Authority elements is £1,075.35.

Staff Numbers

The 2011/12 budget provides for the full time equivalent (FTE) of 4,162 staff including teachers. This is a reduction of 420 over 2010/11 staffing levels.

Capital Expenditure

The council's net capital programme is £70m in 2011/12 (compared with £108m in 2010/11).

Balances

The General Fund balance (excluding earmarked reserves) at the end of March 2011 is estimated at £13.3m.

Liabilities

The council raises loans to finance capital expenditure on land, buildings and other assets. The long term debt outstanding at 31st March 2010 amounted to £240 million.

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Albanian

Nëse e doni këtë dokument të përkthyer në gjuhën tuaj amtare, ju lutemi të na shkruani në adresën e mëposhtme.

Arabic

إذا رغبت بترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى لغتك الأم الرجاء الكتابة إلى العنوان التالي.

Bengali

এই ডকুমেন্টটি যদি আপনার নিজের / প্রথম ভাষায় পেতে চান, তবে অনুগ্রহ করে নীচের ঠিকানায় লিখুন।

Kurdish Sorani

ئەگەر دەتەوێ ئەم بەلگەت بۆ وەرگیرێنەوه سەر زمانی داایکی خۆت، تکایه داواکارییهکەت بنێره بۆ ئەو ناوئیشانەى خوارەوه.

Portuguese

Se quiser que este documento seja traduzido para a sua língua materna por favor escreva para o endereço abaixo indicado.

Spanish

Si usted quisiera que este documento se traduzca a su primer idioma, por favor escriba a la dirección que figura más abajo.

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City of Westminster

For information on business rates....

westminsterNDR@capita.co.uk

For street based issues such as recycling and waste collections, street cleansing, graffiti and pavement maintenance....

environmentalactionline@westminster.gov.uk

For information on our commercial waste services....

commercialwaste@westminster.gov.uk

For information on health and safety....

healthandsafety@westminster.gov.uk

For information and advice on planning applications, permission, policy or general planning enquiries....

planninginformation@westminster.gov.uk

For information on licensing....

licensing.vsw@westminster.gov.uk

For information on trading standards....

tradingstandards@westminster.gov.uk

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