

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD1451

Title: Approval of 2015-16 Council Tax & Precept and Communication to Council taxpayers

Executive Summary:

The Mayor's final draft budget for 2015-16 was considered at the meeting of the London Assembly held on 23 February 2015. The Assembly made no amendment to this and it therefore becomes the Greater London Authority's (GLA's) consolidated budget for the next financial year. Approval of the final draft budget allows the calculation of the GLA consolidated council tax requirement and precepts. The Mayor is asked in this Decision Form to agree these amounts and to the issuing of the formal precept notifications to the 33 London billing authorities (the 32 boroughs and the City of London) as set out at Appendix A.

The Mayor is also asked to approve the explanatory supporting text in relation to the GLA budget and precept and associated calculations which will be circulated to the 33 council tax billing authorities in London so that they can make this available to council taxpayers. Two versions of the explanatory text have been prepared – a long version representing the GLA's preferred text and a short version which billing authorities may, at their discretion, use instead in order to reduce the cost of their council tax billing process. The two alternative versions are set out in Appendix B.

Decision:

The Mayor is requested:

(a) To agree the calculations for 2015-16 for:

- the amount of the consolidated council tax requirement for the Greater London Authority of £800,678,666 and the proposed Band D equivalent council tax precepts (£295.00 in the 32 London boroughs and £86.13 in the Common Council of the City of London);
- the tax for different valuation bands and;
- the amount of council tax collectable by each billing Authority and payable to the GLA consistent with the consolidated council tax requirement approved unamended by the London Assembly on 23 February 2015.

(b) To agree to the issue of the GLA precept data for 2015-16 to the 33 council tax billing authorities (the 32 London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London).

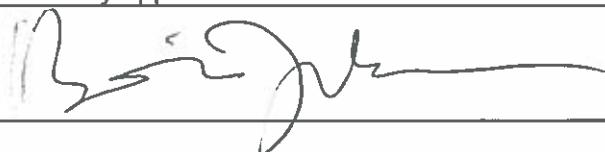
(c) To formally approve both the alternative versions of the 2015-16 council tax explanatory text in respect of the GLA budget and precept to be issued to the 33 council tax billing authorities for communication to the occupiers of the estimated 3.4 million non domestic properties in London.

Mayor of London

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date

23.2.2015

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor's final draft budget for 2015-16 was considered at the meeting of the London Assembly held on 23 February 2015. The Assembly made no amendment to the final draft budget and this budget is therefore the Authority's consolidated budget for the next financial year. Approval of the final draft budget allows the calculation of the GLA council tax and precepts which must be notified to the 33 council tax billing authorities in London (the 32 London boroughs and the City of London) by 28 February 2015. This Decision Form asks the Mayor to approve the Band D council tax and precepts on the 33 London Billing Authorities for 2015-16 as set out in Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Mayor is also asked to approve the two alternative versions of the explanatory supporting information that the GLA will submit to the 33 billing authorities for the information of council taxpayers as set out in Appendix B.

2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

- 2.1 The final draft budget set out the component council tax requirements for the GLA and each functional body and the consolidated council tax requirement for the GLA group. The purpose of this Decision Form is to request that the Mayor confirms the approved council tax requirements which are set out below. These figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

Constituent body	<i>Component council tax requirement</i>
Mayor of London	£87,298,538
London Assembly	£2,615,000
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	£566,527,128
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority	£138,238,000
Transport for London	£6,000,000
London Legacy Development Corporation	£NIL
Total Consolidated Council Tax Requirement	£800,678,666

- 2.2 The first table in Appendix A sets out the statutory calculations under sections 88 and 89 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (the GLA Act as amended) for determining the two component parts of the Mayor's precept –

Item (A) the basic amount of council tax excluding the special item for the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC), which only applies in all 33 London billing authorities. This is calculated by dividing the consolidated council tax requirement, excluding the MOPAC component, by the council tax base for the whole of the Greater London Authority area. This is calculated as £86.13;

Item (B) the basic amount of council tax including the special item for the MOPAC (which does not apply in the area of the Common Council of the City of London which has its own police force). This is calculated by dividing the council tax requirement for the MOPAC by the council tax base for the Metropolitan Police District area (i.e. excluding the City of London). This is calculated as £208.87.

- 2.3 Items A and B are aggregated to determine the Mayor's precept for the 32 London boroughs. For 2015-16 this is £295.00 for a Band D property. Item A is the precept applying in the area of the Common Council of the City of London only (£86.13 per Band D property).
- 2.4 The second table in Appendix A sets out the amount council tax for each of the 8 different valuation bands (A to H) applying in the 32 boroughs and the City of London respectively. The third table sets out the amounts of the precept to be issued to each billing authority (i.e. their individual band D taxbases multiplied by £295.00 in each of the 32 boroughs and £86.13 in the City of London). The sums in the third table exclude the GLA's share of each billing authority's declared collection fund surplus for 2014-15 which will be paid alongside the precept amount shown.
- 2.5 Appendix B contains two alternative versions of the explanatory information (i.e. the council tax leaflet text) for 2015-16 which will be issued to the 33 council tax billing authorities in London. The text provides an important opportunity for the Mayor and GLA to communicate with the occupiers of the estimated 3.4 million properties liable to council tax, its 290,000 non domestic ratepayers (who may also receive this information at the discretion of their billing authorities) as well as Londoners more generally on the group's budget and priorities for the next financial year.
- 2.6 Depending on how each billing authority chooses to exercise their new flexibilities under the 2012 Local Government Finance Act and the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) (No.2) (England) Regulations 2012 this supporting information will either be circulated to council taxpayers directly alongside their bills or made available on billing authority websites which taxpayers will be provided with the web address for in their billing information. Council taxpayers may request a hard copy to be supplied to them by post if the latter policy is adopted.
- 2.7 The long version represents the GLA's preferred text and the short version sets out a shorter summary text which billing authorities may, at their discretion, circulate instead in order to reduce the cost of their council tax billing process. Both versions comply with the requirements of the Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2011 as amended. These regulations specify what information must be included in communications to council taxpayers from precepting (e.g. the GLA in London), levying (e.g. the London Pensions Fund Authority and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority) and billing authorities. Printing and billing deadlines mean that billing authorities require the leaflet information as soon as is practicable.
- 2.8 It is proposed to publish the consolidated budget for the year and the component budgets for each constituent body for the next financial year by:
- Placing the consolidated budget, the component budgets and the supporting explanation considered by the Assembly on 23 February 2015 on the GLA website.
 - Requesting the functional bodies place their budgets on their own websites.
 - Making copies available for inspection at City Hall.

3. Equality Comments

- 3.1 Public authorities, such as the GLA (Mayor and Assembly) and the four functional bodies, must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This involves having due regard to the need to remove or minimise any disadvantage suffered by those who share a relevant protected characteristic that is connected to that characteristic, taking steps to meet the different needs of such people; and encouraging them to participate in public life or in any other activity where their participation is disproportionately low.
- 3.2 The "protected" characteristics and groups are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and marriage/ civil partnership status. Compliance with the duty may involve treating people with a protected characteristic more favourably than those without the characteristic. The duty has applied to the formulation and approval of the GLA's and functional bodies' individual budgets and component council tax requirements, and the Mayor's final draft budget, approved without amendment, that this Decision Form now implements in terms of approving the precept calculations and issue of the GLA precept to the 33 billing authorities. Part 3 to the final draft budget provided advice on the equalities implications of the Mayor's final draft budget.
- 3.3 Additionally, and complementarily, the Mayor is required by section 33(1) of the GLA Act to make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that in the formulation and implementation of the Mayor's statutory strategies due regard is had to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all.
- 3.4 Compliance with the public sector equality duty is necessarily iterative and on-going. It includes carrying out a process at a level proportionate to the decision being taken to identify and actively consider potential detrimental impacts (if any) that may arise for individual protected groups and what mitigations (if any) could be implemented to address them. The GLA (Mayor and Assembly) and the functional bodies will continue to carry out this process in the implementation of their individual budgets, strategies, policies, programmes and projects.

4. Other Considerations

Links to Mayoral Strategies

- 4.1 There are no direct implications in relation to the Mayor's 20-20 Vision or any other GLA strategies arising from performing the precept calculations that are required to be made in accordance with the GLA Act and the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended. Where relevant these were addressed in the Mayor's draft and final draft budgets presented to the Assembly.

Consultation arrangements

- 4.2 The Mayor issued guidance in July 2014 to the Greater London Authority and the functional bodies for preparing their budget submissions. The guidance sought to ensure that the Mayor's budget proposals were an accurate reflection of his priority aims and objectives within available resources.

- 4.3 The subsequent budget process itself involved:

- budget development by functional bodies and both parts of the GLA between July and November 2014;
- budget submissions scrutinised and approved by the functional bodies before formal submission to the Mayor in November 2014;

- the Mayor's draft budget proposals considered, prepared and issued for consultation on 19 December 2014;
- consultation undertaken on that document between 19 December 2014 to 15 January 2015;
- scrutiny by the Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee throughout the process;
- the presentation of the Mayor's draft consolidated budget which was considered by the Assembly on 28 January 2015 and approved with amendments, and
- the presentation of the Mayor's final draft budget which was approved unamended by the Assembly on 23 February 2015.

4.4 The precepts and council tax requirements recommended for approval in this Decision are identical to those approved unamended by the Assembly on 23 February.

Risks

4.5 The Mayor's precept and council tax requirement have been considered and approved in line with the requirements of and procedures laid down in the GLA Act. The precept will be collected and enforced by the 33 London billing authorities in line with established practice and having regard to relevant legislation. On the basis of the Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2015/2016, approved by the House of Commons on 10 February 2015 the council tax precept levels (on the basis of both the adjusted and unadjusted relevant basic amount of council tax) proposed by the Mayor in his final draft budget were also determined to be compliant with the excessiveness principles contained in that Report as they apply to the GLA.

4.6 There are no further implications for risk management therefore as these have been addressed as part of the budgetary process.

5 Financial Comments

5.1 There are no specific financial implications in addition to those already included in the final draft consolidated budget documentation. The calculations set out in this Decision have been made in compliance with sections 85 to 89 of the GLA Act. The Authority must now issue the proper notices to the 32 boroughs and the City of London to facilitate their own budget and council tax setting processes. The costs of billing and printing of supporting information (if applicable) are met by billing authorities - as this is a statutory function they are required to undertake.

6. Legal Comments

6.1 This section deals with legal matters not mentioned elsewhere in this Decision. Under Schedule 6 to the GLA Act, which sets out the procedure for the setting of the GLA budget, the Mayor must present a draft consolidated budget to the Assembly. This was considered by the London Assembly at its meeting on 28 January. The Assembly approved the Draft Consolidated Budget with amendments.

6.2 On 13 February the Mayor published his final draft budget. The Mayor provided a statement as to his reasons for presenting a final draft budget different from the amended draft consolidated budget, as required by the GLA Act. After considering the Mayor's final draft budget, that statement and supporting material, at its meeting on 23 February 2015, the final draft budget was approved by the Assembly without amendment. In accordance with paragraph 8(6) of Schedule 6 to the GLA Act, that final draft consolidated budget becomes the GLA's consolidated budget for the next financial year.

6.3 Under paragraph 11 of Schedule 6 to the GLA Act, the Mayor must 'as soon as practicable' publish the GLA's consolidated budget for the year and the component budget for each constituent body for the year. This Decision Form constitutes approval for the publication of those budgets for this purpose. Copies of that consolidated budget document must also be made available for inspection by the public at the GLA's principal office. The GLA intends to make the final budget available on its website during March 2015.

7. Investment and Performance Board

7.1 This decision has not been considered by the Investment and Performance Board as it does not relate to the approval of a specific GLA programme or project. However the Mayor's budget has been consulted on and approved in line with the statutory process set out in the GLA Act – particularly sections 83 to 92 and schedule 6 so has been subject to significant external and internal scrutiny.

8. Planned Delivery Approach and Next Steps

8.1 Following the approval of this Mayoral Decision the final precept notifications and supporting explanatory information will be circulated to all 33 London billing authorities. Subject to their local policies the supporting explanatory information will either be circulated to council taxpayers directly alongside their bills or made available on billing authority websites which taxpayers will be provided with the web address for in their billing information. Council tax bills incorporating the Mayor's precept element will be circulated to council taxpayers during March 2015.

9. Background/supporting papers

The final draft consolidated budget for 2015-16 and Assembly decision in relation to this at its meeting on 23 February 2015.

<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/gla/spending-money-wisely/budget-expenditure-charges/the-mayors-budget-for-2015-16>

GLA council tax requirement and precept calculations for 2015-16

Line	Sum	Description
(1)	£ 800,678,666	the GLA's consolidated council tax requirement R – as specified in section 88 (2) of the GLA Act
(2)	£566,527,128	the special item (item A) – the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime component council tax requirement for the Metropolitan Police District
(3)	£234,151,538	the amount shown in line (1) less the amount shown in line (2)
(4)	2,718,582.81	the Greater London Authority's council tax base (T) for the whole of its area (calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base)(Amendment-Greater London Authority) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/3437))
(5)	£86.13	the Greater London Authority's basic amount of council tax, calculated in accordance with section 88 of the GLA Act (line (3) divided by line (4)): (also equivalent to the basic amount of council tax for the City of London)
(6)	£566,527,128	the special item (item S2) – the MOPAC component council tax requirement – as set out in line (2) above
(7)	2,712,343.22	the Greater London Authority's council tax base (TP2) for the part of Greater London which consists of the metropolitan police district (calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base)(Amendment-Greater London Authority) Regulations 1999 S.I. 1999/3437))
(8)	£208.87	the additional amount of council tax in respect of the special item for the Metropolitan Police Area calculated in accordance with section 89 of the GLA Act (line (6) divided by line (7))
(9)	£295.00	the basic amount of council tax for the 32 London boroughs calculated in accordance with section 88(3) of the GLA Act (the amount shown in line (5) plus the amount shown in line (8))

Lines 5, 8 and 9 are rounded to the nearest whole penny.

Amounts of council tax for different valuation bands

The amount of council tax (in £) for each category of dwellings shown in column 1 in Table A below (i.e. the property valuation band), is, for the London boroughs, the amount shown in column 3 of Table A below. This is given by multiplying the amount at line (9) in the table above by the proportion shown in column 2 of Table A below. It is calculated in accordance with section 92 of the GLA Act 1999 ("the GLA Act"), and sections 5 and 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act") as amended by the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011. These amounts must be stated on the precept to be issued to each London borough council in accordance with section 40(2)(a) of the 1992 Act as amended and section 83 of the GLA Act.

The amount of council tax for each category of dwellings shown in column 1 in Table A below, is, for the City of London, the amount shown in column 4 of Table A below. This is given by multiplying the amount at line (5) above by the proportion shown in column 2 of Table A below. It is calculated in accordance with section 92 of the Act, and sections 5 and 47 of the 1992 Act, as amended. These amounts must be stated on the precept to be issued to the Common Council of the City of London in accordance with section 40(2)(a) of the 1992 Act, as amended and section 83 of the GLA Act.

The proportion in column 2 of Table A below is calculated by dividing the number set out in section 5(1) of the 1992 Act, as applicable to dwellings listed in the valuation band by the number applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, in accordance with section 5 of the 1992 Act as amended.

TABLE A

1	2	3	4
Valuation Band	Proportion by which basic amount must be multiplied under section 5 of the 1992 Act.	London borough councils: (the amount shown in line (9) in the table above multiplied by the proportion shown in column 2 of this table)	Common Council of the City of London: (the amount shown in line (5) in the table above multiplied by the proportion shown in column 2 of this table)
A	6/9	£196.67	£57.42
B	7/9	£229.44	£66.99
C	8/9	£262.22	£76.56
D	1	£295.00	£86.13
E	11/9	£360.56	£105.27
F	13/9	£426.11	£124.41
G	15/9	£491.67	£143.55
H	18/9	£590.00	£172.26

Amount of the precept issues to each billing authority

The amount to be stated on the precept to be issued to each billing authority in accordance with section 40(2)(b) of the 1992 Act, is stated in column 4 of Table B below. It is calculated in accordance with section 48 of the 1992 Act and section 93 of the GLA Act by multiplying the tax base shown in column 2 of Table B below by the amount shown in column 3 of Table B below.

TABLE B

1	2	3	4
Billing Authority	Tax Base of the billing authority (Item T in section 33(1) of the 1992 Act)	Basic amount of council tax for the billing authority (Item C in section 48 of the 1992 Act) (£)	Amount to be shown on precept under section 40(2)(b) of the 1992 Act (£)
City of London	6,239.59	86.13	537,415.89
<i>Inner London Boroughs</i>			
Camden	85,170.00	295.00	25,125,150.00
Greenwich	69,702.33	295.00	20,562,187.35
Hackney	63,896.00	295.00	18,849,320.00
Hammersmith	71,983.00	295.00	21,234,985.00
Islington	72,001.07	295.00	21,240,315.65
Kensington and Chelsea	92,778.00	295.00	27,369,510.00
Lambeth	97,780.00	295.00	28,845,100.00
Lewisham	75,526.10	295.00	22,280,199.50
Southwark	87,727.28	295.00	25,879,547.60
Tower Hamlets	78,840.00	295.00	23,257,800.00
Wandsworth	120,607.00	295.00	35,579,065.00
Westminster	121,890.83	295.00	35,957,794.85
<i>Outer London Boroughs</i>			
Barking and Dagenham	42,624.64	295.00	12,574,268.80
Barnet	132,151.00	295.00	38,984,545.00
Bexley	77,303.00	295.00	22,804,385.00
Brent	82,799.00	295.00	24,425,705.00
Bromley	125,130.00	295.00	36,913,350.00
Croydon	113,893.00	295.00	33,598,435.00
Ealing	104,595.86	295.00	30,855,778.70
Enfield	91,714.00	295.00	27,055,630.00
Haringey	70,810.00	295.00	20,888,950.00
Harrow	79,795.00	295.00	23,539,525.00
Havering	83,110.00	295.00	24,517,450.00
Hillingdon	91,200.00	295.00	26,904,000.00
Hounslow	78,760.71	295.00	23,234,409.45
Kingston upon Thames	59,304.00	295.00	17,494,680.00
Merton	69,638.00	295.00	20,543,210.00
Newham	67,097.00	295.00	19,793,615.00
Redbridge	80,570.00	295.00	23,768,150.00
Richmond upon Thames	85,697.20	295.00	25,280,674.00
Sutton	69,723.20	295.00	20,568,344.00
Waltham Forest	68,526.00	295.00	20,215,170.00
TOTAL			800,678,665.79

PROPOSED EXPLANATORY COMMUNICATION TO COUNCIL TAXPAYERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE 33 LONDON BILLING AUTHORITIES AS REQUIRED UNDER THE COUNCIL TAX (DEMAND NOTICES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 (AS AMENDED)

LONG VERSION (GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY'S PREFERRED TEXT)

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

Introduction

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, is committed to achieving value for money for Londoners and delivering economic growth. This guide explains how your council tax pays for GLA services. His seventh budget continues to deliver on his promise to reduce council tax and invest in London's infrastructure. **For the fourth year running the Mayor is cutting his part of the council tax.** This means it has fallen by 28 per cent in real terms since 2008. He is also on course to meet his commitment to reduce it by ten per cent in cash terms during his second term.

The current financial climate means that the public sector must deliver improved public services with fewer resources. This year's budget has required some difficult choices to be made while at the same time seeking to protect the key services Londoners expect from the Mayor - safer streets, investment in transport infrastructure and affordable housing.

Council tax and budget information

The Greater London Authority's (GLA) share of the council tax for a typical band D property has been reduced by £4 to £295.00. The table below shows how this is allocated. A band D council taxpayer in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £86.13.

Council Tax (£)	2014-15	Change	2015-16
MOPAC (Met Police)	214.52	-5.65	208.87
LFEPA (Fire Brigade)	52.42	-1.57	50.85
GLA and Olympics	29.79	3.28	33.07
TfL (Transport)	2.27	-0.06	2.21
Total (£)	299.00	-4.00	295.00

Controlling costs at City Hall (Core GLA)

The Mayor has put value for money at the very heart of his administration and has controlled costs tightly and cut out waste. This is reflected in the savings and efficiencies of nearly £450 million which will be delivered across the GLA Group in 2015-16.

These savings have allowed the Mayor to reduce his precept for residents of the 32 London boroughs as well as releasing money to deliver his key priorities over his current Mayoral term. This includes supporting the delivery of Crossrail and the Northern Line Extension to Battersea; making London cleaner, greener and safer; the regeneration of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park; the creation of up to 250,000 apprenticeships by 2016; and the delivery of around 100,000 affordable homes over his two terms.

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (Met Police)

The Mayor has set the Met Police a challenge to drive down crimes in key categories; boost public confidence by at least 20 per cent; reduce delays in the criminal justice system by 20 per cent; increase compliance with community sentences by 20 per cent; and reduce reoffending by young people by 20 per cent while delivering over £500 million of savings in its budget. He will continue to invest in frontline policing in order to maintain officer numbers at or around 32,000;

All 32 London Boroughs have now moved to a local policing model which includes an additional 2,600 officers in Safer Neighbourhood Teams. The total number of offences has continued to fall with crime down overall by more than 6 percent in 2013-14.

In order to meet the financial challenges faced by the Metropolitan Police and protect resources for front line policing many of the under-used and outmoded buildings in its estate are being sold and its back office functions are being reconfigured.

Every London borough continues to have at least one front counter open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The Mayor is also seeking to make it easier and more convenient for Londoners to access the police in new ways while ensuring that more officers are out on the beat where Londoners want to see them.

Transport for London (TfL)

With London's population is forecast to grow by one million in the next decade, the Mayor is investing in making the transport network more reliable. TfL's ten year investment plans will deliver major upgrades and improvements in day to day service reliability to support jobs, economic growth and prosperity. This investment includes:

- delivering a 30 per cent improvement in the Tube's reliability by the end of 2015 and upgrading key stations right across the network;
- introducing a new 24-hour Tube service at weekends on key lines from September 2015;
- completing Crossrail which will increase London's rail capacity by ten per cent and extending the Northern Line to Battersea and the London Overground to Barking Riverside;
- increasing capacity on the London Overground and the Wimbledon to Croydon tram line;
- investing £4 billion to improve the safety and quality of London's roads for all users;
- delivering 800 New Bus for London vehicles by 2016; and
- investing £913 million to making cycling safer by creating safer junctions, segregated cycle routes and Quietways on less busy streets.

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

LFEP is driving improvements to operational efficiency and effectiveness which will not only balance the authority's budget but also seek to protect, and where possible, improve the London Fire Brigade's response times. LFEP are promoting community safety and fire prevention as well as ensuring that buildings in London conform to fire safety standards in order to protect Londoners and visitors to the capital.

London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC)

The LLDC was set up by the Mayor to ensure that London benefits from a lasting legacy from the 2012 Olympics. By 2030 Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will have 10,000 new households and more than 20,000 jobs are forecast to be created there. The Park is also now open to the public and in 2015 the Olympic Stadium will host five Rugby World Cup matches before reopening permanently in summer 2016. This budget will also support the delivery of the Mayor's Olympicopolis project which will create a new world class education and cultural district in the Park.

Summary of GLA group budget

The tables below set out the GLA's funding sources and the reasons for the year on year change in the budget.

How the GLA budget is funded (£m)	2015-16
Gross expenditure	11,037
Fares, charges and other income	-5,857
Government grants and retained business rates	-4,461
Net transfer to/from reserves	68
Amount met by council tax payers (£m)	801

Changes in Spending (£m)	2015-16
2014-15 council tax requirement	787
Inflation	241
Efficiencies and other savings	-446
New investment to improve services	604
Other changes	-385
2015-16 council tax requirement	801

Detailed budget by service area

The table below compares the GLA group's expenditure on policing, fire and other services (including transport) in 2015-16 with 2014-15. The increase in the council tax requirement arising from London's growing population is supporting investment in policing, the Fire Brigade, regeneration and apprenticeships. The increase in gross expenditure reflects the additional investment in transport.

Find out more about the budget on our website: www.london.gov.uk (tel: 020 7983 4000).

Summary of Spending and Income £m (Figures may not sum exactly due to rounding)	Police (MOPAC)		Fire (LFEPA)		Other Services (incl. GLA, LLDC and Tfl)		GLA Group Total	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
	Gross expenditure	3,253.0	3,166.6	431.6	423.7	7,352.3	7,860.5	11,036.9
Government grants and business rates	-2,359.1	-2,274.8	-264.9	-253.2	-1,837.1	-1,698.4	-4,461.1	-4,226.3
Other income (incl. fares and charges)	-272.6	-261.7	-30.7	-32.2	-5,553.2	-6,070.0	-5,856.5	-6,364.0
Net expenditure	621.3	630.1	136.0	138.3	-38.0	92.1	719.3	860.5
Change to Level of Reserves	-57.1	-63.6	2.2	-0.1	122.5	3.9	67.6	-59.8
Council tax requirement (income)	564.2	566.5	138.2	138.2	84.5	96.0	786.9	800.7

COUNCIL TAX LEAFLET TEXT AND INSERT - SHORT VERSION

(TO BE USED – AT THEIR DISCRETION - BY BILLING AUTHORITIES SEEKING TO REDUCE THE LENGTH AND COST OF PRODUCING THEIR EXPLANATORY SUPPORTING TEXT TO COUNCIL TAXPAYERS ON EFFICIENCY GROUNDS)

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

Introduction

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, is committed to achieving value for money for Londoners and delivering economic growth. This guide explains how your council tax pays for Greater London Authority (GLA) services. His seventh budget continues to deliver on his promise to reduce council tax and invest in London's infrastructure. **For the fourth year running the Mayor is cutting his part of the council tax.** This means it has fallen 28 per cent in real terms since 2008. He is also on course to meet his commitment to reduce it by ten per cent in cash terms during his second term.

In the current financial climate the public sector must do more with less. This year's budget has required some difficult choices to be made while at the same time seeking to protect key services Londoners expect from the Mayor – safer streets, investment in transport infrastructure and affordable housing.

Council tax and budget information

The GLA share of the council tax for a typical band D property has been reduced to £295.00. A band D council taxpayer in the City of London, which has its own police force, will pay £86.13.

Council Tax (£)	2014-15	Change	2015-16
MOPAC (Met Police)	214.52	-5.65	208.87
LFEPA (Fire Brigade)	52.42	-1.57	50.85
GLA and Olympics	29.79	3.28	33.07
TfL (Transport)	2.27	-0.06	2.21
Total (£)	299.00	-4.00	295.00

Investing in frontline services

The Mayor has put value for money at the very heart of his administration and has controlled costs tightly as well as cut out waste. His budget will protect vital front line services by:

- investing in frontline policing by maintaining officer numbers at or around 32,000 with an additional 2,600 officers deployed in local Safer Neighbourhood Teams;
- ensuring the London Fire Brigade has sufficient resources to maintain attendance targets at incidents;
- investing £22 billion to upgrade the Tube with the introduction of a 24 hour weekend service on key lines from September;
- investing £913 million in cycling and £4 billion in London's roads;
- in partnership with London boroughs maintaining existing concessionary travel schemes in full, including free 24 hour travel for the over 60s, the disabled and eligible war veterans with discounts on travelcards for apprentices;
- delivering around 100,000 affordable homes over the Mayor's two terms; and
- creating up to 250,000 apprenticeships by 2016 and promoting the London Living Wage.

Summary of GLA budget

The following tables compare the GLA group's spending for 2015-16 with last year and the reasons for the changes. The increase in gross expenditure reflects the impact of additional investment in transport. Overall the council tax requirement has increased by £14 million due to the impact of London's growing population. The additional funds raised will be invested in services such as policing, fire services, apprenticeships and regeneration. Find out more about the budget on our website: www.london.gov.uk (tel: 020 7983 4000).

How the GLA budget is funded (£m)	2014-15	Change	2015-16
Gross Expenditure	11,037	414	11,451
Government grants and retained business rates	-4,461	235	-4,226
Fares, charges and other income	-5,857	-507	-6,364
Use of reserves	68	-128	-60
Amount met by council tax payers (£m)	787	14	801

Changes in Spending (£m)	2015-16
2014-15 council tax requirement	787
Inflation	241
Efficiencies and other savings	-446
New investment to improve services	604
Other changes	-385
2015-16 council tax requirement	801

Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the GLA website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this approval to be deferred? **No**

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Is there a part 2 form - NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Tick to indicate approval

Drafting officer:

Martin Mitchell, Finance Manager, has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following have been consulted on the final decision.

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

David Gallie has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

Sponsoring director

Martin Clarke has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral advisor

Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Legal and Finance advice

The Public and Regulatory Law team has commented on this proposal. The proposal originates from the Finance team.

✓

OFFICER APPROVAL**Executive Director, Resources**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Signature

D. Gene

Date

23/2/15

Chief of Staff

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor

Signature

Edward Lister

Date

23:02:2015