

Council Tax 2025/26

Useful Information

A full "Guide to Council Tax and Business Rates 2025/26" is available on the Council's website at the following links:
www.richmond.gov.uk/council_tax and www.richmond.gov.uk/business_rates

Message from the Leader of The Council

Despite the financial challenges facing councils across the country, Richmond Council is maintaining financial stability and continuing to invest in local services residents rely on.

Thanks to our careful long-term financial management, we can balance our budget for the year ahead while continuing to deliver essential services such as local libraries, purpose-built leisure facilities, and efficient waste and recycling programmes.

As many of you will be aware, councils nationwide are facing significant financial pressures. Richmond Council is not immune to these challenges.

More than 60% of our budget is dedicated to social care for our most vulnerable residents. Rising demand — especially in adult and children's services — remains a major financial pressure. The ongoing cost of living crisis has only increased the need for support. At the same time, we are

tackling the housing crisis, as more residents face homelessness and require temporary accommodation.

Looking ahead, we are focusing on securing a sustainable future for Richmond upon Thames. This includes strategic investments in infrastructure and services that will benefit the community for many years to come.

We are creating new community facilities in Ham, Teddington, and Whitton to support social, educational, and creative activities. We are improving our parks, leisure facilities, and community spaces to encourage active lifestyles and well-being. We continue to support local businesses, high streets, and tourism to drive economic growth.

We are working hard to secure a fairer deal from the Government for those who need it most. This includes efforts to secure continued funding for the Household Support Fund and additional financial support to address the cost-of-living crisis. We are also prioritising investment in designated special educational places, ensuring that all young people have access to a quality education close to home.

We are strengthening our climate resilience through improved flood prevention measures as part of our climate emergency strategy. We continue to make steady progress toward our ambitious 2043 Net Zero target for the entire borough—not just for Council operations. This is about more than tackling climate change—it's about reducing costs, emissions, and ensuring a healthier, safer, and fairer future for all.

The Council's priorities for the next financial year include meeting growing needs while continuing to deliver the high-quality services that make Richmond a great place to live. To support these investments in our borough, the Council has agreed on a 2.99% increase in core Council Tax, alongside a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept. The precept charged by the Mayor of London will rise by 4.03%, bringing the total Band D bill to £2,372.07, an overall increase of 4.79%.

We are acutely aware of the pressures facing households, and any increase

How much will I pay in 2025/26?

BAND	RICHMOND COUNCIL (2025/26)	GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY (2025/26)	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX (2025/26)
	£	£	£
A	1,254.46	326.92	1,581.38
B	1,463.54	381.41	1,844.95
C	1,672.61	435.89	2,108.50
D	1,881.69	490.38	2,372.07
E	2,299.84	599.35	2,899.19
F	2,718.00	708.33	3,426.33
G	3,136.15	817.30	3,953.45
H	3,763.38	980.76	4,744.14

in Council Tax is not a decision we take lightly. However, to keep the council on a secure footing and ensure we can continue delivering vital services, this step is necessary.

At Richmond Council, we remain committed to standing up for Richmond residents on issues that matter. To name a few, we continue to lead the opposition, alongside other councils, against the expansion of Heathrow, and we are actively advocating for funding for Royal Parks Police to ensure the safety of those who visit our borough's royal parks, including Richmond and Bushy Parks.

We are incredibly proud of the progress we have made and the positive impact we continue to have on the lives of our residents. Collectively, we have built a strong community where we support one another and work together to create a more sustainable future. We remain fully committed to investing in the continued growth of Richmond, ensuring that it remains a place where everyone can feel connected and be proud to call home.

This is not just about maintaining what we have today but about investing in the future of our borough. Together, we are building a better Richmond for everyone.

What does the Richmond Council Tax pay for?



SOCIAL SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH LEARNING OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



VULNERABLE CHILDREN



HOMELESSNESS SERVICES



SPORTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES



WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING



ROAD AND STREET MAINTENANCE



LIBRARY SERVICES



PARKS

... AND MANY OTHER SERVICES.



**Councillor
Gareth Roberts**

Leader of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

What does the Greater London Authority charge pay for?



A proportion of Council Tax is paid to the Greater London Authority as the borough's contribution towards the costs incurred for Transport, Police, Fire services and City Hall. The budget for this is determined by the Mayor.

Has the amount changed since last year?

OVERALL COUNCIL TAX
INCREASE FOR THIS YEAR

4.79%



2.99%

RICHMOND ELEMENT INCREASE, PLUS
INCREASE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT OF

2%

THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY
(GLA) ELEMENT IS AN INCREASE OF

4.03%



Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit

If you are on a low income or receiving a benefit, like Universal Credit, you may be entitled to Council Tax Reduction. For pensioner age applicants, in some circumstances if other adults in your home (other than your husband, wife or partner) are living on a low income, you could also be entitled to a reduction of up to 25% of your Council Tax (this is called a Second Adult Rebate). For most working age applicants in Band F, G or H properties, the maximum Council Tax Reduction is still limited to Band E.

Housing Benefit or Universal Credit is also available to help people on a

low income with their rent payments. For example, if you are working but earning a low wage or you are living on a pension or other benefits, you may be entitled to some help. If you would like further information, please call us on 020 8891 1411, visit our website at www.richmond.gov.uk or visit the Government website www.direct.gov.uk



[www.richmond.gov.uk/
cost_of_living_housing](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/cost_of_living_housing)

Second Home (furnished) and Long-Term Empty (unfurnished) Premiums

As part of its plans to bring empty or underused homes back into use, the Council intends to use discretionary powers provided by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 to charge a 100% premium on 'second homes' from 1 April 2025. Second homes are defined on any day as a dwelling that is substantially furnished, and it is not someone's sole or main residence.

The existing 100% premium charged on properties that have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for at least 2 years will also be changing from the 1 April 2025, to become chargeable after 1 year.

A range of statutory exceptions from both premiums has been published by Government, depending on certain criteria. For more information, including how to apply, visit our website at www.richmond.gov.uk and search for 'empty property charges' or call us on **020 8891 1411**.

Further information and contact details

Please visit our website for more information on Council Tax, Benefits and Business Rates:

- Council Tax: www.richmond.gov.uk/council_tax
- Benefits: www.richmond.gov.uk/help_council_tax
- Business Rates: www.richmond.gov.uk/business_rates

Or Telephone:

- Council Tax and Benefits: **020 8891 1411**
- Business Rates: **020 8891 7725**

Or Email:

- Council Tax: counciltax@richmond.gov.uk
- Business Rates: businessrates@richmond.gov.uk

Customer Service Team contact details

The Customer Service Team is responsible for providing information on all Council services.

Telephone: **020 8891 1411**
(Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

Online: [www.richmond.gov.uk/
contacting_the_council](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/contacting_the_council)

For the latest news from the Council, go to:

www.richmond.gov.uk/news
or follow [@LBRUT](https://twitter.com/LBRUT) on X (formerly Twitter) or Facebook.

Sign up to email updates at
[www.richmond.gov.uk/
newsletter](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/newsletter)