



Dear resident,

The government has imposed challenging budget reductions on public services in Redbridge. These affect every one of us as residents of the borough. The Council has had to make £166m of savings due to funding cuts and demand pressures and we know that there is more to come. Despite the cuts, we have been working hard to deliver the services our residents want, need and deserve. The Government funding settlement includes an assumption that Council Tax is increased by Local Authorities.

The Council remains committed to investing in safety, housing, keeping our streets clean and protecting our vulnerable residents. This is reflected in our budget for the coming year, which meets the financial challenge created by austerity head on. The Council will continue to invest in our borough while saving £15.406m in 2019/20 through delivering services in ways that are more creative and efficient.

We did not choose austerity, and we cannot protect all our services from cuts, but we believe we are making the right choices for the future of our borough: transforming our economy, supporting our vulnerable and modernising our services.

Protecting our vital services

To offset the government's reductions in funding, there will be a Council Tax increase of 2.99%.

Like all councils, Redbridge faces a national social care crisis. Our elderly population is growing and they and their families rightly expect good support from public services.

With the government shirking its responsibility to meet the costs of care, we have little choice but to accept the government's proposal that we should introduce a 1% social care levy.

The money raised through this levy is used solely to fund adult social care, which is needed **to support and protect our most vulnerable residents** in a time of ever increasing financial pressure.

We have not taken this decision lightly, but as residents you've told us that you want to see services for the elderly protected. This tax increase will help us to do that.

Better streets

The government's cuts to policing have hit Redbridge hard. We've been looking for clever ways to fight crime and in this budget, are investing £2m in new funding for state-of-the-art CCTV and ANPR cameras in addition to the committed £1.5m, creating a 'ring of steel' round the borough to improve safety and tackle all forms of crime including fly-tipping.

Keeping our streets clean is also a priority. We will invest an extra £1m to help keep the streets clean, as well as protect weekly refuse and recycling collections and continue with our free bulky waste and green garden waste collections at a time when many London boroughs are reducing these services.

Better housing

The government's austerity measures and benefit changes, combined with rising rents and a lack of housing supply in the private sector, means many thousands of Redbridge families are without a home and on our waiting list. This situation has a devastating human impact and one we are committed to addressing by pledging to deliver 1,000 genuinely affordable homes.

To overcome the severe shortage of affordable housing in the borough, we have agreed capital investment of £103.3m to deliver new homes in the coming years, and unveiled plans for capital investment of £70m to buy 300 homes so that the council does not rely on privately rented accommodation.

Better lives

We want Redbridge to be a great place to live for residents of all ages, and as part of this will continue to deliver health and wellbeing projects and maintain and enhance vital services:

- We will support the borough's vulnerable children and adults by investing £9.8m of extra money for 2019/20
- The new Mayfield Leisure Centre was opened in November 2018 and plans have been submitted for a new leisure centre at Wanstead High School to include a public pool and dance studio
- We are investing in six community hubs - brand new buildings in the heart of the community with integrated facilities co-designed by residents
- We are continuing our anti-poverty work, including £9k to tackle concerns around period poverty and £6.1m to roll out the London Living Wage to all council contracts and encourage Redbridge employers to follow suit

The Council faces unprecedented challenges, but austerity cannot dim our ambition for our borough nor our determination to deliver **Results for Redbridge**.

Best wishes

Councillor Jas Athwal
Leader, London Borough of Redbridge





KEY AREAS OF INVESTMENT

Redbridge Council has unveiled a bold package of measures to invest in high-quality housing, better streets and support for vulnerable residents.

We're also protecting valued local services like our free garden waste collections, keeping our libraries open, weekly recycling and waste collections

£103.3m

capital investment to deliver new homes to overcome the severe shortage of affordable housing

£70m

investment to buy 300 homes

£9.8m

extra money to support the borough's vulnerable children and adults

£6.45m

of new funding to invest in the regeneration of Ilford town centre

£6.1m

to roll out the London Living Wage to all council contracts

£2m

in new funding for high-tech CCTV and ANPR cameras in addition to the committed **£1.5m**

£1m

to keep our streets clean and to tackle grime crime

£9k

to tackle concerns around period poverty