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07 March 2024

Dear Resident,

I am writing to update you on the Council's budget for 2024/25. This financial year, the Council will continue to deliver hundreds of essential services for our 390,800 residents, from collecting the bins to keeping streets clean and safe.

I promised that I would listen to residents, and I want to thank everyone who shared their views in our budget survey – you have helped to inform our plans this year.

Most of the Council's budget will be spent on protecting vulnerable children and adults - your top priorities in the budget consultation.

In addition, I will be making sure that Croydon is at the front of the queue for investment. I am pleased to let you know that we have already won a provisional £18.5m Levelling Up Fund award to improve the look and feel of our town centre. This, combined with Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW)'s investment, is good news. I am working with them to drive forward a new plan for town centre regeneration, bringing much needed retail, leisure, jobs and homes.

When I became Executive Mayor in 2022, I promised to fix the Council's finances and restore pride in our borough. The Government has said that we are making good progress, and that we have 'stepped up a gear' in their recent letter. We have set a budget for 2024/25 that builds on this and continues our journey of improvement.

Local authorities are facing huge challenges – from rising demand for services, to cost of living pressures. In Croydon, these are compounded by the dire financial situation I inherited and the Council's £1.4bn debt burden. This debt will cost the Council £62m this year and is our third highest spend after adults' and children's social care.

Despite these challenges, we are tightly managing the parts of our budget that are within our control.

I have upheld my pledge **not** to increase Council Tax above the 4.99% limit set by the Government. Croydon is the only council with serious financial challenges that is **not** raising Council Tax above the limit this year and has **not** been taken over by government commissioners. We are increasing Council Tax by 2.99%, together with

the 2% increase for adult social care that the Government expects all councils to charge. This means that there is a total Council Tax increase of £2.45 a week for a Band D property in Croydon. We have included help for those who may need additional financial support in our budget. You can find out more at [www.croydon.gov.uk/benefits/council-tax-support](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/benefits/council-tax-support)

To keep Croydon on the road to financial recovery, this year we will need to make savings of £30m, and we will need to sell land and buildings to prevent the cost of borrowing rising further. We are also investing £5m in becoming a more efficient, modern Council that is cost effective, and provides good customer care. I am determined that we will become a council that provides value for every penny of taxpayers' money that we spend.

The Council still needs to make changes, but we have achieved much. I know that by working together we can deliver a Croydon of which we can all be proud. There is hope for a better future. As a Croydon boy, I care deeply about our home town and I will continue to work hard to put our borough back on the map for the right reasons.

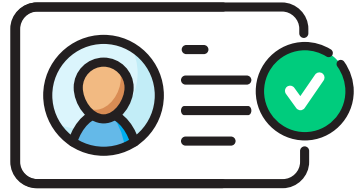
Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Perry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'J' and 'P'.

**Mayor Jason Perry**  
Executive Mayor of Croydon

# VOTER ID

READY TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS?



The law has changed and you now need to bring photo ID with you to vote in elections at a polling station.

Visit [croydon.gov.uk/voterid](http://croydon.gov.uk/voterid) or scan the QR code for the full list of acceptable ID.

**NO PHOTO ID?**  
Apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.



**Need help or have questions? Talk to our staff who can help**  
Visit: [croydon.gov.uk/voterid](http://croydon.gov.uk/voterid) Call: [0300 373 0595](tel:03003730595)  
or email: [electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@croydon.gov.uk)

## MANAGE YOUR COUNCIL TAX ONLINE

REGISTER FOR YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT TO:

Quickly access bills in one place

Easily update any changes to circumstances

Do your bit for the environment – no more paper bills!

Set up direct debits - a better way to pay



**Scan the QR code to register now**

For more information visit: [croydon.gov.uk/counciltaxonline](http://croydon.gov.uk/counciltaxonline)

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)



## Croydon needs foster carers

- ✓ Up to £604 per week, per child
- ✓ Round the clock support
- ✓ Comprehensive, on-going training
- ✓ Looking after vulnerable children and young people in Croydon
- ✓ Direct access to educational and therapeutic support

If you have a spare bedroom we would love to hear from you:

☎ 0300 222 2112      📍 @fosterforcroydon

✉ iwanttofooster@croydon.gov.uk      📷 @fosterforcroydon

[www.croydon.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/fostering)



Croydon  
Fostering

## FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

There are many things you, and those around you, can do to stay as well as you can. These five steps can help you to feel more positive and able to get the most out of life.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

BE ACTIVE

TAKE NOTICE

KEEP LEARNING

GIVE



Scan the QR code to learn more or visit:  
[croydon.gov.uk/mental-health-wellbeing](http://croydon.gov.uk/mental-health-wellbeing)



## CHANGES TO PAY-AND-DISPLAY PARKING

Croydon's pay and display machines operate on the 3G mobile network, which is shutting down this year. They will stop accepting cash by 31 March. Many will accept card payments until the shutdown, when the machines will be removed.

You can use RingGo, phone parking, or Paypoint in a shop. For more information visit: [croydon.gov.uk/parkingchanges](http://croydon.gov.uk/parkingchanges)

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)