



# Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

**The Havering you want to be part of**

[www.havering.gov.uk](http://www.havering.gov.uk)

# Havering Budget Consultation 2025

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## Budget 2024 Consultation

Webpage Address: <https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/corporate/budget24>

Open Date: 9 November 2023

Close Date: 18 December 2023

### Responses

Online 3580

Paper 143

**Total 3723**

### Budget events

Budget events	Date	Start Time	Attendance
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Town Hall, Romford	16 November	7.30pm	41
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Online Consultation Event	30 November	7.30pm	31
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Langtons House, Hornchurch	4 December	2pm	52
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Royals Youth Centre, Rainham	12 December	7.30pm	3
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Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill	14 December	7.30pm	1
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- Launched 22 November 24
- Runs until 3 January 25
- Sets out our position
- Questions include:
  - Council tax increases
  - Council tax on empty refurbished homes
  - Questions around area and personal top three issues

## Havering Budget Consultation 2025-26

### Overview

Havering Council provides a wide range of services to our communities, spending around £200 million every year. Some of these services, called statutory services, are ones that we must provide by law. Others, called discretionary services, are ones we choose to provide. We know many of our services are highly valued by our residents but, as in recent years, we know we will have to make some difficult decisions during the setting of next year's budget to ensure money is directed to where it is needed most.

Next year the authority is predicting a budget gap of around £74 million. This leaves the Council with few options to address the deficit:

- Another Capitalisation Direction (Government loan)
- Significantly increasing Council Tax beyond the Government's proposals (this would require a referendum)
- Section 114 (effectively declaring the Council bankrupt with the possibility of Government Commissioners being sent in to run the Council which in itself would incur significant costs)
- Urgent intervention from the Government (extra funding / funding formula review to reflect current population change and need)

## Council Tax

The Government will shortly confirm the amount by which local authorities are permitted to increase Council Tax. The Government have assumed nationally that Council Tax will increase by 5% next year.

As an example, this would mean an increase of £1.66 per week on an average band D property in the borough.

If these levels were applied to Havering's Council Tax, this would generate an additional £7.9 million next year to help reduce our budget gap.

What Council Tax increase would you be prepared to support?

Please select **ONLY ONE** item

- I support an increase of up to 5%
- I support an increase of 5% or above
- I do not support an increase
- I do not know/I have no opinion



- Paper copies sent to Libraries
- One face-to-face event – Town Hall – 18 Dec
- Engagement with forums and business groups
- Includes a letter to local MPs which opens up as an email
- Also a petition which can be done separately from consultation

- Launched in Living
- Press release to media
- Website
- Recorder Blog
- Graphics for use on channels
- Social media promotion
  - Next Door
  - Facebook
  - LinkedIn
  - Instagram
  - YouTube
- Time FM Leader interview
- Other newsletters – At the Heart, Business Briefing
- Continued on-going use of channels



# Questions