

Council tax:

it's the lowest rise ever

0.8%

See inside for details of extra spend on recycling, roads, street lighting, leisure centres and free parking for shoppers



Croydon Conservatives

Council Tax bills will increase by just 0.8% on 1st April, the lowest increase since Council Tax was introduced nearly 20 years ago. A typical family living in a Band D home will see their bills increase by just over twenty pence a week. This is despite Croydon yet again receiving the lowest increase in government grant of any council in the country.

Since the Conservatives took control of Croydon Council in May 2006, Council Tax bills have increased by an average of just over 3% a year, compared with an average increase of nearly 12% over the four years of the last Labour administration.

But Council Leader Mike Fisher isn't satisfied. "With everyone feeling the pinch as a result of the recession, we wanted to give everyone some of their money back. If it wasn't for having to pay millions of pounds towards the costs of caring for asylum seekers - which should be entirely met by the Government, not in part by local Council Taxpayers - we would have been able to cut bills by 1.1%.

"We desperately need a Conservative Government that will treat Croydon fairly and help us get bills down. If we get re-elected and David Cameron wins the General Election, we guarantee that as a minimum we will freeze Council Tax for at least two years."



We promised to restore financial stability to the council in our manifesto four years ago and we have delivered on that pledge

Where the money is NOT going: Labour's lies

Croydon's Labour opposition is currently distributing a newspaper which claims that each tax payer will have to pay £1,115 to build the Council a 'luxury HQ'.

It's complete rubbish. It is true that we are planning to replace Taberner House with a new Public Services' Delivery Hub nearby, but it will cost the tax payer nothing.

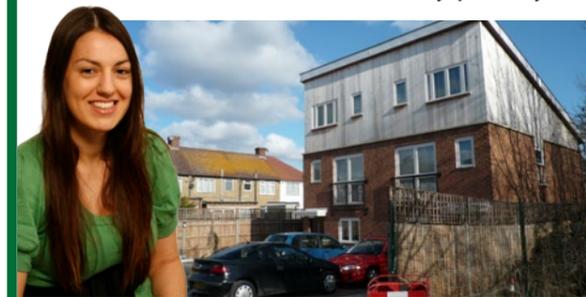
The cost of it is being met from the profits of developing a number of council-owned vacant sites, which will also kick-start the regeneration of the town centre. We are borrowing the money to build the new hub, but that is being funded by the receipts from the other developments.

Of course, in the run-up to an election it is very easy for the opposition to mislead people and say "Council is borrowing £x million for new offices - that's £y per household on your Council Tax". It's this kind of scaremongering that puts people off politics.

If you want to check who is telling you the truth, then when Labour knocks on your door during the election, ask them to show you the page in the Council's revenue budget where this cost to Council Taxpayers appears. They won't be able to. Or wait until you get your Council Tax bill and see if it has gone up by £1,115. It won't have, because it's the smallest ever increase, to be followed by a freeze for two years (see above).

Controlling Development

"Ensuring that development is sensitive and retains an area's character is a key priority for us" says Woodside Action Team member, Serife Duven. "Developments like this one at Harrington Road can only be prevented in future if our Borough Plan gives us the ability to refuse inappropriate development, so investment in the Plan is a key priority."



Our team: reflecting the diversity of the borough

Croydon North: *Bensham Manor* Greta Sohoje, Matin Talukdar, Kazim Walji *Broad Green* Lance Alleyne, Sarah Davis, Fabion Emmanuel *Norbury* Mike Mogul, Sherman Quintyn, Wally Ross-Gower *Selhurst* Mervyn Adon-Wint, Daniel Hing, Rob King *South Norwood* Sue Bennett, Luke Clancy, Richard Hough *Thornton Heath* Akram Khan, Kai Pokawa, Sohail Qureshi *Upper Norwood* Robert Askey, Tirena Gunter, Gloria Hutchens

Croydon Central: *Addiscombe* Maria Garcia, Adam Kellett, Andrew Price *Ashburton* Eddy Arram, Lindsay Frost, Avril Slipper *Fairfield* David Fitze, Vidhi Mohan, Sue Winborn *Fieldway* Jayne Laville, Maria Pearson *Heathfield* Jason Cummings, Margaret Mead, Helen Pollard *New Addington* Rob Hughes, Tony Pearson *Shirley* Richard Chatterjee, Mike Fisher, Janet Marshall *Woodside* Serife Duven, Mark Johnson, Michael O'Dwyer

Croydon South: *Croham* Maria Gatland, Michael Neal, Jason Perry *Coulsdon East* Justin Cromie, Terry Lenton Chris Wright *Coulsdon West* Jeet Bains, David Osland, Ian Parker *Kenley* Jan Buttinger, Steve Hollands, Steve O'Connell *Purley* Graham Bass, Badsha Quadir, Donald Speakman *Sanderstead* Lynne Hale, Yvette Hopley, Tim Pollard *Selsdon & Ballards* Sara Bashford, Dudley Mead, Phil Thomas *Waddon* Tony Harris, Clare Hilley, Simon Hoar

For contact details please see www.croydonconservatives.com/teams or call 020 8660 0491



Help us get more cops for Croydon

Croydon Council is lobbying the Mayor of London for more police officers for Croydon.

Cllr Gavin Barwell, who is Cabinet Member for Community Safety and also the Conservative Party's candidate to be the next MP for Croydon Central, said "Our local police do a great job but they simply don't have sufficient resources. Croydon is London's largest borough, a major transport hub and a retail and commercial centre with a large night-time economy. And it is a highly diverse borough, with the inner London character of the north being masked by the relative affluence of the south. The current formula that the Metropolitan Police use to allocate resources doesn't properly recognise these challenges – there are three boroughs with fewer crimes than us who get more police officers!

"We know from our experience when the Met has given us extra resources on a temporary basis that more cops will help to cut crime. So we will be presenting our evidence to Boris but we also want as many residents as possible to show their support. Get behind our efforts and help make Croydon a safer place to live and work."

To sign the petition:

- text MORE POLICE followed by your name, the first line of your address and your postcode to 60660
- go to www.croydon.gov.uk/morepolice; or
- return the slip below.



Lighting up the borough

As well as trying to tackle crime by getting more cops on our streets, we are also improving street lighting right across the borough. This year sees the launch of a five-year programme to replace old lamp columns with new white lights whose output is focused down onto the street.



Upper Norwood campaigner Tirena Gunter said "Many people tell us they don't feel safe after dark. Improving street lighting should deter criminals and also improve road safety. It's good that the Council is focusing on basic services like this that everyone benefits from."



New and improved leisure facilities

Waddon councillor Simon Hoar is delighted that permission has now been granted for the new Waddon Leisure Centre and that the money has been allocated to start building this year. He says "As well as the long-awaited Waddon project getting the green light, money has also been found to improve New Addington and Purley pools and to develop a new plan for the refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls".



Big boost for roads maintenance

Partly because of the prolonged freezing conditions a few weeks ago and partly because of years of under-investment by the previous Labour administration, some of our roads are in a really poor condition. Now, Conservative-controlled Croydon Council has announced a major programme to tackle the problem. Next year, the Council will be spending £7.4 million – nearly twice as much as it spent this year.

New Addington resident Tony Pearson welcomes the news. "We've already seen a number of roads, such as Parkway in New Addington, resurfaced over the last few months but there are lots more that are in need of investment. It's great that the Council is listening to local concerns." Contact your local Conservative action team to report any pot holes in your area (see below for details).



Half an hour free parking

Traders and visitors will benefit from the introduction of 30 minutes' free parking in pay-and-display bays in the borough's district centres. Also, for the third year running, your Conservative council is freezing charges for the first two hours' on- and off-street parking.

Norbury Action Team member, Sherman Quintyn, says "I know that traders in Norbury are feeling the pinch, so it is great news that our Conservative council is introducing this free period to boost trade and help shoppers".



Food waste recycling service

We have already rolled out plastics and cardboard recycling and green waste collection across the borough, and the public support for this has been fantastic. The biggest remaining recyclable element in what currently goes in your bin is food waste, so we are delighted to be starting the roll out of food waste recycling in this financial year.

Heathfield councillor, Helen Pollard, says "The small bin will go in your kitchen, lined with special compostable bags. When it is full, the bag can go neatly into the bigger bin, which stays outside. and is collected weekly, so there will be no nasty smells. This will enable us to continue to improve our recycling performance, which, under Labour, was one of the worst in the country".

Can we help?

Tick here to be added to our 'More Police' petition

Please use this form to tell us about any pot holes which need repairs or any local issues that we can help deal with

.....

Please cut out and return to:
Croydon Conservatives, 36 Brighton Road, Purley, CR8 2LG OR
fax to: 020 8763 9686

Would you like to help your local Conservatives?

- I can deliver some newsletters near my home
- I would like to join the Conservative Party
- I can make a donation to help fund future campaigns
- I can display a poster during the election campaign

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

Data protection Act. The information you supply us with will be treated by the Conservative Party in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be passed on to any third parties other than the local Electoral Registration Officer. From time to time we may contact you with further details of Party policy. By giving us your email address you are agreeing to receive communications and information from us. We will not pass your personal details to third-parties without your consent. If you DO NOT wish to have your data stored by the Conservative Party, please mark a cross in this box