

Have your say on Havering's budget

A message from Councillor Ray Morgon, Leader of Havering Council



The Council is facing another year of tough decisions

Last year we told you that the Council was facing a funding crisis. Despite independent analysis which shows that we continue to be a low cost and effective Council, the funding crisis that we face has become even worse. Over the past year, you may have read that a number of other councils have effectively gone bankrupt as a result of their financial decisions that turned sour. We have taken no such risks with our finances.

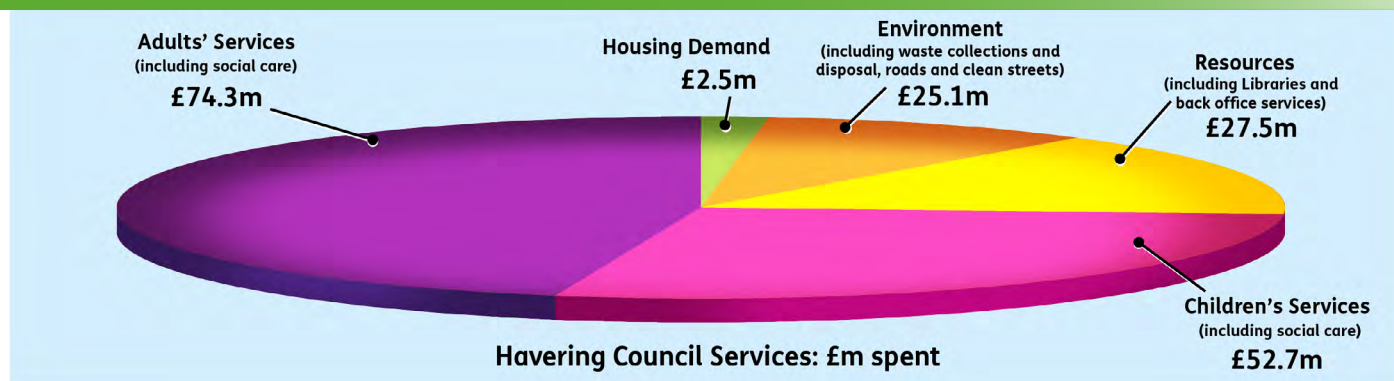
So why do we have a funding crisis in Havering?

1. The demand and type of services that we have to provide by law such as Housing and Social Care for adults and children has increased. Over 70% of all our funds are used to provide these services.
2. Havering has the second oldest population in London meaning more pressure on adult social care.
3. In last year's census, whilst many London boroughs saw a decrease in their children's population and were reducing school places, Havering had the fourth fastest growth in 0-14 year olds in the UK.
4. The cost of Housing and Social Care services has gone up much higher than inflation. For example, one care home provider this year demanded an increase in their charge from £800 per week to £2,000 per week. Another care provider demanded over £30,000 per week for three staff to look after just one child in their secure unit.
5. The Revenue Support Grant we get from Central Government has gone down to £1.5 million this year from £70 million back in 2010. The funding formula used to determine our grant from Central Government has not changed in the past decade, whilst our population has become much larger.
6. We have made savings over the past 10 years or more of around £160 million, so future savings will be more difficult.



Rapidly increasing costs and demands for services, at the same time as reducing income, is why we are struggling to balance our budget.

Where does your money go?



So what next?

See the other side of this leaflet to see how you can help us.



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Budget Consultation 2024/2025

Havering Council has launched its budget consultation for 2024/2025, asking for residents' views on the Council's spending proposals for the next year.

- The proposals in this consultation will mean significant changes to the services provided, and how they impact residents.
- Please take some time to look at the budget proposals in the consultation.
- Your views are important to us. Your feedback to the consultation will help us to understand which services you value and how these proposals will impact you.
- You can also share your ideas on other ways we could save money or deliver services in a different way.

There are three ways to have your say:

- 1 Complete the online survey at: www.havering.gov.uk/budget24
- 2 Collect and complete the paper questionnaire at your local library
- 3 Attend one of our upcoming consultation events
(Details online: www.havering.gov.uk/budget24)

The budget consultation runs from 9 November until 18 December 2023

Havering deserves and needs its fair share

The funding of local government is broken and needs to be fixed. We are calling on whichever Government wins the next General Election to make changes, otherwise many well-run councils like Havering will fall over.

- The way Government funds councils needs to be reviewed to reflect population change (the current formula uses population data from 2011) and need. Havering is poorly funded by a no longer fit for purpose formula.
- Social Care and the NHS are very closely linked and should therefore be funded nationally rather than social care being funded through local council tax.
- Local councils need long term funding certainty rather than short term fixes.
- Councils should be allowed to keep more of their business rates (we are only allowed to keep around 30% at the moment).

Stay up-to-date with the latest news, service changes and events from Havering Council: Sign up to Living in Havering at www.havering.gov.uk/newsletters

How can you help?

- Write to your local MP
- Contact local media
- Share with your family, friends, neighbours and communities and help us spread the word.

We need to ACT NOW or it could mean the end of local government as we know it



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