

Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF

1 March 2008

Dear Resident

Please find enclosed your council tax bill for 2008/09. As promised in 2006, the increase in the Waltham Forest portion of your bill has been kept at 2.5 per cent again for the third year. In fact, the Council has made a commitment that council tax bills will rise by no more than 2.5 per cent until 2010.

It's my job as Leader of the Council to explain how your bill is calculated and what your money will be spent on.

For band D properties, our 2.5 per cent increase means £27.57 for the full year, or 53p per week. Your own bill will tell you the band property you live in and how much you will have to pay.

The Council also collects money on behalf of the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority, known as the precept. This year the precept is rising by 1.95 per cent, which means an extra £5.94 per year at band D. On the reverse of this letter, you will be able to see some of the ways this money will be spent in the coming year.

For 2008/09, the Council believes that we have produced a budget which will help to transform services for the better. We are investing serious amounts of money into priority services in the borough by making our work more efficient. This lets us continue to work towards ensuring residents get the highest standards of services at a price they can afford.

An extra £9.5 million will be invested in Council services this year.

To strengthen our environmental policies, money will be made available to provide a recycling service to flats and estates, and for reducing carbon emissions in Waltham Forest.

Over the next twelve months, the Council will invest over £5 million in funding for services to vulnerable adults in our community. This money will be spent on residential, dementia and nursing care for older people, and improving services for adults with learning disabilities.

We'll also be investing money in making sure that young people in the borough have more to do in their spare time by putting an extra £250,000 into Youth Services and £2 million protecting vulnerable children.

You can read more about our plans and spending in the attached guide, including how we are managing these investments through our Efficiency Review.

Remember, if you have a query about any Council service, or if you need to claim benefit to help you pay your council tax bill, you can call Waltham Forest Direct 24 hours a day on **020 8496 3000**.

Yours faithfully



Councillor Clyde Loakes

Leader of Waltham Forest Council

How your council tax is allocated 2008/09

London Borough of Waltham Forest



Council tax increase of 2.5 per cent

New investments in 2008/09:

- Almost £3 million to fund services for people with learning disabilities
- Investing in developing a new Climate Change Strategy for the borough
- Nearly £1/4 million to improve activities for young people
- A new service to promote good community relations in the borough
- £800,000 for placing looked after children who are under 16
- Investment to develop community involvement and volunteering opportunities in our parks and green spaces
- £1/3 million on a new recycling service for flats and estates
- Investment in the cultural Olympiad and a local arts festival

Mayor of London and
Greater London Authority (GLA)

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

Precept increase of 1.95 per cent

New investments in 2008/09:

- An additional 1000 police officers in London next year, 320 of these will tackle community issues
- 20 officer posts to help combat the gun and gang culture
- £30 million for Travel Demand Management, improving the accessibility of services and reducing excess journey times
- £18 million to deliver new waste and recycling facilities
- The council tax precept for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games remains at 38p a week for a band D household