



Dear resident,

The government has imposed challenging budget reductions on public services in Redbridge. These affect every one of us as residents of the borough. The Council budget has already been cut by £132m and we expect that there is more to come. Despite the cuts, we have been working hard to deliver the services our residents want, need and deserve.

The Council remains committed to investing in safety, green spaces, keeping our streets clean and protecting our vulnerable residents. This is reflected in our budget for the coming year, which meets the financial challenge created by austerity head on. The Council will continue to invest in our borough while saving £50m through delivering services in ways that are more creative and efficient.

We did not choose austerity, and we cannot protect all our services from cuts, but we believe we are making the right choices for the future of our borough: transforming our economy, supporting our vulnerable and modernising our services.

Protecting our vital services

Like all councils, Redbridge faces a national social care crisis. Our elderly population is growing and they and their families rightly expect good support from public services.

We have kept our Council Tax as low as possible for residents over the past four years, but with the government shirking its responsibility to meet the costs of care, we have little choice but to accept the government's proposal that we should introduce a 2% social care levy.

The money raised through this levy is used solely to fund adult social care, which is needed **to support and protect our most vulnerable residents** in a time of ever increasing financial pressure.

We have not taken this decision lightly, but as residents you've told us that you want to see services for the elderly protected. This tax increase will help us to do that.

Keeping our streets safe

The government's police cuts have led to rising crime in some parts of our borough. Our budget ensures that the Council is doing everything it can to keep the streets safe. Our key measures include:

- New LED lights which make our streets brighter and improve safety, reduce electricity costs and help prevent antisocial behaviour.
- £1.5m in new high-tech CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras – improving safety and tackling crime.
- Tripling the size of our uniformed Enforcement Team to tackle fly tipping and antisocial behaviour.
- A £50,000 Community Safety Fund to support neighbourhood watch schemes and community groups.

The Council will also launch the first of its kind independent Redbridge Crime Commission, working in partnership with our community to fight crime.

Continued overleaf



Keeping Redbridge happy and healthy

We want Redbridge to be a place where people flourish, and as part of that we will continue to deliver health and wellbeing projects across the borough.

The new Loxford leisure centre is complete and a second will follow in Goodmayes in the next few months. Work will begin on the Wanstead public pool later in 2018. The council will also improve our 29 parks and open spaces by investing £1.6m in new play equipment.

To ensure that everyone can enjoy everything Redbridge has to offer, we will make it easier for motorists to park across the borough. We will double the amount of free parking time to one hour and halve the cost of residential permits to £20, with electric vehicles free.

The Council faces unprecedented challenges, but austerity cannot dim our ambition for our borough nor our determination to deliver **Results for Redbridge**.

Best wishes

Councillor Jas Athwal
Leader, London Borough of Redbridge

