

Greater London Authority

Country	United Kingdom
Population	10,4 millions
World region	Europe

● Context

The Greater London Authority (GLA) provides strategic governance across London, coordinating policy for transport, planning, environment and economic development. It operates through five functional bodies: Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the London Fire Commissioner (LFC), and two development corporations covering key regeneration areas. Local services remain delivered by the 32 London borough councils and the City of London Corporation, while the GLA handles overarching, cross-borough issues ensuring cohesive metropolitan administration.

● Economic profile

World Bank income group: High

Major economic activities

As one of the world's leading financial centres and Europe's largest metropolitan economy, London's principal activities include finance and banking, professional and business services, creative and cultural industries, higher education and research, tourism and hospitality, global corporate services through headquarters and shared-service centres.

Own source revenues

The GLA's own fiscal base is limited: its principal autonomous revenue is the Council Tax precept, supplemented by retained business rates. The functional bodies — above all TfL — generate service revenues, but these are largely reserved to cover their own operational costs.

● Governance structure

Year of constitution: 1999

Type of metropolitan government: Metropolitan government – two-tier (directly elected)

Legal framework

The GLA was established by the Greater London Authority Act 1999, following decades of debate about metropolitan governance under successive systems — from the former Greater London Council (abolished 1986) to various joint boards. The 1999 Act created a directly elected Mayor and a separately elected assembly to restore strategic city-wide governance.

Administrative structure

The GLA's executive is headed by the elected Mayor of London, and overseen by the London Assembly, composed of 25 members also directly elected by Londoners. Below the GLA are the 33 local government districts: 32 London boroughs and the unique City of London, which has its own historical municipal corporation. Each borough and the City of London Corporation handle local services — housing, waste, primary and local roads, local planning, social services, local environmental services.

Annual revenue, expenditure and sources

The GLA Group operates with a consolidated budget of approximately USD 12.7 billion, funded through central government grants, a Council Tax precept levied across London's 33 billing authorities, and retained business rates. Transport for London generates additional revenue through fares and other commercial income, which offsets a significant share of its operating costs.

Number and type of administrative units

33 local government districts (City of London and 32 London boroughs)

KEY STRATEGIC PLAN



Resilience

London City Resilience Strategy



Strategic

The London Plan 2021



Innovation

London Growth Plan