

COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE

27 FEBRUARY 2014

PART 1* PUBLIC DOCUMENT

AGENDA ITEM No.

6

TITLE OF REPORT: COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2014- 2015

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR T.W. HONE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To obtain approval for the council tax requirement and the overall council tax rates for the district of North Hertfordshire for 2014/15, which are now calculated following the budget and council tax resolutions of Full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the following, as submitted in the 2014/2015 Estimates Book, be noted:

- a) The revenue estimates for 2014/2015.
- b) The capital programme for 2014/2015.
- c) The workforce salary estimates for 2014/2015.

- 2.2 That it be noted that at its meeting on 14 January 2014 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 46,977.90 as its council tax base for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (the Regulations).

- a) 46,977.90 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Regulations, as its council tax base for the year.

b)

<u>Parish/Town</u>	<u>Council Tax Base</u>	<u>Parish/Town</u>	<u>Council Tax Base</u>
Ashwell	808.20	Langley	81.30
Barkway	347.60	Lilley	163.40
Barley	311.30	Nuthampstead	71.10
Bygrave	126.40	Offley	531.70
Caldecote and Newnham	46.30	Pirton	538.80
Clothall	83.10	Preston	196.20
Codicote	1540.40	Radwell	51.40
Graveley	162.30	Reed	144.40
Great Ashby	2046.10	Rushden and Wallington	197.00
Hexton	63.80	St. Ippolyts	880.70
Hinxworth	151.00	St. Pauls Walden	549.10
Holwell	132.70	Sandon	229.40
Ickleford	717.90	Therfield	245.10
Kelshall	76.30	Weston	429.20
Kimpton	1002.90	Wymondley	399.00
Kings Walden	409.20	Royston	6056.70
Knebworth	1910.50		

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- c) That it be noted that at its meeting on the 13 February 2014 the Council calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) as £9,589,599 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) as £10,509,736.

2.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2014/2015 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

- a) £80,020,520 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act.
- b) £69,510,784 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- c) £10,509,736 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- d) £223.72 being the amount at (c) above divided by the amount at 2.2(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- e) £920,137 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £204.13 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 2.2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

g)

Parish/Town	Basic £	Parish Precept £	Total £
Ashwell	204.13	59.60	263.73
Barkway	204.13	65.63	269.76
Barley	204.13	66.78	270.91
Bygrave	204.13	40.60	244.73
Caldecote and Newnham	204.13	24.77	228.90
Clothall	204.13	20.36	224.49
Codicote	204.13	62.54	266.67
Graveley	204.13	29.55	233.68
Great Ashby	204.13	8.06	212.19
Hinxworth	204.13	66.61	270.74
Holwell	204.13	49.04	253.17
Ickleford	204.13	52.68	256.81

Parish/Town	Basic	Parish Precept	Total
Kelshall	204.13	36.65	240.78
Kimpton	204.13	66.71	270.84
Kings Walden	204.13	54.14	258.27
Knebworth	204.13	66.97	271.10
Lilley	204.13	30.96	235.09
Offley	204.13	48.57	252.70
Pirton	204.13	54.03	258.16
Preston	204.13	35.20	239.33
Radwell	204.13	14.56	218.69
Reed	204.13	26.39	230.52
Rushden and Wallington	204.13	18.64	222.77
St. Ippolyts	204.13	21.66	225.79
St. Pauls Walden	204.13	67.77	271.90
Sandon	204.13	25.68	229.81
Therfield	204.13	21.33	225.46
Weston	204.13	37.69	241.82
Wymondley	204.13	52.27	256.40
Royston	204.13	41.12	245.25

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Ashwell	175.81	205.13	234.42	263.73	322.33	380.94	439.54	527.46
Baldock	136.09	158.77	181.45	204.13	249.49	294.85	340.22	408.26
Barkway	179.83	209.82	239.78	269.76	329.70	389.65	449.59	539.52
Barley	180.60	210.72	240.80	270.91	331.10	391.31	451.51	541.82
Bygrave	163.15	190.35	217.53	244.73	299.11	353.49	407.88	489.46
Caldecote and Newnham	152.59	178.04	203.46	228.90	279.76	330.63	381.49	457.80
Clothall	149.65	174.61	199.54	224.49	274.37	324.26	374.14	448.98
Codicote	177.77	207.42	237.03	266.67	325.92	385.18	444.44	533.34
Graveley	155.78	181.76	207.71	233.68	285.60	337.53	389.46	467.36
Great Ashby	141.45	165.05	188.61	212.19	259.33	306.49	353.64	424.38
Hexton	136.09	158.77	181.45	204.13	249.49	294.85	340.22	408.26
Hinxworth	180.49	210.58	240.65	270.74	330.90	391.06	451.23	541.48
Hitchin	136.09	158.77	181.45	204.13	249.49	294.85	340.22	408.26
Holwell	168.77	196.92	225.03	253.17	309.42	365.68	421.94	506.34
Ickleford	171.20	199.75	228.27	256.81	313.87	370.94	428.01	513.62
Kelshall	160.51	187.28	214.02	240.78	294.28	347.79	401.29	481.56
Kimpton	180.55	210.66	240.74	270.84	331.02	391.21	451.39	541.68
Kings Walden	172.17	200.89	229.57	258.27	315.65	373.05	430.44	516.54
Knebworth	180.73	210.86	240.97	271.10	331.34	391.58	451.83	542.20
Langley	136.09	158.77	181.45	204.13	249.49	294.85	340.22	408.26
Letchworth	136.09	158.77	181.45	204.13	249.49	294.85	340.22	408.26
Lilley	156.72	182.86	208.96	235.09	287.32	339.57	391.81	470.18
Nuthampstead	136.09	158.77	181.45	204.13	249.49	294.85	340.22	408.26
Offley	168.46	196.55	224.62	252.70	308.85	365.00	421.16	505.40
Pirton	172.10	200.80	229.47	258.16	315.52	372.89	430.26	516.32
Preston	159.55	186.15	212.73	239.33	292.51	345.69	398.88	478.66
Radwell	145.79	170.10	194.39	218.69	267.28	315.88	364.48	437.38
Reed	153.67	179.30	204.90	230.52	281.74	332.97	384.19	461.04
Royston	163.49	190.76	217.99	245.25	299.74	354.24	408.74	490.50
Rushden and Wallington	148.51	173.27	198.01	222.77	272.27	321.77	371.28	445.54
St. Ippolyts	150.52	175.62	200.70	225.79	275.96	326.13	376.31	451.58
St. Pauls Walden	181.26	211.49	241.68	271.90	332.31	392.74	453.16	543.80
Sandon	153.20	178.75	204.27	229.81	280.87	331.94	383.01	459.62
Therfield	150.30	175.37	200.40	225.46	275.55	325.66	375.76	450.92
Weston	161.21	188.09	214.95	241.82	295.55	349.29	403.03	483.64
Wymondley	170.93	199.43	227.91	256.40	313.37	370.35	427.33	512.80

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2.3(f) and 2.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(l) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 2.4 That it be noted that for 2014/2015 Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hertfordshire County Council	745.89	870.20	994.52	1118.83	1367.46	1616.09	1864.72	2237.66
Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	98.55	114.97	131.40	147.82	180.67	213.52	246.37	295.64

- 2.5 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.3(h) and 2.4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for 2014/2015 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

List of parishes and tax at different bands (County, Police, District and Parish)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashwell	1020.25	1190.30	1360.34	1530.38	1870.46	2210.55	2550.63	3060.76
Baldock	980.53	1143.94	1307.37	1470.78	1797.62	2124.46	2451.31	2941.56
Barkway	1024.27	1194.99	1365.70	1536.41	1877.83	2219.26	2560.68	3072.82
Barley	1025.04	1195.88	1366.72	1537.56	1879.24	2220.92	2562.60	3075.12
Bygrave	1007.59	1175.52	1343.45	1511.38	1847.24	2183.10	2518.97	3022.76
Caldecote and Newnham	997.03	1163.21	1329.38	1495.55	1827.89	2160.24	2492.58	2991.10
Clothall	994.09	1159.78	1325.46	1491.14	1822.50	2153.87	2485.23	2982.28
Codicote	1022.21	1192.58	1362.95	1533.32	1874.06	2214.80	2555.53	3066.64
Graveley	1000.22	1166.92	1333.63	1500.33	1833.74	2167.14	2500.55	3000.66
Great Ashby	985.89	1150.21	1314.52	1478.84	1807.47	2136.10	2464.73	2957.68
Hexton	980.53	1143.94	1307.37	1470.78	1797.62	2124.46	2451.31	2941.56
Hinxworth	1024.93	1195.75	1366.57	1537.39	1879.03	2220.67	2562.32	3074.78
Hitchin	980.53	1143.94	1307.37	1470.78	1797.62	2124.46	2451.31	2941.56
Holwell	1013.21	1182.08	1350.95	1519.82	1857.56	2195.30	2533.03	3039.64
Ickleford	1015.64	1184.91	1354.19	1523.46	1862.01	2200.55	2539.10	3046.92
Kelshall	1004.95	1172.45	1339.94	1507.43	1842.41	2177.40	2512.38	3014.86
Kimpton	1024.99	1195.83	1366.66	1537.49	1879.15	2220.82	2562.48	3074.98
Kings Walden	1016.61	1186.05	1355.48	1524.92	1863.79	2202.66	2541.53	3049.84
Knebworth	1025.17	1196.03	1366.89	1537.75	1879.47	2221.19	2562.92	3075.50
Langley	980.53	1143.94	1307.37	1470.78	1797.62	2124.46	2451.31	2941.56
Letchworth	980.53	1143.94	1307.37	1470.78	1797.62	2124.46	2451.31	2941.56
Lilley	1001.16	1168.02	1334.88	1501.74	1835.46	2169.18	2502.90	3003.48
Nuthampstead	980.53	1143.94	1307.37	1470.78	1797.62	2124.46	2451.31	2941.56
Offley	1012.90	1181.72	1350.53	1519.35	1856.98	2194.62	2532.25	3038.70
Pirton	1016.54	1185.96	1355.39	1524.81	1863.66	2202.50	2541.35	3049.62
Preston	1003.99	1171.32	1338.65	1505.98	1840.64	2175.30	2509.97	3011.96
Radwell	990.23	1155.26	1320.30	1485.34	1815.42	2145.49	2475.57	2970.68
Reed	998.11	1164.47	1330.82	1497.17	1829.87	2162.58	2495.28	2994.34
Royston	1007.93	1175.92	1343.91	1511.90	1847.88	2183.86	2519.83	3023.80
Rushden and Wallington	992.95	1158.44	1323.93	1489.42	1820.40	2151.38	2482.37	2978.84
St. Ippolyts	994.96	1160.79	1326.61	1492.44	1824.09	2155.75	2487.40	2984.88
St. Pauls Walden	1025.70	1196.65	1367.60	1538.55	1880.45	2222.35	2564.25	3077.10
Sandon	997.64	1163.91	1330.19	1496.46	1829.01	2161.55	2494.10	2992.92
Therfield	994.74	1160.53	1326.32	1492.11	1823.69	2155.27	2486.85	2984.22
Weston	1005.65	1173.25	1340.86	1508.47	1843.69	2178.90	2514.12	3016.94
Wymondley	1015.37	1184.59	1353.82	1523.05	1861.51	2199.96	2538.42	3046.10

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The functions of the Council Tax Setting Committee are to set the Council Tax Base and to set the overall level of Council Tax for the following financial year taking into account the precepts of all Major and Local Precepting Authorities.
- 3.2 The level of Council Tax Requirement has been considered necessary to meet the budgeting needs of the Council for 2014/15.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Options for the appropriate level of Council Tax were considered by Members at Full Council.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation on the 2014/15 budget proposals has taken place with all Members through the Corporate Business Planning process.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report contains a recommendation on a key decision that was referred to in the Forward Plan on 6 September 2013.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 At its meeting on 14 January 2014 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 46,977.90 as its council tax base for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (the Regulations).
- 7.2 At its meeting on the 13 February 2014 the Council approved a net budget of £15.636million and a council tax increase of 1.9% for 2014/15. It noted that the total net Parish precept requirement was £920,137. As a result the calculated Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) is £9,589,599 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) is £10,509,736.

8. ISSUES

- 8.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets out the calculations required for the Council Tax Requirement and the overall council tax levels. These calculations have been applied to the precept requirements of the District Council, County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and Town and Parish Councils and the outcome is provided for Members approval in section 2 of this report.
- 8.2 The Council has decided to increase council tax by 1.9%. This is below the referendum threshold of 2% so a local referendum on the council tax level is not required.
- 8.3 The Town and Parish Councils have requested a total overall precept of £999,240. This is an increase of £37,010, or 4%, on the requested precept for 2013/14. This Council has agreed to pass a grant of £79,103 to the Town and Parish Councils to help mitigate the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This means the actual amount of precept charged to taxpayers for Town and Parish Councils for 2014/15 is £920,137, an increase of 5.6%.

- 8.4 Hertfordshire County Council has requested a precept of £52,560,284. This means the Band D charge for the County Council precept remains unchanged at £1,118.83.
- 8.5 The Police and Crime Commissioner has requested a precept of £6,944,273. This means the Band D charge for the Police and Crime Commissioner remains unchanged at £147.82.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The provision for the Authority to levy and collect a Council tax is provided in section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Aggregating Billing Authority and Preceptors Council Tax Charges).
- 9.2 The principles for Referendums relating to Council Tax increases was published by the Government on the 5 February 2014.
- 9.3 For 2014/15 the relevant basic amount of council tax is deemed to be excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2014/15 is 2%, or more than 2%, greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2013/14.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The approval of the Council Tax resolution will authorise the council tax billing of the residents of North Hertfordshire for financial year 2014/15. The District precept to be collected is £9,589,599.
- 10.2 Council Tax is a key funding stream for the Council which enables the provision of services to residents.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The risk of non-collection of council tax is monitored in the Collection Fund. The tax base calculations have assumed a non-collection rate of 1%.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1 October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5 April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give **due regard** to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.3 The review and setting of Council Tax is a statutory responsibility of this Council and thus by setting the level of council tax and any rise, it must show that it is mindful of the impact this may have for individual residents' ability to pay against the need of the council to have sufficient base budget to deliver key services for those same residents. The recommendation to pass on a grant of just over £79,000 to the district's town and parish councils to mitigate the impact of Council Tax Reduction Scheme reflects some of the considerations made in reaching this balance.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 As the recommendations made in this report do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied, although equalities implications and opportunities are identified in the relevant section at paragraphs 12..

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no direct human resource implications.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix A, Guide to the Council Tax Resolution

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 16.1 Report Writer – Tim Neill, Accountancy Manager, Tel 474461,
Tim.neill@north-herts.gov.uk

Contributor – Andy Cavanagh, Head of Finance, Performance and Asset Management, Tel 474243
Andrew.cavanagh@north-herts.gov.uk
- Norma Atlay, Strategic Director of Finance, Policy & Governance
Tel 474297, Norma.atlay@north-herts.gov.uk

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 2014/15 Budget Report considered by Full Council on the 13 February 2014.

<http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/aksnherts/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=35&cmte=COU&gpid=public&arc=71>

GUIDE TO THE 2014/2015 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

Recommendation 2.1

This concerns the approval of the contents of the 2014/2015 Estimates book figures.

Recommendation 2.2

These are the Council Tax Base figures for 2014/2015 approved by the Council Tax Setting Committee on 14 January 2014 with details for those Parishes which levy a precept.

Recommendation 2.3

- (a) Is Gross Expenditure on District Council services + Parish Precepts - the proposed reduction in balances during 2014/2015.
- (b) Is Gross Income on District Council services, including Revenue Support Grant and share of National Non-Domestic Rates.
- (c) Is (a) - (b) [Gross District Council precept including Parish precepts]
- (d) Is (c) divided by the tax base i.e. the net District + Parish Charge.
- (e) Is the total of Parish Precepts
- (f) Is (d) - [(e) divided by the tax base] i.e. the net District Council charge.
- (g) Is the net District Council charge with the relevant Parish charges added for each area in which there is a Parish precept.
- (h) Is the inclusive District and Parish charge for each property band in those areas which have a Parish precept.

Recommendation 2.4

Is the addition for the County and Police precepts for each property band.

Recommendation 2.5

Is the inclusive District, Parish, County and Police charge for each property band.