

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
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TITLE OF REPORT: COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2016/17

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE
EXECUTIVE MEMBER: 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 2016/17, 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 2016/2017 Estimates Book, be noted:-
a) The revenue estimates for 2016/2017.

b) The capital programme for 2016/2017.

c) The workforce salary estimates for 2016/2017.

2.2 That it be noted that at its meeting on 13 January 2016 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 47,989.60 as its council tax base for the year 2016/2017 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (the Regulations).

a) 47,989.60 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	821.60	Langley	84.10
Barkway	361.70	Lilley	170.80
Barley	318.00	Nuthampstead	70.70
Bygrave	127.00	Offley	603.50
Caldecote and Newnham	47.50	Pirton	543.00
Clothall	80.20	Preston	207.70
Codicote	1574.20	Radwell	54.80
Graveley	174.10	Reed	146.10
Great Ashby	2050.10	Rushden and Wallington	196.80
Hexton	62.70	St. Ippolyts	878.80
Hinxworth	159.60	St. Pauls Walden	550.20
Holwell	139.10	Sandon	229.70
Ickleford	731.30	Therfield	249.10
Kelshall	77.30	Weston	432.90
Kimpton	1025.70	Wymondley	406.60
Kings Walden	415.40	Royston	6240.90
Knebworth	1921.70		

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 11 February 2016 the Council calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) as £10,171,906 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) as £11,177,378.

2.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2016/2017 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-

- a) £80,730,740 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) £69,553,362 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) £11,177,378 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) £232.91 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) £1,005,472 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £211.96 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	211.96	64.26	276.22
Barkway	211.96	97.44	309.40
Barley	211.96	66.90	278.86
Bygrave	211.96	46.87	258.83
Caldecote and Newnham	211.96	29.68	241.64
Clothall	211.96	22.89	234.85
Codicote	211.96	62.97	274.93
Graveley	211.96	30.97	242.93
Great Ashby	211.96	8.97	220.93
Hinxworth	211.96	64.20	276.16
Holwell	211.96	52.44	264.40
Ickleford	211.96	57.39	269.35
Kelshall	211.96	37.24	249.20
Kimpton	211.96	70.20	282.16
Kings Walden	211.96	65.91	277.87
Knebworth	211.96	71.79	283.75

Lilley	211.96	50.02	261.98
Offley	211.96	45.15	257.11
Pirton	211.96	57.36	269.32
Preston	211.96	29.42	241.38
Radwell	211.96	14.82	226.78
Reed	211.96	27.25	239.21
Rushden and Wallington	211.96	19.99	231.95
St. Ippolyts	211.96	26.28	238.24
St. Pauls Walden	211.96	67.41	279.37
Sandon	211.96	31.06	243.02
Therfield	211.96	21.49	233.45
Weston	211.96	41.53	253.49
Wymondley	211.96	71.79	283.75
Royston	211.96	42.10	254.06

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	184.15	214.84	245.53	276.22	337.60	398.98	460.35	552.44
Baldock	141.31	164.86	188.41	211.96	259.06	306.16	353.27	423.92
Barkway	206.27	240.63	275.02	309.40	378.17	446.91	515.67	618.80
Barley	185.91	216.88	247.88	278.86	340.83	402.80	464.76	557.73
Bygrave	172.56	201.30	230.06	258.83	316.35	373.87	431.39	517.67
Caldecote and Newnham	161.09	187.94	214.79	241.64	295.33	349.04	402.73	483.27
Clothall	156.55	182.66	208.75	234.85	287.05	339.22	391.40	469.69
Codicote	183.27	213.83	244.38	274.93	336.02	397.11	458.21	549.85
Graveley	161.95	188.93	215.92	242.93	296.91	350.89	404.88	485.85
Great Ashby	147.27	171.83	196.38	220.93	270.02	319.13	368.21	441.85
Hexton	141.31	164.86	188.41	211.96	259.06	306.16	353.27	423.92
Hinxworth	184.11	214.78	245.48	276.16	337.53	398.90	460.26	552.33
Hitchin	141.31	164.86	188.41	211.96	259.06	306.16	353.27	423.92
Holwell	176.25	205.64	235.02	264.40	323.15	381.92	440.66	528.79
Ickleford	179.57	209.50	239.42	269.35	329.22	389.06	448.92	538.70
Kelshall	166.12	193.82	221.51	249.20	304.59	359.95	415.33	498.40
Kimpton	188.09	219.46	250.81	282.16	344.86	407.57	470.26	564.31
Kings Walden	185.25	216.11	246.99	277.87	339.62	401.37	463.11	555.75
Knebworth	189.18	220.68	252.22	283.75	346.80	409.87	472.90	567.50
Langley	141.31	164.86	188.41	211.96	259.06	306.16	353.27	423.92
Letchworth	141.31	164.86	188.41	211.96	259.06	306.16	353.27	423.92
Lilley	174.65	203.76	232.87	261.98	320.19	378.41	436.63	523.95
Nuthampstead	141.31	164.86	188.41	211.96	259.06	306.16	353.27	423.92
Offley	171.41	199.96	228.54	257.11	314.24	371.39	428.50	514.22
Pirton	179.55	209.47	239.39	269.32	329.18	389.01	448.85	538.64
Preston	160.91	187.73	214.55	241.38	295.04	348.68	402.31	482.77
Radwell	151.18	176.38	201.58	226.78	277.17	327.58	377.96	453.55
Reed	159.46	186.05	212.63	239.21	292.37	345.54	398.67	478.42
Royston	169.36	197.60	225.83	254.06	310.53	366.97	423.43	508.12
Rushden and Wallington	154.64	180.41	206.18	231.95	283.50	335.04	386.59	463.91
St. Ippolyts	158.83	185.30	211.77	238.24	291.18	344.12	397.05	476.48
St. Pauls Walden	186.25	217.29	248.33	279.37	341.45	403.55	465.62	558.74
Sandon	162.01	189.01	216.00	243.02	297.02	351.02	405.03	486.03
Therfield	155.62	181.56	207.51	233.45	285.33	337.22	389.07	466.90
Weston	168.99	197.16	225.33	253.49	309.82	366.17	422.49	506.98
Wymondley	189.18	220.68	252.22	283.75	346.80	409.87	472.90	567.50

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 2016/2017 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								
COUNTY PRECEPT	775.87	905.18	1,034.49	1,163.80	1,422.42	1,681.04	1,939.67	2,327.60
SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT	15.21	17.75	20.28	22.82	27.89	32.97	38.03	45.64
Total Hertfordshire County Council	791.08	922.93	1,054.77	1,186.62	1,450.31	1,714.01	1,977.70	2,373.24
Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner								
	98.00	114.33	130.67	147.00	179.67	212.33	245.00	294.00

- 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 out the following provisional amounts as the amounts of council tax for 2016/2017 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

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

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Ashwell	1,073.23	1,252.10	1,430.97	1,609.84	1,967.58	2,325.32	2,683.06	3,219.68
Baldock	1,030.39	1,202.12	1,373.85	1,545.58	1,889.04	2,232.50	2,575.97	3,091.16
Barkway	1,095.35	1,277.90	1,460.46	1,643.02	2,008.14	2,373.25	2,738.37	3,286.04
Barley	1,074.99	1,254.15	1,433.32	1,612.48	1,970.81	2,329.14	2,687.47	3,224.97
Bygrave	1,061.64	1,238.57	1,415.51	1,592.45	1,946.33	2,300.21	2,654.09	3,184.91
Caldecote and Newnham	1,050.17	1,225.20	1,400.23	1,575.26	1,925.31	2,275.37	2,625.43	3,150.51
Clothall	1,045.64	1,219.92	1,394.19	1,568.47	1,917.02	2,265.56	2,614.11	3,136.93
Codicote	1,072.36	1,251.09	1,429.82	1,608.55	1,966.00	2,323.45	2,680.91	3,217.09
Graveley	1,051.03	1,226.20	1,401.37	1,576.55	1,926.89	2,277.23	2,627.58	3,153.09
Great Ashby	1,036.36	1,209.09	1,381.82	1,554.55	1,900.00	2,245.46	2,590.91	3,109.09
Hexton	1,030.39	1,202.12	1,373.85	1,545.58	1,889.04	2,232.50	2,575.97	3,091.16
Hinxworth	1,073.19	1,252.05	1,430.92	1,609.78	1,967.51	2,325.24	2,682.97	3,219.57
Hitchin	1,030.39	1,202.12	1,373.85	1,545.58	1,889.04	2,232.50	2,575.97	3,091.16
Holwell	1,065.34	1,242.90	1,420.46	1,598.02	1,953.13	2,308.25	2,663.36	3,196.03
Ickleford	1,068.65	1,246.76	1,424.86	1,602.97	1,959.19	2,315.40	2,671.62	3,205.94
Kelshall	1,055.21	1,231.08	1,406.95	1,582.82	1,934.56	2,286.29	2,638.03	3,165.64
Kimpton	1,077.18	1,256.72	1,436.25	1,615.78	1,974.84	2,333.90	2,692.96	3,231.55
Kings Walden	1,074.33	1,253.38	1,432.44	1,611.49	1,969.60	2,327.71	2,685.82	3,222.99
Knebworth	1,078.25	1,257.95	1,437.66	1,617.37	1,976.78	2,336.20	2,695.61	3,234.74
Langley	1,030.39	1,202.12	1,373.85	1,545.58	1,889.04	2,232.50	2,575.97	3,091.16
Letchworth	1,030.39	1,202.12	1,373.85	1,545.58	1,889.04	2,232.50	2,575.97	3,091.16
Lilley	1,063.73	1,241.02	1,418.31	1,595.60	1,950.17	2,304.75	2,659.33	3,191.19
Nuthampstead	1,030.39	1,202.12	1,373.85	1,545.58	1,889.04	2,232.50	2,575.97	3,091.16
Offley	1,060.49	1,237.23	1,413.98	1,590.73	1,944.22	2,297.72	2,651.21	3,181.46
Pirton	1,068.63	1,246.73	1,424.83	1,602.94	1,959.15	2,315.35	2,671.56	3,205.88
Preston	1,050.00	1,225.00	1,400.00	1,575.00	1,925.01	2,275.01	2,625.01	3,150.01
Radwell	1,040.26	1,213.64	1,387.02	1,560.40	1,907.15	2,253.91	2,600.66	3,120.79
Reed	1,048.55	1,223.31	1,398.07	1,572.83	1,922.35	2,271.87	2,621.38	3,145.66
Royston	1,058.45	1,234.86	1,411.27	1,587.68	1,940.50	2,293.31	2,646.13	3,175.36

Rushden and Wallington	1,043.72	1,217.67	1,391.62	1,565.57	1,913.48	2,261.38	2,609.29	3,131.15
St. Ippolyts	1,047.91	1,222.56	1,397.21	1,571.86	1,921.16	2,270.46	2,619.76	3,143.72
St. Pauls Walden	1,075.33	1,254.55	1,433.77	1,612.99	1,971.43	2,329.88	2,688.32	3,225.98
Sandon	1,051.09	1,226.27	1,401.45	1,576.64	1,927.00	2,277.36	2,627.73	3,153.27
Therfield	1,044.71	1,218.83	1,392.95	1,567.07	1,915.31	2,263.55	2,611.78	3,134.14
Weston	1,058.07	1,234.42	1,410.77	1,587.11	1,939.80	2,292.50	2,645.19	3,174.22
Wymondley	1,078.25	1,257.95	1,437.66	1,617.37	1,976.78	2,336.20	2,695.61	3,234.74

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 2016/17.

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 2016/17 budget proposals has taken place with all Members throughout the Corporate Business Planning process.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report contains a recommendation on a key decision that was first notified to the public in the Forward Plan on the 29 October 2015.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 At its meeting on 13 January 2016 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 47,989.60 as its council tax base for the year 2016/2017 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 11 February 2016 the Council approved a net budget of £16.553million and a council tax increase of 1.9% for 2016/17. It noted that the total net Parish precept requirement was £1,005,472. As a result the calculated Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is £10,171,906 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) is £11,177,378.

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 (provisional), 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%, resulting in an increase of £3.95 on the band D Council Tax for 2015/16. This is below the referendum threshold of 2.0% or £5.00 (whichever is the greater), 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 £1,056,169. This is an increase of £22,879, or 2.2%, on the requested precept for 2015/16. This Council has agreed to pass a grant of £50,697 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 2016/17 is £1,005,472, an increase of 4.1%. Parish Councils are not currently subject to any referendum requirements.
- 8.4 Hertfordshire County Council provided notification on the 23 February 2016 of a total requested levy on the District of North Hertfordshire for 2016/17 of £56,945,419, which results in a total Band D Council Tax of £1,186.62. This represents a total 3.99% increase on the 2015/16 rate. The increase is comprised of 2% for expenditure on adult social care and 1.99% for other expenditure and is below the referendum threshold of 4% (where 2% is for Adult Social Care) for 2016/17 so a local referendum is not required.
- 8.5 The Police and Crime Commissioner provided final notification on the 17 February 2016 of the requested levy on the District of North Hertfordshire for 2016/17 of £7,054,471, which results in a Band D Council Tax of £147.00. This is a decrease of £0.82 on the Band D Council Tax rate for 2015/16 and a local referendum is not required.

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 were published by the Government on the 8 February 2016.
- 9.3 For shire district councils like NHDC, for 2016/17 the relevant basic amount of council tax is deemed to be excessive if it exceeds the higher of 2% or £5.00 greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2015/16.
- 9.4 For designated authorities with responsibility for Adult Social Care provision, which includes Hertfordshire County Council, for 2016/17 the relevant basic amount of council tax is deemed to be excessive if it exceeds the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2015/16 by 4% (comprising 2% for expenditure on adult social care and up to 2% for other expenditure).
- 9.5 For Police and Crime Commissioner Authorities, for 2016/17 the relevant basic amount of council tax is deemed to be excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2016/17 is more than £5.00 greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2015/16.

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 2016/17. The District precept to be collected is £10,171,906.
- 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 £50,697 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 paragraph 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

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 2016/17 Budget Report considered by Full Council on the 11 February 2016.

Appendix A

GUIDE TO THE 2016/2017 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

Recommendation 2.1

This concerns the approval of the contents of the 2016/2017 Estimates book figures.

Recommendation 2.2

These are the Council Tax Base figures for 2016/2017 approved by the Council Tax Setting Committee on 13 January 2016 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 2016/2017.
- (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.

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