

**ADDENDUM TO ITEM 8
CORPORATE BUSINESS PLANNING – BUDGET 2015/16**

12 February 2015

TITLE OF ADDENDUM: THE DISTRICT COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR T.W. HONE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform Council of the precepts demanded by all the local precepting authorities in the District and the resulting total District Council Tax Requirement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council notes the Parish and Town Council precepts of £966,052.
2.2 That Council notes that the total District Council Tax Requirement is £10,819,798.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that all relevant factors are taken into consideration when arriving at the proposed Council Tax precept for 2015/16.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 Parish and Town Councils were asked to provide notice of their precept requirements by the 23 January 2015 in order that there could be consideration of the total Council Tax Requirement at this meeting.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report contains a recommendation on a key decision to be taken at this meeting that was first notified to the public in the Forward Plan on the 30 June 2014.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The referral from Cabinet details the recommendation to increase council tax by 1.9% and the workings behind the North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) precept, for its own purposes, of £9,853,746.

8. ISSUES

8.1 The Parish and Town Councils have provided notification of the precepts they wish to levy for 2015/16. It was agreed at the January meeting of this Council to distribute a total of £67,238 to the local precepting authorities as the amount of Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2015/16. This will be paid to each authority together with their "net precept" requirement shown below. The "net precept" of £966,052 will be levied on the relevant council tax base of the District.

Parish and Town Council Precepts for 2015/16

PARISHES	2015/16					2014/15	
	Total Precept and Grant	CTRS Grant	Net Precept	Tax Base	Band D Tax	Band D Tax	Change on Band D
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHWELL	52,000.00	2,444.35	49,555.65	819.10	60.50	59.60	0.90
BARKWAY	36,000.00	1,023.33	34,976.67	355.90	98.28	65.63	32.64
BARLEY	22,000.00	938.99	21,061.01	315.00	66.86	66.78	0.08
BYGRAVE	5,200.00	60.43	5,139.57	126.00	40.79	40.60	0.19
CALDECOTE & NEWNHAM	1,500.00	191.35	1,308.65	47.30	27.67	24.77	2.89
CLOTHALL WITH LUFFENHALL	2,000.00	232.50	1,767.50	81.80	21.61	20.36	1.25
CODICOTE	102,400.00	5,388.24	97,011.76	1,538.00	63.08	62.54	0.54
GRAVELEY	6,000.00	964.06	5,035.94	163.50	30.80	29.55	1.25
GREAT ASHBY	21,690.00	4,459.56	17,230.44	2,044.70	8.43	8.06	0.36
HINXWORTH	10,370.00	241.62	10,128.38	153.30	66.07	66.61	-0.54
HOLWELL	7,730.00	747.56	6,982.44	135.00	51.72	49.04	2.68
ICKLEFORD	42,500.00	4,011.38	38,488.62	722.10	53.30	52.68	0.62
KELSHALL	3,000.00	142.60	2,857.40	77.90	36.68	36.65	0.03
KIMPTON	75,000.00	2,999.44	72,000.56	1,012.30	71.13	66.71	4.41
KINGS WALDEN	28,500.00	1,415.55	27,084.45	413.60	65.48	54.14	11.34
KNEBWORTH	138,430.00	6,115.53	132,314.47	1,904.60	69.47	66.97	2.51
LILLEY	7,150.00	569.33	6,580.67	166.00	39.64	30.96	8.69
OFFLEY	29,500.00	3,453.57	26,046.43	545.80	47.72	48.57	-0.85
PIRTON	30,790.00	1,050.84	29,739.16	532.60	55.84	54.03	1.81
PRESTON	6,360.00	339.40	6,020.60	203.20	29.63	35.20	-5.57
RADWELL	920.00	135.68	784.32	53.70	14.61	14.56	0.05
REED	4,180.00	289.02	3,890.98	145.80	26.69	26.39	0.30
ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL	278,120.00	20,262.88	257,857.12	6,113.50	42.18	41.12	1.06
RUSHDEN & WALLINGTON	4,000.00	347.56	3,652.44	197.00	18.54	18.64	-0.10
SANDON	7,000.00	744.38	6,255.62	230.10	27.19	25.68	1.50
ST IPPOLYTS	22,000.00	2,420.87	19,579.13	877.70	22.31	21.66	0.65
ST PAUL'S WALDEN	39,160.00	2,170.96	36,989.04	549.30	67.34	67.77	-0.43
THERFIELD	5,790.00	619.72	5,170.28	242.60	21.31	21.33	-0.02
WESTON	18,200.00	1,357.98	16,842.02	431.90	39.00	37.69	1.30
WYMONDLEY	25,800.00	2,098.96	23,701.04	405.60	58.43	52.27	6.17
TOTAL	1,033,290.00	67,237.64	966,052.36	47,371.50			

8.2 Cabinet has recommended a 1.9% increase in the council tax rate for 2015/16 for NHDC purposes. This will result in a Band D equivalent tax rate of £208.01. The tax base has been estimated at 47,371.5 and so the precept requirement for NHDC purposes is £9,853,746.

8.3 The NHDC precept requirement is added to the local precepting authorities' requirement to calculate the District council tax requirement. This is £10,819,798.

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 announced in the provisional settlement on 18 December 2014 and do not apply to the local precepting authorities.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The approval of the Council Tax resolution on the 26 February will authorise the council tax billing of the residents of North Hertfordshire for financial year 2015/16.

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 1st October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5th 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 £67,000 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 There are no direct social value implications.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no direct human resource implications arising.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 None.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.