

<p style="text-align: center;">ADDENDUM TO ITEM 6 CORPORATE BUSINESS PLANNING – BUDGET SETTING 2017/18 9 February 2017</p>
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TITLE OF ADDENDUM: THE DISTRICT COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2017/18

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE
EXECUTIVE MEMBER: 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 £1,067,851.
- 2.2 That Council notes that the total District Council Tax Requirement is £11,622,673 and approves this figure for inclusion in the Council Tax Resolution.

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 2017/18.

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 20 January 2017 in order that there could be consideration of the total District Council Tax Requirement at this meeting.

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 17 October 2016.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The referral from Cabinet details the recommendation to increase Council Tax by £5.00 (for band D properties) and the workings behind the North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) precept, for its own purposes, of £10,554,822.

8. ISSUES

- 8.1 The Parish and Town Councils have provided notification of the precepts they wish to levy for 2017/18. It was agreed at the January meeting of this Council to distribute a total of £38,885 to the local precepting authorities as the amount of Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2017/18. This will be paid to each authority together with their "net precept" requirement shown below. The "net precept" of £1,067,851 will be levied on the relevant Council Tax base of the District.

Parish and Town Council Precepts for 2017/18

North Hertfordshire Parish & Town Councils	2017/18				2016/2017		
	Total Precept and Grant	CTRS Grant	Net Precept		Band D Tax	Band D Tax	Change on Band D
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Ashwell	67,000.00	1,352.38	65,647.62	845.70	77.63	64.26	13.37
Baldock	-	-	-	3,673.80	-	-	-
Barkway	36,000.00	523.86	35,476.14	370.80	95.67	97.44	-1.77
Barley	22,000.00	530.77	21,469.23	323.40	66.39	66.90	-0.51
Bygrave	6,000.00	37.43	5,962.57	126.10	47.28	46.87	0.41
Caldecote and Newnham	1,500.00	91.64	1,408.36	49.30	28.57	29.68	-1.11
Clothall	2,000.00	127.09	1,872.91	80.20	23.35	22.89	0.46
Codicote	104,900.00	3,375.23	101,524.77	1,584.00	64.09	62.97	1.12
Graveley	6,000.00	594.71	5,405.29	167.30	32.31	30.97	1.34
Great Ashby	43,300.00	2,364.68	40,935.32	2,048.90	19.98	8.97	11.01
Hexton	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hinxworth	10,370.00	96.75	10,273.25	159.60	64.37	64.20	0.17
Hitchin	-	-	-	12,135.60	-	-	-
Holwell	8,188.00	456.85	7,731.15	141.40	54.68	52.44	2.24
Ickleford	47,250.00	2,323.71	44,926.29	736.60	60.99	57.39	3.60
Kelshall	3,000.00	96.16	2,903.84	78.00	37.23	37.24	-0.01
Kimpton	73,676.00	1,675.76	72,000.24	1,035.30	69.55	70.20	-0.65
Kings Walden	28,927.00	921.12	28,005.88	412.00	67.98	65.91	2.07
Knebworth	144,800.00	3,463.24	141,336.76	1,928.80	73.28	71.79	1.49
Langley	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Letchworth	-	-	-	11,465.00	-	-	-
Lilley	9,850.00	324.97	9,525.03	173.10	55.03	50.02	5.01
Nuthampstead	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offley	31,250.00	2,018.12	29,231.88	603.90	48.41	45.15	3.26
Pirton	33,400.00	654.33	32,745.67	547.90	59.77	57.36	2.41
Preston	5,600.00	183.82	5,416.18	213.20	25.40	29.42	-4.02
Radwell	1,075.00	156.16	918.84	56.00	16.41	14.82	1.59
Reed	4,180.00	157.22	4,022.78	145.70	27.61	27.25	0.36
Royston	280,760.00	11,450.33	269,309.67	6,332.40	42.53	42.10	0.43
Rushden and Wallington	4,200.00	202.24	3,997.76	199.30	20.06	19.99	0.07
St Ippolyts	25,000.00	1,446.13	23,553.87	912.30	25.82	26.28	-0.46
St Pauls Walden	42,150.00	1,441.36	40,708.64	545.80	74.59	67.41	7.18
Sandon	7,770.00	504.51	7,265.49	237.80	30.55	31.06	-0.51
Therfield	5,790.00	355.98	5,434.02	250.10	21.73	21.49	0.24
Weston	20,000.00	740.31	19,259.69	436.40	44.13	41.53	2.60
Wymondley	30,800.00	1,218.14	29,581.86	412.30	71.75	71.79	-0.04
TOTAL	1,106,736.00	38,885.00	1,067,851.00	48,648.70	-	-	-

- 8.4 Cabinet has recommended an increase of £5.00 in the council tax rate for 2017/18 for NHDC purposes. This will result in a Band D equivalent tax rate of £216.96. The tax base has been estimated at 48,648.70 and so the precept requirement for NHDC purposes is £10,554,822.
- 8.5 The NHDC precept requirement is added to the local precepting authorities' requirement to calculate the District council tax requirement. This is £11,622,673.

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 Local Government finance settlement on 15th December 2016 and do not apply to the local precepting authorities.
- 9.3 Council is asked to note the precepts and approve the total District Council Tax Requirement for inclusion in the Council Tax resolution. It is the responsibility of the Council Tax Setting Committee to set the Council Tax Base and set the Council Tax in accordance with the relevant legislation (see paragraph 10.2 of the Council's Constitution).

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 We are required to calculate and include in the formal council tax resolution the District Council Tax requirement, which comprises the District Council's budget requirement and that of any parishes in the area. This figure is then combined with the precept requirements from the major precepting bodies, Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, to arrive at the total Council Tax amount due.
- 10.2 The approval of the formal Council Tax resolution by the Council Tax Setting Committee is scheduled to take place on the 23 February 2017 and will authorise the Council Tax billing of the residents of North Hertfordshire for financial year 2017/18.

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. A balance must be considered and demonstrated by the Council when setting the level of Council Tax and any rise or fall in tax. This said balance is between the ability of the individual residents' to pay the required Council Tax and the Council's need to have sufficient base budget to deliver key services across the District. The recommendation to provide a grant of approximately £39,000 to the District's Town and Parish Councils will mitigate the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This action 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.