

**COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE
25 FEBRUARY 2021**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2021/22 - ADDENDUM

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND IT

COUNCIL PRIORITY: ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the Council Tax requirement and the overall Council Tax rates for the district of North Hertfordshire for 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 14 January 2021 the Council Tax Setting Committee confirmed the amount 49,396.90 as its Council Tax base for the year 2021/2022 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).

- a) 49,396.90 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Regulations, as its Council Tax base for the year.

b)

Parish/Town	Council Tax Base	Parish/Town	Council Tax Base
Ashwell	850.40	Langley	89.60
Barkway	408.80	Lilley	166.20
Barley	323.90	Nuthampstead	69.10
Bygrave	128.10	Offley	614.80
Caldecote and Newnham	50.60	Pirton	612.40
Clothall	85.40	Preston	215.20
Codicote	1646.50	Radwell	55.50
Graveley	170.10	Reed	163.60
Great Ashby	2031.10	Royston	6511.70
Hexton	64.80	Rushden and Wallington	201.90
Hinxworth	162.50	St Ippolyts	900.00

Holwell	148.90	St Pauls Walden	550.30
Ickleford	763.10	Sandon	244.50
Kelshall	75.40	Therfield	263.80
Kimpton	1047.30	Weston	435.60
Kings Walden	404.10	Wymondley	418.80
Knebworth	1963.90		

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 2021 the Council calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) as £11,861,677. As detailed in 2.2 (e) below the sum of special items is £1,231,115 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) is £13,092,792.

2.2. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2020/2021 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-

- a) £68,839,140 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) £55,746,348 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) £13,092,792 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) £265.05 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) £1,231,115 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £240.13 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	240.13	93.56	333.69
Barkway	240.13	96.34	336.47
Barley	240.13	66.26	306.39
Bygrave	240.13	50.89	291.02
Caldecote and Newnham	240.13	27.62	267.75
Clothall	240.13	33.57	273.70
Codicote	240.13	64.89	305.02
Graveley	240.13	59.00	299.13
Great Ashby	240.13	19.88	260.01
Hexton	240.13	0.00	240.13
Hinxworth	240.13	63.23	303.36
Holwell	240.13	60.14	300.27
Ickleford	240.13	68.04	308.17
Kelshall	240.13	37.76	277.89
Kimpton	240.13	72.35	312.48
Kings Walden	240.13	70.00	310.13
Knebworth	240.13	80.36	320.49
Langley	240.13	0.00	240.13
Lilley	240.13	90.01	330.14
Nuthampstead	240.13	0.00	240.13
Offley	240.13	66.29	306.42
Pirton	240.13	67.32	307.45
Preston	240.13	37.66	277.79
Radwell	240.13	19.35	259.48
Reed	240.13	30.58	270.71
Royston	240.13	50.90	291.03
Rushden and Wallington	240.13	21.67	261.80
St Ippolyts	240.13	29.60	269.73
St Pauls Walden	240.13	80.52	320.65
Sandon	240.13	34.36	274.49
Therfield	240.13	21.53	261.66
Weston	240.13	46.33	286.46
Wymondley	240.13	82.62	322.75

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	222.46	259.54	296.61	333.69	407.84	482.00	556.15	667.38
Baldock	160.09	186.77	213.45	240.13	293.49	346.85	400.22	480.26
Barkway	224.31	261.70	299.08	336.47	411.24	486.01	560.78	672.94
Barley	204.26	238.30	272.35	306.39	374.48	442.56	510.65	612.78
Bygrave	194.01	226.35	258.68	291.02	355.69	420.36	485.03	582.04
Caldecote and Newnham	178.50	208.25	238.00	267.75	327.25	386.75	446.25	535.50
Clothall	182.47	212.88	243.29	273.70	334.52	395.34	456.17	547.40
Codicote	203.35	237.24	271.13	305.02	372.80	440.58	508.37	610.04
Graveley	199.42	232.66	265.89	299.13	365.60	432.08	498.55	598.26
Great Ashby	173.34	202.23	231.12	260.01	317.79	375.57	433.35	520.02
Hexton	160.09	186.77	213.45	240.13	293.49	346.85	400.22	480.26
Hinxworth	202.24	235.95	269.65	303.36	370.77	438.19	505.60	606.72
Hitchin	160.09	186.77	213.45	240.13	293.49	346.85	400.22	480.26
Holwell	200.18	233.54	266.91	300.27	367.00	433.72	500.45	600.54
Ickleford	205.45	239.69	273.93	308.17	376.65	445.13	513.62	616.34
Kelshall	185.26	216.14	247.01	277.89	339.64	401.40	463.15	555.78
Kimpton	208.32	243.04	277.76	312.48	381.92	451.36	520.80	624.96
Kings Walden	206.75	241.21	275.67	310.13	379.05	447.97	516.88	620.26
Knebworth	213.66	249.27	284.88	320.49	391.71	462.93	534.15	640.98
Langley	160.09	186.77	213.45	240.13	293.49	346.85	400.22	480.26
Letchworth	160.09	186.77	213.45	240.13	293.49	346.85	400.22	480.26
Lilley	220.09	256.78	293.46	330.14	403.50	476.87	550.23	660.28
Nuthampstead	160.09	186.77	213.45	240.13	293.49	346.85	400.22	480.26
Offley	204.28	238.33	272.37	306.42	374.51	442.61	510.70	612.84
Pirton	204.97	239.13	273.29	307.45	375.77	444.09	512.42	614.90
Preston	185.19	216.06	246.92	277.79	339.52	401.25	462.98	555.58
Radwell	172.99	201.82	230.65	259.48	317.14	374.80	432.47	518.96
Reed	180.47	210.55	240.63	270.71	330.87	391.03	451.18	541.42
Royston	194.02	226.36	258.69	291.03	355.70	420.38	485.05	582.06
Rushden and Wallington	174.53	203.62	232.71	261.80	319.98	378.16	436.33	523.60
St Ippolyts	179.82	209.79	239.76	269.73	329.67	389.61	449.55	539.46
St Pauls Walden	213.77	249.39	285.02	320.65	391.91	463.16	534.42	641.30
Sandon	182.99	213.49	243.99	274.49	335.49	396.49	457.48	548.98
Therfield	174.44	203.51	232.59	261.66	319.81	377.95	436.10	523.32
Weston	190.97	222.80	254.63	286.46	350.12	413.78	477.43	572.92
Wymondley	215.17	251.03	286.89	322.75	394.47	466.19	537.92	645.50

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.

- 2.3. That it be noted that for 2021/2022 Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner has 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	879.57	1026.17	1172.76	1,319.36	1,612.55	1,905.74	2,198.93	2,638.72
SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT	100.85	117.65	134.46	151.27	184.89	218.50	252.12	302.54
Total Hertfordshire County Council	980.42	1,143.82	1,307.22	1,470.63	1,797.44	2,124.24	2,451.05	2,941.26
Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	142.00	165.67	189.33	213.00	260.33	307.67	355.00	426.00

- 2.4. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.2(h) and 2.3 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 2021/2022 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	1,344.88	1,569.03	1,793.17	2,017.32	2,465.61	2,913.91	3,362.20	4,034.64
Baldock	1,282.51	1,496.26	1,710.01	1,923.76	2,351.26	2,778.76	3,206.27	3,847.52
Barkway	1,346.73	1,571.19	1,795.64	2,020.10	2,469.01	2,917.92	3,366.83	4,040.20
Barley	1,326.68	1,547.79	1,768.91	1,990.02	2,432.25	2,874.47	3,316.70	3,980.04
Bygrave	1,316.43	1,535.84	1,755.24	1,974.65	2,413.46	2,852.27	3,291.08	3,949.30
Caldecote and Newnham	1,300.92	1,517.74	1,734.56	1,951.38	2,385.02	2,818.66	3,252.30	3,902.76
Clothall	1,304.89	1,522.37	1,739.85	1,957.33	2,392.29	2,827.25	3,262.22	3,914.66
Codicote	1,325.77	1,546.73	1,767.69	1,988.65	2,430.57	2,872.49	3,314.42	3,977.30
Graveley	1,321.84	1,542.15	1,762.45	1,982.76	2,423.37	2,863.99	3,304.60	3,965.52
Great Ashby	1,295.76	1,511.72	1,727.68	1,943.64	2,375.56	2,807.48	3,239.40	3,887.28
Hexton	1,282.51	1,496.26	1,710.01	1,923.76	2,351.26	2,778.76	3,206.27	3,847.52
Hinxworth	1,324.66	1,545.44	1,766.21	1,986.99	2,428.54	2,870.10	3,311.65	3,973.98
Hitchin	1,282.51	1,496.26	1,710.01	1,923.76	2,351.26	2,778.76	3,206.27	3,847.52
Holwell	1,322.60	1,543.03	1,763.47	1,983.90	2,424.77	2,865.63	3,306.50	3,967.80
Ickleford	1,327.87	1,549.18	1,770.49	1,991.80	2,434.42	2,877.04	3,319.67	3,983.60
Kelshall	1,307.68	1,525.63	1,743.57	1,961.52	2,397.41	2,833.31	3,269.20	3,923.04
Kimpton	1,330.74	1,552.53	1,774.32	1,996.11	2,439.69	2,883.27	3,326.85	3,992.22
Kings Walden	1,329.17	1,550.70	1,772.23	1,993.76	2,436.82	2,879.88	3,322.93	3,987.52
Knebworth	1,336.08	1,558.76	1,781.44	2,004.12	2,449.48	2,894.84	3,340.20	4,008.24
Langley	1,282.51	1,496.26	1,710.01	1,923.76	2,351.26	2,778.76	3,206.27	3,847.52
Letchworth	1,282.51	1,496.26	1,710.01	1,923.76	2,351.26	2,778.76	3,206.27	3,847.52
Lilley	1,342.51	1,566.27	1,790.02	2,013.77	2,461.27	2,908.78	3,356.28	4,027.54
Nuthampstead	1,282.51	1,496.26	1,710.01	1,923.76	2,351.26	2,778.76	3,206.27	3,847.52
Offley	1,326.70	1,547.82	1,768.93	1,990.05	2,432.28	2,874.52	3,316.75	3,980.10
Pirton	1,327.39	1,548.62	1,769.85	1,991.08	2,433.54	2,876.00	3,318.47	3,982.16
Preston	1,307.61	1,525.55	1,743.48	1,961.42	2,397.29	2,833.16	3,269.03	3,922.84
Radwell	1,295.41	1,511.31	1,727.21	1,943.11	2,374.91	2,806.71	3,238.52	3,886.22
Reed	1,302.89	1,520.04	1,737.19	1,954.34	2,388.64	2,822.94	3,257.23	3,908.68
Royston	1,316.44	1,535.85	1,755.25	1,974.66	2,413.47	2,852.29	3,291.10	3,949.32
Rushden and Wallington	1,296.95	1,513.11	1,729.27	1,945.43	2,377.75	2,810.07	3,242.38	3,890.86
St Ippolyts	1,302.24	1,519.28	1,736.32	1,953.36	2,387.44	2,821.52	3,255.60	3,906.72
St Pauls Walden	1,336.19	1,558.88	1,781.58	2,004.28	2,449.68	2,895.07	3,340.47	4,008.56
Sandon	1,305.41	1,522.98	1,740.55	1,958.12	2,393.26	2,828.40	3,263.53	3,916.24
Therfield	1,296.86	1,513.00	1,729.15	1,945.29	2,377.58	2,809.86	3,242.15	3,890.58
Weston	1,313.39	1,532.29	1,751.19	1,970.09	2,407.89	2,845.69	3,283.48	3,940.18

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. The functions of the Council Tax Setting Committee are to set the Council Tax 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 2021/22.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. Options for the appropriate level of Council Tax were considered at the meeting of Council on 11 February 2021.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. Consultation on the 2021/22 budget proposals has taken place with all Members throughout the Corporate Business Planning process.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1. This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. At its meeting on 14 January 2021 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 49,396.90 as its Council Tax base for the year 2021/2022 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations)
- 7.2. At its meeting on the 11 February 2021 the Council approved a net budget of £18.4 million and an increase in the relevant basic Council Tax amount of £5, or 2.13%, for 2021/22.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 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 approved an increase in Council Tax of £5 for a Band D property (other bands pro-rata), or 2.13%, on the level of Council Tax charged for 2020/21. The referendum threshold for 2021/22 is an increase of up to 2.0% or an increase of £5.00 in the charge on a Band D property (whichever is the greater amount), so a local referendum on the Council Tax level is not required.

- 8.3. The Town and Parish Councils have requested a total precept for 2021/22 of £1,231,115. This is an increase of £30,767, or 2.5%, on the precept demand levied on taxpayers for 2020/21. In addition, this Council will also provide a grant of £38,885 to the Town and Parish Councils to help mitigate the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This means that the overall amount of precept-related funding provided to Town and Parish Councils for 2021/22 is £1,270,000, an increase of 2.5% on the equivalent total for 2020/21. Parish and Town Councils are not currently subject to any referendum requirements.
- 8.4. Hertfordshire County Council has provided formal notification of a total requested levy on the District of North Hertfordshire for 2021/22 of £72,644,563, which results in a total Band D Council Tax of £1,470.63. This represents a 3.99% increase on the 2020/21 rate. The increase is below the referendum threshold of 5% so a local referendum is not required.
- 8.5. The Police and Crime Commissioner has provided formal notification of the requested levy on the District of North Hertfordshire for 2021/22 of £10,521,540, which results in a Band D Council Tax of £213.00. This is an increase of £15.00 (equivalent to 7.58%) on the Band D Council Tax rate for 2020/21. This does not exceed the referendum threshold of £15.00, so a local referendum on the Council Tax level is not required.
- 8.6. The numbers requiring your approval in the recommendations correspond to what is required by the regulations. Appendix A provides more details of what these numbers mean.

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 Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases Principles Report for 2021/22 was published by the Government on the 4th February 2021. The Principles for Referendums were made pursuant to section 52ZD(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as inserted by Schedule 5 to the Localism Act 2011.
- 9.3. For Shire District councils like NHDC, for 2021/22 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 2020/21.
- 9.4. For designated authorities with responsibility for Adult Social Care provision, which includes Hertfordshire County Council, for 2021/22 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 2020/21 by 5% (comprising 3% for expenditure on adult social care, and 2% for other expenditure) or more.

- 9.5. For Police and Crime Commissioner Authorities, for 2021/22 the relevant basic amount of Council Tax is deemed to be excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is more than £15 greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21.
- 9.6. Paragraph 10.2 of the Council's Constitution gives the Council Tax Setting Committee the responsibility for (a) setting the Council Tax Base in accordance with the regulations; and (b) setting the Council Tax in accordance with the relevant legislation. In accordance with paragraph 4.8.16(h) of the Constitution and the relevant legislation, the decisions must be by way of a recorded vote.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. Council Tax is a key funding stream for the Council, which enables the provision of services to residents. The approval of the Council Tax resolution will authorise the Council Tax billing of the residents of North Hertfordshire for financial year 2021/22. The precept to be collected for the Council's purposes is £11,861,677.

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. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their 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.
- 12.2. 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 £38,885 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. The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1. There are no direct human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1. Appendix A: Guide to the Council Tax Resolution.

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 17.1. Ian Couper, Service Director – Resources
ian.couper@north-herts.gov.uk; ext 4243
- 17.2. Antonio Ciampa, Accountancy Manager
antonio.ciampa@north-herts.gov.uk; ext 4566
- 17.3. Jo Keshishian, Acting Human Resources Services Manager
Jo.Keshishian@north-herts.gov.uk; ext 4314
- 17.4. Isabelle Alajooz, Legal Commercial Team Manager
isabelle.alajooz@north-herts.gov.uk; ext 4346
- 17.5. Reuben Ayavoo, Policy and Community Engagement Manager
reuben.ayavoo@north-herts.gov.uk; ext 4212

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1. None.