

**COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE**  
**28 February 2022**

**PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2022/23**

REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND IT

COUNCIL PRIORITY: BE A MORE WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT COUNCIL

**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 2022/23. *At the time of writing this report, confirmation of precept amounts for Hertfordshire County Council is awaited. This report will be updated with the relevant amounts and circulated to Committee Members once all the precept demand notifications have been received.*

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 13 January 2022 the Council Tax Setting Committee confirmed the amount 49,964.80 as its Council Tax base for the year 2022/2023 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).

- a) 49,964.80 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Regulations, as its Council Tax base for the year.

b)

<b>Parish/Town</b>	<b>Council Tax Base</b>	<b>Parish/Town</b>	<b>Council Tax Base</b>
Ashwell	865.80	Langley	91.10
Barkway	421.90	Lilley	179.10
Barley	329.10	Nuthampstead	67.60
Bygrave	129.50	Offley	625.10
Caldecote and Newnham	50.70	Pirton	680.60
Clothall	84.80	Preston	223.70
Codicote	1648.50	Radwell	57.70
Graveley	173.30	Reed	163.70
Great Ashby	2041.70	Royston	6618.10
Hexton	66.00	Rushden and Wallington	202.70
Hinxworth	159.30	St Ippolyts	902.00
Holwell	157.90	St Pauls Walden	586.20
Ickleford	795.30	Sandon	246.10
Kelshall	76.50	Therfield	262.70
Kimpton	1053.60	Weston	438.20
Kings Walden	413.30	Wymondley	422.30
Knebworth	2006.80		

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 10 February 2022 the Council calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding Parish precepts) as £12,247,871. As detailed in 2.2 (e) below the sum of special items is £1,277,296 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) is £13,525,167.

2.2. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2022/2023 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-

- a) £70,550,915 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) £57,025,748 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) £13,525,167 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) £270.69 being the amount at (c) above divided by the amount at 2.1(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- e) £1,277,296 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £245.13 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 2.1(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	Total
	£	Precept £	£
Ashwell	245.13	93.47	338.60
Barkway	245.13	93.42	338.55
Barley	245.13	83.47	328.60
Bygrave	245.13	54.35	299.48
Caldecote and Newnham	245.13	27.30	272.43
Clothall	245.13	22.15	267.28
Codicote	245.13	64.50	309.63
Graveley	245.13	57.78	302.91
Great Ashby	245.13	19.81	264.94

Hexton	245.13	0.00	245.13
Hinxworth	245.13	64.31	309.44
Holwell	245.13	59.16	304.29
Ickleford	245.13	68.85	313.98
Kelshall	245.13	37.35	282.48
Kimpton	245.13	74.51	319.64
Kings Walden	245.13	72.69	317.82
Knebworth	245.13	81.84	326.97
Langley	245.13	0.00	245.13
Lilley	245.13	88.20	333.33
Nuthampstead	245.13	0.00	245.13
Offley	245.13	65.18	310.31
Pirton	245.13	63.59	308.72
Preston	245.13	45.13	290.26
Radwell	245.13	20.83	265.96
Reed	245.13	50.01	295.14
Royston	245.13	52.15	297.28
Rushden and Wallington	245.13	21.49	266.62
St Ippolyts	245.13	29.52	274.65
St Pauls Walden	245.13	75.59	320.72
Sandon	245.13	34.08	279.21
Therfield	245.13	21.56	266.69
Weston	245.13	46.26	291.39
Wymondley	245.13	90.84	335.97

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.2(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 2.1(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	225.73	263.36	300.98	338.60	413.84	489.09	564.33	677.20
Baldock	163.42	190.66	217.89	245.13	299.60	354.08	408.55	490.26
Barkway	225.70	263.32	300.93	338.55	413.78	489.02	564.25	677.10
Barley	219.06	255.59	292.09	328.60	401.61	474.65	547.66	657.20
Bygrave	199.65	232.94	266.20	299.48	366.02	432.59	499.13	598.96
Caldecote and Newnham	181.62	211.90	242.16	272.43	332.96	393.51	454.05	544.86
Clothall	178.18	207.89	237.58	267.28	326.67	386.08	445.46	534.56
Codicote	206.42	240.83	275.23	309.63	378.43	447.25	516.05	619.26
Graveley	201.94	235.60	269.25	302.91	370.22	437.54	504.85	605.82
Great Ashby	176.62	206.07	235.50	264.94	323.81	382.70	441.56	529.88
Hexton	163.42	190.66	217.89	245.13	299.60	354.08	408.55	490.26
Hinxworth	206.29	240.68	275.06	309.44	378.20	446.97	515.73	618.88
Hitchin	163.42	190.66	217.89	245.13	299.60	354.08	408.55	490.26
Holwell	202.86	236.68	270.48	304.29	371.90	439.53	507.15	608.58
Ickleford	209.32	244.21	279.09	313.98	383.75	453.53	523.30	627.96
Kelshall	188.32	219.71	251.09	282.48	345.25	408.03	470.80	564.96
Kimpton	213.09	248.62	284.12	319.64	390.66	461.71	532.73	639.28
Kings Walden	211.88	247.20	282.51	317.82	388.44	459.08	529.70	635.64
Knebworth	217.98	254.32	290.64	326.97	399.62	472.29	544.95	653.94
Langley	163.42	190.66	217.89	245.13	299.60	354.08	408.55	490.26
Letchworth	163.42	190.66	217.89	245.13	299.60	354.08	408.55	490.26
Lilley	222.22	259.26	296.29	333.33	407.40	481.48	555.55	666.66
Nuthampstead	163.42	190.66	217.89	245.13	299.60	354.08	408.55	490.26



Hinxworth  
Hitchin  
Holwell  
Ickleford  
Kelshall  
Kimpton  
Kings Walden  
Knebworth  
Langley  
Letchworth  
Lilley  
Nuthampstead  
Offley  
Pirton  
Preston  
Radwell  
Reed  
Royston  
Rushden and Wallington  
St Ippolyts  
St Pauls Walden  
Sandon  
Therfield  
Weston  
Wymondley

### **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 2022/23.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1. Options for the appropriate level of Council Tax were considered at the meeting of Council on 10 February 2022.

### **5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

- 5.1. Consultation on the 2022/23 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 13 January 2022 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 49,964.80 as its Council Tax base for the year 2022/2023 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 10 February 2022 the Council approved a net budget of £18.2 million and an increase in the relevant basic Council Tax amount of £5, or 2.08%, for 2022/23.

## **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 2.08%, on the level of Council Tax charged for 2021/22. The referendum threshold for 2022/23 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 2022/23 of £1,277,296. This is an increase of £46,181, or 3.75%, on the precept demand levied on taxpayers for 2021/22. 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 2022/23 is £1,316,181, an increase of 3.64% on the equivalent total for 2021/22. Parish and Town Councils are not currently subject to any referendum requirements.
- 8.4. *Hertfordshire County Council will formally request their precept after their meeting on the 22 February 2022.*
- 8.5. The Police and Crime Commissioner has provided formal notification of the requested levy on the District of North Hertfordshire for 2022/23 of £11,142,150, which results in a Band D Council Tax of £223.00. This is an increase of £10.00 (equivalent to 4.69%) on the Band D Council Tax rate for 2021/22. This does not exceed the referendum threshold of £10.00, 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 2022/23 was published by the Government on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. 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 2022/23 the relevant basic amount of council tax is deemed to be excessive if it is both; an increase of 2% or more; and is more than £5.00 greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22.
- 9.4. For designated authorities with responsibility for Adult Social Care provision, which includes Hertfordshire County Council, for 2022/23 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 2021/22 by 4% (comprising 2% for expenditure on adult social care, and 2% for other expenditure) or more.

- 9.5. For Police and Crime Commissioner Authorities, for 2022/23 the relevant basic amount of Council Tax is deemed to be excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is more than £10 greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22.
- 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 2022/23. The precept to be collected for the Council's purposes is £12,247,871.

## **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**

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## **18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 18.1. None.