



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

23RD FEBRUARY 2016

AGENDA ITEM (9)

COUNCIL TAX 2016/17

Accountable Member	Councillor Lynden Stowe Leader of the Council
Accountable Officer	Jenny Poole Chief Finance Officer 01285 623313 Jenny.Poole@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2016/17.
Recommendation(s)	<p>It is recommended that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) for the purposes of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 35(2), there are no special expenses for the District Council in 2016/17;2) it be noted that It be noted that, using her delegated authority, the Chief Finance Officer calculated the Council Tax Base for 2016/17:<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) for the whole Council area as 38,418.11 [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and(b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as in the attached Schedule 1.3) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £126.40.4) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) £54,970,129 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.(b) £47,604,105 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

- (c) **£7,366,024** being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) **£191.73** being the amount at 4(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses);
- (e) **£2,509,975** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act as per the attached Schedule 2.
- (f) **£126.40** being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by Item T(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 Parish Precept or special item relates;
- (g) the amounts shown in Schedule 2 being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area shown in Schedule 2 divided in each case by the amount at 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) the amounts shown in Schedule 3 being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(f) and 4(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(1) 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;

- 5) it be noted that for the year 2016/17 the Gloucestershire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated below:-

	Valuation Band	Gloucestershire County Council	Police and Crime Commissioner
		£	£
	A	756.01	140.21
	B	882.01	163.57
	C	1,008.01	186.94
	D	1,134.01	210.31
	E	1,386.01	257.05
	F	1,638.01	303.78
	G	1,890.02	350.52
	H	2,268.02	420.62
	6)	the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in Schedule 4 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.	
	7)	the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.	
	8)	the Chief Finance Officer, Principal Solicitor, Legal Executive, Group Manager Revenues and Welfare Support, Joint Operations Manager, Joint Support Lead Officer, Overpayments Officer, Senior Recovery Revenues Officer, Senior Revenues Officer, Revenues Officer and Recovery Officer be authorised to:-	
	a)	collect and recover any National Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax, and	
	b)	prosecute or defend on the Council's behalf or to appear on its behalf in proceedings before a magistrate's court in respect of unpaid National Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax.	
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	The Council has a statutory duty to set its Council Tax.		

Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	Yes

Financial Implications	Subject of the report.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	None
Equalities Impact Assessment	Not Required

Related Decisions	None
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Schedules 1 to 4

Performance Management Follow Up	Collection rates will be monitored via the quarterly performance management process.
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Background Information

1.1 The Localism Act 2011 made changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and requires:-

(a) the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously.

(b) the Council to confirm that its basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive. This covers the requirements of Chapter 4ZA Local Government Finance Act 1992 – referendums relating to Council Tax increases.

1.2 Cabinet has been presented with a Net Budget Requirement of £10,185,835 for 2016/17, with a district Council Tax of £126.40 at Band D (a Council Tax freeze increase of 1.99% on 2015/16).

1.3 The Local Government Act 2003 brought about two legal requirements for the Council when considering its budget and Council Tax for the following year. The Council must consider and approve its prudential indicators, which are necessary to comply with the CIPFA Code and which underpin the capital finance system. These indicators are set out in a separate report to Council within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

1.4 Furthermore, the Council must have regard to the report of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's financial reserves. This report is incorporated in the Council agenda item Budget Report 2016/17.

1.5 The Council is required to make resolutions in respect of the tax base (Schedule 1) and aggregate levels of Council Tax. The aggregate levels of Council Tax comprise the "basic amount" i.e. parish and district levy (Schedule 2), amounts for each band (Schedule 3) and inclusion of Gloucestershire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire (Schedule 4). The recommendations to give effect to the legal resolution of these items are necessarily framed.

1.6 If the Council seeks to change the Council budget recommendations, the figures in Recommendation 3 and/or 4 may need to be changed. If the proposed level of District Council Tax is changed then the figures in Schedules 2-4 will also need to be changed. In order to make such changes and verify them, an adjournment of the Council meeting may be required.

1.7 For the purposes of passing debts through the Courts, the Council must also formally resolve that certain officers are empowered to carry out this function. Those officers are identified at Recommendation 8 above.

1.8 The precept levels of other precepting bodies are detailed below :

- The Town and Parish Council precepts for 2016/17 total £2,509,975. The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils is 6.28% and results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £65.33 for 2016/17.
- Gloucestershire County Council will meet on 17 February 2016 - a Band D Council Tax of £1,134.01 is proposed (any change will be reported).
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire has set a precept of £8,079,713. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £210.31

2. Conclusions

2.1 The recommendations presented to the Cabinet are set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution.

2.2 If the formal Council Tax Resolution is approved (and the proposed County Council figure is also confirmed), the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	Increase %
Cotswold District Council	126.40	126.40	0.00%
Gloucestershire County Council	1,090.50	1,134.01	3.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire	207.73	210.31	1.24%
Sub-Total	1,424.63	1,470.72	3.24%
Town & Parish Council (average)	61.47	65.33	6.28%
Total	1,486.10	1,536.05	3.36%

(END)