

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 28 February 2024

Report by: Councillor Carl Brittain – Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

Report title: Council Tax Setting 2024/25

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary –

This report sets proposals to set the Council Tax for 2024/25

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

- a) that the Council Tax resolution, as now submitted at Appendix A, be approved;
- b) that the local precepts as set out at Appendix A be noted; and
- c) that the Hertfordshire County Council and Police & Crime commissioner for Hertfordshire precepts be noted.

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 The council tax resolution is set out at Appendix A.
- 1.2 The calculations set out in the resolution are prescribed in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended. The Localism Act 2011 made minor amendments to the required calculation. The Council has no discretion in undertaking these calculations beyond determining any special expenses within the Council's own budget applicable to part of its area. The Council has not determined any special expenses.

The Required Calculation

- 1.3 Section 1; This confirms that this Council's previously agreed Tax base is used in the calculation.

- 1.4 Section 2; this sets out the Council's council tax requirement for its own purposes (excluding parish precepts) for 2024/25.
- 1.5 Section 3:
 - (a) The Council's gross expenditure plus transfers to reserves plus the total of parish precepts
 - (b) The Council's gross income including grants plus transfers from reserves
 - (c) Is a-b
 - (d) Is c divided by the tax base
 - (e) Is the total of the parish precepts
 - (f) Is this Council's band D council tax rate
 - (g) Is a table of Band D Council plus Parish rate
 - (h) This is the same as (g) but showing the council tax by each valuation band
- 1.6 Section 4: this is the equivalent amounts to those at 3(h) for the County and Police & Crime Commissioner precepts.
- 1.7 Section 5: this is the total council tax for each valuation band for each parish

2.0 Background

2.1 East Hertfordshire District Council is the council tax billing and collection authority within its area.

2.2 The Council tax calculation sets the tax in respect of this Council and the aggregate council tax inclusive of the County Council and Police & Crime Commissioner precepts and of each town and parish council's precept.

2.3 Hertfordshire County Council's Finance Director has advised that the County Council precept for 2024/25 as they affect East Hertfordshire District Council tax payers is £109,253,288.93. This gives band D equivalent of £1,685.75.

2.4 The Chief Finance Officer for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has advised that the PCC precept for 2024/25 as they affect East Hertfordshire District Council tax payers is £16,267,284.90. This gives a band D equivalent of £251.00.

2.5 Precepts have been received from the majority of town and parish councils, with the exception of Furneux Pelham and Little Munden. In the absence of a return from either Parish Council the Head of Strategic Finance and property, as s151 officer has exercised his statutory powers to set the precept for both authorities at the same level as 2023/24.

2.6 In circumstances where a precept has not been issued to the billing authority, The Billing Authorities (Anticipation of Precepts) Regulations 1992, allow the billing authority to set a precept that doesn't exceed the highest amount of any precept issued by the local precepting authority for any of the three immediately preceding financial years. For Furneux Pelham this is £5,000 and Little Munden £11,430.

2.7 The total of the parish precepts is £6,045,154.88, as detailed in Appendix A.

2.8 East Hertfordshire total council tax requirement is £12,652,188.68. This gives a band D equivalent of £195.22.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility to set the council tax for each part of its area no later than 11 March prior to the start of the year in respect of which the tax is set.

4.0 Options

4.1 Statutory responsibility, no alternative options

5.0 Risks

5.1 All risks were considered in setting the Council's budget

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

Yes, as set out in report

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

The Council is required to set the Council Tax by 11 March in the preceding year under section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires Members who are two or more in arrears on their Council Tax payments to disclose this to the meeting and not vote on any resolution to setting the Council Tax. Failure to do so is a criminal offence leading to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 Appendix A - Formal Council Tax Resolution

Contact Member

Councillor Carl Brittain

Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

Carl.brittain@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer

Steven Linnett

Head of Strategic Finance and Property,

Contact Tel. No. 01279 502050

Steven.linnett@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author

Alison Street, Service Manager (Strategic Finance)

alison.street@eastherts.gov.uk