

Wiltshire Council

Council

20 February 2018

Council Tax Setting 2018/2019

Executive Summary

This report sets out, in the complex format prescribed by law, the resolutions required from the Council to set the Council Tax for the year 2018/2019.

Using the tax base, approved by Cabinet on 12 December 2017 of 182,705.43 band D equivalent households, and the draft net budget requirement of £327.746 million (which in order to fund requires a council tax requirement of £258.450 million) gives a band D council tax, inclusive of the 3% Social Care levy, for 2018/2019 of £1,414.57.

Fire, Police and Town/Parish precepts are in addition to the Wiltshire Council basic Council Tax.

The main body of the report sets out the statutory calculations, and shows the Fire, Police and Town/Parish precepts for every parish in the Wiltshire Council Tax Area along with the total Council Tax figures.

Proposal

That the Council approves the resolutions as set out within the report.

Reason for Proposal

To meet the statutory requirement to set the Council Tax. The calculations are as defined by law, and the figures will change only if the budget proposal is amended.

Dr Carlton Brand – Corporate Director

Wiltshire Council

Council

20 February 2018

Council Tax Setting 2018/2019

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax requirement for 2018/2019.

Background

2. The Localism Act 2011 requires the billing authority to calculate the council tax requirement for the year.
3. Cabinet approved the 2018/2019 Wiltshire Council tax base of 182,705.43 on 12 December 2017.

Wiltshire Council

4. The 2017/2018 Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed the continuation of the adult social care precept that was introduced for 2016/2017, where local authorities responsible for adult social care (ASC authorities) will be given an additional flexibility on their current council tax referendum threshold to be used entirely for adult social care. This flexibility is being offered in recognition of demographic changes which are leading to growing demand for adult social care, and increased pressure on council budgets.
5. The 2017/2018 Local Government Finance Settlement announced that these local authorities will be able to increase the adult social care precept by no more than 6% in the 3 years from 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 and by no more than 3% in any 1 year. For 2017/2018 Wiltshire Council approved a 3% increase in respect of the adult social care precept.
6. The 2018/2019 Local Government Finance Settlement announced that it would give councils the ability to increase their core Council Tax by an additional 1% without a local referendum, bringing the core principle in line with inflation.
7. At the Cabinet meeting on 6 February 2018 it was recommended that Wiltshire Council increase its basic element of the band D Council Tax by 2.99% for 2018/2019 (1.99% for 2017/2018).
8. It was also recommended at the same meeting that Wiltshire Council take up the additional 3.00% flexibility in respect of adult social care for 2018/2019 (3.00% for 2017/2018).

9. The total recommended increase to the average band D Council Tax for 2018/2019 is therefore 5.99% (4.99% for 2017/2018). This results in an average band D Council Tax of £1,414.57 for 2018/2019 (£1,334.63 for 2017/2018).
10. Since the Cabinet meeting on 6 February 2018, the precept levels of other precepting authorities have been received. These are detailed below:

Town & Parish Councils

11. There is no cap for Parish and Town Councils in 2018/2019. The Town & Parish Council Precepts for 2018/2019 are detailed in Appendix B and total £19,804,325.09. The increase in the average band D Council Tax for Town & Parish Councils is 13.68% and results in an average band D Council Tax figure of £108.39 for 2018/2019 (£95.35 for 2017/2018).

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon

12. The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon met on 1 February 2018 and set their precept in respect of the Wiltshire area at £33,301,719 exclusive of a Council Tax Collection Fund contribution of £702,483. This results in a band D Council Tax of £182.27 for 2018/2019. This represents an increase of 7.05% compared to £170.27 for 2017/2018.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority

13. Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority met on 9 February 2018 and set their precept in respect of the Wiltshire area at £13,282,685 exclusive of a Council Tax Collection Fund contribution of £291,233. This results in a band D Council Tax of £72.70 for 2018/2019. This represents an increase of 2.99% compared to £70.59 for 2017/2018.

Conclusions

14. The recommendations are set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendix A.
15. The Wiltshire Council element of the Council Tax is recommended to be increased as follows:

	2017/2018 %	2018/2019 %
Wiltshire Council (Basic Amount)	1.99	2.99
Wiltshire Council (Adult Social Care)	3.00	3.00
Total	4.99	5.99

16. If the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendix A is approved, the total band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2017/2018 £	2018/2019 £	Increase £	Increase
Wiltshire Council	1,334.63	1,414.57	79.94	2.99% + 3.00%
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon	170.27	182.27	12.00	7.05%
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority	70.59	72.70	2.11	2.99%
Sub – Total	1,575.49	1,669.54	94.05	5.97%
Town & Parish Council (average)	95.35	108.39	13.04	13.68%
Total	1,670.84	1,777.93	107.09	6.41%

17. The Adult Social Care Precept will account for £102.61 of the 2018/2019 Wiltshire Council Band D figure above.
18. These increases do not require a referendum.

Risks Assessment

19. A full risk assessment of the budget proposals has been provided to Cabinet on 6 February 2018 in Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan 2018/2019.

Equality and Diversity Impacts of the Proposal

20. None have been identified as directly arising from this report, although equality and diversity impacts have been considered by officers and portfolio holders when preparing budget proposals.

Financial Implications

21. The financial implications are outlined in the report.

Legal Implications

22. The legal implications are outlined in the report.

Public Health Implications

23. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Environmental Implications

24. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Safeguarding Implications

25. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Options Considered

26. The calculations are as defined by law, and the figures will change only if the budget proposal is amended.

Reasons for Proposals

27. To meet the statutory requirement to set the Council Tax. The calculations are as defined by law, and the figures will change only if the budget proposal is amended

Proposal

28. That the Council approves the resolutions as set out within the report.

Michael Hudson
Director of Finance

Report Author: Stuart Donnelly, Head of Finance (Corporate)

The following published documents set out the statutory requirements and powers relevant to the subject of this report:

Local Government Finance Act 1992

Localism Act 2011

Local Government Finance Settlement 2018 to 2019: technical consultation

Local Government Finance Settlement 2018 to 2019: response

The following published documents have been referred to during the preparation of this report:

Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan 2018/2019

Council Tax Base 2018/2019 Cabinet Report 12 December 2017

Appendices:

Appendix A Wiltshire Council - Council Tax Resolution 2018/2019

Appendix B Wiltshire Council - Council Tax Banding Schedule by Authority 2018/2019

Appendix C Wiltshire Council - Town & Parish Precepts 2018/2019

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that on 12 December 2017 the Council calculated:
 - (a) the Council Tax Base 2018/2019 for the whole Wiltshire Council area as 182,705.43 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) 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 Appendix.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/2019 (excluding precepts) is £258,449,620.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £947,510,948 **(Gross Revenue Expenditure including transfers to reserves, parish precepts and any collection fund deficit)** 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).
 - (b) £669,257,003 **(Gross Revenue Income including transfers from reserves, General Government Grants and any collection fund surplus)** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £278,253,945 **(Net Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts)** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(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 31A(4) of the Act).
 - (d) £1,522.96 **(Wiltshire Council band D tax plus average Town & Parish Councils Band D Council Tax)** being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts), as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
1,015.31	1,184.50	1,353.75	1,522.96	1,861.40	2,199.83	2,538.27	3,045.92

- (e) £19,804,325.09 **(Aggregate of Town & Parish Council Precepts)** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).
- (f) £1,414.57 **(band D Council Tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only)** being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 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 relates, as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
943.05	1,100.22	1,257.40	1,414.57	1,728.92	2,043.27	2,357.62	2,829.14