

Wiltshire Council

Council

25 February 2020

Subject: Council Tax Setting 2020/2021

Cabinet member: Councillor Simon Jacobs Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Key Decision: Key

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 2020/2021.

Using the tax base, approved by Cabinet on 10 December 2019 of 187,935.69 band D equivalent households, and the draft net budget requirement of £344.023 million (which in order to fund requires a council tax requirement of £284.723 million) gives a band D council tax, inclusive of the 2% Adult Social Care Levy for 2020/2021 of £1,515.00.

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.

Alistair Cunningham OBE
Chief Executive Officer – Place

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive Officer - People

Wiltshire Council

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Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax requirement for 2020/2021.

Background

2. The Localism Act 2011 requires the billing authority to calculate the council tax requirement for the year.
3. Cabinet approved the 2020/2021 Wiltshire Council tax base of 187,935.69 on 10 December 2019. The minutes of the meeting are available [here](#).

Wiltshire Council

4. The 2020/2021 Local Government Finance Settlement set out central government's decision in respect of the core principle and package of flexibilities in respect of Council Tax for 2020/2021. The principles and flexibilities that apply to Wiltshire Council are:
 - (a) Unitary authorities may increase the basic element (core principle) of the council tax by up to 2.00% without triggering a local referendum.
 - (b) Local authorities with the responsibility for adult social care have an additional flexibility on their council tax referendum threshold to be used entirely for adult social care. These local authorities will be able to increase the adult social care precept by a further 2% on top of the basic element (core principle).
5. At the Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2020 it was recommended that Wiltshire Council increase its basic element of the band D Council Tax by 1.99% for 2020/2021 (2.99% for 2019/2020).
6. It was also recommended at the same meeting that Wiltshire Council take up the additional 2.00% flexibility in respect of adult social care for 2020/2021.

7. The total recommended increase to the average band D Council Tax for 2020/2021 is therefore 3.99% (2.99% for 2019/2020). This results in an average band D Council Tax of £1,515.00 for 2020/2021 (£1,456.87 for 2019/2020).
8. Since the Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2020, the precept levels of other precepting authorities have been received. These are detailed below:

Town & Parish Councils

9. The 2020/2021 Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed that no referendum principles would apply for Town & Parish Councils for 2020/2021.
10. The Town & Parish Council Precepts for 2020/2021 are detailed in Appendix B and total £23,899,895.13. The increase in the average band D Council Tax for Town & Parish Councils is 9% and results in an average band D Council Tax figure of £127.17 for 2020/2021 (£116.67 for 2019/2020).

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon

11. The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon met on 6 February 2020 and set their precept in respect of the Wiltshire area at £40,644,852 exclusive of a Council Tax Collection Fund contribution of £154,286.00. This results in a band D Council Tax of £216.27 for 2020/2021. This represents an increase of £10.00 (4.85%) compared to £206.27 for 2019/2020.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority

12. The 2020/2021 Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed that Fire & Rescue Authorities may increase the basic element of the council tax by up to 2.00% without triggering a local referendum.
13. Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority met on 12 February 2020 and set their precept in respect of the Wiltshire area at £42,752,676.50 exclusive of a Council Tax Collection Fund contribution of £176,235.00 This results in a band D Council Tax of £76.36 for 2020/2021. This represents an increase of £1.49 (1.99%) compared to £74.87 for 2019/2020.

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:

	2019/2020 %	2020/2021 %
Wiltshire Council (Basic Amount)	2.99	1.99
Wiltshire Council (Adult Social Care)	0.00	2.00
Total	2.99	3.99

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

	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £	Increase £	Increase
Wiltshire Council	1,456.87	1,515.00	58.13	3.99%
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire & Swindon	206.27	216.27	10.00	4.85%
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority	74.87	76.36	1.49	1.99%
Sub – Total	1,738.01	1,807.63	69.62	4.01%
Town & Parish Council (average)	116.67	127.17	10.50	9%
Total	1,854.68	1,934.80	80.12	4.32%

17. The Adult Social Care Precept will account for £131.76 of the 2020/2021 Wiltshire Council Band D figure above (£102.61 for 2019/2020).

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 4 February 2020 in Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update 2020/2021.

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.

Workforce Implications

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

Legal Implications

23. The legal implications are outlined in the report.

Public Health Implications

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

Environmental Implications

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

Safeguarding Implications

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

Options Considered

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

Reasons for Proposals

28. 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

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

Deborah Hindson
Interim Director Finance and Procurement

Alistair Cunningham OBE
Chief Executive Officer – Place

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive Officer – People

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Background Papers

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 2020 to 2021: technical consultation

Local Government Finance Settlement 2020 to 2021: response

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

Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update 2020/2021

Council Tax Base 2020/2021 Cabinet Report 10 December 2019

Appendices:

Appendix A Wiltshire Council - Council Tax Resolution 2020/2021

Appendix B Wiltshire Council - Council Tax Banding Schedule by Authority 2020/2021

Appendix C Wiltshire Council - Town & Parish Precepts 2020/2021

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that on 10 December 2019 the Council calculated:
 - (a) the Council Tax Base 2020/2021 for the whole Wiltshire Council area as 187,935.69 [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 2020/2021 (excluding parish precepts) is £284,722,570.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/2021 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) 872,749,230 **(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) 564,126,764 **(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) £308,622,465 **(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) £1642.17 **(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 £
1,094.78	1,277.24	1,459.71	1,642.17	2,007.10	2,372.02	2,736.95	3,282.34

- (e) £23,899,895.13 **(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) £1,515.00 **(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 £
1,010.00	1,178.33	1,346.67	1,515.00	1,851.67	2,188.33	2,525.00	3,030.00