

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**25 January 2011**

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**Subject: 2011/12, and 2012/13 Indicative Council Tax, Rents, Fees & Charges and NNDR Setting Consultation**

**Cabinet Members: Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philippe - Finance, Performance and Risk  
John Brady – Economic Development and Housing**

**Key Decision: Yes**

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#### **Executive Summary**

The aim of this report is for Cabinet to approve a timetable for setting the 2011/12 Council Tax, Rents, Fees and Charges and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR). This includes proposals for scrutiny and then Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, as well as accounting for consultation.

#### **Proposal**

Cabinet approve the timetable and level of consultation set out at paragraph 6 of this report.

#### **Reasons For Proposals**

To enable the Council Tax to be set in the statutory timetable.

**Michael Hudson  
Interim Chief Finance Officer**

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Cabinet**

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**Key Decision: Yes**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. The aim of this report is for Cabinet to approve a timetable for setting the 2011/12 Council Tax, Rents, Fees and Charges and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR). This includes proposals for scrutiny and then Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, as well as accounting for consultation.

### **Background**

2. The Council has a statutory duty to set annually its Council Tax. In addition, full Council is required to approve other sources of income such as housing rents, other fees and charges, as well as NNDR. In practice these later sources of income are determined to a large degree by Central Government and the Council currently has limited discretion over the level of, for example, NNDR.
3. In addition, certain partners (Parish Councils, Police and Fire) of the Authority precept the Council to provide their funding. Elements of this are built into the Council's formulae grant. At this stage Officers are still liaising with these bodies to assess their proposals and the impact on the Council Tax bills/band D. As such it is assumed these bodies will take decisions on whether they will carry out their own consultation, and as such this report and proposals excludes these bodies from any comments noted on consultation, and timings are tentative at this stage for receiving precept notifications.
4. The setting of Council Tax and fees and charges has been hampered this year by delay in the notification by Government of the Council's funding settlement. As a result, the first available Cabinet to bring this timetable with any certainty was 25th January. As a result the proposed savings and investments will be available publically on 31st January for discussion at Cabinet on 8th February. The

announcement of a two year settlement is to be welcomed and will allow greater time for consideration of year two proposals moving forward.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

5. The main considerations for the Council are to review the timetable for publication and consideration of proposals to set the 2011/12 Council Tax, Rents, Fees and Charges and NNDR, as well as indicative levels for 2012/13.
6. The following timetable for publishing all proposals and consultation is recommended to enable Council to set and issue Council Tax bills before 1 April 2011:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date – 2011</b>	<b>Last date papers publically available</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Cabinet	8th February	31st January	
Joint Overview & Scrutiny	10 <sup>th</sup> February	29 <sup>th</sup> January	Would include any amendments arising from Cabinet 8/2/2011
Area Public consultation	Various w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> January	31st January	
Schools Forum	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	31st January	
Local Chambers of Commerce	31st January	31st January	
Trade Unions	31st January	31st January	
Tenants	11 <sup>th</sup> January	31st January	
Cabinet	15 <sup>th</sup> February	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Comments from O & S and other consultations will be presented to Cabinet for consideration

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date – 2011</b>	<b>Last date papers publically available</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Council	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Any amendment from Cabinet or precept details not known at time of publication of papers will be issued post available dates
Police	TBC	N/A	
Fire	TBC	N/A	
Parish Councils	TBC	N/A	

### **Environmental and climate change considerations**

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

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

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

### **Risk Assessment**

9. The following risks and mitigating factors have been considered and assessed:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
1. Council Tax is not set in the statutory timetable and bills are not issued by 1 <sup>st</sup> April.	This report sets out a timetable to enable the budget proposals to be agreed at Council on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February.
2. No time is available to scrutinise and review proposals.	This timetable allows for both scrutiny and consultation feedback to be included in the decision making process.

## **Financial Implications**

10. Resource to carry out consultation and support this process is already provided for. If the Council Tax is not set by ?? March there will be a delay in issuing bills by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and this will mean direct debits are delayed and put at risk the Council's income for 2011/12.

## **Legal Implications**

11. The Council has a statutory duty to consult around NNDR proposals and to issue Council Tax bills before 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. This report meets those requirements.

## **Options Considered**

12. The delay in the funding announcement from Government has limited the scope for an alternative timetable. In practice discussions with key stakeholders, including staff and trade unions has been ongoing during the year. In addition, a number of proposals have already been subject to scrutiny and consultation, for example Waste Investment and Car Parking charges.

## **Conclusions**

13. This report sets out proposals to ensure the Council's Tax, rents, fees & charges, and NNDR are set to enable a budget for 2011/12 to be issued.

## **Proposal**

14. Cabinet approve the timetable and level of consultation set out at paragraph 6 of this report.

## **Reason for Proposal**

15. To enable the Council Tax to be set in the statutory timetable.

**Michael Hudson**  
**Interim Chief Finance Officer**

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the preparation of this report: NONE.

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this report:  
NONE.