

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No. 8c

Date of Meeting	22 February 2007
Title of Report	Council Tax 2007-08
Portfolio	Leader's Responsibilities
Link to Corporate Priorities	All
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To set the Council Tax for 2007-08.

The Section 151 Officer's opinion on the adequacy of balances and the robustness of the budget.

Officer Recommendations

1. That the Council notes the final effect on its budget requirement for 2007-08 (excluding Parish & Town Council Precepts), as detailed at Annex A.
2. That the Council Tax resolutions for 2007-08 as set out at Annex B be adopted.
3. That the Council acknowledges the statement by the S151 Officer under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves as set out in Annex C and D
4. That the S151 Officer be authorised, in consultation with the relevant Strategic Manager, to make any technical presentational changes to the final published budget as deemed necessary to meet external reporting obligations.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
Yes	Yes	None	None	None

Contact Officer	Peter Timmins, Interim Section 151 Officer, 01249 706219 ptimmins@northwilts.gov.uk
------------------------	--

1 Introduction

The Council's Budget

- 1.1 Council, earlier in its Agenda, is expected to agree a net budget of £19.113m. This would result in a Council Tax increase for its own purposes, for 2007-08, of 5.00%.
- 1.2 The report to the Executive at its meeting on 8 February 2007 set out the S151 officer's statement under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (Annex 1 of that report). This refers to the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves. The Council is asked to acknowledge the statement, which is shown at Annex C.

Local Precepting Authorities

- 1.3 The Parish Precepts for 2007-08 total £4,240,879. These are detailed, on a Band D equivalent basis, at Annex B.

Major Precepting Authorities

- 1.4 The Wiltshire County Council met on the 13 February 2007 to agree its precept requirement for 2007-08. The Wiltshire County Council approved a net budget of £168,838,925 and will precept £48,940,480. The Band D equivalent is £973.85, an increase of 4.80%.
- 1.5 The Wiltshire Police Authority met on the 9 February 2007 to agree its precept requirement for 2007-08. The Wiltshire Police Authority approved a net budget of £98,205,500 and will precept £7,002,980. The Band D equivalent is £139.35, an increase of 4.90%.
- 1.6 The Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority met on 8 February 2007 to agree its precept requirement for 2007-08. The Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority approved a net budget of £22,656,400 and a precept of £2,783,477. This equates to a Band D equivalent of £55.39, a 4.91% increase from 2006-07

Special Items

- 1.7 Sections 34 and 35 of the Local Government Act 1992 require Parish precepts to be determined by the Council as special items. This is reflected in the Council Tax resolution (Annex B). The individual parish precepts on a Band D basis are detailed at Annex D.

Setting the Council Tax

- 1.8 If the recommendations above are approved, the average Council Tax increase for North Wilts District Council services, will be as set out at Annex B. After taking account of the Parishes, the County Council, the Police Authority, and the Fire Authority, the average increase in North Wilts District' tax levels will vary depending on the relevant area's tax charge. The details behind these increases are set out at Annex B. Table 1 below details the average Band D Council Tax figure for 2007-08.

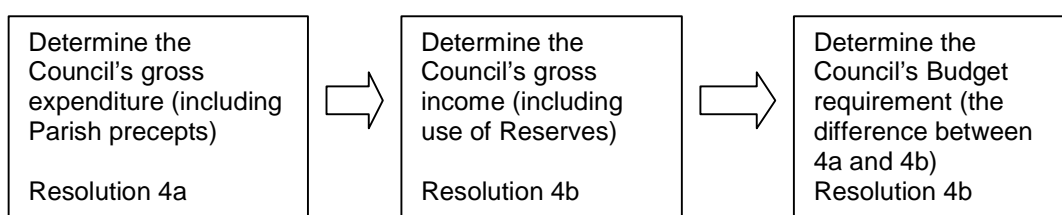
Table 1: Average Band D Council Tax

	2006-07 £:p	2007-08 £:p	Change		% Increase
			£ per annum	£ per week	
North Wilts District Council	121.79	127.88	6.09	0.12	5.00
Parish Precepts (average)	80.39	84.33	3.94	0.08	4.90
Wiltshire County Council	929.25	973.85	44.60	0.86	4.80

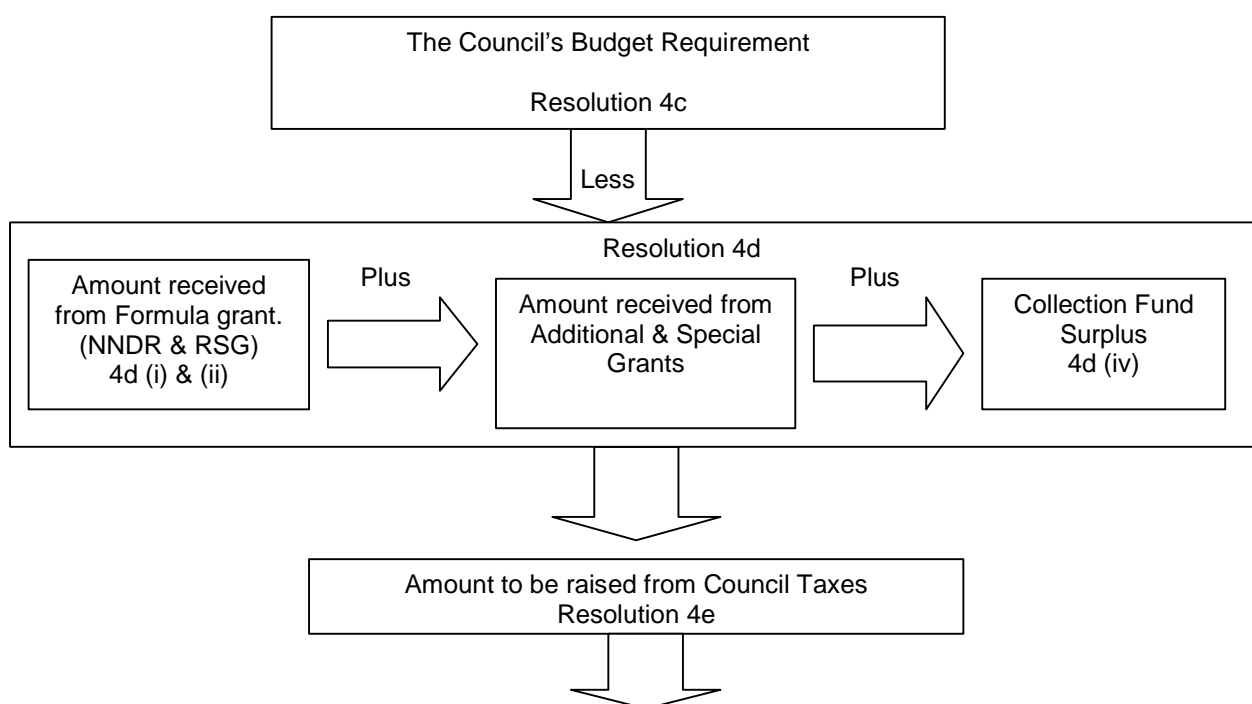
Wiltshire Police Authority	132.84	139.35	6.51	0.13	4.90
Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority	52.80	55.39	2.59	0.05	4.91
Total	1317.07	1380.79	63.73	1.23	4.84

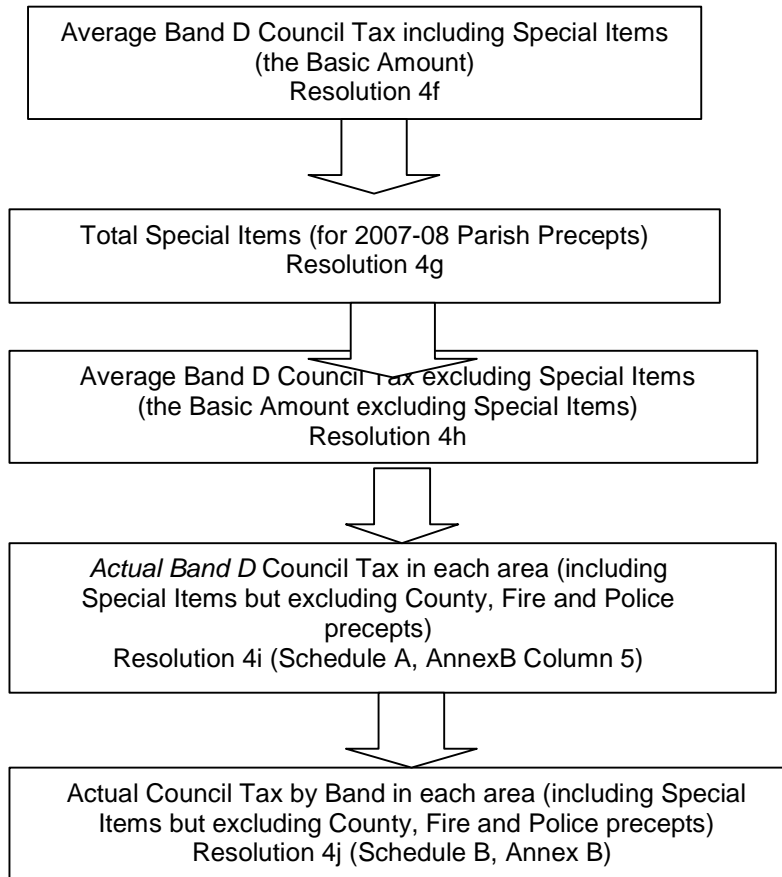
- 1.9 In order to set the Council Tax legally, the Council must agree a complex set of resolutions shown at Annex B. These resolutions build up from the Council's budget requirement including Parish precepts, through deducting formula grant and collection fund surpluses (or adding a deficit) to arrive at a basic Council Tax including and excluding Parish precepts. To that is added the precepts for the County, Fire and Police Authorities to arrive at a total Council Tax by Parish and by Council Tax Band.
- 1.10 Draft resolutions 1 and 2 reiterate the General Fund budget requirement and special items that are then covered more formally in resolution 4. Resolution 3 confirms the Council has calculated the Council Tax base at a total area level and at a parish level. The remainder of the Council Tax setting process is shown below diagrammatically.

Stage 1: Determining The Council's Budget Requirement (Resolutions 4a, 4b, and 4c)

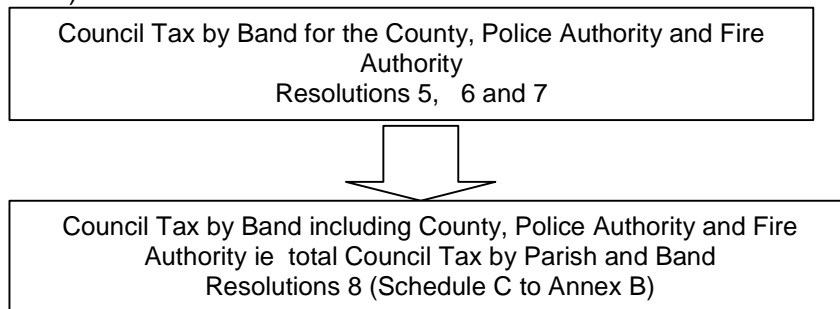


Stage 2: Determining the Amount to be Raised from Council Taxes excluding Fire and Police (Resolutions 4c to 4j)





Stage 3: Determining the Amount to be Raised from Council Taxes including Fire and Police (Resolutions 5 to 7)



2 Legal Implications

2.1 The Council is required to set its Council Tax level before 11 March 2007. The legal requirements in relation to the setting of the Council Tax are noted against the relevant resolutions in **Annex B**.

<p>Appendices:</p>	<p>A: General Fund budget requirement 2007-08 (Revised and amended Annex 3 from the Executive)</p> <p>B: Council Tax resolution 2007-08, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule A: Council Tax where special items [Parish precepts] apply; • Schedule B: North Wilts District Council and Parish Council Tax, Bands A to H, by Parish area excluding the Wiltshire County, Wiltshire Police Authority and the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority • Schedule C: North Wilts District Council and Parish Council Tax, Bands A to H, by Parish area including the Wiltshire County, Wiltshire Police Authority and the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority <p>C: Robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of Reserves</p> <p>D: Definitions of risks for Reserves</p>
<p>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</p>	<p>Correspondence from the County, Police Authority, Fire Authority, and local Councils.</p>