

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Pablo Dimoglou, Executive Member for Finance

To: Full Council, 25 February 2016

(Author: Julie Kennealy, Shared Executive Director Commercialisation)

Subject: Council Tax 2016-17

Purpose: To set the amounts of Council Tax applicable for 2016-17 for each valuation band and in each part of the district

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That Full Council approves the special expenses for 2016-17
- 2) That Full Council approves the formal council tax resolutions for 2016-17 (at paragraph 1.4.1 to 1.4.5)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report covers the formal resolutions required to set the Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended. The Norfolk Police & Crime Panel met on 16 February 2016 to set its precept for 2016-17. Whilst the Norfolk County Council meets on 22 February 2016 to set its precept for 2016-17. The figures in this report are based on the proposed Norfolk County Council figures and if there are any changes at their 22 February meeting, Members will be updated at this meeting on 25 February.

The County Council is proposing to raise it's Council Tax by 3.99%, 2% for adult social care and 1.99% general rise. The Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) is increasing it's Council Tax by 1.98%.

The Localism Act 2011 makes provision for Council Tax referendums to be held if an authority increases its basic amount of Council Tax in excess of principles determined by the Secretary of State. These excessiveness principles are set each year and for 2016-17 a referendum would be triggered if the basic amount of Council Tax increases by:

- 2% (or more than 2%) core principle for all principal local authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 4% (or more than 4%) for local authorities with responsibility for adult social care.
- 2% (or more than 2%) and £5 for Police and Crime Commissioners in the lower quartile of band D council tax levels
- 2% (or more than 2%) and £5 for shire districts. Breckland Council fit in this category.
- Local precepting authorities (i.e. Parish Councils) are not subject to Council Tax referendums in 2016-17 (but this could be applied to larger towns and parishes in future years).

None of the precepting authorities are setting a Council Tax level that would require a referendum.

1.2 Budget

The budget was presented to Cabinet on 9 February 2016 with a recommendation to Full Council on 25 February 2016, setting the band D Council Tax at £73.98 for the year, a

£4.95 increase on a Band D property compared to 2015-16.

The budget report has been updated for Full Council based on the final settlement advised by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Council Tax resolutions are based on these figures plus the amounts requested by other precepting authorities.

1.3 Special Expenses

It is proposed that the amounts to be charged as a Special Expense for the provision of the public footway lighting service are as follows:

	Total	Band D
Dereham	£9,235.84	£1.70
Thetford	£32,677.31	£5.34
Watton	£18,914.90	£7.97

Bawdeswell Parish Council have taken on responsibility for their own public footway lighting costs and no longer require a Special Expense charge.

The costs of the public footway lighting services applicable to Attleborough and Swaffham are charged directly to the respective town councils and other parishes take direct responsibility for their public lighting arrangements.

1.4 Council Tax Resolutions

1.4.1 It is to be noted that on 25 February 2016 the Council has calculated: -

- a) the Council Tax Base 2016-17 for the whole Council area as 41,111.8 (item T in the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended) and
- b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached **Appendix A**.

1.4.2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016-17 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,102,284.

1.4.3 That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2016-17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act): -

- a) £81,495,075 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the expenditure items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act;
- b) £75,119,911 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the income items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
- c) £6,375,164 being the amount by which the aggregate at 1.4.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.4.3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year;
- d) £155.07 being the amount at 1.4.3(c) above, divided by the amount at 1.4.1(a) 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);
- e) £3,333,708 being the aggregate amount of all special items (including Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached **Appendix A**);

- f) £73.98 being the amount at 1.4.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.4.3(e) above by the amount at 1.4.1(a) 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 areas to which no special item relates;
- g) The figures shown in **Appendix B**, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 1.4.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1.4.1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;
- h) The figures shown in **Appendix C**, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 1.4.3(f) and 1.4.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

1.4.4 That it be noted that for the year 2016-17 the Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
NCC	£793.86	£926.17	£1,058.48	£1,190.79	£1,455.41	£1,720.03	£1,984.65	£2,381.58
NPCC	£141.96	£165.62	£189.28	£212.94	£260.26	£307.58	£354.90	£425.88

1.4.5 That having calculated the aggregate in each case the amounts at 1.4.3(h) and 1.4.4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in **Appendix D** as the amount of Council Tax for 2016-17 of the categories of dwellings shown.

Appendix E provides some definitions for the formal Council Tax resolution above.

1.5 Excessiveness Determination

The Council's basic amount of Council Tax (including special expenses) as calculated for 2016-17 is £5.00 higher than calculated for 2015-16 and therefore within the limit above which a referendum would be required.

Accordingly it can be determined that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax is not excessive for 2016-17 in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

2.0 OPTIONS

2.1 Approve the recommendations of this report.

2.2 Make changes before approving the recommendations of this report.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 As the billing authority, Breckland is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set the council tax by 11th March each year.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 To set the council tax for 2016-17.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

5.2.1 This report complies with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

5.3 **Contracts**

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 This report is financial in nature and finances are shown in the report.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.9 **Risk Management**

5.9.1 Risks relating to the budget are detailed in the budget setting report 2016-17.

5.10 **Staffing**

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.11 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.11.1 Details of consultation are included within the budget setting report 2016-17.

5.12 **Other**

5.12.1 None.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 PCC – Police & Crime Commissioner

7.2 NCC – Norfolk County Council

7.3 NPCC – Norfolk Police & Crime Commissioner

Background papers:- [See The Committee Report Guide](#)

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Key Decision: Yes

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to Mandatory and Discretionary Services

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Parish/Ward Council Tax base report
Appendix B Breckland Council plus parishes band D Council Tax
Appendix C Breckland Council plus parishes Council Tax – all valuation bands
Appendix D Council Tax rates including County and Police – all valuation bands
Appendix E Council Tax resolution – definitions