

Report of the S151 Officer

Council Tax 2018-19

1 Purpose of report

To enable the council to calculate and set the council tax for 2018-19.

2 Executive summary

2.1 This report provides details of the council tax for the Borough Council of Wellingborough, as recommended by the resources committee, for approval as well as details of the council taxes for Northamptonshire County Council, the Police and parish councils.

2.2 The Borough Council of Wellingborough is recommending an increase of £5 in council tax for 2018-19.

2.3 Both the county council and the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner are intending to increase their council tax for 2018-19. Any changes to these intentions will be reflected in amended calculations and the resolution updated accordingly.

3 Appendices

Appendix A 2018-19 Council tax resolution.

Appendix B 2018-19 Parish council precepts.

Appendix C Medium Term Financial Projections 2018-19 to 2021-22

4 Proposed action:

4.1 Council is invited to APPROVE the resolution attached at Appendix A.

5 Background

5.1 The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and required the billing authority to calculate a “council tax requirement” for the year.

5.2 This report sets out the necessary calculations and resolution for the council to set a council tax, as recommended by the resources committee at its meeting on 7 February 2018.

6 Discussion

6.1 Borough Council

The resources committee has considered the budget proposals for 2018-19 to 2021-22 as part of the medium term financial plan and the recommendation was to increase the borough element of council tax in 2018-19 by £5 to £110.71.

Following the publication of the 2018-19 final local government settlement on 6 February 2018, the MTFP has been updated to reflect a reduction to the predicted business rates income. This pressure has been offset by the use of ear marked reserves and does not affect the bottom line budget.

6.2 Wellingborough Town Special Expense Area

The borough council recovers an element of its council tax via a special expense area. These charges are applicable in the area referred to as “Wellingborough Town”. Special expenses in the main are charges for the upkeep of parks and the maintenance of “open space assets”.

The special expense charge applies in this area because the council owns and maintains open space assets in this area. In other areas of the borough open space assets are owned and maintained by parish councils who will charge residents accordingly for these services, via their parish precept.

This means that only the actual expenses for costs incurred can be recovered and not just be an increase of a fixed percentage. After reviewing the budget for this area and comparing it with the tax base, the resultant band D charge will remain at £59.24 in 2018-19 (£59.24 in 2017-18).

6.3 Parish councils

The parish council precepts for 2018-19 are detailed in Appendix B and total £548,134. Some parishes have increased their charge and some have reduced. The average council tax for the borough including parish precepts and special expenses is £168.43 (£162.10 in 2017-18).

6.4 Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire County Council cabinet met on 14 February 2018 and is recommending a tax increase of 5.98%, which includes 3.0% for the social care precept. This would result in a band D council tax of £1,236.35 (£1,166.59 in 2017-18). At the time of writing, Northamptonshire County Council precept is still due to be ratified. Whilst an indicative level of precept has been provided by them, the council resolution itself is still subject to amendment. When the provisional figures have been confirmed a final, revised version of the council tax resolution for approval will be circulated to members at the council meeting itself if anything changes.

6.5 Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner

The Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner consulted on his proposed precept level with the Police and Crime Panel on 1 February 2018. The panel resolved to support the commissioner's proposal to increase the precept by £12.00 (5.74%), which would result in a band D council tax of £221.04 (£209.04 in 2017-18).

7 Legal powers

Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended)

8 Financial and value for money implications

None arising specifically from the report

9 Risk analysis

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
Failure to set the council tax fully in accordance with law	Council tax bills may not be issued and could be unenforceable if issued	Low	Committee consideration and responsible professional officer supervision

10 Implications for resources, communities or equalities

None arising specifically from the report.

11 Author and contact officer

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12 Consultees

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13 Background papers

Revenue Budget 2018-19 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy Projections

2018-19 Council Tax Resolution

Recommendation

1. That the recommendations of the Resources Committee relating to the Revenue Estimates 2018-19 be approved.

2. (a) That it be noted, that at its meeting on 16 January 2018, the Council calculated the amount of 24,492 as its council tax base for the year 2018-19, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- (b) That the following amounts are calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as the amounts of council tax base for the year 2018-19 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate (*Tax base for parishes and Wellingborough special expenses*)

Parish of	Tax Base
Bozeat	760
Great Doddington	492
Earls Barton	2,099
Easton Maudit	41
Ecton	231
Finedon	1,464
Grendon	243
Hardwick	47
Great Harrowden	44
Little Harrowden	333
Irchester	1,511
Isham	337
Mears Ashby	252
Orlingbury	232
Strixton	15
Sywell	367
Wilby	216
Wollaston	1,196
Wellingborough	14,612
Total	24,492

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2018-19 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

3.

- (a) £44,518,466 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) £40,393,208 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £4,125,258 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 31B of the Act).
- (d) £168.43 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £1,413,749 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).
- (f) £110.71 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2(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 area to which no Parish precept relates.

(g) Part of the Council's area

	£
Bozeat	40.92
Great Doddington	50.81
Earls Barton	58.27
Easton Maudit	23.78
Ecton	52.94
Finedon	43.72
Grendon	59.32
Hardwick	34.04
Great Harrowden	45.45
Little Harrowden	62.47
Irchester	65.06
Isham	74.04
Mears Ashby	53.57
Orlingbury	33.18
Strixton	93.33
Sywell	72.21
Wilby	43.98
Wollaston	60.09
Wellingborough	59.24

The amounts stated in column 5 of the Schedule 1 (attached) given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 divided in each case by the amount at 2 (a) 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 set out in column 1 of Schedule 1 (attached) to which one or more special items relate. (*Council tax at Band D for those parishes that have issued a precept and Wellingborough special expenses added to this Council's council tax.*)

(h) Valuation bands

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3(f) and 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. *(This council and each parish council's combined council tax for each council tax band and which will appear on the council tax bill).*

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bozeat	101.09	117.94	134.78	151.63	185.32	219.02	252.72	303.26
Gt Doddington	107.68	125.63	143.57	161.52	197.41	233.30	269.20	323.04
Earls Barton	112.66	131.43	150.21	168.98	206.53	244.08	281.64	337.96
Easton Maudit	89.66	104.61	119.55	134.49	164.37	194.26	224.15	268.98
Ecton	109.10	127.29	145.47	163.65	200.01	236.38	272.75	327.30
Finedon	102.96	120.11	137.27	154.43	188.75	223.06	257.39	308.86
Grendon	113.36	132.25	151.14	170.03	207.81	245.59	283.39	340.06
Hardwick	96.50	112.59	128.67	144.75	176.91	209.08	241.25	289.50
Gt Harrowden	104.11	121.46	138.81	156.16	190.86	225.56	260.27	312.32
Lt Harrowden	115.46	134.70	153.94	173.18	211.66	250.14	288.64	346.36
Irchester	117.18	136.71	156.24	175.77	214.83	253.89	292.95	351.54
Isham	123.17	143.70	164.22	184.75	225.80	266.86	307.92	369.50
Mears Ashby	109.52	127.78	146.03	164.28	200.78	237.29	273.80	328.56
Orlingbury	95.93	111.92	127.90	143.89	175.86	207.84	239.82	287.78
Strixton	136.03	158.70	181.37	204.04	249.38	294.72	340.07	408.08
Sywell	121.95	142.27	162.60	182.92	223.57	264.21	304.87	365.84
Wilby	103.13	120.32	137.50	154.69	189.06	223.44	257.82	309.38
Wollaston	113.87	132.85	151.82	170.80	208.75	246.71	284.67	341.60
Wellingborough	113.30	132.19	151.07	169.95	207.71	245.48	283.25	339.90

4. That it be noted that for the year 2018-19 the major precepting authorities 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 the dwellings shown below :

Valuation bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Northants County Council	824.23	961.61	1,098.98	1,236.35	1,511.09	1,785.84	2,060.58	2,472.70
Northants PCC	147.36	171.92	196.48	221.04	270.16	319.28	368.40	442.08

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018-19 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:- *Total Council Tax in each band for each parish*)

Valuation Bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bozeat	1,072.68	1,251.47	1,430.24	1,609.02	1,966.57	2,324.14	2,681.70	3,218.04
Gt Doddington	1,079.27	1,259.16	1,439.03	1,618.91	1,978.66	2,338.42	2,698.18	3,237.82
Earls Barton	1,084.25	1,264.96	1,445.67	1,626.37	1,987.78	2,349.20	2,710.62	3,252.74
Easton Maudit	1,061.25	1,238.14	1,415.01	1,591.88	1,945.62	2,299.38	2,653.13	3,183.76
Ecton	1,080.69	1,260.82	1,440.93	1,621.04	1,981.26	2,341.50	2,701.73	3,242.08
Finedon	1,074.55	1,253.64	1,432.73	1,611.82	1,970.00	2,328.18	2,686.37	3,223.64
Grendon	1,084.95	1,265.78	1,446.60	1,627.42	1,989.06	2,350.71	2,712.37	3,254.84
Hardwick	1,068.09	1,246.12	1,424.13	1,602.14	1,958.16	2,314.20	2,670.23	3,204.28
Gt Harrowden	1,075.70	1,254.99	1,434.27	1,613.55	1,972.11	2,330.68	2,689.25	3,227.10
Lt Harrowden	1,087.05	1,268.23	1,449.40	1,630.57	1,992.91	2,355.26	2,717.62	3,261.14
Irchester	1,088.77	1,270.24	1,451.70	1,633.16	1,996.08	2,359.01	2,721.93	3,266.32
Isham	1,094.76	1,277.23	1,459.68	1,642.14	2,007.05	2,371.98	2,736.90	3,284.28
Mears Ashby	1,081.11	1,261.31	1,441.49	1,621.67	1,982.03	2,342.41	2,702.78	3,243.34
Orlbury	1,067.52	1,245.45	1,423.36	1,601.28	1,957.11	2,312.96	2,668.80	3,202.56
Strixton	1,107.62	1,292.23	1,476.83	1,661.43	2,030.63	2,399.84	2,769.05	3,322.86
Sywell	1,093.54	1,275.80	1,458.06	1,640.31	2,004.82	2,369.33	2,733.85	3,280.62
Wilby	1,074.72	1,253.85	1,432.96	1,612.08	1,970.31	2,328.56	2,686.80	3,224.16
Wollaston	1,085.46	1,266.38	1,447.28	1,628.19	1,990.00	2,351.83	2,713.65	3,256.38
Wellingborough	1,084.89	1,265.72	1,446.53	1,627.34	1,988.96	2,350.60	2,712.23	3,254.68

6. The council has determined that its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2018-19 is **not** excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Wellingborough Council, as the billing authority, has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2018-19 is excessive. Therefore the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

2018-19 Parish Council Precepts

Appendix B

Parish/Town Council	2017-18			2018-19			Council Tax Change
	Tax Base	Precepts	Council Tax Band D	Tax Base	Precepts	Council Tax Band D	
		£	£		£	£	
Bozeat	756	30,936	40.92	760	31,099	40.92	0.00%
Great Doddington	491	25,000	50.92	492	25,000	50.81	-0.22%
Earls Barton	1,936	104,466	53.96	2,099	122,300	58.27	7.99%
Easton Maudit	41	975	23.78	41	975	23.78	0.00%
Ecton	231	12,229	52.94	231	12,229	52.94	0.00%
Finedon	1,434	55,410	38.64	1,464	64,000	43.72	13.15%
Grendon	242	14,355	59.32	243	14,415	59.32	0.00%
Hardwick	44	1,600	36.36	47	1,600	34.04	-6.38%
Great Harrowden	43	1,500	34.88	44	2,000	45.45	30.30%
Little Harrowden	333	20,802	62.47	333	20,802	62.47	0.00%
Irchester	1,497	89,236	59.61	1,511	98,302	65.06	9.14%
Isham	315	22,500	71.43	337	24,950	74.04	3.65%
Mears Ashby	232	10,500	45.26	252	13,500	53.57	18.36%
Orlingbury	232	7,415	31.96	232	7,697	33.18	3.82%
Strixton	15	1,400	93.33	15	1,400	93.33	0.00%
Sywell	365	23,500	64.38	367	26,500	72.21	12.16%
Wilby	216	9,500	43.98	216	9,500	43.98	0.00%
Wollaston	1,196	70,455	58.91	1,196	71,865	60.09	2.00%
Total Parishes	9,619	501,779	52.17	9,880	548,134	55.48	6.34%
Wellingborough Town	14,230	842,985	59.24	14,612	865,615	59.24	0.00%
TOTAL	23,849	1,344,764		24,492	1,413,749		

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	£ 000's	£ 000's	£ 000's	£ 000's	£ 000's
Current spending levels B/F	9,936	10,106	11,059	11,035	11,017
Net Changes - Standstill Budget	147	212			
Revised spending levels	10,083	10,318	11,059	11,035	11,017
Inescapable pressures - Operational:					
Pay Inflation - Future Years	-	-	50	50	50
General inflation	100	50	50	50	50
Additional Contributions to offset Pension Strain	-62	-	14	14	14
Apprenticeship Levy	10				
Local Plan pressures	-65	-82	-66		
Planning Appeals	-30	-70			
Borough Elections			120	-120	
Castle interim management costs	50	129	-167	-12	
Waendel Leisure Centre	270	-270			
Parish Precepts		46			
Norse Operational Costs		250			
Partnership/Contract Savings:					
Contract & Procurement savings					
Service Transformation					
Shared Services (IT Strategy)	-150	-100	-25		
Revenue Invest to Save:					
Homelessness Prevention		54			
Statutory/National Changes:					
Changes in welfare reform demand pressures		300			
Homelessness & Temporary Accommodation Pressures		434			
Alternative service delivery options:					
Crematorium Management fees	-100				
Total Changes to Base spending levels	23	741	-24	-18	114
Revised spending levels C/F	10,106	11,059	11,035	11,017	11,131
Financed by:					
Underlying Budget Deficit:	-664	-1,777	-456	-1,043	-2,672
Central Government Funding	-806	-531	-223	-	-
Business Rates Retention Scheme - Baseline	-2,260	-2,328	-2,380	-2,433	-2,487
Business Rates Retention Scheme - Growth	-719	-553	-662	-677	-692
Business Rates Retention Scheme - Pooling Benefit	-360	-277	-331	-	-
Section 31 Grant	-754	-984	-985	-	-
Business Rates Collection Fund (-surplus/deficit)	1,050	700	-	-	-
Total Business Rates Income	-3,043	-3,442	-4,358	-3,110	-3,179
Council Tax - Baseline	-3,710	-3,935	-4,067	-4,199	-4,268
Council Tax - Growth (2.0%)	-37	-68	-125	-189	-238
Council Tax - Band D Increase (£5 & 1.99%)	-119	-122	-125	-59	-61
Council Tax Collection Fund (-surplus/deficit)	-21	-22	-	-	-
Total Council Tax Income	-3,887	-4,147	-4,317	-4,447	-4,567
New Homes Bonus additional income above current budget	-1,299	-1,097	-1,094	-788	-636
Planned use of Ear Marked Reserves	-	-1,386	-	-	-
Total On going Funding available	-9,035	-10,603	-9,992	-8,345	-8,382
Total Funding including the one off use of reserves from previous years	-9,699	-12,380	-10,448	-9,388	-11,054
Additional savings needed to balance budget/additional use of reserves (+) or reduced need for reserves (-)	407	-1,321	587	1,629	77
Original Cumulative Total Savings needed:	1,071	456	1,043	2,672	2,749
Changes as a result of in year Budget Monitoring	706	-	-	-	-
Revised Cumulative Total Savings needed:	1,777	456	1,043	2,672	2,749
General Fund Reserves as at 1st April	-3,992	-2,215	-1,759	-716	1,956
Less used to fund annual base shortfalls	1,777	456	1,043	2,672	2,749
Total revised General Fund Balance	-2,215	-1,759	-716	1,956	4,705

