

Page 1
Cheltenham Borough Council

Council 23rd February 2024

Council Tax Resolution 2024/25

Accountable member:

Cllr Peter Jeffries, Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets

Accountable officer:

Paul Jones, Executive Director Finance Assets and Regeneration

Ward(s) affected:

All

Key Decision: Yes

Executive summary:

The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to set the Council Tax for 2024/25. The Council agreed its budget and level of Council Tax for 2024/25 at its meeting on 23rd February 2024. The Council is required to formally approve the total Council Tax for residents of Cheltenham, including the Council Tax requirements of the precepting organisations Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

Recommendations:

1. Approve the formal Council Tax resolution at Appendix 2 and note the commentary in respect of the increase in Council Tax at Paragraph 6 of Appendix 2
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1. Implications

1.1 Financial, Property and Asset implications

Failure to agree the Council Tax resolution at this meeting would delay the preparation of council tax bills and the collection of the payments from residents. This may result in lost interest on income collected, which given the prevailing low interest rates, would be approximately £1-2k per month.

Signed off by: Gemma Bell, Director of Finance & Assets (Deputy S151 Officer)
gemma.bell@cheltenham.gov.uk

1.2 Legal implications

The legislative context is set out in the report.

Signed off by: One Legal, legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

1.3 Corporate Plan Priorities

None arising from this report.

1.4 Environmental and climate change implications

None arising from this report.

1.5 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

None arising from this report.

2 Background

2.1 The Localism Act 2011 has made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously.

2.2 The Council agreed the budget and level of Council Tax for 2024/25 (previous agenda item) on 23rd February 2024. The Council is now required to formally approve the total Council Tax for residents of Cheltenham, including the Council Tax requirements of the precepting organisations, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire.

2.3 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire have both met to set their council taxes for 2024/25.

2.4 The total Council Tax to be paid by residents of Cheltenham in 2024/25 by council tax band, including the precepting authorities, is contained in Appendix 2.

3 Reasons for recommendations

3.1 To enable the Council to set the Council Tax for 2024/25.

4 Alternative options considered

4.1 Not applicable.

5 Consultation and feedback

5.1 Not applicable.

6 Key risks

6.1 As outlined in the financial implications.

Report author:

Jon Whitlock, Finance Business Partner jon.whitlock@cheltenham.gov.uk

Appendices:

- i. Risk Assessment
- ii. Council Tax Resolution 2024/25

Background information:

1. Council Budget Report 23rd February 2024

Appendix 1: Risk Assessment

Risk ref	Risk description	Risk owner	Impact score (1-5)	Likelihood score (1-5)	Initial raw risk score (1 - 25)	Risk response	Controls / Mitigating actions	Control / Action owner	Deadline for controls/ actions
c.tax 1	Failure to agree the 2024/25 Council Tax resolution may result in lost interest on income.	Gemma Bell	4	1	4	Accept the risk	Councilors to agree council tax resolution at meeting.	Gemma Bell	23/02/2024