

Cheltenham Borough Council
Council – 17th February 2020
Council Tax resolution 2020/21

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| Accountable member | Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Rowena Hay |
| Accountable officer | Paul Jones (Executive Director – Finance and Assets) |
| Accountable scrutiny committee | Overview and Scrutiny committee |
| Ward(s) affected | All |
| Significant Decision | Yes |
| Executive summary | The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to set the Council Tax for 2020/21. The Council agreed its budget and level of Council Tax for 2020/21 at its meeting on 17 th February 2020. 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 Gloucestershire Police. |
| Recommendations | 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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| Financial implications | <p>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.</p> <p>Contact officer: Paul Jones paul.jones@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 775154</p> |
| Legal implications | <p>None specific; the legislative context is set out in the report. The council tax resolution must be by recorded vote - Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 effective 26/2/14.</p> <p>Contact officer: Shirin.wotherspoon@tewkesbury.gov.uk. 01684 272017</p> |
| HR implications (including learning and organisational development) | <p>None arising from this report.</p> <p>Contact officer: Julie McCarthy julie.mccarthy@publicagroup.uk 01242 264355</p> |
| Key risks | As outlined in the financial implications |

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| Corporate and community plan implications | None arising from this report |
| Environmental and climate change implications | None arising from this report |

1. Introduction

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The Council agreed the budget and level of Council Tax for 2020/21 (previous agenda item) on 17th February 2020. 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 Gloucestershire Police.
- 1.3 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Gloucestershire Police have both met to set their council taxes for 2020/21.
- 1.4 The total Council Tax to be paid by residents of Cheltenham in 2020/21 by council tax band, including the precepting authorities, is contained in Appendix 2.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 To enable the Council to set the Council Tax for 2020/21.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. Consultation and feedback

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Performance management – monitoring and review

- 5.1 Not applicable

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| Report author | Contact officer: Paul Jones paul.jones@cheltenham.gov.uk 01242 775154 |
| Appendices | 1. Risk Assessment 2. Council Tax resolution |
| Background information | 1. Council Budget Report 17 th February 2020 |

Risk Assessment

Appendix 1

| The risk | | | | Original risk score (impact x likelihood) | | | Managing risk | | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|-------------|--|---|-------|---------------|---|----------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Risk ref. | Risk description | Risk Owner | Date raised | I | L | Score | Control | Action | Deadline | Responsible officer | Transferred to risk register |
| c.tax 1 | Failure to agree the 2020/21 Council Tax resolution may result in lost interest on income. | Paul Jones | | 4 | 1 | 4 | Accept | Councillors to agree council tax at meeting | 21/02/20 | Paul Jones | |
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