

# Cheltenham Borough Council

## Council 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

### Council Tax Resolution 2024/25

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**Accountable member:**

Cllr Peter Jeffries, Cabinet Member for Finance & Assets

**Accountable officer:**

Paul Jones, Executive Director Finance Assets and Regeneration

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

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**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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## **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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**Report author:**

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**Appendices:**

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

**Background information:**

1. Council Budget Report 23<sup>rd</sup> 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