

Cheltenham Borough Council

Council 21st February 2025

Council Tax Resolution 2025/26

Accountable member:

Councillor Alisha Lewis, Cabinet Member Finance and 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 2025/26. The Council agreed its budget and level of Council Tax for 2025/26 at its meeting on 21st February 2025. 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 would have a detrimental impact on the Council's cashflow.

Signed off by: Jon Whitlock, Chief Accountant jon.whitlock@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 2025/26 (previous agenda item) on 21st February 2025. 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 2025/26.

2.4 The total Council Tax to be paid by residents of Cheltenham in 2025/26 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 2025/26.

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:

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Appendices:

- i. Risk Assessment
- ii. Council Tax Resolution 2025/26

Background information:

1. Council Budget Report 21st February 2025

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