Cheltenham Borough Council

Council - 27 February 2026

Council Tax Resolution 2026/27

Accountable member:

Councillor Peter Jeffries, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets

Accountable officer:

Adele Taylor, Interim S151 Officer

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 2026/27. The Council agreed its budget and level of Council Tax for 2026/27 at its meeting on 27th February 2026. 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: That Council:

1. **approves the formal Council Tax resolution at Appendix 2 and notes 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, Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer) 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.

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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 2026/27 (previous agenda item) on 27th February 2026. 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 2026/27.

2.4 The total Council Tax to be paid by residents of Cheltenham in 2026/27 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 2026/27.

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 2026/27

Background information:

1. Council Budget Report 27 February 2026

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 2026/27 Council Tax resolution may result in lost interest on income.	Jon Whitlock	4	1	4	Accept the risk	Councilors to agree council tax resolution at meeting.	Jon Whitlock	27/02/2026