
**Cabinet
Council**

**26th February 2013
26th February 2013**

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources) - Councillor Duggins

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Finance and Legal Services

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

2013/14 Council Tax Setting Report

Is this a key decision?

Yes

Council are being recommended to approve the Council Tax levels for 2013/14

Executive Summary:

This report calculates the Council Tax level for 2013/14 and makes appropriate recommendations to the Council, consistent with the Budget Setting 2013/14 Report on the same agenda. The report recommends a freeze in the City's Council Tax. Some figures and information are necessarily provisional at this stage due to the Fire precept not having been confirmed. These are shaded in **grey**.

The report incorporates the impact of the Council's gross expenditure and the level of income it will receive through grants, fees and charges. This results in a Council Tax requirement, as the amount that its expenditure exceeds all other sources of income.

The report includes a calculation of the Band D Council Tax that will be needed to generate this Council Tax requirement, based on the City's approved Council Tax base. The 2013/14 Band D Council Tax that is calculated through this process is unchanged from the 2012/13 level.

The Pre-Budget Report was approved on the basis of consulting on a Council Tax rise of 2%. This is the maximum increase allowed by Government before the Council would be required to hold a referendum on the matter. Government clarification has been received subsequently on the calculation of the amount of Council Tax revenue that can be raised before triggering the referendum limit. The result is that it is now to the Council's financial advantage for each of the next two years to freeze the 2013/14 Council Tax at existing levels and receive a Council Tax Freeze Grant of £1.2m, equivalent to a 1% Council Tax rise (and which would be payable for two

the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. (*Average Council Tax at Band D for the City including Parish Precepts*).

e) £4,507.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. (*Parish Precepts*);

f) £1,323.80 = (2) d) – (2) e) = £1,323.86 – £4,507.00
 (1) a) 70,863.8

being the amount at (2) d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at (2) e) above by the amounts at (1) a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates. (*Council Tax at Band D for the City excluding Parish Precepts*);

g)

Coventry Unparished Area	£1,323.80
Allesley	£1,334.11
Keresley	£1,332.05

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2) f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1) b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate. (*Council Taxes at Band D for the City and Parish*).

h)

Valuation Band	Parts to which no special item relates	Parish of Allesley	Parish of Keresley
	£	£	£
A	882.53	889.40	888.03
B	1029.62	1037.64	1036.04
C	1176.71	1185.87	1184.04
D	1323.80	1334.11	1332.05
E	1617.98	1630.58	1628.06
F	1912.16	1927.05	1924.08
G	2206.33	2223.51	2220.08
H	2647.60	2668.22	2664.10

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2) g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

(3) To note that for the year 2013/14 the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands and West Midlands Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

Valuation Band	Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands	West Midlands Fire Authority
	£	£
A	68.29	35.21
B	79.67	41.08
C	91.05	46.95
D	102.43	52.82
E	125.19	64.55
F	147.95	76.29
G	170.72	88.03
H	204.86	105.63

(4) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2) h) and (3) above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2013/14 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Parts to which no special item relates	Parish of Allesley	Parish of Keresley
	£	£	£
A	986.03	992.90	991.53
B	1150.37	1158.39	1156.79
C	1314.71	1323.87	1322.04
D	1479.05	1489.36	1487.30
E	1807.72	1820.32	1817.80
F	2136.40	2151.29	2148.32
G	2465.08	2482.26	2478.83
H	2958.09	2978.71	2974.59

(5) That the Council determines that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Sections 52ZC and 52ZD of the Act.

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 26th February 2013

**Report title:
2013/14 Council Tax Setting Report**

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the City's 2013/14 Council Tax. The total planned spending (Gross Expenditure) in 2013/14 will be met in part by grant income (including Revenue Support Grant), and fees and charges. Any spending that is in excess of these income streams must be met from Council Tax and is referred to as the 'Council Tax Requirement'.
- 1.2 The details of the planned spending for 2013/14 are proposed in the 'Budget Report 2013/14' that is being considered by the Council in conjunction with this Council Tax Setting Report.
- 1.3 At the time of writing this report, the precept from the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority has not been confirmed. A report, with confirmed final figures, will be presented at the Council meeting on the 26th February 2013.
- 1.4 The Pre-Budget Report was approved on the basis of consulting on a Council Tax rise of 2%. This is the maximum increase allowed by Government before the Council would be required to hold a referendum on the matter. Government clarification has been received subsequently on the calculation of the amount of Council Tax revenue that can be raised before triggering the referendum limit. The result is that it is now to the Council's financial advantage for each of the next two years to freeze the 2013/14 Council Tax at existing levels and receive a Council Tax Freeze Grant of £1.2m, equivalent to a 1% Council Tax rise (and which would be payable for two years). On this basis, the budget is being proposed on the basis of freezing the City Council Tax at existing levels.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The total Band D Council Tax in 2012/13 was £1,471.08. The figures calculated in this report represent no change from the 2012/13 figures for the City's Council Tax, and a 0.54% increase in total.

Total Council Tax, excluding any element for Parish Precepts, can be broken down as:

	Band D £	Increase from 2012/13 %	Proportion of total bill %
Coventry City Council	1323.80	0.00	89.50
Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands	102.43	3.00	6.93
West Midlands Fire Authority	52.82	10.43	3.57
Total Coventry Council Tax	1479.05	0.54	100.00

- 2.2 The Band D Council Tax is used by Government as the national comparator. However, for Coventry, this does not reflect the demographics of the area and the make-up of the

property mix; Coventry's property base is weighted towards Bands A to C. The average Council Tax bill in Coventry is £806.62, after allowing for all discounts and exemptions.

- 2.3 The total or "headline" council tax calculated for each band, for households of 2 or more adults with no reductions, and for households of 1 adult (who receive a 25% discount), is summarised below:

Valuation Band	Value of Property As at April 1991	Proportion of Band D	Chargeable Dwellings		Council Tax	
			No.	%	2 + Adults ¹ £	1 Adult ¹ £
Band A dwellings entitled to Disabled Persons Relief		5/9	130	0.1	821.69	616.26
A	Up to £40,000	6/9	53358	41.1	986.03	739.53
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9	38777	29.8	1150.37	862.77
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9	21392	16.5	1314.71	986.03
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9/9	8473	6.5	1479.05	1109.28
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9	4221	3.2	1807.72	1355.78
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9	2170	1.7	2136.40	1602.30
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9	1327	1.0	2465.08	1848.81
H	Over £320,000	18/9	97	0.1	2958.09	2218.56
			129,945	100.0		

¹ These amounts may be subject to penny rounding when the actual bill is produced

3. Results of consultation undertaken

The proposals in the Pre-Budget Report have been subject to eight weeks public consultation ending on the 5th February 2013. The details arising out of this consultation period have been reported in Appendix 1 of the budget report.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

The proposals in this report take effect for the financial year starting 1st April 2013

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial implications

A £1m increase or decrease in either the City Council's 2013/14 Council Tax requirement or Government grant, would lead to a £14.11 increase or decrease in Band D Council Tax (£7.70 in the average Council Tax per chargeable dwelling). Every £1 added to or removed from the Council Tax level will raise or reduce Council Tax income by £70,864.

5.2 Legal implications

A statutory duty is placed on the Council, as billing authority, to set for each financial year an amount of council tax for different category of dwellings according to the band in which the dwelling falls. The requirements to calculate and set a Council Tax are set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and are detailed in the report. The Localism Act

2011 made significant changes to this Act, requiring authorities to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not a budget requirement as was previously required. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 made minor changes to the 1992 Act, clarifying the effect of the changes made to the way non-domestic rates income is distributed.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The budget report on today's agenda outlines the very tight resource constraints facing the Council and the planned approach to identify savings options that are intended to minimise any adverse impact on the quality and level of services provided and the achievement of key objectives. This overall position has been arrived at within the context of the recommended Council Tax freeze, compensated as it is by the Council Tax Freeze Grant in 2013/14. It is inevitable that this approach will come under great pressure within and beyond the current planning horizon particularly in the light of the future fall-out of Freeze Grant.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

A non-collection rate is built into estimates of Council Tax income. Collection performance is monitored on a regular basis.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

See Budget Setting 2013/14 Report, Council 26th February 2013.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

No further implications

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

No further implications

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

No further implications

Report author(s): Phil Baggott

**Name and job title:
Lead Accountant (Corporate Finance)**

Directorate: Finance & Legal Services (FLS)

**Tel and email contact:
02476 833815 phil.baggott@coventry.gov.uk**

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Carolyn Sinclair	Governance Services Officer	Customer & Workforce Services	12/2/13	14/2/13
Paul Jennings	Finance Manager (Corporate Finance)	Finance & Legal Services	12/2/13	15/2/13
Names of approvers: (officers and members)				
Finance: Barry Hastie	Assistant Director Financial Management	Finance & Legal Services	12/2/13	15/2/13
Legal: John Scarborough	Corporate Governance & Litigation Manager	Finance & Legal Services	12/2/13	15/2/13
Director: Chris West	Director of Finance and Legal Services	Finance & Legal Services	12/2/13	15/2/13
Members: Cllr George Duggins	Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)		12/2/13	15/2/13

This report is published on the council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings