

South Lakeland District Council
Council
Tuesday, 26 February 2019
CALCULATING AND SETTING THE 2019/20
COUNCIL TAX

Portfolio: Councillor Andrew Jarvis - Finance Portfolio Holder
Report from: Shelagh McGregor - Assistant Director Resources (S.151 Officer)
Report Author: Michael Fisher – Revenues and Benefits Services Manager
Wards: (All Wards);
Forward Plan: Not applicable

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 This report is presented to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2019/20. The precepts from Cumbria County Council and the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner are due to be confirmed on the 14 February and 20 February respectively. A Council Tax increase of 3.99% is proposed for Cumbria County Council. This includes the Adult Social Care Precept of 2%. The Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner proposes to issue a precept with an increase of 10.29%.
- 1.2 If the recommendation is approved then Council Tax bills will be issued to each household in South Lakeland during March 2019 in accordance with the amounts set, subject to any reductions for discounts, exemptions or reliefs.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the suggested Council Tax Resolution at Appendix A be approved**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year.
- 3.2 The Council is required to undertake a series of calculations in order to determine the Council Tax to be set for each parish within the District as detailed in the appendices
- 3.3 The precept levels of the major precepting authorities have been assumed in preparation of this report as shown in paragraph 1.1 above.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation exercises have been undertaken by all major precepting authorities in relation to budgets but the purpose of this report is to enable the Council Tax to be set based on the precepts issued.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There is no alternative option as the Council Tax recommended for each parish is based on the precepts issued by all the preceptors.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 Not applicable

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 It is recommended that the Council Tax for each parish be set in accordance with the Appendices to this report.

7.1.1 If the formal Council Tax resolution at Appendix A is approved the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	Increase %	Annual Increase £
South Lakeland District Council	190.63	195.63	2.62	5.00
Cumbria County Council	1258.18	1284.69	1.99	26.51
Charge for Adult Social Care Services	73.95	100.59	2.00	26.64
Cumbria Police Authority	232.74	256.68	10.29	23.9
Sub Total	1755.50	1837.59	4.68	82.09
Average Town/Parish Council	35.62	37.20	4.44	1.58
TOTAL	1791.12	1874.79	4.67	83.67

7.1.2 Town and Parish Councils

The Town and Parish Council precepts for 2019/20 are detailed in Appendix C and total £1,692,890.40. The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils is 4.44% and this results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £37.20.

Details of this year's Parish Precepts mirror information included within Customers' Council Tax bills, details of the joined parishes are detailed in the attached appendices.

7.1.3 Cumbria County Council

Cumbria County Council is due to meet on 14 February 2019 to set its precept. It has been assumed this will be at £63,049,177. This would result in a Band D Council Tax of £1,385.28.

An additional precept for Adult Social Care was first introduced in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement of 2015.

This increase is within the guidelines set out in The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2019/20. The set the maximum increases of up to 3% for Council Tax in addition to the permitted increase for Adult Social Care; the County Council precept includes a 1.99% increase for Council Tax and a 2% increase for Adult Social Care.

7.1.4 Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

The Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner is due to agree his precept on 20 February 2019, it has been assumed this will be at £11,682,396.97. This would result in a Band D Council Tax of £256.68.

This an increase of £23.94 which is below the maximum increase of £24.00 set out in The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2019/20.

Human Resources

7.2 Not applicable

Legal

7.3 The recommendations have been formulated taking into account the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 Not carried out

7.4.1 A sustainability impact assessment has not been carried out as this report is a mathematical calculation of Council Tax levels.

Equality and Diversity

7.5 Not carried out

7.5.1 An equality and diversity impact assessment has not been carried out as this report is a mathematical calculation of Council Tax levels.

Risk

7.6

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
An error occurs in the complex Council Tax setting calculations	Council Tax setting will not comply with legislation and amounts due may not be recoverable. This will have a major impact on the Council's finances.	The report and resolution have been prepared in accordance with advice from a professional body. The Council Tax figures have been carefully prepared and manual checks made against at least 25% of the figures including all the larger parishes.

Contact Officers

Report Author – Michael Fisher, Revenues and Benefits Manager. Tel 01539 793257, email address michael.fisher@southlakeland.gov.uk

Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	
A	Recommended resolution to set the Council Tax levels for 2019/20.
B	Parish and District Council Tax Levels where a precept has been issued.
C	2019/2020 Tax Base, amount of precept and Band D equivalent in parishes where a precept has been issued.

Background Documents Available

The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2019/20
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764254/Draft_Council_Tax_Referendum_principles_report_2019_to_2020.pdf

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent
Legal Services	07.02.2019
Section 151 Officer	07.02.2019
Monitoring Officer	07.02.2019
SMT	07.02.2019

Circulated to	Date sent
Assistant Director	n\a
Human Resources Manager	n\a
Communications Team	07.02.2019
Leader	07.02.2019
Committee Chairman	n\a
Portfolio Holder	07.02.2019
Ward Councillor(s)	n\a
Committee	n\a
Executive (Cabinet)	n\a
Council	n\a