

additional papers 1



Council

Mon 27 Feb
2023
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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a
difference*

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**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jess Bayley-Hill**

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Council

Monday, 27th February, 2023

7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Redditch
Town Hall, Walter Stranz
Square, Redditch B98 8AH

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Ann Isherwood (Mayor)	Peter Fleming
	Tom Baker-Price (Deputy Mayor)	Alex Fogg
	Salman Akbar	Andrew Fry
	Imran Altaf	Lucy Harrison
	Karen Ashley	Bill Hartnett
	Joe Baker	Sharon Harvey
	Juliet Barker Smith	Joanna Kane
	Joanne Beecham	Sid Khan
	Juma Begum	Anthony Lovell
	Juliet Brunner	Emma Marshall
	Michael Chalk	Nyear Nazir
	Brandon Clayton	Timothy Pearman
	Luke Court	David Thain
	Matthew Dormer	Craig Warhurst

6.3 2023/24 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Including Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Programme)

Note that under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Council is required to take a named vote when a decision is made on the budget calculation at a budget decision meeting of the Council.

6.3.1 Alternative Budget

This supplementary pack contains an updated copy of the Labour Group's alternative budget. Members are asked to refer to this version of the alternative budget during the Council meeting.

Note that under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Council is required to take a named vote when a decision is made on the budget calculation, including in respect of any alternative budgets that are proposed, at a budget decision meeting of the Council.

6.5 Council Tax Resolutions 2023/24 (Pages 7 - 14)

Under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, any Councillor who is 2 or more months in arrears with their Council tax payments cannot participate in any item at the Council meeting concerning the budget.

Note that under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Council is required to take a named vote when a decision is made on Council tax at a budget decision meeting of the Council.

Labour Group's Alternative budget

We agree that the right approach for the use of the Town Hall is as a Community Hub, but are opposed to the Library moving in as a tenant as they should remain at their present site. We know, with the present 2023/24 to 25/16 Medium Term Financial Plan, that this will result in a deficit of circa £260k. However, we agree with the Community Hub concept and our approach will be to attract other Public and Voluntary Sector Tenants to ensure there is no shortfall in 2025/26.

We want to invigorate the area running down from the Church past the library with a static market, which for Four days including a Saturday would be available for normal traders, with a specialist Market as and when required. We need to ensure that we attract footfall to this area to attract business both to the Market and existing shops. As such we propose investing in high quality Stalls (such as Wells) which would cost £50k. This equates to a capital cost of £5k a year (over 20 years) and net running costs of £33k a year - £38k in total.

We propose funding The Market initiative from the following two sources

- 1) The revised member Allowance Scheme. The Original costs of the Scheme are £236,600 and our proposals reduce the cost to £214,728 – a £21,872 reduction
- 2) The remaining £16,128 would be a reduction in Rubicon Management fee. Any additional costs due to Utilities over and above this difference would be funded from the Utilities Reserve.

In year three there is a proposal, approved at Council in January, to move to all out elections which we oppose. The savings in the 2025/26 financial year is £170,000. We feel there needs to be a debate at full Council before a measure like this is implemented as it has a significant impact on all Political parties.

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive
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COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS 2023/24

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen Ashley Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling Services
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Michelle Howell Head of Finance and Customer Services
Report Author	Name: Michelle Howell Job Title: Head of Finance and Customer Services Contact email: michelle.howell@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 64252
Wards Affected	Yes
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Yes
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	All
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Executive is asked to **NOTE** that at its meeting on 10th January 2023, the Executive Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2023/24 as:
- (a) for the whole Council area as 26,304.94 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]; and
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates; this being Feckenham Parish as 375.79.
- 1.2 Executive is asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council that they approve:
- 1.2.1 The calculation for the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) as **£6,885,318.04**.
- 1.2.2 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £49,710,521 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A

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- (2) of the Act (taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils) (*i.e.*, *Gross expenditure*)
- (b) £42,805,203 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act. (*i.e.*, *Gross income*)
- (c) £6,905,318 being the amount by which the aggregate of 1.2.2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 1.2.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £262.51 being the amount at 1.2.2 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £20,000 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Feckenham Parish precept) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act.
- (f) £261.75 being the amount at 1.2.2 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 1.2.2 (e) above by Item T (1.1 (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 its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- (g) £314.97 being the amount given by adding to the amount at 1.2.2(f), the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham 1.2.2(e), divided by the amount in 1.1(b) above.
- (h) The amounts below given by multiplying the amounts at 1.2.2(f) and 1.2.2(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 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.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	209.98	174.50
B	7/9	244.97	203.58
C	8/9	279.98	232.67
D	1	314.97	261.75
E	11/9	384.97	319.92
F	13/9	454.95	378.08
G	15/9	524.95	436.25
H	18/9	629.94	523.50

1.2.3 It be noted that for the year 2023/24, Worcestershire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling in the Council's area as indicated below:

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Worcestershire County Council	977.19	1,140.05	1,302.92	1,465.78	1,791.51	2,117.24	2,442.97	2,931.56
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	176.33	205.72	235.11	264.50	323.28	382.06	440.83	529.00
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	62.93	73.42	83.91	94.40	115.38	136.36	157.33	188.80

1.2.4. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 1.2.2(h) and 1.2.3 above, that Redditch Borough Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts shown below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24. for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Executive
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Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	1,426.43	1,390.95
B	7/9	1,664.16	1,622.77
C	8/9	1,901.92	1,854.61
D	1	2,139.65	2,086.43
E	11/9	2,615.14	2,550.09
F	13/9	3,090.61	3,013.74
G	15/9	3,566.08	3,477.38
H	18/9	4,279.30	4,172.86

1.2.5. That the Interim Director of Finance be authorised to make payments under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund by ten equal instalments between April 2023 to March 2024 as detailed below:

	Precept £	Deficit on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	38,557,255.00	(999,626.00)	37,557,629.00
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	6,957,656.63	(178,673.00)	6,778,983.63
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority	2,483,282.63	(63,980.00)	2,419,302.63

1.2.6 That the Interim Director of Finance be authorised to make transfers under Section 97 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund to the General Fund the sum of £6,723,433 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£6,885,318) and Parish Precept (£20,000) and the distribution of the deficit on the Collection Fund (-£181,885).

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- 1.2.7 That the Interim Director of Finance be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to Feckenham Parish Council the sums listed above (£20,000) by instalment after 1 April 2023 in respect of the precept levied on the Council.
- 1.2.8. That the above resolutions to be signed by the Chief Executive for use in legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Taxes.
- 1.2.9 Notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive are given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

2. BACKGROUND

The report is to seek approval of the appropriate formal resolutions to determine the levels of Council Tax for Redditch Borough Council for Financial year 2023/24. The levels of tax take account of the requirements of Redditch Borough Council, Worcestershire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and Feckenham Parish Council.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is necessary to formally set Council Tax levels throughout the area for the spending requirements of Redditch Borough Council, Worcestershire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and Feckenham Parish Council.
- 3.2 Details have been received from the various precepting bodies to enable the Council to set the Council Tax for 2023/24. The amounts of the precepts are set out below:

	£
Worcestershire County Council	38,557,255.00
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	6,957,656.63
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority	2,483,282.63
Redditch Borough Council	6,885,318.04

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Parish precept	20,000.00
Total	54,903,512.30

- 3.3 If the Council approves the recommendations set out above the average band D Council Tax in 2023/24 will be £2,139.65, made up as follows:

Authority	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase %
Redditch Borough Council	254.15	261.75	2.99
Worcestershire County Council	1,396.78	1,465.78	4.94
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	249.66	264.50	5.94
Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority	89.40	94.40	5.59
Feckenham Parish Council	40.05	53.22	32.88
Total Council Tax	2,030.04	2,139.65	5.40

The % increases all relate to the change from current year levels.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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, not its budget requirement as was previously the case.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 The Strategic purposes are included in the Council's corporate plan and guides the Council's approach to budget making ensuring we focus on the issues and what are most important for the borough and

our communities. Our MTFP and strategies are integrated within all of our Strategic Purposes.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 The green thread runs through the Council plan. The MTFP has implications on climate change and these will be addressed and reviewed when relevant by climate change officers to ensure the correct procedures have been followed to ensure any impacts on climate change are fully understood.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Any impact on the customer of savings over the MTFP period will be managed via impact assessments and in discussion and consultation with the customer as to the most effective and supportive way of managing reductions in funding and potentially service delivery.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 The MTFP will enable services to be maintained and, where achievable, improvements to the community.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The risks associated with the budget estimations are included in the MTFP report as presented to Executive on 7th February 2023.

**Executive
2023**27th February**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Karen Ashley	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Peter Carpenter	
Financial Services	Michelle Howell	
Legal Services		
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)		
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	n/a	