
THE COLLECTION FUND

3. Background

The Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires each billing authority to maintain a Collection Fund. Throughout the year payments and transfers relating to Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates are made into and out of the Collection Fund. The payments and transfers are those prescribed by the 1988 Act as amended by the 1992 Act and subsequent amendments) including income from Council Tax payers and Business Rate payers, Council Tax Benefits and payments to precepting authorities.

4. Key issues

4.1 Precepts

- a) Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority set their budgets for 2013/14 in February 2013.
- b) They are required to notify the Borough Council of their Council Tax requirements (Precepts). The precepts are calculated by apportioning their budget requirements between the district councils based on the number of Band D equivalent properties. These charges are included in the Council Tax bills issued during March.
- c) After taking account of Collection Fund balances Redditch taxpayers will pay £24.894 million towards the County Council's budget requirement. The County Council's element of the Council Tax will be £1,039.06 for a Band D property, no increase on 2012/13.
- d) The Police and Crime Commissioner requires £4.282 million from taxpayers in Redditch. The Police have set a Council Tax of £178.72 for a Band D property, no increase on 2012/13.
- e) The Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Authority require £1.764 million from taxpayers in Redditch. The Fire & Rescue Authority have set a Council Tax of £73.64 for a Band D property, no increase on 2012/13.

Summary of demands on Collection Fund 2013/14	
Precept/demand	£'000
Worcestershire County Council	24,894
Redditch Borough Council	5,020
West Mercia Police Authority	4,282
Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service	1,764
Total demand on Collection Fund	35,960

4.2 Collection Fund balance

a) The Council is required to calculate the estimated position on the Collection Fund at the 31st of March 2013. Any estimated surplus or deficit arising from Council Tax transactions must be apportioned between the County Council, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority, the Borough Council and the Police Authority.

b) It is estimated that the Collection Fund balance at 31st of March 2013 will be a surplus off £255,549.