

**SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2015/16**

**3. Background**

Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 provide for the calculation of a billing authority's Council Tax in accordance with specified formulae.

**4. Key Issues**

**4.1 Council Tax Requirement**

The Borough Council's recommended Council Tax Requirement for its own purposes is £5.405 million.

**4.2 Feckenham Parish Council Precept**

In calculating its Council Tax Requirement a billing authority has to take account of the amount of any precept issued to it for the year concerned by a local precepting authority. Feckenham Parish Council has notified the Borough Council that its precept for 2015/16 will be £8,300.

**4.3 Local Government Finance Bill and Business Rates Retention Scheme**

From 2013/14 onwards, the Council retains 50% of the business rates they collect locally; 50% will be paid over to the government and will be returned to local authorities as Revenue Support Grant, after any reductions in the total amount are made to enable the government to achieve its public expenditure targets. A system of top-ups and tariffs has been established to allow locally retained business rates to be redistributed from high business rate yield authorities to low yield authorities. Local authorities will be able to retain a proportion of business rate growth or conversely will experience a fall in resources if the business rate base declines.

**4.4 Collection Fund Surplus**

Under Sections 97(3) and 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 any estimated surplus or deficit on the collection fund at the 31st March 2015 is to be taken into account by the billing authority in calculating its Council Tax for the year beginning the 1st of April 2015. It is estimated that there will be a £395,139 surplus at the 31st March 2015.

4.5 Collection Fund Tax Base

With the introduction of the Council Tax Support Scheme, the base has been calculated and adjusted by the estimated amount of Council Tax Support discounts awardable.

The Council Tax support is estimated using data as at 30th November 2014. The Council will receive a grant for the financial year for an estimated 90% of Council Tax Support payable; this will be set and not varied with changes in the number of discounts awarded under the Council Tax Support.

The Executive meeting on the 20th of January 2015 set the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 at 24,846.71 Band D equivalent properties for the whole of the Borough. The calculation is reproduced later in this appendix.

4.6 Calculation of the Borough Council Element of the Council Tax for 2015/16

This is prescribed by formulae contained in Sections 31B and 34 of the Act. The results of applying the formulae to the above data are detailed later in this appendix.

The average Council Tax for Redditch (excluding local precepts) will be £217.21 as detailed in the Appendix subject to any further decisions taken by the Committee. When compared to the 2014/15 tax, there is a 1.9% increase.

The Council Tax Requirement has increased by 2.7%, whereas the external funding provided by the Government has decreased by 16.2% when compared to the actual Formula Grant for 2014/15.

	<b>Number of dwellings Band D equivalent</b>	<b>1% Non-collection</b>	<b>Tax base</b>
Redditch Borough Council total	24,730.95	-247.31	<b>24,483.64</b>
Parish of Feckenham	366.73	-3.67	<b>363.06</b>
Rest of the Borough	25,097.68	-250.98	<b>24,846.71</b>

**Calculation of the Council Tax 2015/16**

**Stage 1 - Calculation of tax for Band D assuming no parish area (Section 31(B)(1) Local Government Act 1992)**

Formula:  $\frac{R}{T}$

Where: R = Council Tax Requirement  
T = Council Tax base

$$\frac{\underline{\pounds 5,405,188}}{24,846.71} = \pounds 217.5414 \text{ (Basic Amount of Tax)}$$

**Stage 2 - Calculation of tax for Band D for areas with no parish precept (Section 34(2) Local Government Act 1992)**

Formula:  $B - \frac{A}{T}$

Where: B = Basic Amount of Tax  
A = Parish Precepts  
T = Tax base

$$\pounds 217.5414 - \frac{\underline{\pounds 8,300}}{24,846.71} = \pounds 217.2074$$

**Stage 3- Calculation of tax for Band D for areas with parish precept (Section 34(3) Local Government Act 1992)**

Formula:  $C + \frac{S}{TP}$

Where: C = Council Tax for areas without parish precept  
S = Parish Precept  
TP = Tax base for parish

$$\pounds 217.2074 + \frac{\underline{\pounds 8,300}}{363.06} = \pounds 240.0686$$

## Stage 4 - Calculation of tax for valuation bands (Section 36 Local Government Act 1992)

Formula:  $A \times \frac{N}{D}$

Where: A = Council Tax for Band D  
N = Valuation Band proportion  
D = Band D proportion

Band	Proportion	Redditch	Feckenham
A	6/9	£144.80	£160.05
B	7/9	£168.94	£186.72
C	8/9	£193.07	£213.39
D	1	£217.21	£240.07
E	11/9	£265.48	£293.42
F	13/9	£313.74	£346.77
G	15/9	£362.01	£400.11
H	18/9	£434.41	£480.14