

Public Document Pack
Blackpool Council

Date: 5 March 2020

All Members of the Council

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

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Dear Councillor

Council summons for meeting on 9 March 2020 - additional information

Item 6- Council Tax 2020/21 - please find attached Appendix 6(b), (the decision of the Executive from its meeting on 4 March 2020), Appendix 6(c) and the extended Order of Proceedings.

Appendix 6(c) is a paper from the Leader of the Council, bringing together the recommendations from both Executive meetings in to a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

I would be grateful if you could bring these papers with you to the meeting and if you have any further queries please contact me by the direct line or email address listed above.

Yours sincerely



Director of Governance and Partnerships

Enc: Appendices 6(b) and 6(c)
Extended Order of Proceedings

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Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX13/2020
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	4 March 2020

COUNCIL TAX 2020/21

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Proposals for Blackpool Council's level of Council Tax for 2020/21 and the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider all information received since the meeting of the Executive on 10 February 2020 including the Final Settlement Funding Assessment announced on 6 February 2020 and to determine whether or not to confirm the Executive's recommendation to Council regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21.
- 2.2 To recommend to Council approval of a level of Blackpool Council's Council Tax for the year 2020/21 of £1,618.39 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent (an increase of 3.99% including the 2% Adult Social Care Precept).
- 2.3 To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 of £142,084,000.
- 2.4 To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2020/21 was agreed on the 20 February 2020 as £211.45 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent, an increase of 4.96%.
- 2.5 To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority met on the 24 February 2020 to set its precept for the financial year 2020/21, this was agreed as £70.86 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent, an increase of 1.99%.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Executive is required to consider the outcome of consultation meetings and surveys before finalising its Budget proposals.

The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 10 February 2020.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? NO

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Not applicable – the report once approved will become the Council's new approved Budget

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Although one of the eight guiding principles of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy 2016/17 – 2021/22 is "to keep Council Tax levels as low as possible", Government funding reductions alongside increasing service demands and inflationary pressures on the Council's Budget in 2020/21, in particular Children's Social Care pressures, prevent a Council Tax level any lower than the capped level being prudent or practicable.

The council tax level recommended balances all eight principles with the need to fund and maintain core services. Although the level of Council Tax for a Band D Council Tax equivalent that is recommended is £1,618.39, the profile of hereditaments in Blackpool with bands A and B comprising 74% of the total means that the average Council Tax payable per dwelling in 2020/21 is estimated at £841.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The report covers both of the Council priorities:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At its meeting on 10 February 2020, the Executive considered a report of the Director of Resources that recommended to Council approval of a net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget of £142,084,000 that would result in a level of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 of £1,618.39 at for a Band D Council Tax equivalent. This is an increase of 3.99% including the 2% Adult Social Care Precept.

- 5.2 The Final Settlement of Blackpool Council's 2020/21 Settlement Funding Assessment was announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 6 February 2020. There were no changes to the Provisional Settlement Funding Assessment of £63,300,000 for 2020/21.
- 5.3 As part of the final Local Government Finance Settlement the threshold for 'excessive' Council Tax increases for 2020/21 was confirmed at 4%, an increase of 4% or more requiring a local referendum to be held. This 4% threshold includes the additional 2% allowed for expenditure on Adult Social Care and 2% for other expenditure. The level of Council Tax recommended in this report will not invoke this requirement.
- 5.4 Besides the ongoing dialogue with the trade unions throughout the budget-setting process, consultation has taken place via community engagement meetings and the Council has also undertaken two engagement exercises to seek comments and ideas on the Budget, one aimed at individual residents and staff which attracted 127 responses and the other aimed at stakeholder organisations which received 21 responses. Both sought views on Council priorities and services at a broad level and asked for comments on ways in which the Council could save or generate money. Wider consultation has taken place via the Council's extensive corporate communication methods which include media briefings. Also a Budget Scrutiny Panel was held on 24 February 2020 which considered the impact of the 2020/21 Council budget proposals. The minutes from that meeting were circulated separately to members on 28 February 2020.
- 5.5 The precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire was agreed on the 20 February 2020 as £211.45 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent an increase of 4.96%. The Lancashire Combined Fire Authority's precept for the year 2020/21 was agreed on the 24 February 2020 as £70.86 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent an increase of 1.99%.

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.7 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 2a: Equality Analysis (EA)

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 There is a duty for major precepting authorities to issue a precept for 2020/21 before 1 March 2020. For other local authorities including Blackpool Council there is a duty to set 2020/21 budgets before 11 March 2020.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 Human Resources considerations were outlined in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 report.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 In the course of developing this year's Council Tax proposal, officers have considered whether there could be unintended adverse impacts on people because of shared characteristics protected by the Equality Act.

8.2 The Council believes the policy will not have any adverse or indirectly discriminatory effects. In particular, we have analysed the impact on vulnerable groups and people who share the protected characteristics under the Equality Act.

8.3 A full Equality Analysis report into the detailed budget proposals within the Revenue Budget has underpinned this consideration. This analysis, together with other information available to us gives us a picture of the needs of a community that consistently is ranked at the top of the most deprived in England in terms of income, employment and health.

8.4 In regard, to impact, the Council believes the proposals are the best that we can do to continue to protect core services to vulnerable people and communities, together with the need to balance the budget and move to a greater self-sufficiency with regard to income and tax-raising given the future reductions in central government grant support outlined in the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy.

8.5 A summary of the Council's equalities analyses of the consequences of the budget proposals on services and their users is attached at Appendix 2a, to the Executive agenda.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 As outlined in this report.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 A Risk Analysis was produced for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 report to the Executive on 10 February 2020 - this remains applicable.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 In the context of a budget savings requirement of £19.65m in 2020/21 with inevitable reductions to some services, a Council Tax increase of 3.99% which will yield £2.31m is a necessary contribution to ensure that key Council services are maintained.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation meetings on the broad budget position facing the Council have always been undertaken with the community equality groups. The Council's Director of Resources or his representative has often personally attended and briefed a number of these groups over this period.

12.2 Wider communication has also taken place via the Council's extensive corporate communication methods, which include website, social media, media briefings, press statements and interviews.

12.3 Once specific proposals were published in January 2020, detailed consultations with all affected stakeholders - amongst them staff, service users and communities of interest/equality groups – have taken place. The outcomes of these consultations have been considered by key decision makers and accordingly have informed the final proposals contained in the budget.

12.4 Consultation with the trade unions with regards to staffing issues has been embedded into normal working practices and has also met all formal consultation requirements.

13.0 Background papers

13.1 Budget working papers and above consultation minutes and feedback.

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 29/2019

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 25 February 2020 Date approved: N/A

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 Councillor Kirkland declared a prejudicial interest in decision 1 the nature of the interest being that she was a Council appointed non-Executive director of Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco. Councillor Kirkland left the meeting for this part of the decision and took no part in the voting or discussion. (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and line 24 of Appendix 2 to the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 papers circulated for the Executive meeting on 10 February 2020).

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To confirm the Executive's recommendation of 10 February 2020 to Council of a budget saving of £200,000 from further joint working of Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco with internal waste services (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and line 24 of Appendix 2 to the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 papers circulated for the Executive meeting on 10 February 2020).

(Councillor Kirkland having declared a prejudicial interest left the room during consideration of this decision.)

2. To confirm the Executive's recommendation of 10 February 2020 to Council of a level of budget savings of £19.45m (£19.65m excluding £200,000 approved at decision 1). (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2 to the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 papers circulated for the Executive meeting on 10 February 2020).
3. Having considered all information received since the meeting of the Executive on 10 February 2020 including the report of the Budget Scrutiny Panel meeting on the 24 February 2020 to confirm all of the Executive's other recommendations to Council regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21.
4. To recommend to Council approval of a level of Blackpool Council's Council Tax for the year 2020/21 of £1,618.39 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent equivalent (an increase of 3.99% including the 2% Adult Social Care Precept).
5. To recommend to Council the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 of £142,084,000.
6. To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2020/21 was agreed on the 20 February 2020 as £211.45 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent an increase of 4.96%.
7. To note that the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority met on the 24 February 2020 to set its precept for the financial year 2020/21, this was agreed as £70.86 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent an increase of 1.99%.

18.2 Date of Decision:

4 March 2020

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

The Executive is required to consider the outcome of consultation meetings and surveys before finalising its Budget proposals.

The setting of the General Fund Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax is consistent with the principles approved by the Executive at its meeting on 10 February 2020.

19.1 Date Decision published:

5 March 2020

20.0 Executive Members present:

Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, Taylor and L Williams.

21.0 Call-in:

22.0 Notes:

22.1 The following non-Executive members were in attendance:

Councillors Critchley, Farrell and Hobson

COUNCIL MEETING
9 MARCH 2020

Council Tax 2020/21- Summary Document

1 Background

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2020/21.

1.2 The Localism Act 2011 includes amendments to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and requires billing authorities in England to calculate a Council Tax Requirement for the year.

1.3 The precept levels of other precepting bodies have been confirmed. These are as follows:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire

1.4 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has set the precept for the financial year 2020/21 at £211.45 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent.

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

1.5 Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has set their precept for the financial year 2020/21 at £70.86 for a Band D Council Tax equivalent.

2 Recommendations

- a) To approve the budget saving of £200,000 from further joint working of Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Envenco with internal waste services (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and line 24 of Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 10 February 2020).
- b) To agree a level of budget savings of £19.45m (£19.65m excluding £200,000 approved at decision a) (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 10 February 2020).
- c) That the £5,922,000 Social Care Grant is allocated in full to Children's Social Care (ref. paragraph 4.7 of the report to the Executive on 10 February 2020).
- d) To agree the level of net expenditure for the draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 of £142,084,000 (ref. paragraph 6.2 of the report to the Executive on 10 February 2020).

- e) That the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure all staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 8.1 of the report to the Executive on 10 February 2020).
- f) That the target level of working balances remains at £6m (ref. paragraph 10.4 of the report to the Executive on 10 February 2020).
- g) To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out at Appendix 6 (c) (Annex 1), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £60,134,500 and a Council Tax Base of 37,157.
- h) To note the calculation of Aggregate Amounts as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out at Appendix 6 (c) (Annex 1 and 2).
- i) To approve a level of Council Tax for the financial year 2020/21 of £1,618.39 at valuation Band D equivalent (a 3.99% increase including the 2% Adult Social Care Precept but excluding the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority).
- j) To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2020/21 is £211.45 (a £10.00 increase, equivalent to 4.96%) for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2020/21 is £70.86 for a Band D Tax equivalent (a 1.99% increase).
- k) To confirm that should recommendation i) above be approved, the aggregate levels of Council Tax for Valuation Bands A to H will be as below:

VALUATION BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
BLACKPOOL	985.09	1,149.28	1,313.45	1,477.64	1,806.00	2,134.37	2,462.73	2,955.28
ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT	93.83	109.47	125.11	140.75	172.03	203.31	234.58	281.50
BLACKPOOL TOTAL CTAX	1,078.92	1,258.75	1,438.56	1,618.39	1,978.03	2,337.68	2,697.31	3,236.78
POLICE	140.97	164.46	187.96	211.45	258.44	305.43	352.42	422.90
FIRE	47.24	55.11	62.99	70.86	86.61	102.35	118.10	141.72
COUNCIL TAX 2020/21	1,267.13	1,478.32	1,689.51	1,900.70	2,323.08	2,745.46	3,167.83	3,801.40

COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET 2020/21

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. That it be noted that on 31 January 2020, the following amount was approved by the Leader of the Council as the Council's Council Tax Base for the financial year 2020/21
 - (a) 37,157 for the whole Council area [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
2. That the Council Meeting approve the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding precepts) as being £60,134,500
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) £463,902,500 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act (Annex 2).
 - (b) £403,768,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act (Annex 2).
 - (c) £60,134,500 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(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). (Annex 2).
 - (d) £1,618.39 being the amount at 3(c) above, all divided by Item T (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.
 - (e) £0.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (f) £1,618.39 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount for Item T (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 its area.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands

Authority	£							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Blackpool Council	985.09	1,149.28	1,313.45	1,477.64	1,806.00	2,134.37	2,462.73	2,955.28
Adult Social Care Precept	93.83	109.47	125.11	140.75	172.03	203.31	234.58	281.50
Blackpool Council Total	1,078.92	1,258.75	1,438.56	1,618.39	1,978.03	2,337.68	2,697.31	3,236.78
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	140.97	164.46	187.96	211.45	258.44	305.43	352.42	422.90
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	47.24	55.11	62.99	70.86	86.61	102.35	118.10	141.72

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
All parts of the Council's area	1,267.13	1,478.32	1,689.51	1,900.70	2,323.08	2,745.46	3,167.83	3,801.40

6. Blackpool Council's Council Tax includes a charge for Adult Social Care functions.
7. To note that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL

CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE AMOUNTS UNDER SECTION 31A OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992

	2020/21 GROSS EXPENDITURE	2020/21 GROSS INCOME	2020/21 NET EXPENDITURE
	£000	£000	£000
Blackpool Council	463,011	399,052	63,959
Add Levies by Other Organisations:			
- Environment Agency	69	-	69
- Apprenticeship Levy	385	-	385
Add Appropriations to Reserves:			
- General Fund Balances	-	-	-
- Housing Revenue Account Reserve	-	2,129	(2,129)
- Earmarked Reserves	438	2,587	(2,149)
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	463,903	403,768	60,135

Note 1

Note 2

Note 1: This figure represents the aggregate of the amounts estimated for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Note 2: This figure represents the aggregate of the amounts estimated for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Note 3: All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

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COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 9 MARCH 2020

ITEM 6 – COUNCIL TAX 2020/2021 ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. **Proposed budget savings in relation to joint working with Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco** (ref. paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 and line 24 of Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive on 10 February 2020).

Note: From prior communication we are aware that the following councillors will declare prejudicial interests at the start of the meeting. They will then need to then leave the room before the Council tax item (item 6) commences:

- Councillors Hutton, Kirkland and Stansfield

- 1.1 The Leader of the Council to move the part of the budget relating to savings as a result of the income generation of £200,000 in respect of joint working with Blackpool Waste Services Limited trading as Enveco (recommendation 2a of, Appendix 6c)).
- 1.2 The motion to be seconded.
- 1.3 Other speakers on this item.
- 1.4 Councillor Blackburn right of reply.
- 1.5 Council to vote on this saving – **a recorded vote is required***.

(Councillors Hutton, Kirkland and Stansfield, to return to the meeting when this part of the item has been agreed)

2. **Remainder of Budget savings and setting of Council Tax**

- 2.1 The Leader of the Council to move:

The Council to agree the proposed the remaining recommendations 2b to 2k as outlined in Appendix 6 (c), bringing together the recommendations from the Executive meetings on 10 February 2020 and 4 March 2020 into a summary document, set out in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

- 2.2 The Leader of the Council to continue with budget speech

3. **The Leader's motion to be seconded**

4. **Councillor T Williams to be invited to reply to the budget speech as Leader of the Principal Opposition.**

5. **Councillors Mrs Callow and G Coleman to be invited to reply to the budget speech as Leaders of the other Opposition groups, should they wish to.**

6. **Debate and amendments on the budget (if any)**
7. **Reply by the Leader as mover of the motion**
8. **Vote on motion (recorded)***

Note 1:

By convention the Leader's budget speech at 2.2, the reply by the Leader of the Principal Opposition at 4 and the replies by the other Group Leaders at 5 are not time limited.

Note 2*:

There is a requirement under the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 to take recorded votes when voting on any motion relating to the setting of the Council Tax by the full Council.