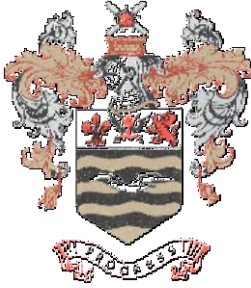


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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL



Dear Councillor

BUDGET COUNCIL, WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

In relation to the agenda item below please find attached Appendix 4g – Council Tax Resolution - which has been updated to include the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner and Combined Fire Authority together an Order of Proceedings (Appendix 4h) Council Tax budget summary document (Appendix 4i).

- 4 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX AND DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FOR 2024/25** (Pages 1 - 10)

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Director of Governance and Partnerships

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COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET 2024/25

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. That it be noted that on 31 January 2024, the following amount was approved by the Leader of the Council as the Council's Council Tax Base for the financial year 2024/25
 - 38,756 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 approves the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding precepts) as being £74,755,000
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) £524,687,000 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) £449,932,000 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) £74,755,000 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) £1,928.87 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) £1,928.87 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 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's precept for the financial year 2024/25 is £263.40 (a £11.95 increase, equivalent to 4.75%) for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2024/25 is £84.73 (a £2.46 increase, equivalent to 2.99% increase) for a Band D Tax equivalent.

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 2024/25 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	1,100.58	1,284.02	1,467.45	1,650.88	2,017.74	2,384.60	2,751.46	3,301.76
Adult Social Care Precept	185.33	216.21	247.10	277.99	339.77	401.54	463.32	555.98
Blackpool Council Total	1,285.91	1,500.23	1,714.55	1,928.87	2,357.51	2,786.14	3,214.78	3,857.74
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	175.60	204.87	234.13	263.40	321.93	380.47	439.00	526.80
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	56.49	65.90	75.32	84.73	103.56	122.39	141.22	169.46

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
All parts of the Council's area	1518.00	1771.00	2024.00	2277.00	2783.00	3289.00	3795.00	4554.00

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 2024/25 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

	2024/25 GROSS EXPENDITURE	2024/25 GROSS INCOME	2024/25 NET EXPENDITURE
	£000	£000	£000
Blackpool Council	522,572	448,188	74,384
Add Levies by Other Organisations:			
- Environment Agency	72	-	72
- Apprenticeship Levy	385	-	385
Add Appropriations to Reserves:			
- General Fund Balances	-	-	-
- Housing Revenue Account Reserve	952	-	952
- Earmarked Reserves	706	1,744	(1,038)
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT	524,687	449,932	74,755

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 – WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024

ITEM 4 – GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX AND DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FOR 2024/25 ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. **Proposed budget savings in relation to Housing Company recharges and review of company overheads for Blackpool Housing Company Limited / Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited (Page 125 of the agenda)**

From prior communication we are aware that the following Councillors will likely declare prejudicial interests at the start of the meeting, as Council appointed non-executive directors of Blackpool Housing Company Ltd / Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd. They will need to leave the room before the Council Tax item (item 4) commences:

- Councillors N Brookes, Hobson and Sloman

- 1.1 The **Leader of the Council** to move the part of the budget relating to savings from Blackpool Housing Company and Blackpool Coastal Housing as follows: (Appendix 4b).

‘To agree a budget saving of £422,000 based on recharges and a review of company overheads for Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd and Blackpool Housing Company Ltd (ref. Appendix 4b)’.

- 1.2 The motion to be seconded.
- 1.3 Other speakers on this item.
- 1.4 Councillor Williams right of reply.
- 1.5 Council to vote on this motion – **a recorded vote is required***.

(Councillors N Brookes, Hobson and Sloman to return to the meeting when this part of the item has been agreed)

2. Proposed budget savings in relation to Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Operating Company Limited, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited and Blackpool Waste Services Limited (Page 125 of the agenda)

From prior communication we are aware that the following Councillors will likely declare prejudicial interests at the start of the meeting, as Council appointed non-executive directors of the above companies. They will need to leave the room before this item is considered:

- Councillors Bamborough, Boughton and B Mitchell
- Councillors M Smith and C Mitchell
- Councillors Farrell and Walsh
- Councillors Hoyle, Jones and Wilshaw

2.1 The Leader of the Council to move the part of the budget relating to savings in relation to Blackpool Transport Services Limited, Blackpool Operating Company Limited, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited and Blackpool Waste Services Limited (Appendix 4b).

To agree a level of budget savings of £1.578 million made up by:

- £427,000 for new rent at the Tram Depot from Blackpool Transport Services Ltd
- £500,000 from improved performance from the Sandcastle Waterpark (Blackpool Operating Company Limited) and Winter Gardens (Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited)
- £500,000 from an Enveco dividend (Blackpool Waste Services Limited) and
- £151,000 from a Sandcastle Waterpark rent increase (Blackpool Operating Company Limited)
(ref. Appendix 4b).'

2.2 The motion to be seconded.

2.3 Other speakers on this item.

2.4 Councillor Williams right of reply.

2.5 Council to vote on this motion – **a recorded vote is required***.

(Councillors Bamborough, Boughton, B Mitchell, M Smith, C Mitchell, Farrell, Walsh, Hoyle, Jones and Wilshaw to return to the meeting when this part of the item has been agreed)

3. Remainder of Budget savings and setting of Council Tax

3.1 The Leader of the Council to move:

“The Council to agree the proposed the remaining recommendations numbered 2.1 to 2.13 as outlined in Agenda Item 4 and updated in this Order of Proceedings to reflect decisions taken at 1.1 and 2.1 above and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire precept and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2024/25.

Recommendations:

- 2.1 To note the recommendations from the Executive at its meeting on 5 February 2024 and updated information as reported to Council.
- 2.2 To note the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire precept for the financial year 2024/25 for a Band D Tax equivalent and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority precept for the financial year 2024/25 for a Band D Tax equivalent.
- 2.3 To agree a level of budget savings of £14.3m (£16.3m less the £2m already approved) (ref. paragraphs 10.1 and Appendix 4b) incorporating a Council Tax increase of 4.99% made up of 2.99% plus 2% Adult Social Care precept.
- 2.4 To agree the level of net expenditure for the General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/2025 of £194,762,000 (ref. paragraph 9.2 and Appendix 4a).
- 2.5 To note that on 31 January 2024, the National Non-Domestic Rate Return 1 for 2024/25 was formally approved by the Leader of the Council and this has been reflected in Appendix 4a for the financial year 2024/25 and the updated Appendix 4g* (Annexes 1 and 2).
- 2.6 To agree that the Chief Executive be authorised to take any necessary steps to ensure any staffing savings are achieved (ref. paragraph 11.1).
- 2.7 To agree the proposed use of the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget for 2024/25 (ref. paragraph 7.8 and Appendix 4c).
- 2.8 To agree the allocation of schools funding for 2024/25 (ref. paragraph 7.8 and Appendix 4c).
- 2.9 To agree that a target level of working balances of **£8m** by 31 March 2025 and that due regard is given to the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves in the budget proposals for 2024/2025 (ref. section 13).
- 2.10 To adopt the formal Council Tax Resolutions set out in the updated Appendix 4g* (Annex 1), in so doing agree a Council Tax Requirement of £74,755,000 and a Council Tax Base of 38,756 properties.
- 2.11 To note the calculation of Aggregate Amounts as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out in the updated Appendix 4g* (Annexes 1 and 2).
- 2.12 To approve a level of Council Tax for the financial year 2024/25 of £1,928.87 at valuation Band D equivalent (a 4.99% 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).

- 2.13 To confirm that should recommendation 2.10 above be approved, the aggregate levels of Council Tax for Valuation Bands A to H will be as set out in the updated Appendix 4g*.

*An updated version of Appendix 4g is attached to this Order of Proceedings to include the precepts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority which have been confirmed since the agenda was published.

- 3.2 #The Leader of the Council to continue with budget speech.
4. The Leader's motion to be seconded.
5. #Councillor Galley to be invited to reply to the budget speech as Leader of the Principal Opposition.
6. Any other speakers.
7. Reply by the Leader as mover of the motion.
8. Vote on motion (recorded)*

#Note 1:

Under procedural standing order 15.4 'Content and timing of speeches' and by convention the Leader's budget speech at 3.2 and the reply by the Leader of the Principal Opposition 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/ amendment relating to the setting of the Council Tax by the full Council.

Note 3:

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes it a criminal offence for a councillor in Council Tax arrears (with at least two months unpaid bills) to vote at a meeting of the Council, a committee or at the Council's Executive where financial matters relating to Council Tax are being considered. It is also an offence if any such councillor present, who is aware of the arrears, fails to disclose that they are in arrears of Council Tax of at least two months.

Note 4:

Declarations of personal interests are also expected from:

- Appointed representatives of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority for Agenda Item 4 – General Fund Revenue budget, Council Tax and Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25
- Council appointed non-executive directors on Blackpool Transport Services Ltd in relation to the proposed concessionary fares saving as at Appendix 4b of Agenda Item 4 – (General Fund Revenue budget, Council Tax and Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25). This proposed saving is in respect of the Council's revenue budget but Blackpool Transport Services Limited is an associated party.

Council Tax 2023/24 and 2024/25

Calculation of Council Tax at band D Equivalent:	2023/24 Estimates		2024/25 Estimates		Change Year on Year	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
General Fund Estimates - Net Expenditure		176,218		194,762	18,544	10.52
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(17,509)		(18,668)			
NDR Baseline	(15,591)		(16,373)			
NDR - Top Up Amount	(26,730)		(28,273)			
Section 31 grants and other grants	(45,217)		(50,303)			
Enterprise Zone	(650)		(706)			
		(105,697)		(114,323)	(8,626)	8.16
Collection Fund (Surplus)		Council Tax (Surplus)		(3,109)	(2,077)	
		(1,032)				
		NNDR (Surplus)		(3,194)	(1,071)	
		(2,123)				
Contribution to /(from) reserves		2,136		619	(1,517)	
Council Tax Requirement - Blackpool Council		69,502		74,755	5,253	7.56
Total Council Tax Requirement						
Blackpool Council		69,502		74,755	5,253	7.56
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire		9,512		10,208	696	7.32
Lancashire Fire Authority		3,112		3,284	172	5.53
		82,126		88,247	6,121	7.45
		<i>Nos.</i>		<i>Nos.</i>		
Tax Base - Blackpool Council		37,830		38,756		

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