

**Committee:** Group Leaders  
**Date:** 17 February 2004  
**Agenda Item No:** 3  
**Title:** 2004-05 Council Tax Resolutions  
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### **Summary**

- 1 Owing to the decision by Essex County Council to consider its budget and precepts on 18 February, it was not possible for this Council at its meeting on 10 February to approve the recommendations that aggregate the County Council, Police Authority and Fire Authority precepts and therefore confirm the overall Council Tax for collection purposes.
- 2 The Council meeting on 10 February approved a recommendation from the Extraordinary meeting of the Resources Committee on 3 February that the way forward was to appoint this Sub Committee of the group leaders or their nominees to consider the necessary aggregation recommendations.

### **Background**

3. The relevant elements of the report to the Council meeting on 10 February are reproduced below in paragraphs 4 – 9 for information only. Members are requested to note the recommendations approved at that meeting. Minor changes to the wording to reflect the outcome of the February meeting and to preserve the sense of the narrative are shown in *italics*.

### **Setting the Amounts of Council Tax**

4. Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set the amounts of Council Tax for each category of dwellings before the 11 March in the preceding financial year.
5. For a category of dwellings, the amount of Council Tax is the aggregate of:
  - (a) the amount of tax that the Council itself has calculated for that category;
  - (b) the amount of tax that the Essex County Council has calculated for that category. This is to be considered at the County Council meeting on 17 February when it is anticipated it will be resolved; and

- (c) the amount of tax that the Essex Police Authority has calculated for that category. *This was resolved at the Police Authority meeting on 9 February 2004.*
- (d) the amount of tax that Essex Fire Authority has calculated for that category. *This was resolved at the Fire Authority meeting on 11 February 2004*
6. For the purpose of Section 30, dwellings in a category are thus all the dwellings in a valuation band in part of the Billing Authority's area to which relate the same precepts and special items (if any).
7. The calculation of the tax base and budget requirement is required to be made by the Council and cannot be delegated to a Committee. However, the Council Tax need not be set by the Council but may, if the Authority so directs, be set by a Committee in accordance with Section 67(3) of the 1992 Act.
8. This Council has resolved that recommendation will be made by the Resources Committee. The Council is requested to set the Council Tax using that recommended budget requirement (District and Parish). The amount of Council Tax to be set is that calculation plus the Essex County Council, the Essex Police Authority and the Essex Fire Authority calculation.

Exemplification of calculation of budget requirement:

	£	£
Expenditure:		
Amounts under Section 32(2) net of special items	33,096,380	
Additions to Reserves	90,108	
Special Items (Parish Precepts)	<u>1,279,941</u>	
		34,466,429
Income:		
Fees, Charges, Grants etc	25,845,762	
Drawings from Reserves	<u>267,770</u>	
Aggregation of amounts under Section 32(3)		26,113,532

Note:

Pursuant to Section 32(3) in making the above calculation, sums payable in respect of RSG, NNDR and Central Support Protection Grant are ignored.

Difference between the amount calculated under Section 32(2) and 32(3) i.e. the Section 32(4) calculation, being the budget requirement of Uttlesford District Council for the year

8,352,897

## Note

The Gross Income and Expenditure figures include all amendments to the budget proposed by the Resources Committee on 3 February 2004. These also feed through to Recommendation 2(a) and 2(b) and the Council Tax calculations below.

### 9. *The Council resolved on February 10 that:-*

- 1 It be noted under the provisions of Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Council at its meeting on 16 December 2003 resolved that the Council Tax Base should in future be formally adopted by the Chairman of the Resources Committee in conjunction with the Council's S151 Officer. Accordingly the Council has calculated the following amounts for the year 2004/05 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
  - (a) 30414.0 being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax base for the year.
  - (b) **Table 1** (Tax Base for each part of the Council's area) being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulation, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- 2 The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2004/05 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
  - (a) £34,466,429 being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
  - (b) £26,113,532 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
  - (c) £8,352,897 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year.
  - (d) £3,497,928 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its

General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant.

- (e) £22,065 being the aggregate of £22,065 which the Council estimates as Council Tax surplus will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Act 1988, and £Nil being the sum which the Council estimates as Community Charge surplus will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Act 1988 made on 15 February 2000.
- (f) £158.90 being the amount at 2(c) above, less the amount at 2(d) and 2(e) above, divided by 1(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (g) £1,279,941 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (h) £116.82 being the amount at 2(f) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(g) above by the amount at 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 which dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (i) **Table 2** (Band D charge for Parish and District combined), being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

10. Tables 1 and 2 are appended to this report

11. It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (j) It be noted that for the year 2004/05 the Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority and Essex Fire Authority have stated that the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council in

accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings are as shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Essex County Council	594.36	693.42	792.48	891.54	1089.66	1287.78	1485.9	1783.08
Essex Police Authority	66.18	77.21	88.24	99.27	121.33	143.39	165.45	198.54
Essex Fire Authority	37.62	43.89	50.16	56.43	68.97	81.51	94.05	112.86

**The figures shown above for the Police Authority and Fire Authority are those approved at their meetings on 9 and 11 February respectively. The figures for the County Council are those recommended to its meeting on 17 February and may therefore be changed. In such an event details will be presented to this meeting as an addendum.**

- (k) **Table3** (Total Council Tax for each valuation band)  
That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (i) and (j) in paragraph 9 and 11 above the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2004/05 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

Background Papers: None