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**COUNCIL TAX SETTING
COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 10.00 AM

Membership

Councillor Graeme Elliot
Councillor Adrian England

Councillor Garrick Stevens
Councillor Andrew Williams MBE

For further information, please contact Nigel Howcutt or

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 COUNCIL TAX SETTING**

(Pages 2 - 9)



Report for:	Council Tax Setting Committee
Title of report:	Council Tax Declaration 2025/26
Date:	26th February 2025
Report on behalf of:	Councillor William Allen, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Commercial Services
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	None
Background papers:	Budget Report - Agenda Item 8, Cabinet on 11 February 2025 Council Tax Base - Agenda Item 14, Cabinet on 10 December 2024
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

Report Author / Responsible Officer

Clare Dempsey, Head of Financial Services

Nigel Howcutt, Chief Finance Officer



Clare.Dempsey@dacorum.gov.uk / 01442 228264 (ext. 2264)

Nigel.Howcutt@dacorum.gov.uk / 01442 228226 (ext. 2226)

Corporate Priorities	<p>Engage with residents and partners to have a real say on our services and the borough</p> <p>Running the Council efficiently and putting residents at the heart of everything we do</p> <p>Foster arts, culture and leisure opportunities</p> <p>Take action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency</p> <p>Provide a clean, safe and green-focussed environment</p> <p>Enable well-maintained and affordable homes, where people want to live</p>
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	Realise our potential as a great place to live and work with a thriving business community.
Wards affected	All
Purpose of the report:	1. For Council to note the draft council tax declaration to be approved by the council tax setting committee following HCC formal approval of their council tax requirement for 2025/26.
Council to note:	<p>1. It be noted that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 10 December 2024, calculated the following amounts for the year 2025/26 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), as inserted by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011:-</p> <p>a) 60,009.4 being the figure calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 3 of The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 as its Council Tax base for the year;</p> <p>b) the amounts in Table 1 of this report (Tax Base for each part of the Council's area to which one or more special items relate) being the amounts calculated by the Cabinet in accordance with regulation 6 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in such parts;</p> <p>2. the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Sections 31A and 31B and Sections 34 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) (referred to as "the Act"):</p> <p>(a) £172,312,554.99 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act, taking account of all precepts;</p> <p>(b) £156,748,415.18 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act, including 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;</p> <p>(c) £15,564,139.53 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 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year;</p> <p>(d) £259.36 being the amount at 2)(c) above, divided by 1)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the</p>

(e) £1,392,919.72 Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;

(f) £236.15 being the amount at 2)(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 2)(e) 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 dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

(g) Band D charge for Parish and District combined), being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2)(f) 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 special items relate;

Parish	Band D Equivalent Parish £	Band D Equivalent District £	Band D Equivalent Combined £
Hemel Hempstead	0.00	236.15	236.15
Aldbury	70.70	236.15	306.85
Berkhamsted	59.36	236.15	295.51
Bovingdon	43.09	236.15	279.24
Chipperfield	74.43	236.15	310.58
Flamstead	54.05	236.15	290.20
Flaunden	36.46	236.15	272.61
Great Gaddesden	36.11	236.15	272.26
Kings Langley	61.31	236.15	297.46
Little Gaddesden	42.15	236.15	278.30
Markyate	69.07	236.15	305.22
Nash Mills	31.66	236.15	267.81
Nettleden/Potten End	35.64	236.15	271.79
Northchurch	32.92	236.15	269.07
Tring Rural	54.50	236.15	290.65
Tring Town	35.28	236.15	271.43
Wigginton	34.06	236.15	270.21

3. It be noted that in setting the Council Tax for 2025/26 the Council is required to have taken account of the report of the Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the budget.

Period for post policy/project review:

Not applicable

1

Background:

- 1.1 This report sets out the statutory information and recommendations necessary to determine the Council’s Council Tax requirement for 2025/26, based on the Cabinet’s recommendations from its meeting on 11 February 2025, which have been referred to Council Tax Setting Committee for approval on this agenda.
- 1.2 In approving the budget for 2025/26 Members will be aware that they were required to have regard to the report of the Chief Finance Officer (as included in agenda item 8 for the Cabinet meeting of 11 February 2025, specifically appendix M of the report) when making a decision.
- 1.3 The Council’s Council Tax requirement includes precepts from parishes. The Council Tax resolutions incorporate the parish precepts and those of the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2

Council Tax Requirement:

- 2.1 The Chief Finance Officer incorporated within the budget report to Cabinet a statement in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003. This requires the Chief Finance Officer to report on a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of budget calculations and b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 2.2 The Council’s Council Tax Requirement is £15,564,139.53 as follows:

	£
Base net budget recommended by Cabinet	14,171,219.81
<u>Add Parish Precepts</u>	<u>1,392,919.72</u>
Council Tax Requirement	<u>15,564,139.53</u>

Council Tax Recommendations:

- 2.3 The statutory Council Tax calculations require the above amount to include government core funding, the retained Business Rates (collectively referred to as Baseline funding) and any surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund. The result is set as the Council Tax requirement and is divided by the Council Tax base to determine the “basic amount” of the Council Tax for the year. At its meeting on 10 December 2024 Cabinet determined the Council Tax base (after collection rate adjustment of 98.5%) as 60,009.4 together with the amount for each parish. As this includes parish precepts (referred to as “special items”), these are then deducted (expressed as a Council Tax amount) from the “basic amount” to show the amount of Council Tax in any area where there is no parish precept (Hemel Hempstead only).
- 2.4 The amount of Council Tax in each parish (that is the total of the Council’s amount and the parish amount) is then shown.

Precepts:

- 2.5 The Council Tax bill for 2025/26 includes the requirements of Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire which are responsible for setting their own Council Tax levels. The amount of the precepts from the County Council and the Police and Crime

Commissioner for each Council Tax “band” (A to H) are then noted and the final total amount for each parish is then shown by each band (Table 3).

Precepts:

2.6 Hertfordshire County Council determined its Council Tax requirement at a meeting held on 25th February 2025, at which a council tax increase of 4.99% was agreed.

2.7 The Police and Crime Commissioner determined its Council Tax requirement at a meeting held on 6th February 2025, at which an increase of 5.58% was agreed.

Resolution:

2.8 The Council Tax resolution is in a prescribed form, designed to satisfy legal requirements, and is set out at the beginning of this report.

TABLE 1 TAX BASE FOR EACH PART OF THE COUNCIL’S AREA

Parish	Tax base (based on eventual 98.5% collection rate)
Hemel Hempstead	32,045.0
Aldbury	472.8
Berkhamsted	8,591.4
Bovingdon	2,137.7
Chipperfield	905.5
Flamstead	681.7
Flaunden	176.3
Great Gaddesden	456.1
Kings Langley	2,365.6
Little Gaddesden	630.6
Markyate	1,350.1
Nash Mills	1,228.6
Nettleden with Potten End	814.7
Northchurch	1,400.6
Tring Rural	724.0
Tring Town	5,353.7
Wigginton	675.0
Total Taxbase	60,009.4

TABLE 2 BAND D CHARGE FOR PARISH AND DISTRICT COMBINED

Parish	Band D Equivalent Parish £	Band D Equivalent District £	Band D Equivalent Combined £
Hemel Hempstead	0.00	236.15	236.15
Aldbury	70.70	236.15	306.85
Berkhamsted	59.36	236.15	295.51
Bovingdon	43.09	236.15	279.24
Chipperfield	74.43	236.15	310.58
Flamstead	54.05	236.15	290.20
Flaunden	36.46	236.15	272.61
Great Gaddesden	36.11	236.15	272.26
Kings Langley	61.31	236.15	297.46
Little Gaddesden	42.15	236.15	278.30
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Northchurch	32.92	236.15	269.07
Tring Rural	54.50	236.15	290.65
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Wigginton	34.06	236.15	270.21

TABLE 3 COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND 2025/26

Council Tax For Each Valuation Band								
Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Band D Equivalent Proportions	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
Analysis of Major Precepting Authorities								
Hertfordshire County Council	1,179.91	1,376.57	1,573.22	1,769.87	2,163.17	2,556.48	2,949.78	3,539.74
Hertfordshire Police and Crime	176.67	206.11	235.56	265.00	323.89	382.78	441.67	530.00
Dacorum Borough Council	157.43	183.67	209.91	236.15	288.63	341.11	393.58	472.30
Council Tax Rates Including All Precepts								
Aldbury	1,561.14	1,821.34	2,081.53	2,341.72	2,862.10	3,382.49	3,902.86	4,683.44
Berkhamsted	1,553.58	1,812.52	2,071.45	2,330.38	2,848.24	3,366.11	3,883.96	4,660.76
Bovingdon	1,542.74	1,799.86	2,056.99	2,314.11	2,828.36	3,342.61	3,856.85	4,628.22
Chipperfield	1,563.63	1,824.24	2,084.85	2,345.45	2,866.66	3,387.88	3,909.08	4,690.90
Flamstead	1,550.04	1,808.39	2,066.73	2,325.07	2,841.75	3,358.44	3,875.11	4,650.14
Flaunden	1,538.32	1,794.71	2,051.10	2,307.48	2,820.25	3,333.03	3,845.80	4,614.96
Great Gaddesden	1,538.08	1,794.44	2,050.79	2,307.13	2,819.82	3,332.53	3,845.21	4,614.26
Kings Langley	1,554.88	1,814.04	2,073.19	2,332.33	2,850.62	3,368.93	3,887.21	4,664.66
Little Gaddesden	1,542.11	1,799.13	2,056.16	2,313.17	2,827.21	3,341.25	3,855.28	4,626.34
Markyate	1,560.06	1,820.07	2,080.09	2,340.09	2,860.11	3,380.14	3,900.15	4,680.18
Nash Mills	1,535.12	1,790.97	2,046.83	2,302.68	2,814.39	3,326.10	3,837.80	4,605.36
Nettleden/Potten End	1,537.77	1,794.07	2,050.37	2,306.66	2,819.25	3,331.85	3,844.43	4,613.32
Northchurch	1,535.96	1,791.95	2,047.95	2,303.94	2,815.93	3,327.92	3,839.90	4,607.88
Tring Rural	1,550.34	1,808.74	2,067.13	2,325.52	2,842.30	3,359.09	3,875.86	4,651.04
Tring Town	1,537.53	1,793.79	2,050.05	2,306.30	2,818.81	3,331.33	3,843.83	4,612.60
Wiggington	1,536.72	1,792.84	2,048.97	2,305.08	2,817.32	3,329.57	3,841.80	4,610.16
Unparished (Hemel Hempstead)	1,514.01	1,766.35	2,018.69	2,271.02	2,775.69	3,280.37	3,785.03	4,542.04

3 Options and alternatives considered

Not applicable.

4 Consultation

Not applicable.

5 Financial and value for money implications

Formal Council Tax Setting Committee approval of proposed Council Tax levels for the forthcoming financial year is a statutory requirement. The scrutiny associated with the setting of the Council Tax ensures Value for Money considerations are addressed as part of the approval process.

6 Legal Implications

Not applicable.

7 Risk implications:

Budget risk assessments have been undertaken.

8 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

Where appropriate, Community Impact Assessments for proposed budget amendments have been undertaken by relevant service areas.

There are no Equalities or Human Rights implications arising from this report.

9 Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

There are no implications arising from this report.

10 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

There are no direct infrastructure implications arising from this report.

11 Statutory Comments

Monitoring Officer: No further comments to add to the report.

S151:

This report is a S151 Officer report.

12 Conclusions:

This report sets out the statutory information and recommendations necessary to determine the Council's Council Tax requirement for 2025/26 excluding those of the preceptors.