



REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	6 th March 2023
SUBJECT:	Council Tax Setting 2023/24
PURPOSE:	To set the amounts of Council Tax applicable for 2023/24 for each valuation band and in each part of the borough.
KEY DECISION:	Yes
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Jonathan Noble
REPORT OF:	Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Development
REPORT AUTHOR:	Samantha Knowles, Assistant Director Finance Steven Houchin, Chief Finance Officer, PSPS
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

The Boston Borough Council budget was considered by Cabinet on 22nd February 2023 and recommendations are now provided to Council on 6th March 2023, setting the band D Council tax at £208.89, a £6.03 (2.97%) increase on 2022/23. The Budget report is based on the finance settlement advised by the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approves:

1. The formal Council Tax resolutions for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A and summarised at 4.1.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To comply with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options have been put forward.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Cabinet considered final budget proposals at its meeting on 22nd February 2023 and its recommendations are now provided to Council for its approval on 6 March 2023.
- 1.2. This report incorporates relevant resolutions for the setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24 in accordance with the recommended budget.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Formal resolutions are required to set the Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended). These resolutions incorporate the precept requirement for Boston Borough Council, as well as all other Authorities that issue a precept in the Borough. The required resolutions are detailed at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2. Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011 introduced a change to the Local Government Act 1992. This makes provision for Council Tax Referendums to be held if an authority increases its basic amount of Council Tax in excess of principles determined by the Secretary of State.
- 2.3. These principles are set each year and for 2023/24 the trigger levels have been set as follows:
 - Lincolnshire County Council, as an Adult Social Care (ASC) Authority, can increase its core Council Tax by no more than 5% (comprising 3% for the Adult Social Care Precept, and 2% for other expenditure).
 - Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner (LPCC) - If the basic amount of Council Tax increases by more than £10.00 above its 2022/23 value for a typical Band D property.
 - Boston Borough Council – If the basic amount of Council Tax increases by 2% (or more than 2%) and more than £5, whichever is the greater.
 - Local precepting authorities (Parish Councils) are not subject to a Council Tax referendum.
- 2.4. Based on the Council tax resolutions at Appendix A none of the precepting authorities are setting a Council Tax level that would require a referendum.

3. Boston Borough Council Budget

- 3.1 The Boston Borough Council budget was considered by Cabinet on 22nd February 2023 and recommendations are now provided to Council on 6 March 2023, setting the band D Council tax at £208.89, a £6.03 (2.97%) increase on 2022/23. The Budget report is based on the finance settlement advised by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

3.2 Boston Special Expenses

It is proposed that the amount to be charged to the residents of Boston for services provided in their town (Boston Special Expenses) are as follows:

Gross Expenditure	£763,636
Less reserves funding	£0
Expenditure charged to residents	£763,636
Tax base	9,619
Band D (£.p)	£79.39
% Change from 2022/23	3.97%

4. Council Tax Resolutions

- 4.1 The required resolutions for the approval of the levels of Council Tax are set out at Appendix A. The figures relating to the Borough Council and the average of the parishes are summarised in the following table:

Resolution Ref	Description	BBC	Parish Precept (incl BTAC)	Total
		£	£	£
3a	Gross expenditure	33,709,657	1,297,129	35,006,786
3b	Gross Income	29,474,621	0	29,474,621
3c		4,235,036	1,297,129	5,532,165
1a	Tax base	20,274	20,274	20,274
3d 3f	Band D Council Tax	208.89	63.98	272.87

- 4.2 The Council tax bills for 2023/24 include the requirements of Town and Parish Councils (where relevant), Lincolnshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire, who are all individually responsible for setting their own Council tax levels. The Council tax resolutions (resolution 3(e), 4 and 5) relating to these organisations are covered at Appendix A and summarised below.

5. Town and Parish Councils

- 5.1 The Town and Parish Council precepts (including BTAC) are detailed at Appendix B and total £1,297,129.00. The average band D charge is £63.98 for 2023/24, an increase of 3.26%. Appendix D shows the combined parish and borough precepts for all valuation bands.

6. Lincolnshire County Council

- 6.1 Lincolnshire County Council confirmed its precept for 2023/24 at its Meeting on 17th February 2023, setting a Council Tax Band D charge of £1,503.63 (£1,432.17 for 2022/23) which is a £71.46 (4.99%) increase.

7. Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

- 7.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner's budget for 2023/24 was approved by the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel on 3rd February 2023. The proposed Council Tax Requirement represents a Council Tax Band D charge of £291.24 (£276.30 for 2022/23) which is a £14.94 increase (5.41%), although this is subject to final confirmation by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 7.2 Based on the formal council tax resolutions the total (average) band D Council Tax will be as follows: (subject to formal confirmation of the LCC and PCC Values).

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Increase</u>
	£	£	£	%
Boston Borough Council	202.86	208.89	5.98	2.95%
Lincolnshire County Council	1,432.17	1,503.63	68.01	4.99%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire	276.30	291.24	9.99	5.41%
Sub total	1,911.33	2,003.76	92.43	4.84%
Town and Parish Council, including BTAC (average)	61.96	63.98	2.02	3.26%
Total	1,973.29	2,067.74	94.45	4.79%

- 7.3 **Appendix E** shows the combined council tax charges to include all precepting authorities by parish and valuation band.

8. OPTIONS

- 8.1 Approve the recommendations of this report.
- 8.2 Make Changes before approving the recommendations of this report.

9. EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- 9.1 To set the amounts for Council Tax applicable for 2023/24 for each valuation band and in each part of the Borough, by the required deadline for Boston BC which will facilitate billing for the year.
- 9.2 Council Tax is set in accordance with the resolutions will maintain a balanced budget in 2023/24 as per the recommendations from Cabinet on the Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy Report for 2023/24.

10. IMPLICATIONS:

11. SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP

11.1 None

12. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

12.1 *None*

13. STAFFING

13.1 None

14. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended applies.

14.2 Under section 52ZC of the 1992 Act the question of whether an authority's relevant basic amount of council tax is excessive must be decided in accordance with a set of principles determined by the Secretary of State.

14.3 The principles for a financial year must be set out in a report which must be laid before and approved by the House of Commons. If the report for a financial year is not approved on or before the date on which the local government finance report for the same year is approved by the House of Commons, no principles have effect for that year and accordingly no authority's relevant basic amount of council tax is capable of being excessive for that year.

14.4 Paragraph 2.3 specifies the proposed referendum principles as they apply to those authorities precepting on Boston Borough Council. This report is required by virtue of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

15. DATA PROTECTION

15.1 None

16. FINANCIAL

16.1 Financial implications are detailed in the Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy report for 2023/24 and in section 1 above.

16.2 Parish Council precepts are financed by parish taxpayers in the same way as special expenses. The additions applicable to the borough level of Council Tax for parish expenses are shown in the appendices to this report. The average parish Band D including BTAC addition to the borough level of Council Tax will amount to £63.38 (£61.96 for 2022/23), an increase of £2.02 (3.26%) on last year

16.3 The Authority must submit a Council Tax Requirement (CTR1) within 7 days of approval of the Council tax Resolutions. All summary figures quoted in this report are included in the return which confirms that the Authority does not appear to be subject to a referendum.

17. RISK MANAGEMENT

17.1 All risks are detailed in the budget setting report.

18. STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

18.1 Stakeholders have been consulted as part of the budget setting process for 2023/24.

19. REPUTATION

19.1 None

20. CONTRACTS

20.1 None

21. CRIME AND DISORDER

21.1 None

22. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

22.1 None

23. HEALTH AND WELL BEING

23.1 None

24. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

24.1 None

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
Appendix A	2023/24 Council Tax Resolutions
Appendix B	2023/24 Parish Council Tax base report
Appendix C	2023/24 Boston Borough Council plus parishes band D Council Tax
Appendix D	2023/24 Boston Borough Council plus parishes Council Tax all valuation bands
Appendix E	2023/24 Council Tax rates including County, and Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire– all valuation bands
Appendix F	Council Tax resolution - definitions

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Final Budget Papers	Cabinet 22 nd February 2023 Agenda

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

None

REPORT APPROVAL

Report authors:	Samantha Knowles, Assistant Director Finance sknowles@sholland.gov.uk Steven Houchin, Chief Finance Officer, PSPS Steven.Houchin@pspsl.co.uk
Signed off by:	Christine Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Development Christine.Marshall@sholland.gov.uk
Approved for publication:	Councillor Noble, Portfolio Holder for Finance