

Report to Council

Subject: Council Tax 2024/25

Date: 6 March 2024

Author: Leader of the Council

Wards Affected

Borough wide

Purpose

This report summarises the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2024/25. The report also includes information about the Council's external funding support and sets out the basis from which decisions can be made regarding the Council Tax level for 2024/25.

Key Decision

This **is** a key decision.

Recommendations:

That:

- (1) Members determine the application of fund balances, or the level of contributions to balances.
- (2) Members approve the calculations for 2024/25 required by sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the amounts set as Council Tax for each category of dwelling. (The detailed calculations will be published separately, but before the meeting, once all final notifications from preceptors have been received.)

1. Background

The Council Tax Process

- 1.1 The Council Tax is a tax on property, with personal elements in the form of discounts for dwellings with fewer than two relevant residents, and reductions awarded under the approved Council Tax Reduction Scheme. All dwellings are listed in one of eight valuation Bands. The headline Council Tax is calculated for a Band D property and the tax for each of the remaining bands is calculated as a proportion of this amount. The lowest, Band A, is two thirds of Band D and the highest, Band H, is twice Band D and three times Band A. The proportions are therefore:

Band A 6/9	Band E 11/9
Band B 7/9	Band F 13/9
Band C 8/9	Band G 15/9
Band D 9/9	Band H 18/9

- 1.2 The Council and its Members have several legal duties when making decisions in relation to the revenue budget and the Council Tax. The Council must:
- Act in accordance with its statutory duties and responsibilities;
 - Act reasonably;
 - Not act in breach of its fiduciary duty to its Ratepayers and Council Taxpayers.
- 1.3 As part of the Budget and the Council Tax setting process, the Council is required by the Localism Act 2011 to calculate its Council Tax Requirement for the year. These calculations must be made before 11 March (ie. by midnight on 10 March) although they are not invalid merely because they are made on or after this date. However, until the calculations are made, any attempt to set the Council Tax will be treated as null and void. The Council has a clear legal duty to set a Council Tax and a resolution not to do so would be unlawful, being in breach of Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Similarly, a resolution to set a Council Tax that deliberately did not balance the various calculations would also be unlawful.
- 1.4 The final stage of the Council Tax setting process is for the Council as billing authority to set the overall Council Tax for each Band. Whereas the billing authority and major preceptors each calculate their own budget requirements, basic amounts and the amounts of each Band, the setting of the Council Tax is solely the responsibility of Gedling Borough Council as billing authority.
- 1.5 Formal notification of precept requirement has not yet been received from the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Further details are provided below at paragraph 2.5.7 below, and final information will be given at the

meeting. Amounts in respect of parish precepts are also shown below at paragraph 2.5.8.

Settlement

- 1.6 As reported to Cabinet on 21 February 2024, the final Local Government settlement figures were announced on 5 February 2024, and related only to 2024/25.
- 1.7 The Government confirmed that there will be no implementation of the Fair Funding Review or reset of the Business Rates system in 2024/25. The Government also announced that it will continue to support projects that reduce costs and improve efficiency, by extending the flexibility to use capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of those projects until 2030. A consultation was launched to engage with local government to explore additional capital flexibility options to enable invest-to-save and transformation initiatives. However, the one-year nature of the 2024/25 settlement means that councils still have no clarity over how services will be funded beyond March 2025, which presents significant challenges and hampers meaningful financial planning and the development of a sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). This is further exacerbated by the continued high demand for council services, and by inflationary pressures.
- 1.8 The Council's Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) for 2024/25 totals £3,446,400 represented by retained business rates of £3,321,100 and Revenue Support Grant (RSG) of £125,300. The SFA represents a cash increase of £137,300 on the comparative figure for 2023/24.
- 1.9 The cumulative settlement reduction over the 2016/17 to 2024/25 spending review periods equates to 30%, or £1.49m in cash terms, when compared to the 2015/16 base position. Excluding grants now consolidated into RSG, the cumulative settlement reduction equates to 33% or £1.62m over the same period. Settlement now accounts for only 23% of Gedling's net budget, before accounting for new required efficiency targets, compared to 60% in 2010/11.

New Homes Bonus

- 1.10 The New Homes Bonus (NHB) was introduced in 2011/12 and is funded from the centrally retained share of business rates income. It is paid as a separate non ring-fenced grant, which is not part of the SFA. When it was introduced, NHB was intended to be a predictable, permanent, and enduring feature of local government funding. The principle is to reward authorities for each new property completed within their boundary, and to offer an additional reward for returning empty properties back into use.
- 1.11 During 2016/17, the Government made changes to NHB with the aim of delivering savings to fund pressures in social care. Changes included a

reduction in the length of time for which NHB is paid, from six years to four years. A baseline growth threshold of 0.4% was also introduced, recognising that some housing would be built regardless of NHB. Councils now need to achieve growth **greater** than 0.4% in a year before **any** NHB is receivable for that year. For Gedling this equates to 185 Band D properties. The Government has confirmed that NHB will continue for 2024/25 on the same basis as 2023/24, with no change to the way it is calculated, and again paid for **one** year only.

- 1.12 Between October 2022 and October 2023 housing growth in Gedling was 593 band D equivalent homes, equivalent to 1.28% growth before removal of the national baseline of 0.4% (185 properties). NHB is therefore based on 408 Band D properties and has been confirmed at £709,853 for 2024/25 (to be paid for one year only). The impact of this on the 2024/25 budget is an increase in NHB grant of £376,000 when compared to 2023/24, but a reduction of £1.691m when compared to 2016/17.
- 1.13 There remains much uncertainty around the future of the NHB scheme. Given that the Fair Funding Review is not expected to be completed until 2025/26 at the earliest, MTFP is based on a lower NHB award of £300,000 each year (roughly comparable to 2023/24) on the assumption that should NHB be deleted, an equivalent amount of protective funding would be received as an alternative.

Services Grant

- 1.14 The Government introduced a new, un-ringfenced, Services Grant as part of the 2022/23 settlement, initially for one year only, to provide funding to all tiers of local government in recognition of the services they provide, and to manage inflationary pressures for example the increase in National Insurance contributions for the health and Social Care Levy. This grant is continuing in 2024/25 but again at a much reduced rate. Gedling's allocation is £21,479, a reduction from the 2023/24 allocation of £125,258.

Fair Funding Guarantee Grant

- 1.15 The Government also announced that the Funding Guarantee introduced in the 2023/24 settlement would continue in 2024/25. This is intended to ensure that all councils see at least a 4% increase in their Core Spending Power (CSP) before any decision about efficiencies, use of reserves, and council tax levels. Gedling's Funding Guarantee allocation for 2024/25 is £225,721, a reduction from the 2023/24 allocation of £349,912. The Funding Guarantee replaced the previous Lower Tier Services Grant, but still only protects CSP at 2021/22 levels, with no consideration or allowance for CSP reductions suffered by councils prior to 2021/22. This approach continues to protect councils that had healthy levels of NHB in the base year, despite the principal of NHB legacy payments not being paid.

Core Spending Power

- 1.16 Overall Core Spending Power (CSP) for local authorities in England has increased by 7.5% in 2024/25 whilst Gedling's rose by only 5.8%, meaning that Gedling's increase falls short by 1.7%. The Government forecasts that the Council's cumulative reduction in overall CSP, which includes SFA, S31 Grants, NHB, Services Grant, Funding Guarantee Grant, and council tax receipts (assumed at the maximum possible increases, but is in reality a local decision), to be minus 2% by 2024/25 when compared to 2015/16.
- 1.17 This gives Gedling the seventh largest reduction out of 349 councils in England. In 2023/24 Gedling was the fifth worst affected, in 2022/23 the seventh worst, and in both 2021/22 and 2020/21 the worst affected council in England.
- 1.18 Only eleven other councils remain in negative CSP growth, with a further seventeen showing zero growth (but those did not exist in 2015/16). Twenty three councils have had CSP growth of less than 5%, whilst the remaining 298 have all seen CSP growth of 5% and above since 2015/16.

Referendum Limit

- 1.19 The Localism Act 2011 gives powers to the local community to either endorse or veto council tax rises that are above a limit which is to be set annually by the House of Commons. If a local authority decides to implement an increase above the Government's set limit this will trigger a referendum so that local voters can either support or reject the proposed rise. The referendum limit for 2024/25 for all shire districts has been set at a 3% increase (or more than 3%) and more than a £5 increase on the amount for 2023/24. Any council which sets an increase greater than the referendum limit, and does not get support from the electorate via the referendum, will have to revert to a council tax level that is compliant, and bear the cost of re-billing its residents.
- 1.20 For Gedling in 2024/25, the maximum increase must be below 3% (equivalent to £5.50). A £5 increase equates to 2.73%.

Local Government Financing from 2025/26

- 1.21 As already indicated, it is not anticipated that the Government's Fair Funding Review will be completed until 2025/26 at the earliest, leading to significant uncertainty when considering the MTFP.
- 1.22 The business rates retention scheme has been retained at 50% for 2024/25, and there will be no reset in 2024/25 of the business rates baseline. If the reset is implemented in 2025/26, it is anticipated that some existing business rates growth could be removed, reducing income levels.

2. Proposal

2.1 Proposed Portfolio Budget 2024/25

The proposed budgets for 2024/25, as recommended by Cabinet on 21 February 2024, are summarised in the following table:

Portfolio:	£
Communities and Place	342,600
Lifestyles, Health, and Wellbeing	2,144,800
Public Protection	1,319,200
Life Chances and Vulnerability	1,860,100
Environmental Services	4,071,300
Climate Change and Natural Habitat	2,126,200
Sustainable Growth and Economy	1,182,000
Corporate Resources and Performance	2,402,200
Net Portfolio Budget 2024/25	15,448,400
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(510,500)
Net Council Budget 2024/25	14,937,900

2.2 Consultation with Non-Domestic Ratepayers

In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, consultation with representatives of Non-Domestic Ratepayers has been undertaken. No responses had been received at the time of writing, but any received subsequently will be reported at the meeting.

2.3 The General Fund Balance

The General Fund balance at 1 April 2024 is estimated to be in the region of £4,741,400

If a Council Tax increase of £5.48 (2.988%) is approved, a small contribution of £16,200 to balances will be made in 2024/25. This will allow prudent provision for the anticipated need to support the General Fund expenditure in the medium term. Members will need to consider the use of balances when determining the Council Tax for 2024/25.

2.4 Robustness of Estimates

2.4.1 Sections 25 and 26 of the Local Government Act 2003 place a personal duty on the Chief Financial Officer to make a report to Council when

considering its budget and Council Tax. The report must deal with the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves.

The Act requires Members to “have due regard to the report in making their decisions.” Where this advice is not accepted, it should be formally recorded within the minutes of the Council Meeting.

Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Section 151 Officer is required to provide a commentary assessing the robustness of the estimates when Cabinet and Council are considering the budget proposals.

The key strategic risks in considering the 2024/25 revenue budget proposals and Capital Programme in the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan were reported to Cabinet on 21 February 2024, and are for information are also detailed in paragraphs 2.4.2 to 2.4.8 below.

2.4.2 Financial Settlement / Funding Streams

The 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review outlined the Government's spending plans for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 and set budgets for each central government department. This included an average increase in Core Spending Power (CSP) for local government of 3% in real terms over the three-year Spending Review period. However, a substantial part of the additional grant funding to this department was primarily to meet social care pressures which is an upper tier function, presenting a risk that district and borough councils will not receive the full 3% increase in real terms across the 3-year period. It should be noted that the final settlement for 2024/25 included a 4% increase in CSP for local government before any local decisions on council tax.

In the Autumn Statement 2023 the Chancellor maintained the Government commitment to the departmental expenditure limits set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2021, however this has not translated into a multi-year settlement for local government, with another one-year settlement being made for 2024/25. The Government confirmed that the long-awaited local government finance reforms ie. the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention reset, which were initially due for implementation in 2020, will not now be implemented until 2025/26 at the earliest.

This means that councils still have no clarity or certainty of how services will be funded beyond next year, which presents incredible challenges, inhibiting meaningful financial planning and the development of a sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan. This is further exacerbated by the uncertainties resulting from the economic downturn in terms of ongoing demand and inflationary pressures and how they will be financed.

Business Rates Retention / Fair Funding Review: The extension of the business rates retention scheme reset and implementation of the Fair Funding Review was originally planned for 2020/21 but this has now been delayed for five years so far, with the earliest implementation expected to coincide with the next Comprehensive Spending Review period and the 2025/26 Local Government Finance Settlement. In the absence of a review of the local government funding, pilots for the 100% business rates retention are continuing in 2024/25, but the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that the Government would abandon moves towards 75% Business Rates Retention as it considered that it conflicted with its levelling up agenda. Instead, the Government plans to progress the Fair Funding Review and examine the mechanism for redistributing funding to the local authorities most in need.

Any retention of business rates will still require a mechanism to ensure funding is distributed in respect of need, which will create winners and losers, which will be determined by the Fair Funding Review. With an obvious emphasis already included in the Spending Review, and in the recent Autumn Budget 2023, to support upper tier authorities in respect of their funding for social care, there is a real risk that district councils could lose further under any new allocation process. The original intention of the business rates retention scheme was for it to be fiscally neutral and in order to achieve this, additional responsibilities would need to be transferred to local government in a move to 100% retention. In this scenario care will be needed to ensure that any new transferred responsibilities are capable of being fully funded in both the short and the long term, although the risk of this materialising is now reduced if the retention level stays at the current 50%.

The current retention of business rates has shown the volatility of this funding in respect of the appeals process, the prediction of future growth, and the potential for significant local impact when a large business relocates or closes. These changes may require local authorities to hold higher levels of reserves in the future depending on the outcome of the review of the local government finance system.

New Homes Bonus: paragraphs 1.10 to 1.13 above identify the significant impact that changes to this funding stream have had for Gedling Borough Council due to the introduction of a 0.4% growth baseline resulting in a significantly reduced awards since 2016/17.

In line with the one-year only local government finance settlement, the NHB award has continued on a one-year only basis for 2024/25. Previously the government has stated that it is no longer clear that the NHB in its current form is focussed on incentivising homes where they are needed most. A consultation on the future of the NHB was held in the spring of 2021 but

there is as yet no firm indication as to how the government will wish to proceed with amendments to the scheme.

Whilst there may still be an opportunity to receive NHB in the future, it is considered that there is a downside risk to this arising. Whilst it may not have seemed prudent to include this funding stream previously, the Government has indicated that it will continue to support a minimum growth of 4% in Core Spending Power, therefore a reduced sum of NHB or equivalent funding has been included in the MTFP.

Council Tax: The Government's Core Spending Power figures are based on the assumption that Council Tax will be increased by the maximum amount in accordance with the referendum principles and that growth in the tax base will be created through additional hereditaments. This rise is equivalent to the maximum possible without requiring a referendum and leaves no room for local discretion to set a higher council tax in order to plug any funding gaps. The MTFP contained in this report assumes that a 2.988% increase will be applied between 2024/25 and 2028/29 but the actual increase will be determined on an annual basis by Council. In the absence of additional ongoing funding in the local government finance settlement, any Council Tax increase below the 2.988% will require an increase in the efficiency/budget reduction targets to ensure that a balanced MTFP is secured.

Economic Growth & Inflation: Both Brexit and Covid-19, and more recently the war in Ukraine, have had a major adverse impact on the economy, and ongoing uncertainty continues to create major challenges for economic forecasting. Overall, the balance of risk to economic growth in the UK is now to the downside, with significant risks related to labour supply shortages proving more enduring and therefore depressing economic activity; inflationary pressures not being effectively controlled by monetary policy interventions; UK/EU trade agreements being effective. Without a multi-year settlement, or an understanding of what the Fair Funding Review or business rates retention reset will bring, the demand and inflationary pressures arising from the economic downturn need to be managed within local resources – i.e. from further budget reductions or efficiencies.

Inflation assumptions have been incorporated into the MTFP, including a pay award of 5% for 2024/25, 3% for 2025/26, and 2% per annum from 2026/27 onwards.

An increase in contract prices for utilities is included in the 2024/25 budget. This aspect of the budget is likely to continue to be volatile and there is a downside risk that the full year effect of expected price increases will be higher than those currently projected. However, there is also an upside risk

that energy prices will drop back, and utility contract prices and budgets will fall back to some degree in the medium term.

- 2.4.3 A minimum balance of £1m on the General Fund, or 7.5% of net operating expenditure whichever is the greater, is recommended by the Chief Financial Officer to be a prudent amount given the scale of the business conducted by the Council. The external auditor regards this level of balance on the General Fund to be satisfactory, and it is also appropriate to reflect uncertainties in the financial position in the medium term. Given the substantial inflationary pressures being experienced and the scale of the future budget reductions likely to be required, in the absence of funding increases, the level of minimum balances will be kept under review and may need to increase to reflect the increasing level of risk in the MTFP.
- 2.4.4 The surplus or deficit on balances in the MTFP shows amounts (above) or below the recommended minimum General Fund balance in any one year. Current spending plans show a surplus of £3,637,600 in 2024/25, declining to £144,900 by the end of 2028/29. Achievement of this position is reliant upon efficiency plans being progressed and delivered during the period of the MTFP or additional funding being made available via the local government finance reforms. Underlying this is an annual deficit between the amounts of income expected and anticipated expenditure, which needs to be managed beyond the five-year horizon, but this is significantly reduced to manageable levels with the inclusion of the efficiency/savings programmes. However, this still does not leave significant capacity to manage future budget and inflation pressures that may arise, which will have to be managed by further budget reductions.

The Council has a substantial programme of budget reductions planned for delivery. Whilst risk provisions and transformation funds have previously been approved (which mitigate the risk of non-delivery), and in the main the delivery of the programme has gone well, more recently difficulties have been experienced, particularly with regard to projects that require more innovative and transformational approaches with inherent uncertainties, which presents an increasing downside risk to successful delivery. Programmes are regularly monitored, and progress reported to Cabinet to manage this risk, and new efficiency proposals are recommended to ensure this downside risk is effectively managed.

The challenges that lie ahead are increasing compared to those in previous years, due to inflationary pressures, but whilst recognising the significant challenges ahead, this plan is considered robust. Gedling is not alone in facing this challenge as it is a national problem, but with the Council's long track record in delivering successful efficiency programmes it is well placed to react and to develop strategies to meet the set efficiency targets.

- 2.4.5 Initiatives introduced to manage within reduced resources bring increased risks both financially and in terms of service delivery. For example:

Reduced maintenance budgets: these can be accommodated in the medium term but may bring pressures in the longer term as major capital investment plans may need to be accelerated as assets deteriorate faster. Increased public building maintenance budgets have been included in the capital budget proposals to mitigate this risk;

Earmarked reserves: reserves for specific purposes and risk management have been reviewed and will be managed at minimum requirement levels providing less scope for managing emerging risks.

- 2.4.6 The Council continues with activities undertaken in association with a variety of partners. This requires reliance on partnership funding and/or the delivery of integrated programmes and is an approach which is integral to the Council's efficiency programme. However, a significant number of the Council's partners are public sector organisations which are also facing significant budget pressures and changing roles. This places increasing risk on the Council both directly, in respect of possible withdrawal of partnership funding, and indirectly, with the Council potentially facing additional burdens resulting from budget cuts in other organisations. This is especially true in respect of the most vulnerable in society, which could therefore have a direct impact on families, homelessness, and those with specialist housing need.

- 2.4.7 There is an increased risk arising from these assumptions and the level of minimum balances will be kept under review. As the Council is responding to the challenges through efficiency measures and service reductions it is considered that the annual and medium-term budgets are robust, but given the above risk assessment the achievement of the estimated Medium Term Financial Plan will be a significant challenge to deliver.

- 2.4.8 Given the Council's excellent track record for budget management, careful budget monitoring and financial planning, which will continue, the structural deficit that remains in the Medium Term Financial Plan is now significant, and it should be expected that there may need to be some contraction of service delivery/performance if existing efficiency plans do not proceed in line with expectations, or there are further funding reductions following the implementation of the Fair Funding Review.

2.5 **Council Tax 2024/25**

2.5.1 Tax Base

The Council's overall tax-base was determined by the Portfolio-holder for Corporate Resources and Performance on 12 December 2023 as 38,962.89. The tax-base for each parish is given below at paragraph 2.5.8.

2.5.2 Local Government Finance Settlement

Final Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) figures are summarised below. This level of support is not dependent on a particular level of expenditure.

Funding Stream:	£
Revenue Support Grant (including consolidated grants)	125,300
Business Rates - Baseline Funding Level	3,321,100
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) excl NHB	3,446,400

2.5.3 The Collection Fund

The Collection Fund continues to operate for Council Tax requirements, and following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention regime on 1 April 2013, also for Non Domestic Rates (NDR).

A Council Tax **deficit** of £285,198 was declared on 15 January 2024 for the estimated position at 31 March 2024, of which Gedling's share is £25,619 and will be charged to the General Fund in 2024/25.

Proportionate Share – Council Tax:	£
Gedling Borough Council	25,619
Nottinghamshire County Council	214,859
Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner	33,555
Combined Fire & Rescue Authority	11,165
Total declared DEFICIT 15 January 2024	285,198

An NDR **surplus** of £1,754,545 was declared on 31 January 2024 for the estimated position at 31 March 2024, of which Gedling's share is £701,818 and will be received by the General Fund in 2024/25.

Proportionate Share - NDR:	£
Central Government 50%	(877,273)
Gedling Borough Council 40%	(701,818)
Nottinghamshire County Council 9%	(157,909)
Combined Fire & Rescue Authority 1%	(17,545)
Total declared SURPLUS 31 January 2024	(1,754,545)

The impact of collection fund surpluses and deficits are included in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

2.5.4 Gedling Borough Council – Council Tax 2024/25

Cabinet have recommended a net budget of £14,937,900 and a Council Tax increase of £5.48 (2.988%) for 2024/25. The summary of the proposed budget and the amount to be raised by Council Tax of £7,358,400 is detailed in the table below, together with the estimated position on the General Fund Balances:

Budget 2024/25:	£
Total Portfolio Budget:	14,937,900
Less:	
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)	(3,446,400)
Funding Guarantee Grant	(225,700)
Services Grant	(21,500)
New Homes Bonus – current year only	(709,900)
NDR collection fund surplus	(701,800)
NDR growth, levy & renewables	(2,516,000)
Plus:	
Council Tax collection fund deficit	25,600
Contribution to balances in the year	16,200
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2024/25	7,358,400
ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2025	4,757,600
Minimum required General Fund balance at 1 April 2025	1,120,000

Gedling Borough Council's proposed Council Tax of £188.86 is calculated by dividing the amount to be raised through the Council Tax (£7,358,400) by the tax base (38,962.89). This produces an amount per Band D property.

2.5.5 Nottinghamshire County Council

Formal notification of precept has been received from Nottinghamshire County Council, following the meeting of the Council on Thursday 22 February 2024. The Council Tax will rise by £83.42 (4.84%, including an additional 2% permitted for adult social care), which produces an amount per Band D property of £1,807.08.

2.5.6 Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel met on 5 February 2024, however

formal notification of precept has not yet been received from the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Current indications are that the Council Tax will rise by £12.96 (4.81%), which produces an amount per Band D property of £282.15, however further information will be given to Council at the meeting.

2.5.7 Combined Fire & Rescue Authority

Formal notice of precept has been received from The Combined Fire Authority following the meeting on Friday 23 February 2024. The Council Tax will rise by £2.64 (2.95%) which produces an amount per Band D property of £92.21.

2.5.8 Parish Precepts

Parish Councils are required to give formal notice of their precept requirements for 2024/25 by 1 March 2024. Formal notification has been received from most of the parishes and provisional (*) information has been provided by Lambley Parish Council, and their requirements are detailed in the table below. Parish precepts total £920,840 an increase of 7.98% on those declared for 2023/24.

Parish:	Tax Base 2024/25	Precept 2024/25 £	Band D 2024/25 £	Band D 2023/24 £	Band D +/- £	Band D +/- %
Bestwood Village	702.73	20,000	28.46	29.15	-0.69	-2.37
Burton Joyce	1,538.33	228,518	148.55	144.04	+4.51	+3.13
Calverton	2,489.52	275,839	110.80	103.55	+7.25	+7.00
Colwick	892.59	29,500	33.05	28.71	+4.34	+15.12
Lambley *	506.65	18,749	37.01	35.15	+1.86	+5.29
Linby	389.44	26,441	67.89	51.93	+15.96	+30.73
Newstead	374.94	22,710	60.57	58.54	+2.03	+3.47
Papplewick	270.14	22,287	82.50	75.08	+7.42	+9.88
Ravenshead	2,769.07	163,000	58.86	56.08	+2.78	+4.96
St Albans	949.14	28,834	30.38	30.55	-0.17	-0.56
Stoke Bardolph	390.16	2,500	6.41	6.69	-0.28	-4.19
Woodborough	934.47	82,462	88.24	83.33	+4.91	+5.89
Unparished	26,755.71	n/a				
Total	38,962.89	920,840				

Percentage movements for parish councils may on occasion appear excessive; however, Members should note that where precepts are small, modest monetary increases can result in significant percentage changes. There is no referendum limit set for parish councils for 2024/25 by central government.

3. Alternative Options

Had Cabinet chosen not to recommend a budget to Council this would have been in contravention of the Council's constitution and would not be in compliance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Recommending an alternative budget may alter the level of recommended Council Tax for 2024/25.

4. Financial Implications

All financial implications are discussed within the report.

5. Legal Implications

Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), local authorities must set a council tax that takes into account its budget requirement, and any authority proposing an excessive increase in council tax must hold a local referendum and obtain a "yes" vote before implementing the increase. An authority proposing an excessive increase must also make substitute calculations, based on a non-excessive council tax level. This takes effect if the excessive increase is rejected in the referendum. Accordingly, authorities must raise their charge by less than the threshold to avoid a referendum.

Council tax setting legally requires a recorded vote.

6. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7. Carbon Reduction / Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no carbon reduction / environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8. Appendices

None

9. Background Papers

- DLUHC Settlement report - Local Government Finance in England 2024/25;
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2024/25;
- Capital Programme and Capital Investment Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29;
- General Fund Revenue Budget 2024/25;
- Gedling Plan 2023–2027;
- Precept notifications 2024/25.

10. Reasons for Recommendations

To set the Council Tax for 2024/25 and comply with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Statutory Officer approval:

Approved by: Chief Financial Officer

Date: 26 February 2024

Approved by: Monitoring Officer

Date: 24 February 2024