

Report to Council

Subject: Council Tax 2025/26

Date: 5 March 2025

Author: Leader of the Council

Wards Affected

Borough wide

Purpose

This report summarises the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2025/26. 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 2025/26.

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 2025/26 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 13 February 2025, the final Local Government settlement figures were announced on 3 February 2025, and related only to 2025/26.

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 been delayed for six years so far, with the earliest implementation expected to coincide with the next spending review in June 2025 and the 2026/27 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 2025/26. The Government is committed to reforming Business Rates and has already announced permanently lower rates for the retail, hospitality and Leisure sector.

- 1.7 The Council's Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) for 2025/26 totals £3,501,500 represented by retained business rates of £3,355,400 and Revenue Support Grant (RSG) of £146,100. The SFA represents a cash increase of £55,100 on the comparative figure for 2024/25.

The total cumulative settlement reductions equate to 29.1% or £1,437,000 in cash terms over the periods from 2016/17 to 2025/26 compared to the base position of 2015/16.

SFA is reduced to 22% of Gedling's net budget for 2025/26, before accounting for new required efficiency targets, compared to 40% in 2015/16.

New Homes Bonus

During 2011/12 Central Government introduced the New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme which is funded from the centrally retained share of Business Rates income and paid as a separate non-ringfenced grant in addition to the Settlement Funding Assessment.

The principles of the grant are to reward local authorities for each new property completed within their boundary plus an additional reward for returning empty properties back into use. The value of the reward was linked to the national average council tax band D property for a number of specified years, initially set at six years.

When the NHB was introduced, the then Department for Communities and Local Government (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local

Government) stated in its final scheme design that it was intended to be a predictable, permanent and enduring feature of local government funding. However, since its introduction a number of changes have been made as summarised in the table below:

Scheme Period	Growth Level Awarded	Number of Years of Award
2011/12 – 2016/17	All	6
2017/18 – 2019/20	Above 0.4% Threshold	4
2020/21 – 2025/26	Above 0.4% Threshold	1

In 2016/17 the Government made changes to the NHB with effect from 2017/18 with the intention of delivering savings to fund pressures in social care. The main changes to the scheme included:

- Reducing the length of time bonus is paid from six years to four years, further reduced to one year.
- Introduction of a 0.4% growth threshold, recognising that some housing would be built regardless of the NHB, to remove what Government terms as 'deadweight' from the payment. Local authorities need to achieve growth of greater than 0.4% in each year before they receive any NHB funding. For Gedling, this equates to 185 Band D properties before any payment is made. It was considered that the baseline could remove any incentive to grow in relatively low growth areas and penalise areas with limited opportunity to grow, for example in green belt areas.

The Government have confirmed that NHB will continue for 2025/26 on the same basis as 2020/21-2024/25, with no change to the way the NHB is calculated and the award being for one year only

For the period measured for the 2025/26 New Homes Bonus i.e. October 2023 to October 2024, growth in Gedling was 507 housing units, equivalent to 1.28% growth. This growth is after adjusting for the movement in empty homes and the national baseline of 0.4%, reducing it down to 279 Band D equivalent housing units. Added to this is a premium for affordable homes, which brings the overall NHB for 2025/26 to **£525,351** (to be paid for one year only).

There still remains considerable uncertainty surrounding the future of the NHB scheme for which 2025/26 is expected to be the last year it will be awarded in this format. However, the Medium-Term Financial Plan assumes an equivalent amount of funding, albeit at a lower amount of £300,000 each year (roughly compared to 2023/24). This is because if NHB was to be deleted then an equivalent amount of protective funding would likely be received as an alternative.

Removal of Services Grant and the Funding Guarantee Grant and Introduction of New Grants

For 2025/26 the Services Grant introduced in 2022/23, and the Funding Guarantee Grant introduced in 2023/24 both have been removed, with a loss of £247,200 from 2024/25 levels.

Two new grants have been introduced:

The Recovery Grant

This is a new one-off grant of £600m awarded on the basis of greater need and demand for services, using a deprivation measured as a proxy. Gedling's allocation is £49,100.

The Funding Floor

The government announced this new grant of £121m and is aimed at protecting local authorities from a year-on-year reduction in Core Spending Power. Gedling has been allocated £14,600.

The Funding Guarantee was used to replace the previous Lower Tier Services Grant, but only protected CSP at 2021/22 levels, so only really benefited Councils with a healthy NHB in the base year. Whilst this has been addressed with the removal of the Funding Guarantee, there is still no consideration or allowance for CSP reductions suffered by Councils prior to 2021/22.

The overall impact of these changes for Gedling result in a net loss of £183,500.

Extended Producers Responsibility

A new funding stream is payable in 2025/26, from producers of packing. This funding will come directly to Waste Collection authorities to assist with the increased cost of Waste Recycling and other changes in legislation. The award for Gedling is £1,017,000. Whilst this funding is waste related in its intentions it is not ring-fenced. Therefore, it has been included in the MTFP to help to balance the budget over the next few years, in addition to covering the significant increase in the costs of waste service which are also included in the MTFP.

Core Spending Power

Core Spending Power for local authorities in England increased by an average of 6.8% in 2025/26. The table above shows a minimal increase for Gedling in

2025/26 of **0.92%** this is 86% below the average received by the sector as a whole and is still below the baseline funding in 2015/16, meaning that Gedling is still in negative CSP. The Government's estimate of council tax receipts assumes that District/Borough Councils will increase Council Tax by the maximum possible equating to £299,000 for Gedling. However, actual council tax receipts will be determined by local decisions for council tax increases and actual tax base growth.

The Government forecast presents a total cumulative reduction in Core Spending Power by 2025/26 of -0.62% when compared to 2015/16. **Gedling has the fifth largest reduction in Core Spending Power when comparing 2025/26 to 2015/16 out of 349 Authorities in England.**

Only 7 councils (including Gedling) remain in negative CSP growth, a further 17 are showing as zero growth (but they did not exist in 2015/16) and 15 have had CSP growth of less than 5%. The remaining 310 authorities have all seen growth of 5% and above since 2015/16.

Referendum Limit

- 1.8 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 2025/26 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 2025/26. 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.
- 1.9 For Gedling in 2025/26, the maximum increase must be below 3% (equivalent to £5.67). A £5 increase equates to 2.65%.

Local Government Financing from 2025/26

- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 The business rates retention scheme has been retained at 50% for 2025/26, and there will be no reset in 2025/26 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 2025/26

The proposed budgets for 2025/26, as recommended by Cabinet on 13 February 2025, are summarised in the following table:

Portfolio:	£
Communities and Place	326,800
Lifestyles, Health, and Wellbeing	1,748,300
Public Protection	1,352,000
Life Chances and Vulnerability	1,762,900
Environmental Services	4,507,900
Climate Change and Natural Habitat	1,930,000
Sustainable Growth and Economy	1,101,000
Corporate Resources and Performance	3,663,500
Net Portfolio Budget 2025/26	16,392,400
Transfer to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(808,200)
Net Council Budget 2025/26	15,584,200

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 2025 is estimated to be in the region of £4,928,800.

If a Council Tax increase of £5.64 (2.986%) is approved there will be a deficit of £56,300 in 2025/26 which will require a contribution from the General Fund balance. This is due to insufficient income to fund budgeted expenditure despite a maximum Council Tax increase. Members will need to consider the use of balances when determining the Council Tax for 2025/26.

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 2025/26 revenue budget proposals and Capital Programme in the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan were reported to Cabinet on 13 February 2025, and are also detailed in paragraphs 2.4.2 to 2.4.8 below.

2.4.2 Financial Settlement / Funding Streams

The provisional settlement was published in December 2024, another single year settlement, however the Government also published its intention to carry out a wider review of Local Government funding, with the intention of implementing changes from 2026/27. This review is likely to incorporate the long-awaited Fair Funding review, a multi-year settlement and a ‘reset’ of the Business rates retention system. This will be the first reset since 2013.

The final settlement figures for 2025/26 were announced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 3 February 2025. The final settlement followed a consultation on the provisional settlement, which closed on 15 January 2025. The Government’s assessment of the Core Spending Power of local authorities and its referendum principles for managing excessive council tax increases were also confirmed. This confirmed that Core Spending Power will rise by a national average of 6.8%, an increase from the 6% announced in the provisional settlement. This increase includes funds raised from an assumed increase in Council Tax and rolled in grants. So not a real term increase.

There were new grants announced and repurposing of other grants, resulting in the deletion of the Services Grant and the Funding Guarantee Grant representing a loss of £247,200 to Gedling. These grants were replaced by a new Recovery Grant and a Funding Floor Grant with a combined award to Gedling of £63,695 resulting in a net loss of £183,505.

In the Autumn Statement the Government announced they would fund the increase in National Insurance Contributions for Councils, however, the final settlement revealed that Gedling’s allocation is only £114k against a pressure of almost £400k.

Despite the Government's statement that Core Spending Power will increase by 6.8% in real terms Gedling's Core Spending Power is an increase of 0.92%.

The Government will continue to support projects that reduce costs and improve efficiency with the flexibility to use capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of these projects until 2030.

The one-year settlement means that there is still no clarity over funding levels after March 2026. This continues to hamper meaningful financial planning at a time when demand for services is still high. This resulting level of uncertainty means in practice that local authorities will find it much harder to plan and fund not only capital expenditure, but also its core services to the public. This will be further hampered until a decision around the future structure of Local Government has been decided.

Business Rates Retention / Fair Funding Review:

Business Rates Retention – Current 50% Retention Scheme

Business Rates growth compared to baseline funding levels of £3,355,400 for 2025/26 is estimated at £2,535,900 giving total income from business rates of **£5,891,300**, including S31 grants to compensate for new reliefs and indexation introduced by the government since the scheme's introduction (Note: S31 Grants are used by central government to reimburse a local authority for additional activities which are not covered by existing funding methods).

Growth amounts for the medium term have been set at a conservative level relative to previous year's growth of £1,700,000 per annum from 2026/27 to 2029/30 due to the uncertainties that remain in the estimation process due to the delay in the review of the future local government funding system, including business rates retention and the potential for a system reset. In addition, the business rates retention scheme has shown volatility in respect of the appeals process, the prediction of future growth, and the potential for significant local impact where a large business relocates/closes.

2.5.8 Future of Business Rates Retention

As detailed above the Business Rates Retention Scheme will be retained at 50% for next year and there will also be no reset of the business rates baseline for 2025/26. If the reset is implemented in 2026/27 it is expected that some existing business rates growth could be removed upon reset, reducing income levels.

New Homes Bonus:

It was announced that the New Homes Bonus would be continued for 2025/26, pending a review. In addition, Revenue Support Grant (RSG) this year was increased by grants previously paid separately but now rolled into the formula and uplifted by CPI. Unfortunately, RSG is now a much smaller figure than it used to be.

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 2025/26 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:

- 2.4.2 Brexit, Covid-19, the war in Ukraine have all had a major adverse impact on the economy in recent years and the impact of this has had a cumulative effect on budgets. Ongoing uncertainty continues to create major challenges for economic forecasting. The UK economy is forecasted to grow albeit slower than previous expectations. Significant risks relating to labour supply shortages proving more enduring and depressing economic activity; however, inflationary pressures have been somewhat relieved. Inflation assumptions have been incorporated in the MTFP, including pay award of £1,250 for 2025/26, 3% for 2026/27 and 2% per annum from 2027/28 onwards. Without a multi-year settlement or an understanding of what any Fair Funding Review or business rates retention reset will bring, the demand from the economic downturn needs to be managed within local resources i.e. from further budget reductions or efficiencies
- 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 £3,703,752 in 2025/26, declining to £3,573 by the end of 2029/30. 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 Authority 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 2025/26**

2.5.1 Tax Base

The Council's overall tax-base was determined by the Portfolio-holder for Corporate Resources and Performance on 16 December 2024 as 39,664.26. 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)	146,100
Business Rates - Baseline Funding Level	3,355,400
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) excl NHB	3,501,500

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 **surplus** of £623,967 was declared on 15 January 2025 for the estimated position at 31 March 2024, of which Gedling's share is £55,385 and will be added to the General Fund in 2025/26.

Proportionate Share – Council Tax:	£
Gedling Borough Council	55,385
Nottinghamshire County Council	471,007
Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner	73,541
Combined Fire & Rescue Authority	24,034
Total declared SURPLUS 15 January 2024	623,967

An NDR **deficit** of £81,672 was declared on 31 January 2025 for the estimated position at 31 March 2024, of which Gedling's share is £32,669 and will be charged to the General Fund in 2025/26.

Proportionate Share - NDR:	£
Central Government 50%	(40,836)
Gedling Borough Council 40%	(32,669)
Nottinghamshire County Council 9%	(7,350)
Combined Fire & Rescue Authority 1%	(817)
Total declared DEFICIT 31 January 2024	(81,672)

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

2.5.4 Gedling Borough Council – Council Tax 2025/26

Cabinet have recommended a net budget of £15,584,200 and a Council Tax increase of £5.64 (2.986%) for 2025/26. The summary of the proposed budget and the amount to be raised by Council Tax of £7,714,750 is detailed in the table below, together with the estimated position on the General Fund Balances:

Budget 2025/26:	£
Total Portfolio Budget:	15,584,200
Less:	
Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)	(3,355,400)
SFA – Revenue Support Grant	(146,100)
Recovery Grant (New)	(49,000)
National Insurance	(114,500)
Funding Floor (New)	(14,600)
New Homes Bonus – current year only	(525,400)
Extended Producer Responsibility Funding (New)	(1,017,000)
NDR collection fund Deficit	32,700
NDR growth, levy & renewables	(2,568,600)
Plus:	
Council Tax collection fund surplus	(55,400)
Less:	
Amount (from)/to Balance Core Budget	(56,300)
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2025/26	7,714,750
ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2026	4,872,600
Minimum required General Fund balance at 1 April 2026	1,168,800

Gedling Borough Council's proposed Council Tax of £194.50 is calculated by dividing the amount to be raised through the Council Tax (£7,714,750) by the tax base (39,664.26). This produces an amount per Band D property.

2.5.5 Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council's precept was approved at the Council meeting on Thursday 27 February 2025. The Council Tax is proposed to rise by £87.46 (4.84%, including an additional 2% permitted for adult social care), which produces an amount per Band D property of £1,894.54.

2.5.6 Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel met on 6 February 2025, and formal notification of precept has been received from the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The Council Tax will rise by £13.95 (4.94%), which produces an amount per Band D property of £296.10.

2.5.7 Combined Fire & Rescue Authority

The Combined Fire Authority met on Friday 28 February 2025 and formal notification of the precept has been received. The Council Tax will rise by £5.00 (5.42%) which produces an amount per Band D property of £97.21.

2.5.8 Parish Precepts

Parish Councils are required to give formal notice of their precept requirements for 2025/26 by 1 March 2024. Formal notification has now been received from all Parishes. Parish precepts total £981,413 an increase of 6.58% on those declared for 2024/25.

Parish:	Tax Base 2025/26	Precept 2025/26 £	Band D 2025/26 £	Band D 2024/25 £	Band D +/- £	Band D +/- %
Bestwood Village	732.75	20,000	27.29	28.46	-1.17	-4.11
Burton Joyce	1,564.06	247,799	158.43	148.55	+9.88	+6.65
Calverton	2,555.11	294,634	115.31	110.80	+4.51	+4.07
Colwick	897.78	30,700	34.20	33.05	+1.15	+3.48
Lambley	505.61	25,151	49.74	37.01	+12.73	+34.41
Linby	403.53	29,532	73.18	67.89	+5.29	+7.79
Newstead	368.39	22,449	60.94	60.57	+0.37	+0.61
Papplewick	271.19	23,288	85.87	82.50	+3.37	+4.08
Ravenshead	2,805.64	170,055	60.61	58.86	+1.75	+2.97
St Albans	945.66	28,720	30.37	30.38	-0.01	-0.03
Stoke Bardolph	463.75	2,500	5.39	6.41	-1.02	-15.91
Woodborough	935.89	86,585	92.52	88.24	+4.28	+4.85
Unparished	27,214.90	n/a				
Total	39,664.26	981,413				

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 2025/26 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 2025/26.

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 2025/26;
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2025/26;
- Capital Programme and Capital Investment Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29;
- General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26;
- Gedling Plan 2023–2027;
- Precept notifications 2025/26.

10. Reasons for Recommendations

To set the Council Tax for 2025/26 and comply with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Statutory Officer approval:

Approved by: Chief Financial Officer

Date: 24 February 2024

Approved by: Monitoring Officer

Date: 24 February 2024