

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Tax Setting 2014/15

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCE & RESOURCES

1.0 PURPOSE

To seek approval of the appropriate formal resolutions to determine the levels of Council Tax for Bromsgrove District Council for 2014/15. The levels of tax take account of the requirements of Bromsgrove District Council, Worcestershire County Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Authority and the various Parish Councils.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously.

3.0 PRECEPTS AND LEVIES

Details have been received from the various precepting bodies to enable the Council to set the Council Tax for 2014/15. The amounts of the precepts are set out below:

	£
Worcestershire County Council	36,138,442.00
Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	6,218,919.48
Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Authority	2,560,898.62
Bromsgrove District Council	6,831,778.00
Parish precepts	725,368.76
Total	52,475,406.86

The Parish Council Precepts for 2014/15 are detailed in the attached **Schedule 3**.

4.0 INFORMATION

Based on the recommendation from Cabinet, it is now necessary to formally set Council Tax levels throughout the area for the spending requirements of Bromsgrove District Council, Worcestershire County Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Authority and the various Parish Councils. If the Council approves the recommendations set out below the average band D Council Tax in 2014/15 will be £1,538.06, made up as follows:

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Authority	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	Increase %
Bromsgrove District Council	196.51	200.24	1.90
Worcestershire County Council	1,039.06	1,059.22	1.94
Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	178.72	182.28	1.99
Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue	73.64	75.06	1.93
Parish Councils (Average)	20.73	21.26	2.58
Total Council Tax	1,508.66	1,538.06	1.95

The % increases all relate to the change from current year levels.

The average increase in overall bills represents a range from 1.75% to +2.44% depending on variations in parish council spending and precepts.

The necessary formal resolutions are set out below.

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. that it be noted at its meeting on 8 January 2014 the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2014/15
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 34,117.95 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates the amounts as shown in Column 4 of the attached **Schedule 1**.

2. Calculate the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£6,831,778**.

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £47,115,007 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act (taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils) (*i.e. Gross expenditure*)

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- (b) £39,557,860 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act. (*i.e. Gross income*)
 - (c) £7,557,147 being the amount by which the aggregate of 3 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £221.50 being the amount at 3 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) £725,369 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act (as per the attached **Schedule 3**).
 - (f) £200.24 being the amount at 3 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3 (e) above by Item T (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 Parish precept relates.
 - (g) the amounts shown in Column 3 of **Schedule 1**. These are the basic amounts of the council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the Council's area shown in Column 1 of the schedule respectively to which special items relate, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act. (District and Parish combined at Band D).
 - (h) The amounts shown in Column 5 of **Schedule 1** being the amount given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;
4. It be noted that for the year 2014/15 Worcestershire County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local

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Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling in the Council's area as indicated below:

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Worcestershire County Council	706.15	823.84	941.53	1,059.22	1,294.60	1,529.99	1,765.37	2,118.44
Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	121.52	141.77	162.02	182.28	222.78	263.29	303.80	364.55
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority	50.04	58.38	66.72	75.06	91.74	108.42	125.10	150.12

- Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4(h) and 5 above, that Bromsgrove District Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts shown in **Schedule 2** as the amounts of Council Tax for 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
- That the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund by ten equal instalments between April 2014 to March 2015 as detailed below:

	Precept £	Surplus on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	36,138,442.00	471,891	36,610,333.00
Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	6,218,919.48	81,166	6,300,085.48
Hereford & Worcester Fire	2,560,898.62	33,443.00	2,594,341.62

- That the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make transfers under Section 97 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund to the General

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Fund the sum of £ 7,655,794 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£6,831,778), Parish Precepts (£725,369) and the distribution of the Surplus on the Collection Fund (£98,647).

8. That the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to the Parish Councils the sums listed on **Schedule 3** by two equal instalments on 1 April 2014 and 1 October 2014 in respect of the precept levied on the Council.
9. That the above resolutions 3 to 5 be signed by the Chief Executive for use in legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Taxes.
10. Notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive are given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.