

COUNCIL – 25 FEBRUARY 2025

9. COUNCIL TAX – DISTRICT ELEMENT (DoF)

Summary

- 1.1 This report allows the Council to set the district element of the Council Tax for 2025/26. This includes the parish precepts.

Background

- 2.1 The calculations below comply with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“The Act”), as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The details below show the calculations made in arriving at the recommendations and are cross referenced accordingly.

Details

3.1 *The Council Tax Base*

At its meeting on 10 December 2024, the Council approved the Council Tax Base for 2025/26 as follows:

Parish	Band D Equivalents 2025/26
Abbots Langley	8,865.3
Batchworth	6,603.8
Chorleywood	6,339.1
Croxley Green	5,818.2
Sarratt	1,098.6
Watford Rural	7,617.3
Unparished	3,696.8
Total District	40,038.9

3.2 *Calculation of Council Tax Requirement*

The Council must calculate its aggregate expenditure (a), its aggregate income (b) and the difference between the two, being termed the Council Tax Requirement (c).

Council Tax Requirement	£
Aggregate Expenditure (a)	54,325,066
Aggregate Income (b)	(43,450,354)
Council Tax Requirement (c)	10,874,712

3.3 **Basic Amount of Tax**

This is calculated by dividing the Council Tax Requirement by the Council Tax Base.

$$\frac{10,874,712}{40,038.9} = \text{£}271.60$$

This is the charge that, were there to be no special items in a part of the area, would be levied on a Band D property to meet District and Parish expenditure.

3.4 **Aggregate Amount of Special Items**

Special items include both Parish Precepts and Special Expenses:-

Area	Precepts £	Special Expenses £	Total £
Abbots Langley	1,075,159	922	1,076,081
Batchworth	184,169	448,022	632,191
Chorleywood	583,197	92,525	675,722
Croxley Green	361,440	153,365	514,805
Sarratt	111,045	0	111,045
Watford Rural	297,275	266,261	563,536
Unparished	0	309,339	309,339
Total	2,612,285	1,270,434	3,882,719

3.5 **Basic Amount of Council Tax for Dwellings in a Part of the District Where No Special Items to Apply.**

This calculation gives a basic amount of tax for a dwelling in a part of the area to which no special item relates. In fact there is no dwelling in the District to which this applies but the figure is calculated to enable special items in each part of the District to be subsequently added back:-

$$\text{Basic Amount of Tax} - \frac{\text{Aggregate of Special Items}}{\text{Council's Total Tax Base}}$$

$$\text{£}271.60 - \frac{\text{£}3,882,719}{40,038.9} = \text{£}174.63$$

This figure equates to the District Council's charge for "General Expenses".

3.6 **Council Tax for Part of the Council's Area**

This calculation adds back to the calculation at paragraph 3.5 above, the Special items that relate to each part of the District with regard to the tax base in each part:-

Special Items	Abbots Langley	Batchworth	Chorleywood	Croxley Green	Sarratt	Watford Rural	Unparished	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precepts	1,075,159.00	184,169.00	583,197.20	361,440.00	111,045.00	297,275.00		2,612,285.20
Special Expenses	922.00	448,022.00	92,525.00	153,365.00	0.00	266,261.00	309,339.00	1,270,434.00
Total	1,076,081.00	632,191.00	675,722.20	514,805.00	111,045.00	563,536.00	309,339.00	3,882,719.20
Divided by Tax Base	8,865.30	6,603.80	6,339.10	5,818.20	1,098.60	7,617.30	3,696.80	40,038.90
Sub Total	121.38	95.73	106.60	88.48	101.08	73.98	83.68	
Add Council Tax if no Special Items existed	174.63	174.63	174.63	174.63	174.63	174.63	174.63	
Total	296.01	270.36	281.23	263.11	275.71	248.61	258.31	

3.7 **Charges for Each Band**

The figures for each band of property are arrived at by taking the charge for a band D property and applying the following proportions:-

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

3.8 **Major Precepting Authorities**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire County Council have agreed their 2025/26 precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act. Precepts for these authorities are added to this Council's charges to arrive at a total council tax charge.

Options/Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The report is made to set this Council's element of the Council Tax for 2025/26.

Policy/Budget

5.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

6.1 None specific.

Financial Implications

7.1 Applying the charges will generate the income required to meet District and Parish Councils' expenditure after discounts and non-payment, allowance for which has been included in the Council Tax Base.

Legal Implications

8.1 This report and its recommendations comply with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.

8.2 The Government announced that for district councils, their relevant basic amount of council tax in 2025/26 will require a referendum if it is either:

- 3%, or more than 3% above its 2024/25 level; and
- more than £5.00 above its 2024/25 level.

The relevant basic amount of council tax is the total of the district element of the council tax requirement (including special expenses) or £206.36 compared to £200.37 in 2024/25. The average increase in the district for 2025/26 for a Band D property is 2.99%. Therefore, there is no need for a referendum on the 2025/26 district element of the council tax charge as this is below 3%.

Recommendations

That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2025/26, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £54,325,066 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.
- (b) £43,450,354 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £10,874,712 being the amount by which the aggregate (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above.
- (d) £271.60 being the amount at (c) above divided by the council tax base, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including parish precepts).
- (e) £3,882,719 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts and special expenses)
- (f) £174.63 being the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates.

(g)

Parts of the Council's Area	£
Abbots Langley	296.01
Batchworth	270.36
Chorleywood	281.23
Croxley Green	263.11
Sarratt	275.71
Watford Rural	248.61
Unparished	258.31

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to the dwellings in those

parts of the Council's area listed above divided by the council tax base, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h)

Parts of the Council's Area	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbots Langley	197.34	230.23	263.12	296.01	361.79	427.57	493.35	592.02
Batchworth	180.24	210.28	240.32	270.36	330.44	390.52	450.60	540.72
Chorleywood	187.49	218.73	249.98	281.23	343.73	406.22	468.72	562.46
Croxley Green	175.41	204.64	233.88	263.11	321.58	380.05	438.52	526.22
Sarratt	183.81	214.44	245.08	275.71	336.98	398.25	459.52	551.42
Watford Rural	165.74	193.36	220.99	248.61	303.86	359.10	414.35	497.22
Unparished	172.21	200.91	229.61	258.31	315.71	373.11	430.52	516.62

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (g) above by the proportion in paragraph 3.7.

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Background Papers:

Local Government Finance Act 1992

The approved budget for 2025/26

Preceptor's notifications (HCC & P&CC)

Appendix 1 – Special Items

Council 10 December 2024 - Council Tax Base 2025/26 report

Special Items

Council Tax Special Items 2025/26	Abbots Langley £	Batchworth £	Chorleywood £	Croxley Green £	Sarratt £	Watford Rural £	Unparished £	Total £
Special Expenses								
Aquadrome	0	105,578	0	0	0	0	0	105,578
Playing Fields and Open Spaces	0	233,372	75,077	146,725	0	227,173	212,942	895,289
Trees & Landscapes	922	19,366	17,448	6,640	0	42,088	1,107	87,571
Watersmeet	0	89,706	0	0	0	0	95,290	184,996
Community Halls	0	0	0	0	0	(3,000)	0	(3,000)
Total Special Expenses	922	448,022	92,525	153,365	0	266,261	309,339	1,270,434
Parish Council Precepts	1,075,159	184,169	583,197	361,440	111,045	297,275	0	2,612,285
Total Special Items	1,076,081	632,191	675,722	514,805	111,045	563,536	309,339	3,882,719
Council Tax Base	8865.3	6603.8	6339.1	5818.2	1098.6	7617.3	3696.8	40038.9
Band D Charge for Special Items	121.38	95.73	106.60	88.48	101.08	73.98	83.68	