

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	5 MARCH 2018
Heading:	COUNCIL TAX 2018/19		
Portfolio Holder:	CORPORATE RESOURCES AND FINANCE		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

To agree and recommend the Council Tax level for 2018/19 to Council.

Recommendation(s)

That a 2018/19 Band D Council Tax level of £185.46 for Ashfield District Council is recommended to Council.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

In order to set a balanced budget for 2018/19 in the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered

The Council Tax level for 2018/19 can be set at any level up to and including a £5 increase at Band D or 2.99%, whichever is greater. Any proposed increase above this level would be subject to a referendum. Section 2 of the Detailed Information gives details.

Detailed Information

1. Background

The Council's detailed Revenue Budget for 2017/18 (Revised) and 2018/19 was agreed by Cabinet on 19 February 2018. The purpose of this report is to recommend a Council Tax level for 2018/19 to Council.

The recommended Council Tax at Band D, £185.46, is estimated to generate income to the Council of £6.146 million. This figure was used in the budget which has already been recommended to Council (19 February) and consequently there are no changes proposed to the detailed budget arising from this report.

The Government announced the final Local Government Settlement on 6 February 2018. There have been minor changes to the Business Rates Tariff, but this does not have a material effect on the budget and consequently no changes have been applied.

2. Council Tax Options

On 6 February 2018, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed the Council Tax Referendum Principles for 2018/19. District Councils are permitted to increase Council Tax by 2.99% or £5 on a Band D property for 2018/19. Any proposal to increase Council Tax by more than this would trigger a referendum.

For the purpose of this report an increase of £5 (a rise of 2.77%) at Band D has been applied.

The movement in the Council Tax base equates to 594.3 properties. The movement in the Council Tax base, with no increase in Council Tax would generate £107k. A £5 increase in Council Tax at Band D will add a further £166k to the amount raised via Council Tax bringing the total of additional Council Tax raised compared to last year to £273k. This increase is integral to the future financial standing of the Council and mitigates the amount of savings that are required as set out in the MTFs.

The overall increase, from £5.873m to £6.146m (£273k) is shown in the budget report recommended to Council on 19 February 2018.

Residents living in a Band D property will pay £5 extra Council Tax over the financial year 2018/19. For those living in a Band A property (around 53% of the district's housing stock is Band A) the annual increase is £3.33.

This is the equivalent of a 6 pence per week increase to those residents.

3. Preceptors' Council Tax Levels

These tables give details of the Council Tax levels to be charged by the various other public bodies, or "preceptors" whose charges form part of the Council Tax bills for Ashfield residents.

a) Ashfield District Council

The following is proposed for Ashfield District Council for 2018/19, as explained in Section 2 above:

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	33,140.5	32,546.2	The Council Tax Base has increased. This mainly reflects new development in the District, but also reflects changes to the numbers of residents supported by the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme, and any changes to discounts and exemptions (e.g. Single Person's Discount).
Council Tax Requirement	£6,146,237	£5,873,287	The Council is raising an additional £273k for the ongoing funding of its services (see Section 2).
Council Tax at Band D	£185.46	£180.46	A proposed increase of £2.77%. This will be considered at the meeting of Council which follows this meeting.

The relevant bands of Council Tax for Ashfield would be as follows. These represent a 2.77% increase over 2017/18.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
<i>Proportion of Band D</i>	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
Amount of Council Tax (ADC element)	£123.64	£144.25	£164.85	£185.46	£226.67	£267.89	£309.10	£370.92

b) Annesley and Felley Parish Council

Annesley and Felley Parish Council has declared the following for 2018/19:

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	548.4	533.3	The Council Tax Base has increased. This mainly reflects new development in the Parish, but also reflects changes to the numbers of residents supported by the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme, and any changes to discounts and exemptions (e.g. Single Person's Discount).
Council Tax Requirement	£55,530	£54,002	The Parish Council is raising an additional £1.5k to fund its parish services.
Council Tax at Band D	£101.26	£101.26	A 0% increase. This has been formally notified to the Council.

c) Selston Parish Council

Selston Parish Council has declared the following for 2018/19:

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	3,717.7	3,661.5	The Council Tax Base has increased. This mainly reflects new development in the Parish, but also reflects changes to the numbers of residents supported by the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme, and any changes to discounts and exemptions (e.g. Single Person's Discount).
Council Tax Requirement	£234,289	£230,748	The Parish Council is raising an additional £3.5k to fund its parish services
Council Tax at Band D	£63.02	£63.02	A 0% increase. This has been formally notified to the Council.

d) Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council has declared the following for 2018/19. This table shows the whole amount of the Council Tax Precept issued by the County Council, and the whole amount paid at Band D. See also the following tables.

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	33,140.5	32,546.2	The Council Tax Base has increased. See table at (a) above.
Council Tax Requirement	£47,040,620	£44,001,486	The County Council is raising an additional £3.039m from the Ashfield area to fund its services.
Council Tax at Band D	£1,419.43	£1,351.97	An increase of £67.46 or 4.99%. This increase has been formally notified to the Council.

Councils providing social care functions are allowed to set an additional element of their precept to provide additional funding towards social care services. These increases are governed by a separate set of rules to those set out in paragraph 2 above and are set out in detail in the County's own budget report. The next two tables show the increases that have been applied to the two elements of their Council Tax. When added together, they equal the summary table above.

d. (i) Nottinghamshire County Council Main Precept

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	33,140.5	32,546.2	
Council Tax Requirement	£44,038,753	£41,933,500	
Council Tax at Band D	£1,328.85	£1,288.43	The increase, £40.42, is a 2.99% increase on the 2017/18 full precept, £1,351.97.

d. (ii) Nottinghamshire County Council Social Care Precept

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	33,140.5	32,546.2	
Council Tax Requirement	£3,001,867	£2,067,986	
Council Tax at Band D	£90.58	£63.54	The Social Care precept increase of £27.04, is a 2.00% increase on the 2017/18 full precept, £1,351.97.

e. Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner has declared the following for 2018/19:

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	33,140.5	32,546.2	The Council Tax Base has increased. See table at (a) above.
Council Tax Requirement	£6,475,322	£5,969,624	The Police and Crime Commissioner is raising an additional £506k from the Ashfield Area to fund Police services.
Council Tax at Band D	£195.39	£183.42	An increase of 6.53%. This increase has been formally notified to the Council.

f. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority

The Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority has declared the following for 2018/19:

	2018/19	2017/18 for comparison	Notes
Council Tax Base	33,140.5	32,546.2	The Council Tax Base has increased. See table at (a) above.
Council Tax Requirement	£2,568,720	£2,450,403	The Fire and Rescue Authority is raising an additional £118k from the Ashfield area to fund their services.
Council Tax at Band D	£77.51	£75.29	An increase of 2.95%. This increase has been formally notified to the Council.

g. Summary of Council Tax Demands by Band

For Residents of the Annesley and Felley Parish Area:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Annesley and Felley Parish Precept	£67.51	£78.76	£90.01	£101.26	£123.76	£146.26	£168.77	£202.52
Ashfield DC Council Tax	£123.64	£144.25	£164.85	£185.46	£226.67	£267.89	£309.10	£370.92
Nottinghamshire County Council Precept	£946.29	£1,104.00	£1,261.72	£1,419.43	£1,734.86	£2,050.29	£2,365.72	£2,838.86
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£130.26	£151.97	£173.68	£195.39	£238.81	£282.23	£325.65	£390.78
Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority Precept	£51.67	£60.29	£68.90	£77.51	£94.73	£111.96	£129.18	£155.02
TOTAL COUNCIL TAX	£1,319.37	£1,539.27	£1,759.16	£1,979.05	£2,418.83	£2,858.63	£3,298.42	£3,958.10

This total Council Tax is a 4.58% increase on 2017/18 Band D of £1,892.40.

For Residents of the Selston Parish Area:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Selston Parish Precept	£42.01	£49.02	£56.02	£63.02	£77.02	£91.03	£105.03	£126.04
Ashfield DC Council Tax	£123.64	£144.25	£164.85	£185.46	£226.67	£267.89	£309.10	£370.92
Nottinghamshire County Council Precept	£946.29	£1,104.00	£1,261.72	£1,419.43	£1,734.86	£2,050.29	£2,365.72	£2,838.86
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£130.26	£151.97	£173.68	£195.39	£238.81	£282.23	£325.65	£390.78
Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority Precept	£51.67	£60.29	£68.90	£77.51	£94.73	£111.96	£129.18	£155.02
TOTAL COUNCIL TAX	£1,293.87	£1,509.53	£1,725.17	£1,940.81	£2,372.09	£2,803.40	£3,234.68	£3,881.62

This total Council Tax is a 4.67% increase on 2017/18 Band D of £1,854.16.

For Residents of all Other Parts of the Ashfield District Area:

Council Tax Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ashfield DC Council Tax	£123.64	£144.25	£164.85	£185.46	£226.67	£267.89	£309.10	£370.92
Nottinghamshire County Council Precept	£946.29	£1,104.00	£1,261.72	£1,419.43	£1,734.86	£2,050.29	£2,365.72	£2,838.86
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£130.26	£151.97	£173.68	£195.39	£238.81	£282.23	£325.65	£390.78
Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority Precept	£51.67	£60.29	£68.90	£77.51	£94.73	£111.96	£129.18	£155.02
TOTAL COUNCIL TAX	£1,251.86	£1,460.51	£1,669.15	£1,877.79	£2,295.07	£2,712.37	£3,129.65	£3,755.58

This total Council Tax is a 4.84% increase on 2017/18 Band D of £1,791.14.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Legal:

The Council must set a legal budget by 11 March 2018.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Setting the Council Tax is the final stage of budget preparation for 2018/19. The impact of this proposal is to increase the Council Tax collected by £166k, which when added to the impact of an increased Council Tax Base (£107k), gives a budgeted Council Tax amount of £6.146m.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None relevant to this report.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None relevant to this report.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None relevant to this report.

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
The Council Tax amount must be set by 11 March 2018.	Arrangements are in place for the Council to approve the setting of the Council Tax and the Budget.
Not to set a balanced budget	The Council Tax figures in this report are as laid out in the MTFS.

Human Resources:

None directly relevant to this report.

Equalities:

None directly relevant to this report.

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

The decision is not subject to call-in as the matter will be considered for approval by Council at the Extraordinary meeting being held after Cabinet.

Background Papers

Details of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement from the Government web site.

The Council Tax Base for 2018/19 was set in an Officer Decision Record (11 January 2018), which is available in the Council's web site.

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