

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TAX SETTING PANEL
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2012**

MEMBERS

* Cllr R D Gilbert - Chairman

* Cllr K J Baldry

* Cllr R J Tucker

Ø Cllr J Baverstock

* Denotes attendance

Ø Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance:

Cllrs I Bramble, M J Hicks and J T Pennington

Officers in attendance:

All Agenda Items: Chief Accountant, Monitoring Officer and Member Services
Manager

CTSP.1/11 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 24 February 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CTSP.2/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting but none was made.

CTSP.3/11 DECLARATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE AND INDIVIDUAL TAX BASES FOR TOWNS AND PARISHES: 2011/2012

Consideration was given to a report which calculated and set out the Council Tax for 2012/13, having taken into account the precepts as notified from Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Town and Parish Councils.

During discussion, points of clarity were sought from Members in relation to the Number of Band D properties per Town and Parish as shown in Appendix A of the presented report. It was confirmed that the number of properties in each council tax band were weighted to arrive at the published figures which represented Band D equivalents. It was also confirmed that the District Council had no control over the precepts set by Town and Parish Councils.

Members briefly discussed the precept set by Buckland Tout Saints Parish Council, as this was shown as a 200% increase. In response, the local Ward Member advised that there would potentially be two contested elections within the Parish in the near future, and in addition it was important to ensure that an incoming Council had an adequate financial base from which to work.

The final point raised during discussion related to devolved services, and concerns that the District Council devolving services would result in Town and Parish precepts increasing. In response, the Leader of the Council stated that devolved services would only happen when the community, the Town or Parish Council and the District Council were all winners, otherwise it would not be appropriate to do it.

It was then:

RESOLVED

1. That it be noted that on 14 December 2011 the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors, under delegated authority from full Council, approved the Council Tax Base for the year 2012/13:
 - a) For the whole Council area as 38,221.67 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act)); and
 - b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached **Appendix A** to the presented report;
2. That the Council Tax requirement for South Hams District Council's own purposes for 2012/13 (excluding Parish precepts) is calculated at £5,270,004 (**Appendix B** to the presented report)
3. That the following amounts are calculated by the Council for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Localism Act 2011 (**Appendix B** to the presented report):
 - (a) £50,991,078, 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/Town Councils (**Gross expenditure including parish precepts**).

(b) £44,130,896, being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act (**Total income including formula grant and council tax surplus**).

(c) £6,860,182, being the amount by which the aggregate at 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) (**Council tax requirement, including parish precepts**).

(d) £179.48, 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 (**Average band D council tax for South Hams District Council and parishes**).

(e) £1,590,218, being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached **Appendix C – parish precepts**).

(f) £137.88, 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 (**Band D council tax for South Hams District Council only**).

4. That it be noted that for the year 2012/2013, Devon County Council, Devon & Cornwall Police Authority and Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below:

Precepting authority	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Devon County Council's tax requirements	744.24	868.28	992.32	1,116.36	1,364.44	1,612.52	1,860.60	2,232.72
Devon & Cornwall Police Authority's tax requirements	106.49	124.23	141.98	159.73	195.23	230.72	266.22	319.46
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority's tax requirements	49.28	57.49	65.71	73.92	90.35	106.77	123.20	147.84

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings shown at **Appendix D (total of all valuation band council taxes for South Hams District Council including parishes, county, police and fire authorities)**.
6. That the Council has concluded that the basic amount of Council Tax for South Hams District Council for 2012/13 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. (see calculation at **Appendix B** of the presented report).

(Meeting commenced at 2.00pm and concluded at 2.13pm).

Chairman