

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TAX SETTING PANEL
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2015**

MEMBERS

* Cllr P W Hitchins - Chairman

* Cllr K J Baldry

* Cllr R J Tucker

∅ Cllr R J Foss

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance:

Cllr M J Hicks

Officers in attendance:

All Agenda Items: Finance COP Lead, Finance Business Partner, Specialist -
Accountant and Member Services Manager

CTSP.1/14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 27 February 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CTSP.2/14 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.3/14 DECLARATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE AND INDIVIDUAL TAX BASES FOR TOWNS AND PARISHES: 2015/2016

Consideration was given to a report which calculated and set out the Council Tax for 2015/16, having taken into account the precepts as notified from Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Town and Parish Councils.

The Finance COP Lead highlighted particular areas within the report and responded to queries. One Member noted that some town and parish councils had put forward a large percentage increase in their precept. He suggested that Government be lobbied to cap town and parish councils and prevent significant increases. The Finance COP Lead advised that if Government were to cap town and parish councils then it was likely that the cap would only apply to the larger councils with a precept of more than £100 per Band D property.

Members also noted that the district council had agreed a nil percent increase in council tax yet the council tax bills that landed on peoples doorsteps would have increased as a result of other precepting authorities increasing their element of the council tax bill.

It was then:

RESOLVED

1. That it be noted that in December 2014 the Senior Management Team, under delegated authority from full Council, approved the Council Tax Base for the year 2015/16
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 36,606.88 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base)(England) Regulations 2012; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates in accordance with regulation 6 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base)(England) Regulations 2012 (**Appendix A**).

2. That the Council Tax requirement for South Hams District Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is calculated at £5,323,372 (**Appendix B**).

3. That the following amounts are calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Localism Act 2011 (**Appendix B**):
 - (a) £43,828,213 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) £36,823,255 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) £7,004,958 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) £191.36 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the Council tax base(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) £1,681,586 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) £145.42 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the Council tax base (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 the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire 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	774.18	903.21	1,032.24	1,161.27	1,419.33	1,677.39	1,935.45	2,322.54
Police & Crime Commissioner's tax requirements	112.98	131.81	150.64	169.47	207.13	244.79	282.45	338.94
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority's tax requirements	52.28	60.99	69.71	78.42	95.85	113.27	130.70	156.84

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 2015/16 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 crime commissioner and fire authority)**.
6. That the Council has concluded that the basic amount of Council Tax for South Hams District Council for 2015/16 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. (see calculation at **Appendix B**).

(Meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 10.11am).

Chairman