

Agenda Item No:

Report To: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 19 February 2015

Report Title: Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2015/16

Report Author: Ben Lockwood, Head of Finance
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Summary:

This report presents the Cabinet's 2015-2016 General Fund Budget and Council Tax recommendations for resolution by the Full Council. It also presents the full statutory resolutions, including the requirements of the Precepting Authorities and Parish Councils, for the area covered by the Borough Council as the billing authority.

Excluding Parish Precepts, the Council's net revenue spending, is (0.6)% more than the budget for 2014/15. The Borough Council's element of the Council Tax at band D is to be frozen as £145.45.

On the basis of information available from the Precepting Authorities the overall level of Council Tax, excluding Parish Precepts, is anticipated to be £1,453.24 an increase overall of £25.55. (or 1.8%).

The detailed Council Tax amounts by band are subject to validation within our billing system. If amendments are needed they will be tabled at the meeting.

Key Decision: Not applicable

Affected Wards: ALL

Recommendations:

- (1) Agree the Budget for 2015/16 as recommended by the Cabinet
- (2) Agree the formal Council Tax resolutions annexed to this Report.

Policy Overview: The Budget is a matter for the Full Council to approve. Apart from the statutory requirement and status of the budget, the proposals for 2015/16 take forward the fifth year of the Council's Business Plan.

Financial Implications: The budget supports the Business Plan and is the result of considerable input from Members and Services, over several months. It is broadly in line with our medium term financial forecasts. The recommended budget requirement (excluding parish precepts) is £13.734 million. The recommended Council Tax at Band D is £145.45, and is frozen from

2013/14. A 'freeze' grant equivalent to a 1% increase will be paid by government and rolled into future years' grant settlements.

Risk Assessment

The report to the Cabinet contained advice about the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves, as required by the Local Government Act 2003. The report concluded that while there are risks, the Council's Members and Officers understand these, but the Council has well-developed budgetary control and monitoring procedures to address these should pressures arise. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its review concluded that the draft budget was 'deliverable and manageable'.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The resolutions in this report, which must include the requirements of all Precepting authorities, are based on the recommendations made to these Authorities.

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the Cabinet Committee's 2015/16 General Fund Budget and Council Tax recommendation for resolution by the Full Council. It presents the full statutory resolutions, including the requirements of the Precepting Authorities (as known at the time of writing) and the Parish Councils, for the areas covered by the Borough Council as the Billing Authority.

Issue to be Decided

2. The Full Council is required to consider and approve the recommended 2015/16 Budget and the Council Tax requirement. The Full Council must also agree the statutory resolutions, which include the Precepting Authorities' requirements.

Ashford Borough Council's General Fund Budget and Council Tax Requirement and Consultation

3. The decisions of the Cabinet at its meeting on 11th February are set out in its Cabinet Minute 310 reported on this Agenda. Recommendation (ii) on a detailed aspect of street trading consents is subject to confirmation. A summary of the recommended budget is included as **Appendix A**. Members will also have received a link to allow them to review the full 2015/2016 Budget Book by the time of the meeting.
4. The report to the Cabinet Meeting included advice required by the Local Government Act 2003, on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the Councils reserves.
5. It should be noted that the period for budget consultation closes on 11th February. No responses were received from the Public, and the Cabinet received a paper on the response of the JCC committee. Any further responses to the consultation will be reported to the Full Council Meeting.

Council Tax Requirement

6. The demand on the Council Tax Collection Fund for 2015/16 that flows from the recommendation of the Cabinet, and the decisions of the Precepting Bodies totals £62,800,351, analysed as follows: -

Authority	Precept/Demand		2015/2016 Band D Council Tax	Change over 2014/2015	
	£	%	£	£	%

Ashford Borough Council	6,161,990	9.81%	145.45	0	0.00%
Kent County Council	46,177,426	73.53%	1089.99	21.33	2.00%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	6,234,010	9.93%	147.15	2.87	1.99%
Kent and Medway Fire Authority	2,993,087	4.77%	70.65	1.35	1.95%
Parish Councils	1,233,838	1.96%	45.99	3.3818	7.94%

7. Excluding Parish Precepts the overall Council Tax at Band D for 2015/16 is £1,453.24, and increase of £25.55 on 2014/15.
8. Attached to this report are the formal resolutions for approval by the Council as the Billing Authority. Also attached at **Appendix A and B** are details on the calculation of this Council's Budget requirement and Council Tax at Band D.

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COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that on **04 December 2014** the Cabinet calculated
 - a) the Council Tax Base 2015/16 for the whole Council area as **42,365** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) 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 **Annex A**.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£6,161,989.25 (Appendices A and B)**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

£	
(a)	89,589,148 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)	(82,193,320) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	7,395,828 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 31A(4) of the Act).
(d)	174.57 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).(Annex C)
(e)	1,233,838 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Annex B).
(f)	145.45 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 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.(Annex D & E)

Part of the Council's area (i.e. tax base for parished areas – Band D equivalent properties).

PARISH	LOCAL TAX BASE		PARISH	LOCAL TAX BASE
Aldington & Bonnington	550.90		Little Chart	124.10
Appledore	326.00		Mersham and Sevington	627.90
Bethersden	676.80		Molash	107.20
Biddenden	1,078.40		Newenden	104.20
Bilsington	143.10		Orlestone	554.90
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,038.10		Pluckley	473.60
Brabourne	586.10		Rolvenden	654.60
Brook	150.30		Ruckinge	326.30
Challock	414.30		Shadoxhurst	489.60
Charing	1,204.00		Smarden	603.00
Chilham	716.70		Smeeth	349.10
Crundale (PM)	92.70		Stanhope	711.70
Egerton	499.80		Stone	209.60
Godmersham	173.80		Tenterden (TC)	3,433.10
Great Chart with Singleton	2,307.00		Warehorne	171.40
Hastingleigh	113.20		Westwell	321.60
High Halden	715.20		Wittersham	524.10
Hothfield	276.00		Woodchurch	818.00
Kenardington	102.00		Wye with Hinxhill	984.50
Kingsnorth	4,076.50			

Parish Council Precepts

PARISH	Parish Precept		PARISH	Parish Precept
Aldington & Bonnington	23,750		Little Chart	6,000
Appledore	26,000		Mersham and Sevington	15,660
Bethersden	21,550		Molash	4,000
Biddenden	48,339		Newenden	5,030
Bilsington	4,230		Orlestone	19,030
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	21,280		Pluckley	34,000
Brabourne	14,500		Rolvenden	21,629
Brook	5,000		Ruckinge	10,000
Challock	15,770		Shadoxhurst	12,270
Charing	73,678		Smarden	26,370
Chilham	26,321		Smeeth	11,090
Crundale (PM)	200		Stanhope	17,200
Egerton	17,150		Stone	4,250
Godmersham	5,500		Tenterden (TC)	303,177
Great Chart with Singleton	137,520		Warehorne	3,250
Hastingleigh	2,950		Westwell	15,150
High Halden	33,054		Wittersham	20,995
Hothfield	9,500		Woodchurch	20,000
Kenardington	4,340		Wye with Hinxhill	57,583
Kingsnorth	136,522			

BILLING AUTHORITY PART OF COUNCIL TAX 2015/16

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	125.71	146.66	167.61	188.56	230.46	272.36	314.27	377.12
Appledore	150.13	175.16	200.18	225.20	275.24	325.29	375.33	450.40
Bethersden	118.19	137.89	157.59	177.29	216.69	256.09	295.48	354.58
Biddenden	126.85	147.99	169.13	190.27	232.55	274.83	317.12	380.54
Bilsington	116.67	136.12	155.56	175.01	213.90	252.79	291.68	350.02
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	110.63	129.07	147.51	165.95	202.83	239.71	276.58	331.90
Brabourne	113.46	132.37	151.28	170.19	208.01	245.83	283.65	340.38
Brook	119.15	139.00	158.86	178.72	218.44	258.15	297.87	357.44
Challock	122.34	142.73	163.12	183.51	224.29	265.07	305.85	367.02
Charing	137.76	160.72	183.68	206.64	252.56	298.48	344.40	413.28
Chilham	121.45	141.70	161.94	182.18	222.66	263.15	303.63	364.36
Crundale (PM)	98.41	114.81	131.21	147.61	180.41	213.21	246.02	295.22
Egerton	119.84	139.81	159.79	179.76	219.71	259.65	299.60	359.52
Godmersham	118.07	137.74	157.42	177.10	216.46	255.81	295.17	354.20
Great Chart with Singleton	136.71	159.49	182.28	205.06	250.63	296.20	341.77	410.12
Hastingleigh	114.34	133.40	152.45	171.51	209.62	247.74	285.85	343.02
High Halden	127.78	149.08	170.37	191.67	234.26	276.86	319.45	383.34
Hothfield	119.91	139.90	159.88	179.87	219.84	259.81	299.78	359.74
Kenardington	125.33	146.22	167.11	188.00	229.78	271.56	313.33	376.00
Kingsnorth	119.29	139.18	159.06	178.94	218.70	258.47	298.23	357.88
Little Chart	129.20	150.73	172.27	193.80	236.87	279.93	323.00	387.60
Mersham and Sevington	113.59	132.53	151.46	170.39	208.25	246.12	283.98	340.78
Molash	121.84	142.15	162.45	182.76	223.37	263.99	304.60	365.52
Newenden	129.15	150.67	172.20	193.72	236.77	279.82	322.87	387.44
Orlestone	119.83	139.80	159.77	179.74	219.68	259.62	299.57	359.48
Pluckley	144.83	168.96	193.10	217.24	265.52	313.79	362.07	434.48

Rolvenden	118.99	138.83	158.66	178.49	218.15	257.82	297.48	356.98
Ruckinge	117.40	136.97	156.53	176.10	215.23	254.37	293.50	352.20
Shadoxhurst	113.67	132.62	151.56	170.51	208.40	246.29	284.18	341.02
Smarden	126.12	147.14	168.16	189.18	231.22	273.26	315.30	378.36
Smeeth	118.15	137.84	157.53	177.22	216.60	255.98	295.37	354.44
Stanhope	113.08	131.93	150.77	169.62	207.31	245.01	282.70	339.24
Stone	110.49	128.90	147.32	165.73	202.56	239.39	276.22	331.46
Tenterden (TC)	155.84	181.81	207.79	233.76	285.71	337.65	389.60	467.52
Warehorne	109.61	127.87	146.14	164.41	200.95	237.48	274.02	328.82
Westwell	128.37	149.77	171.16	192.56	235.35	278.14	320.93	385.12
Wittersham	123.67	144.29	164.90	185.51	226.73	267.96	309.18	371.02
Woodchurch	113.27	132.14	151.02	169.90	207.66	245.41	283.17	339.80
Wye with Hinxhill	135.96	158.62	181.28	203.94	249.26	294.58	339.90	407.88
Unparished Area	96.97	113.13	129.29	145.45	177.77	210.09	242.42	290.90

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	997.57	1,163.83	1,330.09	1,496.35	1,828.87	2,161.39	2,493.92	2,992.70
Appledore	1,022.00	1,192.33	1,362.66	1,532.99	1,873.65	2,214.31	2,554.99	3,065.98
Bethersden	990.06	1,155.06	1,320.07	1,485.08	1,815.10	2,145.11	2,475.14	2,970.16
Biddenden	998.71	1,165.16	1,331.61	1,498.06	1,830.96	2,163.86	2,496.77	2,996.12
Bilsington	988.54	1,153.29	1,318.05	1,482.80	1,812.31	2,141.82	2,471.34	2,965.60
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	982.50	1,146.24	1,309.99	1,473.74	1,801.24	2,128.73	2,456.24	2,947.48
Brabourne	985.32	1,149.54	1,313.76	1,477.98	1,806.42	2,134.86	2,463.30	2,955.96
Brook	991.01	1,156.18	1,321.34	1,486.51	1,816.84	2,147.18	2,477.52	2,973.02
Challock	994.20	1,159.90	1,325.60	1,491.30	1,822.70	2,154.10	2,485.50	2,982.60
Charing	1,009.62	1,177.89	1,346.16	1,514.43	1,850.97	2,187.51	2,524.05	3,028.86
Chilham	993.32	1,158.87	1,324.42	1,489.97	1,821.07	2,152.17	2,483.29	2,979.94
Crundale (PM)	970.27	1,131.98	1,293.69	1,455.40	1,778.82	2,102.24	2,425.67	2,910.80
Egerton	991.70	1,156.99	1,322.27	1,487.55	1,818.11	2,148.68	2,479.25	2,975.10
Godmersham	989.93	1,154.92	1,319.90	1,484.89	1,814.86	2,144.84	2,474.82	2,969.78
Great Chart with Singleton	1,008.57	1,176.66	1,344.76	1,512.85	1,849.04	2,185.22	2,521.42	3,025.70
Hastingleigh	986.20	1,150.57	1,314.93	1,479.30	1,808.03	2,136.76	2,465.50	2,958.60
High Halden	999.64	1,166.25	1,332.85	1,499.46	1,832.67	2,165.88	2,499.10	2,998.92
Hothfield	991.78	1,157.07	1,322.37	1,487.66	1,818.25	2,148.84	2,479.44	2,975.32
Kenardington	997.20	1,163.39	1,329.59	1,495.79	1,828.19	2,160.58	2,492.99	2,991.58
Kingsnorth	991.16	1,156.35	1,321.54	1,486.73	1,817.11	2,147.49	2,477.89	2,973.46
Little Chart	1,001.06	1,167.91	1,334.75	1,501.59	1,835.27	2,168.96	2,502.65	3,003.18
Mersham and Sevington	985.46	1,149.70	1,313.94	1,478.18	1,806.66	2,135.14	2,463.64	2,956.36
Molash	993.70	1,159.32	1,324.93	1,490.55	1,821.78	2,153.01	2,484.25	2,981.10
Newenden	1,001.01	1,167.84	1,334.68	1,501.51	1,835.18	2,168.84	2,502.52	3,003.02
Orlestone	991.69	1,156.97	1,322.25	1,487.53	1,818.09	2,148.65	2,479.22	2,975.06
Pluckley	1,016.69	1,186.14	1,355.58	1,525.03	1,863.92	2,202.82	2,541.72	3,050.06
Rolvenden	990.86	1,156.00	1,321.14	1,486.28	1,816.56	2,146.84	2,477.14	2,972.56
Ruckinge	989.26	1,154.14	1,319.01	1,483.89	1,813.64	2,143.39	2,473.15	2,967.78
Shadoxhurst	985.54	1,149.79	1,314.05	1,478.30	1,806.81	2,135.32	2,463.84	2,956.60
Smarden	997.98	1,164.31	1,330.64	1,496.97	1,829.63	2,162.29	2,494.95	2,993.94
Smeeth	990.01	1,155.01	1,320.01	1,485.01	1,815.01	2,145.01	2,475.02	2,970.02
Stanhope	984.94	1,149.10	1,313.25	1,477.41	1,805.72	2,134.03	2,462.35	2,954.82

Stone	982.35	1,146.07	1,309.80	1,473.52	1,800.97	2,128.41	2,455.87	2,947.04
Tenterden (TC)	1,027.70	1,198.99	1,370.27	1,541.55	1,884.11	2,226.68	2,569.25	3,083.10
Warehorne	981.47	1,145.05	1,308.62	1,472.20	1,799.35	2,126.51	2,453.67	2,944.40
Westwell	1,000.24	1,166.94	1,333.65	1,500.35	1,833.76	2,167.17	2,500.59	3,000.70
Wittersham	995.54	1,161.46	1,327.38	1,493.30	1,825.14	2,156.98	2,488.84	2,986.60
Woodchurch	985.13	1,149.32	1,313.50	1,477.69	1,806.06	2,134.44	2,462.82	2,955.38
Wye with Hinxhill	1,007.82	1,175.79	1,343.76	1,511.73	1,847.67	2,183.61	2,519.55	3,023.46
Unparished Area	968.83	1,130.30	1,291.77	1,453.24	1,776.18	2,099.12	2,422.07	2,906.48

Annex E

Precepting Authority	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ashford Borough Council	96.97	113.13	129.29	145.45	177.77	210.09	242.42	290.90
Kent County Council	726.66	847.77	968.88	1,089.99	1,332.21	1,574.43	1,816.65	2,179.98
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	98.10	114.45	130.80	147.15	179.85	212.55	245.25	294.30
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	47.10	54.95	62.80	70.65	86.35	102.05	117.75	141.30

Appendix A

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D		
	£	£
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	58,532,340	
Gross Expenditure - HRA	28,255,680	
Parish Precepts	<u>1,233,838</u>	88,021,858
Less Gross Income	(73,012,830)	(73,012,830)
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>15,009,028</u>
Add Deficit Distribution from Collection Fund	0	
New Homes Bonus	(2,324,000)	
Retained Business Rates	(2,628,370)	
Government Grant (RSG and S31 grants)	<u>(2,660,830)</u>	(7,613,200)
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		<u>7,395,828</u>
Less Parish Precepts		(1,233,838)
Council Tax Requirement		<u><u>6,161,990</u></u>
Council Tax Base		42,365
Band 'D' Council Tax		145.45
Average including Parishes		174.57

Appendix B

REVENUE BUDGET				
SUMMARY				
ACTUALS	ESTIMATE	PROJECTED	DETAIL	ESTIMATE
2013/14	2014/15	OUTTURN		2015/16
£	£	2014/15		£
£	£	£		£
1,279,548	1,844,470	1,893,030	Corporate, Strategy & Personnel	1,743,850
1,163,989	1,310,750	1,307,590	Legal & Democratic	1,310,700
1,761,466	1,810,300	2,009,850	Planning & Development	1,821,590
1,835,018	2,055,760	2,036,540	Financial Services	2,167,060
314,814	340,150	360,380	Communications & Technology	298,540
5,176,361	4,610,980	4,598,060	Community & Housing	4,279,500
1,249,647	3,509,990	3,699,140	Culture & the Environment	3,672,270
12,780,844	15,482,400	15,904,590	SERVICE EXPENDITURE	15,293,510
(2,094,985)	(2,138,760)	(1,968,434)	Capital Charges	(2,106,200)
60,200	50,350	50,350	Net Interest	40,260
235,205	241,000	241,000	Concurrent Functions Grant	241,000
3,173,686	12,030	112,750	Drainage Board Levies	265,120
			Contribution to Balances	
14,154,951	13,647,020	14,340,256	ABC BUDGET REQUIREMENT	13,733,690
			INCOME	
(3,798,600)	(2,942,520)	(2,942,520)	Government Grant	(2,106,830)
(1,540,636)	(2,457,510)	(2,457,510)	Retained Business Rates	(2,628,370)
(401,153)	(343,990)	(343,990)	Business Rates S31 Grants	(554,000)
(2,451,700)	(1,878,000)	(2,570,000)	New Homes Bonus	(2,324,000)
81,950	61,500	61,500	Parish CTS Payment	41,500
(5,995,737)	(6,086,500)	(6,086,500)	Council Tax	(6,161,990)
49,075	-	1,236	Budget Gap	-