

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday 27th February 2008

ITEM 4 – SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX AND GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2008/09

REVISED OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS – TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY PRECEPTS

1. That the Budget summarised at Appendix A to the report be the Council's General Fund Budget for 2008/09.
2. That the following be approved:
 - a. the probable revenue estimates for the year 2007/08 amounting to £15,131,120 and the revenue estimates for 2008/09 amounting to £15,012,420;
 - b. the contribution from balances of £2,641,529 in 2007/08;
 - c. the contribution from balances totalling £2,064,690 in 2008/09.
3. That it be noted that at its meeting on 23rd January 2008 the Executive calculated the amount of 28,225.00 Band D equivalent properties as its council tax base for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
4. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - a. £12,947,730 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act, less the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c)

- b. £7,775,078 Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant
- c. £51,508 Being the utilisation of the Council's share of the estimated surplus totalling £395,000 as calculated in accordance with Sections 97(3) and Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988
- d. £181.44 Being the amount at 4a. above less the amounts at 4b. and 4c. above, all divided by the amount at 3. Above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year
- e. Valuation Bands
- | | |
|---|----------|
| A | £ 120.96 |
| B | £ 141.12 |
| C | £ 161.28 |
| D | £ 181.44 |
| E | £ 221.76 |
| F | £ 262.08 |
| G | £ 302.40 |
| H | £ 362.88 |

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 4d. above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

5. a. That it be noted that for the year 2008/09 Hertfordshire County Council have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

| | |
|---|------------|
| A | £ 720.75 |
| B | £ 840.87 |
| C | £ 961.00 |
| D | £ 1,081.12 |
| E | £ 1,321.37 |
| F | £ 1,561.62 |
| G | £ 1,801.87 |
| H | £ 2,162.24 |

- b. That it be noted that for the year 2008/09 Hertfordshire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and amended by Section 27 of the Police and Magistrates' Court Act 1994, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

| | |
|---|----------|
| A | £ 91.11 |
| B | £ 106.30 |
| C | £ 121.48 |
| D | £ 136.67 |
| E | £ 167.04 |
| F | £ 197.41 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| G | £ 227.78 |
| H | £ 273.34 |

6. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4e. and 5a. and b. above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts for council tax for the year 2008/09 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

| | |
|---|------------|
| A | £ 932.82 |
| B | £ 1,088.29 |
| C | £ 1,243.76 |
| D | £ 1,399.23 |
| E | £ 1,710.17 |
| F | £ 2,021.11 |
| G | £ 2,332.05 |
| H | £ 2,798.46 |

7. That the General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2008/09 of £400,000 be agreed.
8. That the advice of the Strategic Director (Resources) on the robustness of the draft Budget and adequacy of reserves be noted.
9. That the impact of the proposed 2008/09 General Fund Revenue Budget on the Medium Term Financial Strategy be noted.
10. That the positive contribution to the drafting of the budget proposals made by those who attended the Community Conference and those who took part in other consultation initiatives be noted.
11. That the positive interest voiced by the Business Community on budget consultation and interest expressed regarding Business Improvement Districts be noted.
12. That it be noted that the Executive considered the comments made by the Scrutiny Overview Committee concerning the General Fund Budget and looks forward to receiving the Scrutiny report on the outturn variations that is to be the focus of that Committee's budget review work this year.