

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TAX SETTING PANEL
HELD AT FOLLATON HOUSE, TOTNES ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2006**

MEMBERS

* Cllr P H Cook - Chairman

* Cllr S M Fairman

* Cllr R O Yonge

* Cllr C M Pannell

* Denotes attendance

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman:

Cllrs B J Boughton and J T Pennington

Officers in attendance:

All Agenda Items: Strategic Director (Resources) and Head of Financial Services

01/05 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Panel held on 25 February 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

02/05 **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.

03/05 **COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS 2006/2007**

Consideration was given to a report which calculated and set out the Council Tax having taken account of the precepts as notified from Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Devon Fire and Rescue Authority and the Town and Parish Councils. The report stated that the Council Tax resolutions made were set out very precisely in the Local Government Finance Act (LGF Act) 1992 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003) and supported by various Regulations.

The report was presented in a manner whereby the various statutory resolutions had been broken down into manageable steps and supported by explanations and calculations. It was noted that these explanations and calculations did not form part of the formal resolutions required by statute.

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- a) It was noted that the second homes Council Tax monies were reflected as an element of the Council's Tax Base;

- b) A non-Panel Member expressed his belief that the Budget process was becoming increasingly difficult to understand. In response, officers agreed to provide additional narrative information when presenting the Council's Tax Base in future years;
- c) The Panel expressed its concern that indications suggested that the Government was not likely to illustrate in future years how a Council's Revenue Support Grant had been determined;
- d) Officers advised that the precepts for both Devon County Council and Devon and Cornwall Police Authority had increased by 4.9%, whilst the Devon Fire and Rescue Authority had increased its precept by 5%. When considering the District Council and average town and parish council precept, it was noted that the average overall precept increase for 2006/07 was 4.89%;
- e) A non-Panel Member felt the apparent lack of financial accountability demonstrated by the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority was alarming. In response, the Panel felt that a representative from the Police Authority should be re-invited to attend Scrutiny to give a presentation and respond to any questions;
- f) The Panel was advised that it was a legal requirement that the number of Band D equivalent properties (as detailed in Appendix A of the presented report) was shown to two decimal places.

RESOLVED

1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 22 December 2005, the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2006/2007 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the LGF Act 1992:-
 - (a) **37,071.92** being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base)(Amendment)(England) Regulations 2003 and regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its **Council Tax Base for 2006/2007**.
 - (b) Part of the Council's area
See **Appendix A** (of the report presented to Members).

Being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 2 of The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Amendment (England) (No 2) Regulations 2003, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

2. That the following amounts are calculated by the Council for the year 2006/2007 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the LGF Act 1992:-
 - (a) **£40,934,142** 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;
 - (b) **£30,019,200** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act;
 - (c) **£10,914,942** being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
 - (d) **£5,247,787** 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, increased by the amount of the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred to its General Fund from its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 22 of Part III of Schedule 10 of the Act (council tax surplus);
 - (e) **£152.87** being the amount at 2 (c) above less the amount at 2 (d) above, all divided by the amount at 1 (a) 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;

(f) **£1,205,285** being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. See **Appendix B** (of the report presented to Members);

(g) **£120.36** being the amount of 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 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 special item relates;

(h) Part of the Council's area

See **Appendix C** (of the report presented to Members)

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above, divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

(i) Part of the Council's area

See **Appendix D** (of the report presented to Members).

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(h) 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 band 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.

3. That it be noted that for the year 2005/2006 Devon County Council, Devon & Cornwall Police Authority and Devon Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the LGF Act 1992 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2003, for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below:

Valuation Bands

Precepting authority	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Devon County Council's tax requirements	651.66	760.27	868.88	977.49	1194.71	1411.93	1629.15	1954.98
Devon & Cornwall Police Authority's tax requirements	83.69	97.63	111.58	125.53	153.43	181.32	209.22	251.06
Devon Fire & Rescue Authority's tax requirements	40.84	47.65	54.45	61.26	74.87	88.49	102.10	122.52

4. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the LGF Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2006/2007 for each of the categories of dwellings shown at **Appendix E** (of the report presented to Members).

(Meeting commenced at 2.00pm and concluded at 2.30 pm).

Chairman