

WEST DEVON HUB COMMITTEE



West Devon
Borough
Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **West Devon Hub Committee** held
on
Thursday, 25th February, 2016 at **2.00 pm** at the **Chamber -
Kilworthy Park**

Present: **Councillors:**

Chairman Sanders
Vice Chairman

Cllr M J R Benson
Moody
Parker
Samuel

Cann
Oxborough
Sampson

In attendance:

Councillors:

Pearce

Officers:

Lisa Buckle
Steve Jordan

Section 151 Officer
Executive Director Head of Paid
Service
Lead Specialist DM

Patrick Whymer

53. **Apologies for absence**

(*HC

53)

Apologies were received from Cllr R E Baldwin

54. **Declarations of Interest**

(*HC 54)

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be discussed but none were made.

The Chairman presented a report that sought approval of the formal council tax resolutions as set out in the presented report for 2016/17.

Some Members raised concerns over the increase in council tax proposed by West Devon Borough Council, particularly in light of current standards of service not being as high as they should. The Lead Member for Customer First responded that he understood the perception, and he was working with officers to ensure that things were being put in place to address areas of poor service. He asked that any specific problems, where possible, be reported online, as this would ensure an audit trail of the issue.

Following a discussion on service levels, a Member noted that all authorities responsible for council tax were under pressure as a result of reduced funding from central government.

It was then **RESOLVED**:

1. That it be noted that in January 2016 the Senior Leadership Team, under delegated authority from full Council, approved the Council Tax Base for the year 2016/17
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 19,733.41 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 West Devon Borough Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is calculated at £4,210,912 (Appendix B).***
3. ***That the following amounts are calculated by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Localism Act 2011 (Appendix B):***

(a) ***being the aggregate of***

	£26,246,934	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)	£20,806,717	
(c)	£5,440,217	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).
(d)	275.69	
(e)	£1,229,305	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).
(f)	£213.39	being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the council tax base (1(a) above) 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 West Devon Borough Council and parishes).

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).

being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) 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 West Devon Borough 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	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Devon County Council's tax requirements	805.08	939.26	1,073.44	1,207.62	1,475.98	1,744.34	2,012.70	2,415.44
Police & Crime Commissioners' tax requirements	115.23	134.43	153.64	172.84	211.25	249.66	288.07	345.63
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority's tax requirements	53.32	62.21	71.09	79.98	97.75	115.53	133.30	159.98

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 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown at Appendix D (total of all valuation band council taxes for West Devon Borough Council including parishes, county, police and crime commissioner and fire authority).

6. That the Council concluded that the basic amount of Council Tax for West Devon Borough Council for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 (see calculation at Appendix B).

56. **Planning Enforcement**

(HC 56)

(Paragraph 7 – Information relating to any action taken, or to be taken, in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime)

The Lead Hub Member for Customer First introduced the report which outlined a proposal of how the Planning Enforcement service could be resourced to more effectively handle and respond to incoming enquiries and complaints, while also working through and closing the existing backlog of open cases.

Members had a long and detailed discussion on this item and the Lead Specialist – Planning, and Case Management Team Leader, responded to a number of questions relating to process, capacity within Planning and Legal and Ward Member involvement. A major concern for Members was that the impact of addressing enforcement cases may have a relative impact on the workload of planning officers as additional applications were brought forward. Members were advised that there was sufficient capacity within the staff to deal with any additional workload that arose as a result.

It was then **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the Planning Enforcement plan to address the backlog of cases within 12 months from 1 March 2016; and
2. That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that the costs for resourcing the planning enforcement team are met from the 2015/16 predicted revenue budget underspend of £70,000 (as per Table 1 and Table 2 of the presented report).

57. **Re-Admittance of the Public**

(HC 57)

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to re-admit members of the public to the meeting

The Meeting concluded at 3.35 pm

Signed by:

Chairman
