

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT COVER SHEET**

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|--|---|
| Title of Report:   | Setting the Amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 |
| Meeting of:  | Council                                       |
| Date:  | 22/2/2021                                     |
| Is this an Executive Decision:                                     | No  |
| Is this a Key Decision:  | No  |
| Is the report Confidential:  | No  |
| If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972: | n/a   |

**Essential Signatories:**

**ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE**

Monitoring Officer

Date ..... Signature .....

Head of Service and Chief Finance Officer

Date ..... Signature .....

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Report to Council

Date: 22 February 2021

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>TITLE:</b>            | Setting the Amount of Council Tax for 2021/22         |
| <b>PORTFOLIO:</b>        | Finance   |
| <b>HEAD OF SERVICE:</b>  | Sal Khan  |
| <b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>  | Geoff Bagnall – Principal Accountant <b>Ext.</b> 1131 |
| <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> | All   |

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act 2011, prescribes the way in which Council Tax is both set and presented. This report is produced in accordance with this legislation.
- 1.2 Members should note that the basis of how Council Tax levels have been derived is stated within the Cabinet Report – Council Tax Base 2021/22 - on 14 December 2020. In addition to this, a report elsewhere on the agenda recommends approval by Council of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2024/25 and sets the level of Council Tax for 2021/22 for this Council.

**2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1 The level of Council Tax to be set by East Staffordshire Borough Council for a Band D property in 2021/22 is £182.30 (2020/21 £177.30). This is an increase of £5 (or 50p over 10 monthly instalments) on a Band D property. Consequently, under legislation no referendum will be required in respect of the Council's share of the council tax bill.

**3. Contribution to Corporate Priorities**

- 3.1 All

#### 4. Report

- 4.1 The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now requires billing authorities to calculate a council tax requirement for the year, instead of its budget requirement, as was previously the case. The main reason for this change was to accommodate the requirement to hold referendums for 'excessive' increases in the basic amount of council tax. The principles established require that the Council would need to hold a referendum if the "basic amount of council tax" is set at 2% or higher when compared with the same figure for 2020/21 and more than £5 greater.
- 4.2 As the Council is proposing an increase of £5 from £177.30 to £182.30 for its share of the Council Tax for 2021/22 no referendum will be required in relation to our element.
- 4.3 Detailed at schedule 12.6 are the local precepts and local tax rates, together with the comparator figures from previous year, for each parish council.
- 4.4 The following is a summary of the average Band D Council Tax levels as a result of the Appendices contained within this report

|  | <u>Average<br/>Band D<br/>Amount<br/>2020/21</u> | <u>Average<br/>Band D<br/>Amount<br/>2021/22</u> | <u>Percentage<br/>Change<br/>2021/22</u> | <u>Appendix<br/>Reference</u> |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| ESBC (not including Special Expense)               | £177.30  | £182.30  | £5 / 2.82%                               | Appendix 12.3                 |
| Staffordshire County Council                       | £1,295.95*                                       | £1,360.62*                                       | 4.99%                                    | Appendix 12.4                 |
| Staffordshire Commissioner for Fire and Rescue     | £77.24   | £78.78   | 1.99%                                    | Appendix 12.4                 |
| Staffordshire Police and County Crime Commissioner | £225.09  | £238.57  | 5.99%                                    | Appendix 12.4                 |
| Average Special Expense                            | £11.79   | £11.63   | (1.36%)                                  |                               |
| Average Parish Council Precept                     | £32.36   | £32.28   | (0.25%)                                  | Appendix 12.6                 |
| <b>Overall Average</b>                             | <b>£1,819.73</b>                                 | <b>£1,904.18</b>                                 | 4.64%                                    |                               |

*\*The 2021/22 amount for Staffordshire County Council is split General Precept £1,233.85 (2020/21 £1,183.14) and Adult Social Care £126.77 (2020/21 £112.81).*

## 5. **Financial Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of Financial Management Unit (Geoff Bagnall)*

5.1 The main financial issues arising from this Report are as follows.

| Revenue  | 2021/22    | 2022/23 |
|--|------------|---------|
| The amount of Revenue Budget to be funded by Council Tax:  | £6,904,613 |         |
| The setting of the indicated Council Tax levels will enable the Council to meet both its corporate objectives and legal obligations. |            |         |
| Band D Tax:  | £182.30    |         |

| Capital                  | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| No capital implications. |         |         |

## 6. **Risk Assessment and Management**

6.1 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows.

6.1.1 None

## 7. **Legal Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of Legal Team (Angela Wakefield)*

7.1 The main legal issues arising from this Report are as follows.

7.1.1 Failure to set a balanced budget and thereafter Council Tax would mean the Council would be in breach of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## 8. **Equalities**

8.1 There are no equalities issues identified as a result of this report.

## 9. **Human Rights**

9.1 There are no human rights issues arising from this Report.

## **10. Recommendation(s)**

### **The Council, is asked to note:**

- 10.1 That this paper is based upon the revenue budget for 2021/22, as set out elsewhere on the Agenda.
- 10.2 That the Cabinet Report – Council Tax Base 2021/22 of the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 calculated the amounts highlighted at Appendix 12.2 in accordance with regulations made under section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act.
- 10.3 That the amounts at Appendix 12.3 are calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 10.4 That the amounts in Appendix 12.4 be noted as precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown.

### **The Council is asked to approve:**

- 10.5 That for the purpose of section 35 (e) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, all expenses incurred by the Council in 2021/22 be declared general expenses, apart from those expenses which are incurred by the Council in performing in a part of its area a function performed elsewhere in its area by a body with power to issue a precept to the Council, as listed at Appendix 12.1 and are therefore special expenses.
- 10.6 That having calculated in each case the aggregate of the amounts of the schedule at Appendix 12.3(h) and the amounts in Appendix 12.4, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown on Appendix 12.5 as the amounts of council tax for the year 2021/22, for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

## **11. Background papers**

- 11.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy, presented elsewhere on the agenda gives the detailed financial analysis in arriving at the £182.30 East Staffordshire Borough Council element of the overall Council Tax.

## **12. Appendices**

- 12.1 Special Expenses
- 12.2 Council Tax Base
- 12.3 Calculation of Council Tax & East Staffordshire Borough Council Tax Rates
- 12.4 Major Precepts
- 12.5 Total Council Tax Rates
- 12.6 Local Precepts