



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

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EXECUTIVE

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 10 February 2016

Please see attached for the item below.

5 2016/17 COUNCIL TAX (Pages 3 - 8)

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<http://cde.bromley.gov.uk/>

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 10th FEBRUARY 2016

2016/17 COUNCIL TAX REPORT

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Executive is requested to recommend to Council that it:

- (a) On the basis that a further 2 schools have converted to Academy Status, approves a revised schools budget of £83.7 million which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after academy recoupment;
- (b) Approves the draft revenue budgets (as in Appendix 2) for 2016/17 to include the following updated changes:
 - (i) reduction in Independent Living Fund (ILF) Grant from £701k estimated in the draft budget to £666k (the proposed methodology for the value of the grant and the allocation of the funding is subject to consultation which ends on 22nd March 2016);
 - (ii) increase in SEND Implementation Grant from £177k to £201k (£24k increase) with a corresponding increase in expenditure held in the central contingency.
- (c) Executive are requested to consider the utilisation of the transitional funding from central Government of £2,068k in 2016/17 and £2,052k in 2017/18 (further background is included in the supplementary paper);
- (d) A sum of £3,100k be set aside in 2015/16 as an earmarked reserve which relates to the continuation of various joint schemes and pump priming investment as detailed in the supplementary item;
- (e) Agrees that Chief Officers identify alternative savings within their departmental budgets where it is not possible to realise any proposed savings reported to the previous meeting of the Executive held on 13th January 2016;
- (f) Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2016/17:

	£'000
London Pension Fund Authority *	464
London Boroughs Grant Committee	320
Environment Agency (Flood defence etc)	238
Lee Valley Regional Park *	362
Total	1,384

**awaiting written confirmation*

- (g) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £15,341k to reflect the changes in (b) and (f);
- (h) Approves the revised draft 2016/17 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above;
- (i) Sets a 3.99% increase in Bromley's council tax for 2016/17 compared with 2015/16 (1.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and, based upon their consultation exercise, an assumed 6.4% reduction in the GLA precept;
- (j) Notes the latest position on the GLA precept, which will be finalised in the overall Council Tax figure to be reported to full Council (see section 11);
- (k) Approves the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 4);
- (l) Executive are requested to consider whether it is minded to accept the four year funding offer (see Section 16);
- (m) Executive agree that the Director of Finance be authorised to report any further changes directly to Council on 22nd February 2016.

2.2 Council Tax 2016/17 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 2.1 (a) to (m) above, if the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	Increase/ decrease (-) %
Bromley (general)	1,030.14	1,050.67	1.99
Bromley (ASC precept)		20.60	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,030.14	1,071.27	3.99
GLA *	295.00	276.00	-6.44
Total	1,325.14	1,347.27	1.67

* The GLA Precept may need to be amended once the actual GLA budget is set.

2.3 The Executive is requested to recommend to Council to formally resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2016/17 is 126,656 'Band D' equivalent properties.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 is £135,683k.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):

- (a) £537,293k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £401,610k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £135,683k 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.
- (d) £1,071.27 being the amount at 3(c) above, divided by (1) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
4. To note that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below (NB. the GLA precept figure may need to be amended once the actual GLA budget is set).
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2016/17 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
714.18	833.21	952.24	1,071.27	1,309.33	1,547.39	1,785.45	2,142.54

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
184.00	214.67	245.33	276.00	337.33	398.67	460.00	552.00

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
898.18	1,047.88	1,197.57	1,347.27	1,646.66	1,946.06	2,245.45	2,694.54

6. That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2016/17, which reflects a 3.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2016/17 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2016/17. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in

accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

2016/17 Local Government Financial Settlement

Details of the 2016/17 Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement were reported to the Executive on 13th January 2016 as well as in the 2016/17 Council Tax report at tonight's Executive meeting.

The final 2016/17 Local Government Financial Settlement was published on Monday 8th February and has resulted in some positive changes for Bromley as follows:

- (a) New transitional grant of £2.068m in 2016/17 and £2.052m in 2017/18 – although this represents one off income, it is still a significant contribution;
- (b) No change for 2018/19 and 2019/20 funding levels. However, on a positive note, the Secretary of State has indicated that there will be a 100% devolution of business rates by 2019/20 combined with a new "needs assessment" of the funding formula which will take place – this has been brought forward by a year.

Other changes/issues include:

- Response to a 4 year funding offer now required by 14th October 2016 - still no more detail on how it will work at this stage;
- Referendum limit confirmed at 2% for council tax in 2016/17 (can increase council tax and social care precept by cumulative total of 3.99% without a referendum as assumed previously);
- The government is planning to consult on allowing well performing planning departments to increase their fees in line with inflation.

Only 11 London boroughs (out of 32 London boroughs plus City of London) received transitional protection with Bromley being the second highest. The highest was Richmond with £5.8m over 2 years, the average was £2.4m over 2 years and Bromley will receive £4.12m over 2 years.

In terms of the funding settlement for 2019/20, the Secretary of State is implying that it is no longer relevant as the impact of the "needs assessment" review will be known combined with the full devolution of business rates. This is an attempt to accelerate this change and address some concerns about significant reductions over the 4 year period. Realistically any overall impact of this change is expected to be cost neutral nationally. Bromley's reduction in funding was planned to be 13.1% in 2019/20 compared with 2018/19.

Details are awaited on grant funding for Public Health.

The "budget gap" being reported to Executive as part of the 2016/17 Council Tax report is nil in 2016/17, £8.9m in 2017/18, £12.5m in 2018/19 and £25.8m in 2019/20. This excludes the transitional grant. The transitional funding for 2016/17 and 2017/18 does not reduce the medium and longer term "budget gap".

Members are requested to consider the final 2016/17 local government financial settlement and the utilisation of the transitional funding for 2016/17 and 2017/18 which is non- recurring.

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