

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 27 February 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Deputy Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0208 461 7638 E-mail: Philippa.Gibbs@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8th February 2023, the Executive considered the attached report on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and made recommendations concerning the level of the Bromley element of the 2023/24 Council Tax and Adult Social Care precept. At the meeting, amended technical recommendations from the Director of Finance were tabled. The Executive supported the amended recommendations and recommended that they be approved by full Council. The Executive also authorised the Director of Finance to report any further changes directly to the Council meeting on 28th February 2022.
- 1.2 Attached to this report are (i) the report considered by the Executive on 8th February 2022, the amended recommendations circulated for the Executive's meeting and subsequently agreed, and (iii) the draft minutes from PDS Committees commenting on the 2022/23 Budget and (iv) a summary of the key points raised through the public consultation.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Council is recommended to:

- (a) Note the Final Local Government Settlement 2023/24, announced by DLUHC on 6th February, which included additional Services Grant funding of £61.5k and that these monies be set aside within the 2023/24 Central Contingency.
- (b) Approve the schools budget of £98.674m which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after academy recoupment;

- (c) Approve the draft revenue budgets (as detailed in the revised Appendix 2) for 2023/24
- (d) Agree that Chief Officers identify alternative savings/mitigation within their departmental budgets where it is not possible to realise any savings/mitigation reported to the previous meeting of the Executive held on 18th January 2023;
- (e) Approve a revised Central Contingency sum to reflect the allocation of the pay award, movement of levies and final local government settlement, resulting in a sum of £17,536k (see Section 6 and the revised Appendix 3);
- (f) Approve the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2023/24:

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority *	460
London Boroughs Grant Committee	246
Environment Agency (flood defense etc.)	266
Lee Valley Regional Park	353
Total	1,325

* This amount is provisional and subject to revision.

The increase of £23k in the 2023/24 levy amounts is offset by a £23k decrease in the 2023/24 Central Contingency as a provision towards meeting inflation cost pressures.

- (g) Note the latest position on the GLA precept, as above, which will be finalised in the overall Council Tax figure to be reported to full Council (see section 12);
- (h) Sets a 2% increase in Adult Social Care Precept with a 2.99% increase in Bromley's General Council Tax, compared with 2022/23 (1% Adult Social Care Precept) and notes that, based upon their consultation exercise, the GLA are currently assuming a 9.7% increase in the GLA precept;
- (i) Approve the revised draft 2023/24 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above;
- (j) Approve the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 4);
- (k) Note that the Executive agrees that the Director of Finance be authorised to report any further changes directly to Council on 27th February 2023.

2.2 Council Tax 2023/24 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

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

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase £	Increase % (note #)
Bromley (general)	1,178.15	1,218.25	40.10	2.99

Bromley (ASC precept)	162.98	189.80	26.82	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,341.13	1,408.05	66.92	4.99
GLA *	395.59	434.14	38.55	9.7
Total	1,736.72	1,842.19	105.47	6.07

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

(#) in line with the 2023/24 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,408.05 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 27th February 2023.

2.3 Council be recommended to formally resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 is 134,093 'Band D' equivalent properties.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/2024 is £188,810k.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £617,863k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £429,053k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £188,810k 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) £1,408.05 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 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands	London Borough of Bromley £	Greater London Authority £	Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements £
A	938.70	289.43	1,228.13
B	1,095.15	337.66	1,432.81
C	1,251.60	385.90	1,637.50

D	1,408.05	434.14	1,842.19
E	1,720.95	530.62	2,251.57
F	2,033.85	627.09	2,660.94
G	2,346.75	723.57	3,070.32
H	2,816.10	868.28	3,684.38

6. That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2023/24, which reflects a 4.99% increase (Adult Social Care Precept increase of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2023/24 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England from 2023/24. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 27th February 2023. 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.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None arising directly from the report
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost: See Appendix 1 to the Executive report
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Council-wide
 4. Total current budget for this head: £189m Draft budget
 5. Source of funding: See Appendix 2 to the Executive report
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Full details will be available in the 2022/23 financial Control Budget published in March 2023
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: See attached report.
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Council decisions are not subject to call-in
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): See attached report
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children/Policy/Personnel/Legal/Finance
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	See attached report.