

CITY COUNCIL - 4 MARCH 2019

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

BUDGET 2019/20

1 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This budget report sets out the proposals for 2019/20 in a layout governed by statute.
- 1.2 This report is based on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) as considered by Executive Board on 19 February 2019 and which comprised the General Fund revenue budget, General Fund capital programme, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget and HRA capital programme.
- 1.3 This report increases the City Council element of Band D council tax by a general increase of **2.99%**.
- 1.4 This report should be read in conjunction with the contents of the associated financial plans and budget reports.

2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It recommends that the following be approved:
- (1) the revenue budget for 2019/20, including;
 - (a) the recommendations of the Strategic Director of Finance / Chief Finance Officer in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves;
 - (b) the delegation of authority to the Strategic Director of Finance / Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Deputy Leader to finalise the Medium Term Financial Plan for publication;
 - (c) the delegation of authority to the appropriate Directors to implement savings after undertaking the appropriate consultation;
 - (d) the retention of the Council Tax Support Scheme, currently in operation, for the financial year 2019/20;
 - (2) the capital programme to 2023/24;
 - (3) a council tax requirement of **£116,101,351** including the calculations required by Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act"), as set out below:
 - (a) **£954,675,713** being the aggregate of the expenditure, allowances, reserves and amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act;

- (b) **£838,574,362** being the aggregate of the income and amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act;
- (c) **£116,101,351** being the amount by which the aggregate at **2.1(3)(a)** above exceeds the aggregate at **2.1(3)(b)** above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year;
- (4) a City Council Band D basic amount of council tax for 2019/20 of **£1,738.93** being the amount at **2.1(3)(c)** divided by the amount at **2.2(3)** below, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (as set out in **section 5** of this report);
- (5) the setting of the amounts of council tax for 2019/20 at the levels described in **section 5.6** of this report;
- (6) the making of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 in the terms of the previously adopted and amended Scheme, save for adjustments to mirror nationally determined rates for pay awards and travel and subsistence (as applicable to officers) and for carers allowances;

2.2 the following be noted:

- (1) a Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority precept at Band D for 2019/20 of **£79.80**.
- (2) a Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner precept at Band D for 2019/20 of **£219.33**.
- (3) in January 2019, the City Council calculated the amount of **66,766** as its council tax base for the year 2019/20 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Council Tax

The City Council is required by Section 30 of the Act to set its Council Tax for each year on or before 11 March in the preceding financial year. In order to do so, it must calculate its council tax requirement in accordance with the Act as detailed below including taking into account its estimated forthcoming spending requirements and ensuring that there are adequate reserves to draw on in the event that these estimates turn out to be insufficient. The City Council must also take into account the report of its Chief Financial Officer (set out at Annex 5 to the MTFP) on the robustness of these estimates and the adequacy of the proposed reserves. The total Council Tax being set also includes the precepted requirements of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

3.2 Members' Allowances Scheme 2019/20

This report recommends the adoption of the Scheme for 2019/20 without changes, save for adjustments to mirror nationally determined rates for pay awards and travel

and subsistence (as applicable to officers) and for carers' allowances. A copy of the current Scheme can be viewed within the Council's Constitution at Part 7 or by using the following hyperlink to the document published online at:

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/about-the-council/nottingham-city-councils-constitution/>

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 None

5 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

5.1 The legislation governing the setting of council tax is contained in the Act. Section 31B(1) requires a billing authority to calculate the basic amount of its council tax, which in the City Council's case is that applicable to Band D dwellings in its area.

The calculation is made in accordance with a formula **R/T**

5.2 **R** is the amount calculated by the City Council as its council tax requirement for 2019/20, calculated in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act. The Executive Board as its meeting on 19 February 2019 determined the council tax requirement to be **£116,101,351**.

T is the amount calculated by the City Council as its council tax base for 2019/20. In January 2019 the City Council calculated the amount of **66,766** as its council tax base for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

This tax base assumed the retention of the current Council Tax Support Scheme for financial year 2019/20, having regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and noting that local circumstances have not changed sufficiently to warrant changes.

Application of the formula R/T thus gives a basic amount of council tax of:

$$\frac{\mathbf{£116,101,351}}{\mathbf{66,766}} = \mathbf{£1,738.93}$$

for a Band D property in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act.

5.3 Application of the formula specified in section 36 of the Act gives the following basic amount of council tax for each valuation band :

Band	Factor	Basic amount of council tax
A	6/9	£1,159.29
B	7/9	£1,352.50
C	8/9	£1,545.72
D	9/9	£1,738.93
E	11/9	£2,125.36
F	13/9	£2,511.79
G	15/9	£2,898.22
H	18/9	£3,477.86

- 5.4 It should be noted that, for the financial year 2019/20, the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner has issued the following amounts in precepts in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£146.22	£170.59	£194.96	£219.33	£268.07	£316.81	£365.55	£438.66

- 5.5 It should also be noted that, for the financial year 2019/20, the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority has issued the following amounts in precepts in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£53.20	£62.07	£70.93	£79.80	£97.53	£115.27	£133.00	£159.60

- 5.6 The City Council, as billing authority, is required under section 30 of the Act to set council taxes for its area. In the City Council's case these will represent the aggregate of the City Council's basic amount of council taxes and the precepts of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority as shown above

The impact of the proposals in the council tax is provided below:

Band	City Council £	Police & Crime Commissioner £	Fire & Rescue Authority £	Aggregate Council Tax £
A	£1,159.29	£146.22	£53.20	£1,358.71
B	£1,352.50	£170.59	£62.07	£1,585.16
C	£1,545.72	£194.96	£70.93	£1,811.61
D	£1,738.93	£219.33	£79.80	£2,038.06
E	£2,125.36	£268.07	£97.53	£2,490.96
F	£2,511.79	£316.81	£115.27	£2,943.87
G	£2,898.22	£365.55	£133.00	£3,396.77
H	£3,477.86	£438.66	£159.60	£4,076.12

5.7 Budget Consultation

The MTFP process is supported by extensive consultation and the City Council is committed to maintaining and developing this participation.

Pre-budget consultation was carried out in October and November 2018, **2,187** responses were received. Citizens were asked which services are important; issues of concern in the current economic climate and how the Council could make further savings or generate additional income. Further consultation has been undertaken from December 2018 with citizens, colleagues, businesses and the voluntary sector to consider the budget proposals set out in the draft Medium Term Financial Plan with **39** survey submissions received to date. The results from the Budget consultation are contained within Annex 6 of the MTFP.

Appropriate action has been taken in relation to any representations made and feedback from the consultation has been taken into account in finalising the proposals within this report.

6 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY)

6.1 These have been considered in the MTFP report to Executive Board on 19 February 2019.

7 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

7.1 These have been considered in the MTFP report to Executive Board on 19 February 2019.

7.2 The recommendations within this report fall within the City Council's functions under the Act, the Local Government Act 1972 and other enabling legislation.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

8.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

Yes



An EIA has been carried out and was detailed in Appendix A of the MTFP report to Executive Board. Due regard has been given to the equality implications identified in the EIA

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

9.1 Budget working papers

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

10.1 Previously published documents are available on the dedicated consultation page

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/engage-nottingham-hub/open-consultations/budget-consultation-20192020/>

and the committee page

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=177&MIId=7401>