

The
FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/2024
and
COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION
2020/2021

The Financial Plan 2019/2024 and Council Tax Resolution 2020/2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This booklet presents a summary of the Financial Plan 2019/2024 as presented to Cabinet on 4 February 2020. It updates the revenue budgets for 2020/2021 and projections for 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 for changes since the report to Cabinet.
- 1.2 The booklet also details the Council Tax Resolution for 2020/2021 as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

2. Financial Plan 2019/2024

- 2.1 Cabinet on 4 February 2020 received details of the Council's medium-term financial plan in the document "The Financial Plan 2019/2024". Specifically this document detailed the General Fund revenue budgets and projections for 2019/2024. An updated copy of this can be found at Appendix 1. The report and the associated recommendations were subsequently approved.
- 2.2 The Government published the 2020/2021 final local government finance settlement on 6 February 2020. There are no changes to the provisional allocations of New Homes Bonus and the business rates retention baseline funding. There is a minor change to the Revenue Support Grant. There is a reduction of £400 from the figure presented to Cabinet. The final figure is £624,220
- 2.3 With the exception of those Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) administered by the Middle Level Commissioners the Council has received confirmed figures in respect of the special levies for 2020/2021. The Middle Level Commissioners have advised that it would look to make every effort to retain the rate or keep any increase to a minimum and below the rate of inflation. The estimated IDB levies have been updated with actual levy figures where they have been received since the Cabinet meeting. This has resulted in the IDBs levies reducing slightly from £2,811,990 (reported to Cabinet) to £2,809,170. The Internal Drainage Board levies are detailed in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 There has been a revision to some of the Waste Collection Fees and Charges which have been increased to cover the increase in the costs of collections. The budgets presented to Cabinet on 4 February 2020 included both the increase in costs and income but the Fees and Charges Schedule did not show the increases. A revised list of the Fees and Charges that have changed can be found at Appendix 5.

3. Parish Precepts and Special Expenses 2020/2021

- 3.1 There is one minor change to the Special Expenses figures approved at Cabinet on 4 February 2020. This is the addition of £300 for insurance costs which had not been included and need to be included. This brings the total for special expenses to:

Gross Special Expenses costs	£734,940
Less Central Government Support Grant	(£9,150)
Net Special Expenses Charge	£725,790

3.2 The Council has now received all parish precept requests for 2020/2021 and figures included in the budget are now formally approved by all Parish/Town Councils as detailed in Appendix 3.

4 General Fund Balances

4.1 The amendments detailed in section 2 are summarised in the table below. It can be seen that the working balances of the Council have been used to support the budget requirements over the period 2019/2024. At all times the balance remains above determined minimum levels.

4.2 The revised General Fund Balances are as follows:

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/f	7,672,064	8,984,944	5,065,164	5,841,544	5,323,364
Estimated Contribution to/ (Draw from) Balances	1,312,880	(3,919,780)	776,380	(518,180)	(3,058,940)
Balance c/f	8,984,944	5,065,164	5,841,544	5,323,364	2,264,424
Minimum requirement:					
5% of Budget Requirement (Balance Required)	954,896	912,470	954,782	925,142	935,386

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2020/2021

The Council Tax Resolution 2020/2021 deals with the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting on 4 February 2020 and the resolution to set the Council Tax for 2020/2021.

Norfolk County Council met on the 17 February 2020 to set its Council Tax and have approved a general council tax increase of 1.99% and a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept from the 2019/2020 levels for both.

The Norfolk Police and Crime Panel met on 4 February 2020 and endorsed an increase in Council Tax for the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner of £9.99 on a Band D property.

The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2020/2021 presented to the House of Commons pursuant to section 52ZD(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as inserted by Schedule 5 to the Localism Act 2011 makes provision for Council Tax referendums to be held if an authority increases its basic amount of Council Tax in excess of principles determined by the Secretary of State.

The excessiveness principles are set each year and the Secretary of State has determined that:

For 2020-21, the relevant basic amount of council tax for Norfolk County Council is excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2020-21 is 4% (comprising 2% for expenditure on adult social care, and 2% for other expenditure), or more than 4%, greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2019-20.

For 2020-21, the relevant basic amount of council tax for the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2020-21 is:

(a) 2%, or more than 2%, greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2019-20; and

(b) more than £5.00 greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2019-20.

For 2020-21, the relevant basic amount of council tax for the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner is excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2020-21 is more than £10 greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2019-20.

Local precepting authorities (parish and town councils) are not subject to Council Tax referendums in 2020/2021 (but could be in future years depending on the excessiveness principles which may apply in those years).

The first six of the following recommendations deal with the approval of the Budget, Special Expenses, Fees and Charges, minimum requirement of the general fund balance and the Policy on Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Working Balance.

The recommendations 7 to 10 deal with the final recommendation of the Cabinet – the setting of the council tax. Recommendations 11 and 12 provide for officers to properly demand and take action to recover council tax.

Pursuant to Minute CAB100: Financial Plan 2019/2024, of the Cabinet Meeting held on 4 February 2020 Council is requested to:

- 1) Approve the revision to the Budget for 2019/2020** (as set out in Appendix 1 of this report).
- 2) Reaffirm the Policy on Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Working Balance and the maximum balances set for the reserves** as detailed in Appendix 7 of "The Financial Plan 2019/2024" as reported to Cabinet on 4 February 2020
- 3) Approve the budget of £18,249,400 for 2020/2021 and note the projections for 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024** (as set out in Appendix 1 of this report).
- 4) Approve the level of Special Expenses for Town/ Parish Councils** as detailed in Appendix 6 of "The Financial Plan 2019/2024" as reported to Cabinet on 4 February 2020
- 5) Approve the Fees and Charges for 2020/2021** as detailed in Appendix 4 of "The Financial Plan 2019/2024" as reported to Cabinet on 4 February 2020 as amended
- 6) Approve a minimum requirement of the General Fund balance for 2020/2021 of £912,470.**

- 7) The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 contain rules for the calculation of the Council Tax Base, which is an amount required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to be used in the calculation of the tax by the Council as the billing authority, and Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner as major precepting authorities, and in the calculation of the precept payable by the Council to the County Council and Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner. **Under Officer Delegated Decision the Council Tax Base was calculated as follows for the year 2020/2021:**

Number of dwellings in each Council Tax band; taking into account the multipliers, discounts, exemptions, rate of collection and Council Tax Support.

- (a) 51,980 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax Base for the year.

The tax base for each Parish

- (b) the amounts listed on pages 10-12, (Column headed - Taxbase) being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as the amount of its Council Taxbase for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- 8) **Approve that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/2021 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by S74 of the Localism Act 2011):**

Total expenditure

- (a) £89,631,214 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act. (See Appendix 4 of this report).

Total income

- (b) £79,443,340 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act. (See Appendix 4 of this report).

The difference between expenditure and income

- (c) £10,187,874 being the amount by which the aggregate at 8(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its total budget for the year. (See Appendix 4 of this report).

Average Council Tax for Band D property (Borough and Parish)

- (d) £196.00 being the amount at 8(c) above divided by the amount at 7(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

The total of Parish Precepts and Special Expenses

- (e) £3,411,244 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

The Borough Council's Council Tax for a Band D property (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses)

- (f)(1) £130.37 being the amount at 8(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 8(e) above by the amount at 7(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 special item relates.

The Borough Council's Council Tax for each valuation band

(f)(2)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ 86.91	£ 101.40	£ 115.88	£ 130.37	£ 159.34	£ 188.31	£ 217.28	£260.74

The Borough, Special Expenses and Parish Councils' Council Tax for a Band D property in each Parish

- (g) the amounts listed in Col (4), pages 10-12 Special Expenses and pages 13-15 Parish Precepts, when added to the amount at 8(f)(1) above being the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned divided in each case by the taxbases on pages 10-12 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, gives the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwelling in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

The Borough and Parish Councils' Council Tax for each tax band in each Parish

- (h) the amounts listed in Cols (1) to (8), pages 10-12 Special Expenses and pages 13-15 Parish Precepts, together with the amounts shown above in 8(f)(2) as valuation bands A to H - being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 8(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 9) Note that for the year 2020/2021 Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Band	Norfolk County Council Non-Adult Social Care charge	Norfolk County Council Adult Social Care Precept	Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner	Charge in Relation to Band D
A	£862.20	£82.14	£175.38	6/9ths
B	£1,005.90	£95.83	£204.61	7/9ths
C	£1,149.60	£109.52	£233.84	8/9ths
D	£1,293.30	£123.21	£263.07	9/9ths
E	£1,580.70	£150.59	£321.53	11/9ths
F	£1,868.10	£177.97	£379.99	13/9ths
G	£2,155.50	£205.35	£438.45	15/9ths
H	£2,586.60	£246.42	£526.14	18/9ths

The total Council Tax for each band in each parish (pages 16-19)

- 10) Approve that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 8(h) and 9) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets these as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/2021 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.
- 11) Approve that the Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer), Revenues and Benefits Manager, Revenues Manager, Revenues Team Leaders, Committal Manager, Committal Officer, Generic Revenues and Benefits Officers, Revenues Officers and Revenues Assistants be authorised to demand and recover, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council Tax set by this resolution, the Non Domestic Rates payable by Ratepayers and the annual Business Improvement District Levy, and be authorised to appear on behalf of the Council in Magistrates' Courts in respect of recovery proceedings.

- 12) **Approve that the Officers be authorised to give notice of the setting of the Council Tax in accordance with Section 96 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**