

Council Decision Notice

The following decisions were taken by Council at its meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 19:30

1 Minutes

RESOLVED

That with the correction to minute CL89 (Electoral Review – Council Size Submission) amending the wording ‘The recommendations were agreed’ to read ‘Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 were agreed by acclamation. On being put to the vote, recommendation 3 was carried’, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 January 2024 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3(a) Report on Changes to the Council's Constitution

RESOLVED:

1. That revised Rule 19.5 of the Council Procedure Rules be agreed.
2. That all councillors will attend mandatory refresher training in interests before the end of May 2024.

4 Reports from Cabinet and Committees

4(a) Cabinet - 5 December 2023 - Council Tax Base 2024/25

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council approved revisions to the Local Council Tax Policy to:
 - a) charge a premium of 100% on properties that are empty for a period of between 1 and 2 years from 1 April 2024, subject to any exceptions that may be subsequently agreed by the Secretary of State; and
 - b) adopt a new Second Homes Premium from 1 April 2025 of 100%, subject to any exceptions that be subsequently agreed by the Secretary of State
2. That the 2024/25 Council Tax Base estimate is set at 97,194.98 Band D equivalent properties be approved.
3. That the proposed 2024/25 funding contribution to parish and town councils of £0.325m be approved.
4. That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as adopted by the Council on 22 February 2023, be continued for 2024/25, with amendments that reflect changes to related benefits and to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes

(Prescribed Requirements) Regulations; retaining the delegation to the Director Finance and Resources to make technical legislative changes.

4(b) Cabinet - 6 February 2024 - Council Budget 2024/25 and MTFP 2024/25 to 2027/28

RESOLVED:

1. That Council agrees:

- a) That the Revenue Budget 2024/25 totalling £256.140m be approved.
- b) That the Council Tax at Band D of £1,676.08 for the Milton Keynes element of the Council Tax, be approved. This is an increase of 4.99% increase on the previous year, consisting of a 2.99% general increase and 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept.
- c) That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish Precepts) of £162.906m, be noted.
- d) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 [the "Act"]:
 - (i) £653.977m Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish and town councils. (Gross expenditure including precepts)
 - (ii) £478.859m Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3). (Net income excluding Council Tax requirement)
 - (iii) £175.118 m As its Council Tax requirement for the year, being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4).
 - (iv) £1,801.72 As the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts), being the amount at (iii) above, divided by the Council Tax Base agreed on 5 December 2023.
 - (v) 12,211,734 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (vi) £1,676.08 Being the amount at (iv) less the result given by dividing the amount at (v) above by the Council Tax Base agreed on 5 December 2023, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for Milton Keynes City Council, excluding Parish and Major Precepting Authorities.
- e) That the following amounts be calculated for Milton Keynes City Council Tax:

Table A – Milton Keynes City Council Tax

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
MKCC With 2.99% Increase	975.06	1,137.57	1,300.08	1,462.59	1,787.61	2,112.63	2,437.65	2,925.18
ASC Levy With Further 2.00% Increase	142.33	166.05	189.77	213.49	260.93	308.37	355.82	426.98
MKCC Total 4.99%	1,117.39	1,303.62	1,489.85	1,676.08	2,048.54	2,421.00	2,793.47	3,352.16

- (f) That the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (vi) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to all dwellings listed in each 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(1) of the Act.
- (g) That for the year 2024/25, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, has confirmed the following precepts to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings:

Table B – PCC for Thames Valley Council Tax

VALUATION BANDS							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
179.52	209.44	239.36	269.28	329.12	388.96	448.80	538.56

- (h) That for the year 2024/25, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, has confirmed the following precepts to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings:

Table C – Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority Council Tax

VALUATION BANDS							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
52.97	61.80	70.63	79.46	97.12	114.78	132.43	158.92

- (i) That as a result of the above, the amounts of Council Tax (shown in Annex A and B) be set in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown in the Schedule.
- (j) That the 2024/25 levies payable to the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency be noted.
- (k) That the summary results of the CIPFA Resilience Index 2022/23 (shown in Annex C) be noted.
- (l) That the position for the Dedicated Schools Grant of £367.347m and the Schools block funding formula for 2024/25 be noted and the budget and formula allocations for the High Needs and Early Years blocks be approved.
- (m) That the forecast parking surplus be noted.
- (n) That the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget 2024/25 be approved.
- (o) That increases to housing rents are set at 7.7% for tenants (an average increase of £7.50 per week) and 7% for shared owners (an average increase of £3.92 per week), the maximum level allowable under the Rent Standard (CPI + 1%) (para 3.26) be approved.
- (p) That following consultation with tenants and leaseholders, changes to Housing Revenue Account service charges be approved and implemented from 1 April 2024.
- (q) That the Housing Rent Affordability and Market Context Report be noted.
- (r) That the fees and charges for 2024/25 (including those fees and charges which are exceptions to the Income and Collection Policy) be approved.
- (s) That the Capital Strategy be approved.
- (t) That the Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29 be approved.
- (u) That the resource allocation for the 2024/25 Tariff programme be noted and approved.
- (v) That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 to 2027/28 and the Treasury Policy Statement, including the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Borrowing Limits be approved.
- (w) That the financial forecast set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), in relation to both resources and expenditure, be noted.
- (x) The equalities impact assessments for the Revenue Budget 2023/24 be noted.

- (y) That the final 2024/25 Business Rates Baseline estimate as reported in the NNDR1 return be noted

Refer to Decision Sheet Annex for Annex A (2024/25 Basic Amount of Council Tax) and Annex B (2024/25 Total Amount of Council Tax).