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**SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2009/10**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Stephen Harker,  
Resource Management Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith , Director of Corporate Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (referred to as “the Act” in this report) requires the Council to set its council tax for 2009/10 before 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

**Summary**

2. The budget recommended to Council by Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> February will result in Band D council tax of £1151.03, if approved by Council. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority have set a band D council tax of £85.41. Durham Police Authority have set a band D council tax of £147.51. There will also be an additional council tax in any parish area where a precept has been issued.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that :-

- (a) that the following amounts be calculated by the Council for 2009/10 in accordance with sections 32 to 36 of the Act and relevant regulations:-

- |       |   |              |
|-------|---|--------------|
| (i)   | being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act, which is its expenditure    | £233,023,253 |
| (ii)  | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act, which is its income       | £155,544,000 |
| (iii) | being the amount by which (i) exceeds (ii) calculated by the Council for the year in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement | £77,479,253  |

- (iv) being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable into the General Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant £7,085,570 and redistributed Business Rate Grant £30,698,327 increased by the amount the Council estimates will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund £37,783,897
- (v) being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 of the Act, as the basic amount of council tax for the year £1152.80
- (vi) being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act £61,253
- (vii) being the basic council tax for 2009/10 calculated in accordance with Section 34(2) for dwellings in those areas that have no parish precepts or other special items £1151.03
- (viii) the basic council tax for 2009/10 calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) for dwellings in those areas that have parish precepts be as set out in **Appendix 2**, column 5.
- (ix) the amounts of council tax at items (vii) and (viii) multiplied by the proportion set out in paragraph 17 which is applicable to each category of dwelling in its area, in accordance with Section 36 of the Act be as set out in **Appendix 3**

(b) That it be noted that for the year 2009/10 Durham Police Authority has stated the following amounts in the precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown : -

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Police Authority	98.34	114.73	131.12	147.51	180.29	213.07	245.85	295.02

(c) That it be noted that for the year 2009/10 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority has stated the following amounts in the precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown: -

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Fire Authority	56.94	66.43	75.92	85.41	104.39	123.37	142.35	170.82

- (d) That the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act hereby sets the amounts set out in **Appendix 4** as the amounts of council tax for 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings.

### Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported to set the Council Tax for the Council's area in accordance with statutory requirements.

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

### Background Papers

- (i) Local Government Finance Settlement 2009/10
- (ii) Police Authority Precept notification.
- (iii) Fire Authority Precept notification.
- (iv) Parish Council Precept notification.

David Hall : Extension 2303

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report does not contain any Crime and Disorder implications
Health and Well Being	The report does not contain any proposals relating to the health and well being of residents
Sustainability	There are no sustainability implications in this report
Diversity	There are no diversity implications in this report
Wards Affected	All Wards are affected equally
Groups Affected	All Groups are affected equally
Budget and Policy Framework	This report must be considered by council
Key Decision	This is a key decision
Urgent Decision	The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, Budget and Council Tax require approval by full Council
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report follows from the Corporate Plan and Financial Plan and budget reports, which specifically addresses key issues involved in the Council's contribution to delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy vision.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. In setting the council tax, the Council is required to make certain calculations and to approve a number of resolutions in accordance with the Act. The detailed calculations are set out in **Appendices 1 to 4**. The recommended basic council tax including Fire and Police Precepts for a Band D property is £1383.95. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority have set a band D council tax of £85.41. Durham Police Authority have set a band D council tax of £147.51. There will also be an additional council tax in any parish area where a precept has been issued.
6. The Act requires authorities to calculate their net budget requirement for the coming financial year and to determine the demand on the Collection Fund, from which council tax levels are calculated. The details of these calculations are set out in **Appendix 1**.
7. Cabinet considered the draft Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and approved both plans for consultation. Resources Scrutiny Committee considered those draft plans through a Task & Finish Review Group, and approved the Review Group's recommendations on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Cabinet considered the MTFP again on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
8. The total budget requirement for 2009/10 is £77,479,253. This figure includes parish precepts of £61,253. The budget is due to be confirmed by this Council meeting prior to the setting of the council tax contained in this report.
9. The Government has announced the level of grant support for 2009/10 and notified the authority that the Revenue Support Grant will be £ 7,085,570 and the Business Rate Grant will be £30,698,327.
10. The Council also has to determine the estimated surplus or deficit on its Collection Fund at 31st March 2009. The Act requires authorities to transfer the estimated surplus or deficit to the General Fund and to include it in the calculation of the council tax. The estimated surplus/deficit for the council tax is shared between this Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority in proportion to the 2008/09 demands/precepts. For this financial year it is estimated that there will not be a surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund at 31st March 2009.
11. The Council's demand on the Collection Fund for council tax purposes for 2009/10, as calculated in accordance with Section 32 of the Act, is £39,695,356.

## The Council Tax Calculations

### Basic Council Tax

12. The Council set its tax base at 34,433.73 at the meeting on 29th January 2009 along with the tax bases for various parish councils and meetings. These are shown in **Appendix 2** (column 2).
13. The basic council tax must first be calculated by dividing the demand on the Collection Fund by the approved tax base as follows:-

$$\frac{£39,695,356}{34,433.73} = £1152.80$$

14. From this figure the parish precepts, which the Act refers to as special items, are deducted as follows:-

$$\frac{£61,253}{34,433.73} = £1.77$$

15. The basic council tax for those areas of the Borough Council where there are no special items is, therefore, £1151.03 (£1,152.80 - £1.77). This also excludes the Police Authority and Fire Authority precepts. It represents an increase of £38.94 (or 3.5%) compared with the council tax in 2008/09.

### Parish Council Taxes

16. The calculation of the additional tax for areas where special items, i.e. parish precepts, apply is based on the precepts submitted by each parish council and parish meeting divided by the tax base approved at the Council meeting on 29th January 2009. The council tax in relation to the parish precepts is shown in **Appendix 2** (column 3). When added to the basic council tax, as calculated in paragraph 15, this provides the Billing Authority's council tax for each parish area (**Appendix 2**, column 5).
17. Section 30(1) of the Act requires a council tax to be set for each category of dwelling for its area. This is the Billing Authority's council tax for each parish area and the basic council tax for the rest of the authority's area, multiplied by the ratio of each band using the following: -

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Proportion	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9

18. The council tax set will relate to band D which is 9/9 or 1. For other bands the above proportions will apply. For example, band A properties will be charged 6/9 or two thirds whilst band H will be double the charge.
19. The Billing Authority's council taxes for each band of property are shown in **Appendix 3**.

## Police and Fire Authority Council Taxes

20. The Durham Police Authority is a separate body responsible for its own financial affairs. The council tax for the Durham Police Authority has increased by £5.04 (or 3.54%) compared with 2008/09 and was confirmed on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009: -

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Police Authority	98.34	114.73	131.12	147.51	180.29	213.07	245.85	295.02

21. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority is also a separate body responsible for its own financial affairs. The council tax for the Fire and Rescue Authority has increased by £2.79 (or 3.38%) compared with 2008/09 and was confirmed on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009: -

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Fire Authority	56.94	66.43	75.92	85.41	104.39	123.37	142.35	170.82

## Overall Council Tax

22. The total council tax for each of the parish areas and the remaining area of the Borough is calculated by adding the charges for the Billing Authority to those of the Fire Authority and the Police Authority. The overall council tax for each category of dwelling in each parish area and the remaining areas of the Borough where there are no parish precepts is set out in **Appendix 4**. The overall increase in council tax next year for a Band D property is £46.77 (or 3.5%), the attribution of the increase is set out below:-

	£'s	%
Darlington Borough Council	38.94	2.91
Durham Police Authority	5.04	0.38
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority	2.79	0.21
Total	46.77	3.50

## Consultation

23. The content of this report was not subject to consultation. Extensive consultation has, however, taken place with a wide range of stakeholders, during which all households in the Borough have had the opportunity to comment, in preparing the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan. The results of consultation are included in those plans.

## DEMAND ON THE COLLECTION FUND 2009/10

	£
(a) Council's Net Spending	77,418,000
(b) Add Parish Precepts	61,253
(c) Net Budget Requirement	<u>77,479,253</u>
Deduct	
(d) Revenue Support Grant	7,085,570
(e) Business Rate Grant	30,698,327
(f) Estimated Surplus on Collection Fund	0
(g) <b>DEMAND ON COLLECTION FUND</b>	<u><b>39,695,356</b></u>

## COUNCIL TAX FOR PARISH AUTHORITIES 2009/10

	Precept	Parish Tax Base	Parish Council Tax	Basic Council Tax	Billing Authority's Council Tax
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	£		£ p	£ p	£ p
<b>Archdeacon Newton</b>	809	334.13	2.42	1151.03	1153.45
<b>Bishopton</b>	4,600	166.82	27.57	1151.03	1178.60
<b>Heighington</b>	12,002	920.04	13.05	1151.03	1164.08
<b>High Coniscliffe</b>	269	110.95	2.42	1151.03	1153.45
<b>Hurworth</b>	20,000	1213.57	16.48	1151.03	1167.51
<b>Low Coniscliffe / Merrybent</b>	1,245	275.19	4.52	1151.03	1155.55
<b>Low Dinsdale</b>	1,650	281.34	5.86	1151.03	1156.89
<b>Middleton St. George</b>	15,488	1406.69	11.01	1151.03	1162.04
<b>Neasham</b>	940	160.27	5.87	1151.03	1156.90
<b>Piercebridge</b>	550	61.63	8.92	1151.03	1159.95
<b>Sadberge</b>	1,500	293.45	5.11	1151.03	1156.14
<b>Walworth</b>	-	39.90	0.00	1151.03	1151.03
<b>Whessoe</b>	2,200	566.25	3.89	1151.03	1154.92

## APPENDIX 3

### BILLING AUTHORITY'S COUNCIL TAXES FOR EACH PROPERTY BAND 2009/10

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Archdeacon Newton	768.97	897.13	1,025.29	1,153.45	1,409.77	1,666.09	1,922.42	2,306.90
Bishopton	785.73	916.69	1,047.64	1,178.60	1,440.51	1,702.42	1,964.33	2,357.20
Heighington	776.05	905.40	1,034.74	1,164.08	1,422.76	1,681.45	1,940.13	2,328.16
High Coniscliffe	768.97	897.13	1,025.29	1,153.45	1,409.77	1,666.09	1,922.42	2,306.90
Hurworth	778.34	908.06	1,037.79	1,167.51	1,426.96	1,686.40	1,945.85	2,335.02
Low Coniscliffe /								
Merrybent	770.37	898.76	1,027.16	1,155.55	1,412.34	1,669.13	1,925.92	2,311.10
Low Dinsdale	771.26	899.80	1,028.35	1,156.89	1,413.98	1,671.06	1,928.15	2,313.78
Middleton St. George	774.69	903.81	1,032.92	1,162.04	1,420.27	1,678.50	1,936.73	2,324.08
Neasham	771.27	899.81	1,028.36	1,156.90	1,413.99	1,671.08	1,928.17	2,313.80
Piercebridge	773.30	902.18	1,031.07	1,159.95	1,417.72	1,675.48	1,933.25	2,319.90
Sadberge	770.76	899.22	1,027.68	1,156.14	1,413.06	1,669.98	1,926.90	2,312.28
Walworth	767.35	895.25	1,023.14	1,151.03	1,406.81	1,662.60	1,918.38	2,302.06
Whesoe	769.95	898.27	1,026.60	1,154.92	1,411.57	1,668.22	1,924.87	2,309.84
All other parts of the Council's area	767.35	895.25	1,023.14	1,151.03	1,406.81	1,662.60	1,918.38	2,302.06

**APPENDIX 4**

**OVERALL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PROPERTY BAND 2009/10**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Archdeacon Newton	924.25	1,078.29	1,232.33	1,386.37	1,694.45	2,002.53	2,310.62	2,772.74
Bishopton	941.01	1,097.85	1,254.68	1,411.52	1,725.19	2,038.86	2,352.53	2,823.04
Heighington	931.33	1,086.56	1,241.78	1,397.00	1,707.44	2,017.89	2,328.33	2,794.00
High Coniscliffe	924.25	1,078.29	1,232.33	1,386.37	1,694.45	2,002.53	2,310.62	2,772.74
Hurworth	933.62	1,089.22	1,244.83	1,400.43	1,711.64	2,022.84	2,334.05	2,800.86
Low Coniscliffe / Merrybent	925.65	1,079.92	1,234.20	1,388.47	1,697.02	2,005.57	2,314.12	2,776.94
Low Dinsdale	926.54	1,080.96	1,235.39	1,389.81	1,698.66	2,007.50	2,316.35	2,779.62
Middleton St. George	929.97	1,084.97	1,239.96	1,394.96	1,704.95	2,014.94	2,324.93	2,789.92
Neasham	926.55	1,080.97	1,235.40	1,389.82	1,698.67	2,007.52	2,316.37	2,779.64
Piercebridge	928.58	1,083.34	1,238.11	1,392.87	1,702.40	2,011.92	2,321.45	2,785.74
Sadberge	926.04	1,080.38	1,234.72	1,389.06	1,697.74	2,006.42	2,315.10	2,778.12
Walworth	922.63	1,076.41	1,230.18	1,383.95	1,691.49	1,999.04	2,306.58	2,767.90
Whesoe	925.23	1,079.43	1,233.64	1,387.84	1,696.25	2,004.66	2,313.07	2,775.68
All other parts of the Council's area	922.63	1,076.41	1,230.18	1,383.95	1,691.49	1,999.04	2,306.58	2,767.90