

Council
22 February 2022

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL held on Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Roller City, Campus West, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6BX.

PRESENT: Councillors P. Hebden (Mayor)
B. Fitzsimon (Deputy Mayor)

D. Bell, M. Birleson, J. Bond, J. Boulton, S. Boulton, L. Brandon, L. Chesterman, J. Cragg, S. Elam, G. Hayes, A. Hellyer, M. Holloway, T. Jackson-Mynott, C. Juggins, S. Kasumu, T. Kingsbury, J. Lake, F. Marsh, G. Michaelides, N. Pace, R. Platt, H. Quenet, J. Quinton, J. Ranshaw, D. Richardson, B. Sarson, J.P. Skoczylas, P. Smith, C. Stanbury, K. Thorpe, S. Thusu, F. Thomson, T. Travell, R. Trigg, F. Wachuku, J. Weston and P. Zukowskyj

OFFICIALS Chief Executive (K. Ng)
PRESENT: Head of Law & Administration (M. Martinus)
Head of Resources (R. Baker)
Governance Services Manager (A. Marston)
Principal Governance Officer (J. Anthony)

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49. APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Dennis, G. Ganney, S. McNamara, L. Musk, A. Rohale, S. Tunstall, P. Shah
50. MINUTES
The Minutes of the meetings held on 27 January 2022 and 2 February 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and noted by the Mayor.
51. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS
Councillors S. Boulton, J. Bond, P. Hebden, T. Kingsbury, F. Thomson, S. Thusu and P. Zukowskyj declared non-pecuniary interests in items on the Agenda as appropriate as Members of Hertfordshire County Council.
52. COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2022/23
Report of the Chief Executive on setting the Council Tax for 2022/23.
- The Council is required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set the Council Tax for its area no later than 11 March 2022. The Council had always

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aimed to approve the budget and Council Tax by February in order to ensure prompt despatch of bills and hence quicker collection of sums due. The Council approved the 2022/23 budget at its meeting on 2 February 2022 and the purpose of this report is to set the Council tax for 2022/23.

It was moved and seconded by Councillors D. Bell and T. Kingsbury.

RESOLVED:

(24 voting FOR and 11 AGAINST and 4 ABSTENTIONS)

Voting FOR: D. Bell, J. Bond, J. Boulton, S. Boulton, J. Cragg, S. Elam, B. Fitzsimon, P. Hebden, A. Hellyer, C. Juggins, S. Kasumu, T. Kingsbury, J. Lake, G. Michaelides, N. Pace, D. Richardson, B. Sarson, P. Smith, C. Stanbury, F. Thomson, S. Thusu, T. Travell, R. Trigg, F. Wachuku

Voting AGAINST: L. Brandon, M. Birleson, L. Chesterman, G. Hayes, M. Holloway, F. Marsh, R. Platt, H. Quenet, J.P. Skoczylas, K. Thorpe, J. Weston

Voting ABSTAIN: T. Jackson-Mynott, J. Quinton, J. Ranshaw, P. Zukowskyj

- 1) That it be noted that the 2022/23 General Fund budget as approved by the Council meeting on 2 February is shown in Appendix A.
- 2) That it be noted that at the following amounts for the year 2022/23 were agreed in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act").
 - a) The gross 2022/23 Tax base for the Borough is 43,760.2 equivalent Band D properties before the application of a collection rate.
 - b) 43,497.6 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations), as its Council Tax Base for the year 2022/23; including deductions for council tax support and a collection rate of 99.4%.
 - c) Part of the Council's Area being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

	100% TAXBASE	99.40% TAXBASE
Welwyn Garden City	17,853.5	17,746.4
Hatfield	12,378.2	12,303.9
Welwyn	4,747.1	4,718.6

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Ayot St Lawrence	70.0	69.6
Ayot St Peter	113.4	112.7
North Mymms	4,438.3	4,411.7
Essendon	431.8	429.2
Northaw & Cuffley	3,113.5	3,094.8
Woolmer Green	614.4	610.7
Total	43,760.2	43,497.6

- 3) In accordance with the statutory legislation the Council is recommended to resolve:
- 4) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with sections 31 - 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- a) £138,038,987 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 Councils
 - b) £126,397,635 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - c) £11,641,352 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
 - d) £267.63 being the amount at 4(c) above, all divided by the Council tax base at 2.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
 - e) £2,549,384 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
 - f) £209.02 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) by 2(b) 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
 - g) Part of the Council's area:
Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.4(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2.2(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for

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dwelling in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

	Band D Amount (£)
Ayot St Lawrence	220.51
Ayot St Peter	240.08
Essendon	298.57
Hatfield	293.11
North Mymms	254.10
Northaw & Cuffley	311.84
Welwyn	308.34
Welwyn Garden City	234.86
Woolmer Green	253.99

h) Part of the Council's Area:

Amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(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(1) 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

Valuation Bands (£)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Ayot St Lawrence	147.01	171.51	196.01	220.51	269.51	318.51	367.52	441.02
Ayot St Peter	160.05	186.73	213.40	240.08	293.43	346.78	400.13	480.16
Essendon	199.05	232.22	265.40	298.57	364.92	431.27	497.62	597.14
Hatfield	195.41	227.97	260.54	293.11	358.25	423.38	488.52	586.22
North Mymms	169.40	197.63	225.87	254.10	310.57	367.03	423.50	508.20
Northaw & Cuffley	207.89	242.54	277.19	311.84	381.14	450.44	519.73	623.68
Welwyn	205.56	239.82	274.08	308.34	376.86	445.38	513.90	616.68
Welwyn Garden City	156.57	182.67	208.76	234.86	287.05	339.24	391.43	469.72
Woolmer Green	169.33	197.55	225.77	253.99	310.43	366.87	423.32	507.98

5) That it be noted that for the year 2022/23 the major precepting authorities, Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire have stated the amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, for

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each of the categories of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the following tables

Hertfordshire County Council (£)								
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Ayot St Lawrence	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
Ayot St Peter	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
Essendon	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
Hatfield	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
North Mymms	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
Northaw & Cuffley	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
Welwyn	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
Welwyn Garden City	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62
Woolmer Green	1,019.54	1,189.46	1,359.38	1,529.31	1,869.16	2,209.00	2,548.85	3,058.62

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire (£)								
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Ayot St Lawrence	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
Ayot St Peter	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
Essendon	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
Hatfield	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
North Mymms	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
Northaw & Cuffley	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
Welwyn	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
Welwyn Garden City	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	446.00
Woolmer Green	148.67	173.44	198.22	223.00	272.56	322.11	371.67	

- 6) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4(h) and 5 (a) and (b) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 for each part of its area and for each categories of dwellings.

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Part of the Council's Area (£)								
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Ayot St Lawrence	1,315.22	1,534.41	1,753.61	1,972.82	2,411.23	2,849.62	3,288.04	3,945.64
Ayot St Peter	1,328.26	1,549.63	1,771.00	1,992.39	2,435.15	2,877.89	3,320.65	3,984.78
Essendon	1,367.26	1,595.12	1,823.00	2,050.88	2,506.64	2,962.38	3,418.14	4,101.76
Hatfield	1,363.62	1,590.87	1,818.14	2,045.42	2,499.97	2,954.49	3,409.04	4,090.84
North Mymms	1,337.61	1,560.53	1,783.47	2,006.41	2,452.29	2,898.14	3,344.02	4,012.82
Northaw & Cuffley	1,376.10	1,605.44	1,834.79	2,064.15	2,522.86	2,981.55	3,440.25	4,128.30
Welwyn	1,373.77	1,602.72	1,831.68	2,060.65	2,518.58	2,976.49	3,434.42	4,121.30
Welwyn Garden City	1,324.78	1,545.57	1,766.36	1,987.17	2,428.77	2,870.35	3,311.95	3,974.34
Woolmer Green	1,337.54	1,560.45	1,783.37	2,006.30	2,452.15	2,897.98	3,343.84	4,012.60

53. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS 2023/24 TO 2026/27

Report of the Head of Resources on the appointment of external auditors for the period of 2023/24 to 2026/27.

Councils were required under the legislation to appoint their own external auditors. The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to decide between two options:

- The Council could run its own procurement exercise.
- The Council could utilise the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), under the appointing persons regime (Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015).

Following the Audit Committee held on 31 January 2022, the recommendation was that the Council opts into the appointing arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments for the appointment of its external auditors for the years 2023/24 to 2026/27.

RESOLVED:
(39 in Favour)

The Council opts into the appointing arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments for the appointment of its external auditors for the years 2023/24 to 2026/27

Meeting ended at 7.45 pm
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