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Sent: 22 September 2017 15:05
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Subject: Council Tax Setting Programme 2018/2019
Attachments: 1. 2018-2019 Council Tax Setting Timetable.xlsx; 2. 2018-19_Local_Government_Finance_Settlement_-_technical_consultation.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to provide/inform you in respect of the following:

- 1.Council Tax Setting Timetable 2018/2019 & Overall Summary
- 2.Council Tax Referendum Principles 2018/2019

1.Council Tax Setting Timetable 2018/2019 & Overall Summary

The key dates for Parish/Town Councils in respect of 2018/2019 Council Tax Setting are detailed in attachment 1.

Please note that the tax base figures that we issue on 6 November 2017 will be draft only. Whilst we do not usually expect the draft figures that we issue to you to change prior to formal approval by Cabinet (12 December 2017), they are not finalised until approval on this date.

Please also remember that the deadline for submitting your precept request form (to be issued 6 November 2017 with draft tax base) to Wiltshire Council is 19 January 2018.

2.Council Tax Referendum Principles 2018/2019

Since the introduction of council tax referendums in 2012/2013, no referendum principles have been set for Parish/Town Councils.

For 2017/2018, Central Government retracted their proposal to introduce referendum principles to larger parishes following consultation and instead issued a challenge to town and parish councils to demonstrate restraint when setting precept increases that are not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities.

For 2018/2019, the Central Government consultation currently states that:

“The continuation of this position for 2018/2019 is contingent upon the Government receiving clear evidence of how the sector is responding to this challenge. The Government expects parishes, in setting their precepts, to consider all available options to mitigate the need for council tax increases, including the use of reserves where they are not already earmarked for particular purposes or for “invest to save” projects which will lower on-going revenue costs. Any revised proposals will be set out at the time of the provisional local government finance settlement later in the year.”

It is therefore not currently possible for us to inform you whether any referendum principles may be introduced. We can therefore only advise you to take this into consideration at present.

We will communicate the result of this consultation once it is published by Central Government and inform you of any further correspondence regarding referendum principles.

If you have any questions on any of the above then please do not hesitate to contact us at financialplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk or on 01225 718584 (Tina Winfield) or 01225 718582 (Stuart Donnelly).

Many Thanks

Stuart

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