

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Coordinator

Our Ref: FO13754/NH/02
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[name and address redacted]

23rd February 2016

Dear [name redacted]

Freedom of Information – Request for Information

With regards to your recent enquiry for information held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Please find the information you requested below with reference in the box to your original enquiry for clarity where multiple answers are required.

Details of Your Request

1. The currently proposed increase (if any) in the council tax rate charged by the council for 2016/17. Please give a total figure and then divide it into (a) non-ringfenced increase and (b) adult care precept (if applicable). So, if the increase is 3.99%, please respond with 3.99% comprising of (a) 1.99% and (b) 2%. In this question, "proposed" includes where a council is consulting on a preferred option, or in the absence of this, where a council has temporarily assumed a certain level of increase (possibly in its Medium Term Financial Plan) prior to a final decision.

2. Please state what level of council tax rate rise (if any) is currently assumed or forecast for (a) 2017/18, (b) 2018/19 and (c) 2019/20 (this may be via the MTFP)

3. In which financial year did the council last increase the council tax rate? Please note that the responses to questions 1 and 2 should be percentage figures, not monetary values. Questions 1-3 only concern the council tax rate charged by the council, not by any other organisations (e.g. other councils, town councils, police and fire authorities etc).

Questions 4 and 5 apply to councils in England with responsibility for delivering adult care services:

4. What is the forecast shortfall in the council's 2016/17 adult care services budget, including cost pressures and central government funding cuts, but *prior* to applying any savings proposals, fee increases, and forecast revenue from the council tax adult care precept?

5. How much additional revenue does the council expect to generate through its proposed council tax adult care precept in 2016/17?

6. Has the council been given dispensation by the UK government to increase its council tax rate by more than 2% in 2016/17 without a referendum, by virtue of its pre-existing low council tax rates?

7. On what date is the council cabinet/executive (or equivalent) due to finalise its proposed council tax rate for 2016/17?

8. On what date is the council (presumably via a meeting of full council) due to formally approve its council tax rate for 2016/17?

Questions 9-12 apply to English councils with responsibility for Council Tax Support/Reduction schemes:

9. What was the maximum percentage of a working-age Council Tax Support (CTS) claimant's council tax bill that was paid by the council under the council's 2015/16 CTS scheme (excluding specified protected/vulnerable groups)?

10. What is the maximum percentage of a working-age Council Tax Support (CTS) claimant's council tax bill that will be paid by the council under the council's 2016/17 CTS scheme or proposed CTS scheme (excluding specified protected/vulnerable groups)?

11. What other changes (if any) is the council making (or proposing to make) to working-age entitlement under its CTS scheme in 2016/17? (This excludes minor routine alterations that do not affect working-age claimants' entitlement to receive CTS)

1. Tamworth Borough Council's current proposed council tax increase for 2016/17 is 1.99%.

<http://democracy.tamworth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=866&Ver=4>

2. Tamworth Borough Council has based its projections for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 on 1.99% pa increase in Council Tax (our share). (Page 11 of report above).
3. 2015/16.
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. At the time of this FOI question, no – although announcements since by Greg Clarke MP, DCLG Secretary of State, on 8th February have changed the situation in that all district councils are now able to increase their share of council tax by the higher of 2% or £5.
7. 18th February 2016
8. 23rd February 2016
9. This information is publicly available on our website at: <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction-scheme> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question.
10. This information is publicly available on our website at <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction-scheme> and <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/positive-council-tax-reduction-scheme-changes> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question.
11. This information is publicly available on our website at <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/positive-council-tax-reduction-scheme-changes> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question.
12. This information is publicly available on our website at <http://democracy.tamworth.gov.uk/documents/s12836/Local%20Council%20Tax%20Reduction%20Scheme%202016%20onwards.pdf> therefore an exemption under Section 21 of the Act is applied in respect of this question.

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Details of Tamworth Borough Council's internal review and complaints procedure are attached, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Yours Sincerely

Nicola Hesketh
Project and Information Coordinator