



# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A Meeting of the **SPECIAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** will be held at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2017**  
**AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Andy Couldrick  
Chief Executive  
Published on 18 January 2017

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# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Our Vision**

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

## **Our Priorities**

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

## **The Underpinning Principles**

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Councillors

Bob Pitts (Chairman)	Rob Stanton (Vice-Chairman)	Keith Baker
Lindsay Ferris	Anthony Pollock	Angus Ross

### Substitutes

Julian McGhee-Sumner

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
1.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence	
2.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 January 2016.	7 - 10
3.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest	
4.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any public questions  The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about items included within this agenda.  Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to the items which are on the agenda for this meeting For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	
5.		<b>MEMBER QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any member questions relating to the items included within this agenda	
6.	None Specific	<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE 2017/18 AND EMPTY PROPERTY DISCOUNTS</b> To set the Council Tax Base for 2017/18 in respect of the whole Borough and all constituent parts so that each precepting parish can subsequently set their Council Tax budgets for the year.  <b>RECOMMENDATION</b> That: 1) the proposed Council Tax Base be agreed, for the whole area and by Parish, as set out in the report;	11 - 16

- 2) the proposed allocation of £60,000 grant to the parishes in respect of council tax reduction be approved, as set out in the council tax base table;
- 3) the levels of discount for Council Tax charging in respect of certain classes of empty property be approved in accordance with the details set out in this report.

7. None Specific

### **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME**

17 - 20

To adopt a Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme which will ensure that all working age Borough residents who may experience financial difficulties in paying their council tax liabilities have access to a scheme of assistance, designed locally, offering financial help to them.

#### **RECOMMENDED That:**

- 1) a local CTR scheme for 2017/18 be adopted on the same basis as the 2016/17 scheme with the following changes:
  - a. all recipients of CTR pay a minimum of 20% towards their council tax liability;
  - b. cease the awarding of backdated "beneficial changes". The scheme to state that all changes must be notified within one calendar month;
- 2) all applicable amounts, premiums, allowances, disregards and deductions used in the calculation of entitlements are uprated in line with the same increases applied to the Government set Prescribed and Default CTR schemes, along with any other legislative changes;
- 3) the full disregard currently allowed for War Widows and War Disability Pensions be continued from 1 April 2017 in respect of the Prescribed and Local council tax reduction and housing benefit schemes;
- 4) funds be made available to the hardship fund, known as Section 13A, for those who cannot pay their council tax liabilities, particularly as a result of changes for 17/18. This sum will be funded from the general fund and spend for 16/17 is estimated at £8,500.

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