

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	25 February 2019
Report of the	-	Executive Directors
Subject	-	Budget 2019/20

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix A be approved.

Introduction

1. The Localism Act 2011 requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously.
2. The precept levels of other precepting bodies have all now been received. These are detailed below:

Town and Parish Councils

3. The Town and Parish Council Precepts (including Special Expenses for Bexhill and Rye) for 2019/20 are detailed in Appendix B and total £2,330,405 (2018/19 £2,263,817). The increase results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £61.24 for 2019/20.

East Sussex County Council

4. East Sussex County Council met on 5 February 2019 and set their precept at £54,599,262 (2018/19 £52,557,833) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,434.78 (2018/19 £1,393.11). This includes the Adult Social Care Precept of £100.98 at Band D in Council Tax.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

5. Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner met on 8 February 2019 and set their precept at £7,226,854.13 (2018/19 £6,259,269.98) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £189.91 (2018/19 £165.91).

East Sussex Fire Authority

6. East Sussex Fire Authority met on 14 February 2019 and set their precept at £3,564,528 (2018/19 £3,433,155) for the area of Rother. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £93.67 (2018/19 £91.00).

Excessive Council Tax increases

7. The Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement for a local authority to determine whether its basic amount of Council Tax for a financial year is excessive, in which case a local referendum would be needed. Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011 has inserted a new chapter 4ZA into part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Section 52ZB sets out the steps needed to determine the level of tax which would be 'excessive'. These steps are in

effect to compare the level of increase in Council Tax with principles set out by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has indicated that, for 2019/20, an increase up to 3% or more than £5 and above in a District Council's Council Tax would be excessive. This includes the impact of changes in charges from levying bodies, in Rother's case the Internal Drainage Boards.

8. Cabinet have recommended Rother District Council's basic amount of tax for 2019/20 to be increased to £179.45 (2.9%); within the Secretary of State's guidelines and is therefore not excessive.

Budget Consultation

9. At the time of writing the Council had received 93 responses to the budget consultation, 62% of whom were supportive of a rise of £5. A summary of the results, including some of the comments made to the consultation are detailed in Appendix C, the full responses will be made available in the Members' Room.

Conclusions

10. The recommendations of the Cabinet are set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendix A. If the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendix A is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20	Increase
	£	£	%
Rother District Council	174.32	179.45	2.9%
<i>East Sussex County Council</i>	<i>1292.13</i>	<i>1333.8</i>	
<i>East Sussex County Council – social care precept</i>	<i>100.98</i>	<i>100.98</i>	
Total East Sussex County Council	1,393.11	1,434.78	3.0%
East Sussex Fire Authority	91.00	93.67	2.9%
Sussex Police Authority	165.91	189.91	14.5%
Sub-total	1824.34	1,897.81	4.0%
Town and Parish Council (average)	60.01	61.24	2.1%
TOTAL	1,884.35	1,959.05	4.0%

Malcolm Johnston
Executive Director

Dr Anthony Leonard
Executive Director

Budget 2019/20

DRAFT RESOLUTION

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass a resolution in the following terms: -

1. (a) That Council approves the Rother District Council General Fund Council Tax Requirement of £6,828,808 for 2019/20 and the resultant Band D tax of £179.45 as set out in this report.
- (b) The expenses incurred by the Council, set out in the minutes of the Cabinet of 11 February 2019 in the sum of £612,730 in respect of Bexhill and £61,500 in respect of Rye, be approved as the Special Expenses chargeable to residents of Bexhill and Rye respectively. All other expenses incurred by the Council (excluding Parish Precepts) be approved as general expenditure for the purposes of section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. (This resolution will be reviewed annually).
2. That it be noted, the following amounts for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
 - (a) 38054.1 being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax base for the year.
 - (b)

Bexhill	16,609.5	Etchingham	411.8	Salehurst & Robertsbridge	1,033.8
Ashburnham & Penhurst	189.2	Ewhurst	538.0	Sedlescombe	674.7
Battle	2,722.5	Fairlight	891.4	Ticehurst	1,655.8
Beckley	543.1	Guestling	628.1	Udimore	183.2
Bodiam	159.8	Hurst Green	589.4	Westfield	1,119.5
Brede	863.0	Icklesham	1,229.7	Whatlington	160.9
Brightling	201.0	Iden	241.6	Rye	1,941.2
Burwash	1,261.2	Mountfield	202.1		
Camber	682.9	Northiam	1,051.2		
Catsfield	350.4	Peasmarsh	528.1		
Crowhurst	364.4	Pett	475.9		
Dallington	175.2	Playden	163.9		
East Guldeford	32.0	Rye Foreign	179.6		

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.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20 in accordance with sections 32 to 38 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended: -

a.	£46,956,533	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act. (this amount is the Council's gross expenditure including the Parish Council Precepts and the Special Expenses for Bexhill and Rye).
b.	-£37,797,320	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
c.	£9,159,213	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 32(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
d.	£240.69	being the amount at 3(c) divided by the amount at 2 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
e.	£2,330,405	Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 35(1) of the Act
f.	£179.45	Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount at 2(a) 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.

<u>PARISH COUNCIL AREA</u>	D
	£
Bexhill	217.21
Ashburnham & Penhurst	244.46
Battle	317.06
Beckley	221.80
Bodiam	241.40
Brede	221.11
Brightling	216.14
Burwash	230.99
Camber	279.42
Catsfield	243.47
Crowhurst	257.22
Dallington	227.59
East Guldeford	179.45
Etchingham	305.72
Ewhurst	302.93
Fairlight	238.91
Guestling	192.34
Hurst Green	250.64
Icklesham	269.92
Iden	237.40
Mountfield	244.27
Northiam	227.01
Peasmarsh	245.73
Pett	227.78
Playden	209.96
Rye Foreign	190.59
Salehurst	271.89
Sedlescombe	255.50
Ticehurst	263.97
Udimore	202.38
Westfield	213.84
Whatlington	223.58
Rye	301.05

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(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(b) 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 dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

h.

LOCAL TAX AREA	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bexhill	144.80	168.94	193.07	217.21	265.48	313.76	362.01	434.42
Ashburnham & Penhurst	162.97	190.13	217.30	244.46	298.79	353.11	407.43	488.92
Battle	211.37	246.60	281.83	317.06	387.52	457.98	528.43	634.12
Beckley	147.86	172.51	197.15	221.80	271.09	320.38	369.66	443.60
Bodiam	160.93	187.75	214.58	241.40	295.05	348.69	402.33	482.80
Brede	147.40	171.97	196.54	221.11	270.25	319.39	368.51	442.22
Brightling	144.09	168.11	192.12	216.14	264.17	312.21	360.23	432.28
Burwash	153.99	179.66	205.32	230.99	282.32	333.66	384.98	461.98
Camber	186.28	217.32	248.37	279.42	341.52	403.61	465.70	558.84
Catsfield	162.31	189.36	216.42	243.47	297.58	351.68	405.78	486.94
Crowhurst	171.48	200.06	228.64	257.22	314.38	371.54	428.70	514.44
Dallington East	151.72	177.01	202.30	227.59	278.17	328.75	379.31	455.18
Guldeford	119.63	139.57	159.51	179.45	219.33	259.21	299.08	358.90
Etchingham	203.81	237.78	271.75	305.72	373.66	441.60	509.53	611.44
Ewhurst	201.95	235.61	269.27	302.93	370.25	437.57	504.88	605.86
Fairlight	159.27	185.82	212.36	238.91	292.00	345.10	398.18	477.82
Guestling	128.22	149.60	170.97	192.34	235.08	277.83	320.56	384.68
Hurst Green	167.09	194.94	222.79	250.64	306.34	362.04	417.73	501.28
Icklesham	179.94	209.94	239.93	269.92	329.90	389.89	449.86	539.84
Iden	158.26	184.64	211.02	237.40	290.16	342.92	395.66	474.80
Mountfield	162.84	189.99	217.13	244.27	298.55	352.84	407.11	488.54
Northiam	151.34	176.56	201.79	227.01	277.46	327.91	378.35	454.02
Peasmarsh	163.82	191.12	218.43	245.73	300.34	354.95	409.55	491.46
Pett	151.85	177.16	202.47	227.78	278.40	329.02	379.63	455.56
Playden	139.97	163.30	186.63	209.96	256.62	303.28	349.93	419.92
Rye Foreign	127.06	148.23	169.41	190.59	232.95	275.30	317.65	381.18
Salehurst	181.26	211.47	241.68	271.89	332.31	392.73	453.15	543.78
Sedlescombe	170.33	198.72	227.11	255.50	312.28	369.06	425.83	511.00
Ticehurst	175.98	205.31	234.64	263.97	322.63	381.29	439.95	527.94
Udimore	134.92	157.40	179.89	202.38	247.36	292.33	337.30	404.76
Westfield	142.56	166.32	190.08	213.84	261.36	308.88	356.40	427.68
Whatlington	149.05	173.89	198.74	223.58	273.27	322.95	372.63	447.16
Rye	200.70	234.15	267.60	301.05	367.95	434.85	501.75	602.10

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(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.

- That the Council notes that for the year 2019/20 East Sussex County Council the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and the East Sussex Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

<u>Precepting Authority</u>	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ESCC	956.52	1,115.94	1,275.36	1,434.78	1,753.62	2,072.46	2,391.30	2,869.56
SPCC	126.61	147.71	168.81	189.91	232.11	274.31	316.52	379.82
ES Fire	62.45	72.85	83.26	93.67	114.49	135.30	156.12	187.34

5. That, having calculated the aggregate each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

<u>LOCAL TAX AREA</u>	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bexhill	1,290.38	1,505.44	1,720.50	1,935.57	2,365.70	2,795.83	3,225.95	3,871.14
Ashburnham & Penhurst	1,308.55	1,526.63	1,744.73	1,962.82	2,399.01	2,835.18	3,271.37	3,925.64
Battle	1,356.95	1,583.10	1,809.26	2,035.42	2,487.74	2,940.05	3,392.37	4,070.84
Beckley	1,293.44	1,509.01	1,724.58	1,940.16	2,371.31	2,802.45	3,233.60	3,880.32
Bodiam	1,306.51	1,524.25	1,742.01	1,959.76	2,395.27	2,830.76	3,266.27	3,919.52
Brede	1,292.98	1,508.47	1,723.97	1,939.47	2,370.47	2,801.46	3,232.45	3,878.94
Brightling	1,289.67	1,504.61	1,719.55	1,934.50	2,364.39	2,794.28	3,224.17	3,869.00
Burwash	1,299.57	1,516.16	1,732.75	1,949.35	2,382.54	2,815.73	3,248.92	3,898.70
Camber	1,331.86	1,553.82	1,775.80	1,997.78	2,441.74	2,885.68	3,329.64	3,995.56
Catsfield	1,307.89	1,525.86	1,743.85	1,961.83	2,397.80	2,833.75	3,269.72	3,923.66
Crowhurst	1,317.06	1,536.56	1,756.07	1,975.58	2,414.60	2,853.61	3,292.64	3,951.16
Dallington East	1,297.30	1,513.51	1,729.73	1,945.95	2,378.39	2,810.82	3,243.25	3,891.90
Guldeford	1,265.21	1,476.07	1,686.94	1,897.81	2,319.55	2,741.28	3,163.02	3,795.62
Etchingham	1,349.39	1,574.28	1,799.18	2,024.08	2,473.88	2,923.67	3,373.47	4,048.16
Ewhurst	1,347.53	1,572.11	1,796.70	2,021.29	2,470.47	2,919.64	3,368.82	4,042.58
Fairlight	1,304.85	1,522.32	1,739.79	1,957.27	2,392.22	2,827.17	3,262.12	3,914.54
Guestling	1,273.80	1,486.10	1,698.40	1,910.70	2,335.30	2,759.90	3,184.50	3,821.40
Hurst Green	1,312.67	1,531.44	1,750.22	1,969.00	2,406.56	2,844.11	3,281.67	3,938.00
Icklesham	1,325.52	1,546.44	1,767.36	1,988.28	2,430.12	2,871.96	3,313.80	3,976.56
Iden	1,303.84	1,521.14	1,738.45	1,955.76	2,390.38	2,824.99	3,259.60	3,911.52
Mountfield	1,308.42	1,526.49	1,744.56	1,962.63	2,398.77	2,834.91	3,271.05	3,925.26
Northiam	1,296.92	1,513.06	1,729.22	1,945.37	2,377.68	2,809.98	3,242.29	3,890.74
Peasmarsh	1,309.40	1,527.62	1,745.86	1,964.09	2,400.56	2,837.02	3,273.49	3,928.18
Pett	1,297.43	1,513.66	1,729.90	1,946.14	2,378.62	2,811.09	3,243.57	3,892.28
Playden	1,285.55	1,499.80	1,714.06	1,928.32	2,356.84	2,785.35	3,213.87	3,856.64
Rye Foreign	1,272.64	1,484.73	1,696.84	1,908.95	2,333.17	2,757.37	3,181.59	3,817.90
Salehurst	1,326.84	1,547.97	1,769.11	1,990.25	2,432.53	2,874.80	3,317.09	3,980.50
Sedlescombe	1,315.91	1,535.22	1,754.54	1,973.86	2,412.50	2,851.13	3,289.77	3,947.72
Ticehurst	1,321.56	1,541.81	1,762.07	1,982.33	2,422.85	2,863.36	3,303.89	3,964.66
Udimore	1,280.50	1,493.90	1,707.32	1,920.74	2,347.58	2,774.40	3,201.24	3,841.48
Westfield	1,288.14	1,502.82	1,717.51	1,932.20	2,361.58	2,790.95	3,220.34	3,864.40
Whatlington	1,294.63	1,510.39	1,726.17	1,941.94	2,373.49	2,805.02	3,236.57	3,883.88
Rye	1,346.28	1,570.65	1,795.03	2,019.41	2,468.17	2,916.92	3,365.69	4,038.82

Valuation Bands

LOCAL TAX AREA

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bexhill	1,290.37	1,505.44	1,720.50	1,935.57	2,365.70	2,795.84	3,225.94	3,871.14
Ashburnham & Penhurst	1,308.54	1,526.63	1,744.73	1,962.82	2,399.01	2,835.19	3,271.36	3,925.64
Battle	1,356.94	1,583.10	1,809.26	2,035.42	2,487.74	2,940.06	3,392.36	4,070.84
Beckley	1,293.43	1,509.01	1,724.58	1,940.16	2,371.31	2,802.46	3,233.59	3,880.32
Bodiam	1,306.50	1,524.25	1,742.01	1,959.76	2,395.27	2,830.77	3,266.26	3,919.52
Brede	1,292.97	1,508.47	1,723.97	1,939.47	2,370.47	2,801.47	3,232.44	3,878.94
Brightling	1,289.66	1,504.61	1,719.55	1,934.50	2,364.39	2,794.29	3,224.16	3,869.00
Burwash	1,299.56	1,516.16	1,732.75	1,949.35	2,382.54	2,815.74	3,248.91	3,898.70
Camber	1,331.85	1,553.82	1,775.80	1,997.78	2,441.74	2,885.69	3,329.63	3,995.56
Catsfield	1,307.88	1,525.86	1,743.85	1,961.83	2,397.80	2,833.76	3,269.71	3,923.66
Crowhurst	1,317.05	1,536.56	1,756.07	1,975.58	2,414.60	2,853.62	3,292.63	3,951.16
Dallington	1,297.29	1,513.51	1,729.73	1,945.95	2,378.39	2,810.83	3,243.24	3,891.90
East Guldeford	1,265.20	1,476.07	1,686.94	1,897.81	2,319.55	2,741.29	3,163.01	3,795.62
Etchingham	1,349.38	1,574.28	1,799.18	2,024.08	2,473.88	2,923.68	3,373.46	4,048.16
Ewhurst	1,347.52	1,572.11	1,796.70	2,021.29	2,470.47	2,919.65	3,368.81	4,042.58
Fairlight	1,304.84	1,522.32	1,739.79	1,957.27	2,392.22	2,827.18	3,262.11	3,914.54
Guestling	1,273.79	1,486.10	1,698.40	1,910.70	2,335.30	2,759.91	3,184.49	3,821.40
Hurst Green	1,312.66	1,531.44	1,750.22	1,969.00	2,406.56	2,844.12	3,281.66	3,938.00
Icklesham	1,325.51	1,546.44	1,767.36	1,988.28	2,430.12	2,871.97	3,313.79	3,976.56
Iden	1,303.83	1,521.14	1,738.45	1,955.76	2,390.38	2,825.00	3,259.59	3,911.52
Mountfield	1,308.41	1,526.49	1,744.56	1,962.63	2,398.77	2,834.92	3,271.04	3,925.26
Northiam	1,296.91	1,513.06	1,729.22	1,945.37	2,377.68	2,809.99	3,242.28	3,890.74
Peasmarsh	1,309.39	1,527.62	1,745.86	1,964.09	2,400.56	2,837.03	3,273.48	3,928.18
Pett	1,297.42	1,513.66	1,729.90	1,946.14	2,378.62	2,811.10	3,243.56	3,892.28
Playden	1,285.54	1,499.80	1,714.06	1,928.32	2,356.84	2,785.36	3,213.86	3,856.64
Rye Foreign	1,272.63	1,484.73	1,696.84	1,908.95	2,333.17	2,757.38	3,181.58	3,817.90
Salehurst	1,326.83	1,547.97	1,769.11	1,990.25	2,432.53	2,874.81	3,317.08	3,980.50
Sedlescombe	1,315.90	1,535.22	1,754.54	1,973.86	2,412.50	2,851.14	3,289.76	3,947.72
Ticehurst	1,321.55	1,541.81	1,762.07	1,982.33	2,422.85	2,863.37	3,303.88	3,964.66
Udimore	1,280.49	1,493.90	1,707.32	1,920.74	2,347.58	2,774.41	3,201.23	3,841.48
Westfield	1,288.13	1,502.82	1,717.51	1,932.20	2,361.58	2,790.96	3,220.33	3,864.40
Whatlington	1,294.62	1,510.39	1,726.17	1,941.94	2,373.49	2,805.03	3,236.56	3,883.88
Rye	1,346.27	1,570.65	1,795.03	2,019.41	2,468.17	2,916.93	3,365.68	4,038.82

- The Assistant Director, Resources as Section 151 Officer be authorised to authenticate and serve all notices etc. required in connection with the Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rate.

Assessment as to whether change in Council Tax is excessive

7. That the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52B(3) of the Local Government Act 1992.

LOCAL TAX AREA	2019/20			2018/19			COUNCIL TAX INCREASE
	LOCAL PRECEPT	divided by LOCAL TAX BASE	gives LOCAL BAND D COUNCIL TAX	LOCAL PRECEPT	divided by LOCAL TAX BASE	gives LOCAL BAND D COUNCIL TAX	
	£	no.	£	£	no.	£	£
Bexhill (note 1)	627,255	16,609.50	37.76	679,125	16,421.43	41.36	-8.70%
Ashburnham & Penhurst	12,300	189.20	65.01	12,000.00	196.02	61.22	6.19%
Battle	374,644	2,722.50	137.61	349,000.00	2,704.96	129.02	6.66%
Beckley	23,000	543.10	42.35	23,000.00	538.98	42.67	-0.75%
Bodiam	9,900	159.80	61.95	9,300.00	159.09	58.46	5.97%
Brede	35,954	863.00	41.66	31,116.00	859.32	36.21	15.05%
Brightling	7,375	201.00	36.69	7,160.00	203.03	35.27	4.03%
Burwash	65,000	1,261.20	51.54	40,462.00	1,274.67	31.74	62.38%
Camber	68,269	682.90	99.97	66,930.00	682.76	98.03	1.98%
Catsfield	22,433	350.40	64.02	22,500.00	351.45	64.02	0.00%
Crowhurst	28,338	364.40	77.77	27,919.00	363.99	76.70	1.40%
Dallington	8,435	175.20	48.14	8,435.00	174.20	48.42	-0.58%
East Guldeford	0	32.00	0.00	0.00	31.90	0.00	0.00%
Etchingham	52,000	411.80	126.27	46,000.00	410.11	112.17	12.57%
Ewhurst	66,430	538.00	123.48	64,623.00	539.08	119.88	3.00%
Fairlight	53,000	891.40	59.46	47,000.00	896.16	52.45	13.37%
Guestling	8,096	628.10	12.89	8,095.80	607.12	13.33	-3.30%
Hurst Green	41,960	589.40	71.19	43,135.00	589.14	73.22	-2.77%
Icklesham	111,248	1,229.70	90.47	108,051.00	1,227.86	88.00	2.81%
Iden	14,000	241.60	57.95	14,000.00	241.84	57.89	0.10%
Mountfield	13,100	202.10	64.82	13,100.00	202.24	64.77	0.08%
Northiam	50,000	1,051.20	47.56	50,000.00	1,010.02	49.50	-3.92%
Peasmarsh	35,000	528.10	66.28	30,800.00	507.08	60.74	9.12%
Pett	23,000	475.90	48.33	23,000.00	469.46	48.99	-1.35%
Playden	5,000	163.90	30.51	5,000.00	159.88	31.27	-2.43%

LOCAL TAX AREA	2019/20			2018/19			COUNCIL TAX INCREASE
	LOCAL PRECEPT	divided by LOCAL TAX BASE	gives LOCAL BAND D COUNCIL TAX	LOCAL PRECEPT	divided by LOCAL TAX BASE	gives LOCAL BAND D COUNCIL TAX	
Rye Foreign	2,000	179.60	11.14	2,000.00	171.33	11.67	-4.54%
Salehurst	95,560	1,033.80	92.44	95,560.00	1,028.98	92.87	-0.46%
Sedlescombe	51,314	674.70	76.05	47,734.37	659.85	72.34	5.13%
Ticehurst	139,950	1,655.80	84.52	138,050.00	1,654.36	83.45	1.28%
Udimore	4,200	183.20	22.93	4,200.00	183.08	22.94	-0.04%
Westfield	38,500	1,119.50	34.39	36,000.00	1,107.58	32.50	5.82%
Whatlington	7,100	160.90	44.13	7,600.00	162.44	46.79	-5.68%
Rye (note 2)	236,045	1,941.20	121.60	202,921	1,937.57	104.73	16.11%

Note 1

Bexhill local precept shown above comprises

: Bexhill Charter Trustees Precept	14,525	16,609.5	0.87
: Bexhill Special Expenses	612,730	16,609.5	36.89
	627,255		37.76

Note 2

Rye local precept shown above comprises

: Rye Town Council Precept	174,545	1,941.20	89.92
: Rye Special Expenses	61,500	1,941.20	31.68
	236,045		121.60

CONSULTATION ON ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20

1. **Consultation Period and Invitations to Consult**

This consultation opened on 12 November 2018 and closed on 18 December 2018. An invitation was sent out in 'My Alerts' during the consultation period. Personal invitations to consult were emailed to the Rother Citizens Panel and local business organisations, parish and town councils and local organisations that support those on low incomes. Notifications and updates were included on the Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

2. **Responses**

The Council received only 93 individual responses. Most of the responses (96%) were from local residents. We heard from Beckley Parish Council, Christians Against Poverty and the Rother Citizens Advice Bureau. The breakdown of respondents is:

- 54% were male and 42% were female. The remaining 4% preferred not to say.
- 54% of respondents were of working age (18-64) and 47% were over retirement age.
- 11% of respondents were disabled.
- 90% were white British, 6% were from another white background and 4% were from any other ethnic group.

3. This is the second year in a row that we have had a significant decrease in the number of participants in this consultation.

4. All but three submissions had used the online response form. We received four emails with questions about the consultation and three emailed responses to the consultation.

5. **The Options for Council Tax in 2019/20**

Overall, 62% of the respondents supported raising Council Tax by an average of £5 based on a band D property (and proportionately to the other bands). This is the exactly the same result as the previous two consultations.

6. Men were more likely to disagree with raising Council Tax compared to women. 40% of men disagreed with raising the Council Tax compared to 29% of women.

7. Those over retirement age were more likely to support a rise in Council Tax than residents of working age: 71% of people aged 65 to 79 agreed to raise Council Tax. This is a similar result to last year.

8. The unchanged results compared to last year and the previous year suggests this sample has been large enough for some confidence these results may reflect the opinions of the general population of Rother.

9. **Responses to the First Phase of the Budget Proposals**

We asked for free text comments on phase one of the budget proposals.

Please note the following comments have been edited and re-organised into

groups of comments. A summary of the main points follows:

- 1) General support:
 - a) Reasonable.
 - b) Sensible.
 - c) Fair.
 - d) Workable.
 - e) Best that can be done with resources available.
 - f) No alternative.
- 2) Council Tax should go up:
 - a) By more than 2.99% considering the shortfall.
 - b) Providing it is levied on people who can afford to pay it.
 - c) This is forced upon us.
 - d) The alternative options are a worse solution.
 - e) Suggest by £3 a month.
- 3) Keep services in general:
 - a) A small rise, people would pay a bit more if it kept services we can't afford to lose.
 - b) It should be made plain to Council Tax payers if you don't pay enough you will lose the services you need and want.
 - c) Further cuts in services will not be a helpful solution to the community.
- 4) Take money from reserves:
 - a) Take some, not all.
 - b) Needed for future years.
 - c) Thank heaven Rother has been prudent with reserves but document makes clear is eating seed corn.
 - d) Very worried about using your savings to plug gaps in the budget as this will have long term unsustainable effects on the council's finances.
 - e) As a short term measure only it is sensible to take a limited sum from reserves. There may never be a small surplus but whenever that occurs it should go to the reserves.
 - f) Public spending is reduced to the level where all of us are affected.
 - g) Using reserves short term would be helpful but, in the longer term, we all need to look at finding smarter, more efficient ways of working.
 - h) Use council reserves as we are always expected to use our savings to pay for the increases.
 - i) There must be a plan to restore the reserves.
- 5) Central government
 - a) Pushed austerity down to local government, which has responded well.
 - b) Until government changes austerity policy citizens have no choice but to contribute what they can.
 - c) Need a better deal for local government from a change of government.
 - d) Increases are tax hikes for the government, indirectly gathered by local councils.
 - e) The government should be doing more rather than wasting it on

HSL and similar projects.

- 6) Electors need to face reality that county and district are bust.
- 7) Not getting value for money from Council Tax now:
 - a) Don't agree with a raise in rates. Our roads are still not well maintained and there seems to be poor accounting and waste of resources.
 - b) Although understanding the problems caused by government cuts it seems we are to be paying more and more for less and less, not a good outcome.
 - c) CT already too high for the services that we receive.
 - d) Do not understand why you need to spend more to get same result. What is wrong with your budgeting?
 - e) We have less police and bad roads.
- 8) Those who are genuinely unable to pay (a very small proportion) must be supported through other means.
- 9) Suggestions to save or raise money (please note, suggestions for other authorities are not included i.e. parking, children's services):
 - a) Rubbish & recycling must be a priority - do you really need to empty the rubbish bins along the sea front 3 or 4 times a day even in the winter when only a few people use the promenade.
 - b) In the winter brown bins could be collected less often to save money.
 - c) Use the Town Hall for civil ceremonies, weddings etc. Stunning building not fully used.
 - d) The future Community Support budgets should be pared back (last year £10k allocated for Royal Wedding events, really).
 - e) Approve more housing developments because will get more Council Tax. Speed up pace of approvals.
 - f) Get rid of overpaid staff and cut back on expenses.
 - g) Perhaps it is also worth to think more outside the box. Get some outrageous ideas and see whether any of them make sense. Run a competition to encourage people to come up with solutions for savings, efficiencies and new ways of working.
 - h) Do own events in the Polegrove to make money.
 - i) Put greatest effort into raising revenues from untapped sources and greater emphasis on cutting costs.
 - j) Go after non-payers more.
 - k) Charge for extra services, extra rubbish collections, etc.
 - l) A number of addresses in our area have two black rubbish bins. There is no justification for this and clearly further savings could and should be made by removing these. Quite apart from savings this encourages low recycling levels.
 - m) Stop giving the De la Warr Pavilion £500,000 per year in subsidies.
 - n) District councillors to take a cut in their remuneration, ie do it for nothing like parish and town councillors.
 - o) Look at money wasted on personal expenses and make transparent for everyone to see.
 - p) Invest £1 per household on Christmas lights and fireworks.
 - q) services aimed at children that parents should provide should be looked at.

- 10) Don't raise Council Tax because:
- a) Cut back expenditure in other areas rather than increase the Council Tax.
 - b) The proposed increase in Council Tax is above the current rate of inflation and above the 2% pay increase for Council staff and represents a real increase in tax.
 - c) Further rises in council tax will place a burden on many households.
 - d) Seem to be relying too much on raising Council Tax to help solve the financial shortfall.
 - e) Late collection of waste bin 12 times this year and this is most important service the council delivers.
 - f) Putting up Council Tax by 2.99% is sneaky because government cap is 3%. Will be unpopular.
 - g) Have a lot of families struggling to make ends meet. Will have more families on the breadline.
 - h) Very worrying for those on a limited income.
 - i) Can't afford another rise:
 - i) I live alone and have single occupancy but even so simply cannot afford to pay any more on CT. Currently pay £202 a month, when moved to Bexhill 4 years ago paid £174, which was a struggle then. Not a wealthy pensioner. Careful monitoring of monthly expenditure, being penalised for saving and moving to a nice area. If goes up any further, will have to consider moving home. Pension won't go up by this amount.
 - ii) As a council tax payer who still has to work in order to pay the tax, I am hoping the tax will not go up much more as most of my occupational pension would have to go to pay it instead of coming out of my salary, I would then be faced with, in all probability, having to sell my home that I have spent a lifetime working for.
 - iii) Christians Against Poverty: massive impact this will have on clients who are already struggling to pay Council Tax bills.
 - iv) Christians Against Poverty: concern about support for those more vulnerable residents who struggle to organise their finances, read and understand their mail and are fearful about what action to take - and may do nothing, resulting in penalties they struggle to meet. Also those who get into problems through failure to pay Council Tax or changes in Housing Benefit, some of which are due to changes in benefit income, specifically those whose hours of work vary causing their wages and benefits to vary.
 - v) For those of us on a low income as wages are not rising with inflation, doesn't help!
 - vi) Our pensions do not increase at the same rate.
- 11) Doubts over RDC's ability to maximise revenues:
- a) from the Capital Investment programme.
 - b) Colonnade – investment vs loss of revenue
- 12) Any larger increase will not make any difference anyway as there is still a large amount (£46m) to be cut from the county council budgets over the coming three years, which will have a knock-on effect on local

councils.

Conclusion

10. In conclusion, the majority of respondents supported the use of reserves and a rise in Rother District Council's part of the Council Tax by 2.99% based on the average band D property.