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SUBJECT : COUNCIL TAX FOR 2013/14

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Council, in its role as billing authority, is required to set amounts of Council Tax before 11 March in the financial year preceding that for which it is set.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is recommended to approve the draft resolution setting the Council Tax for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1, or as amended at the meeting.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council, as billing authority, is required to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the forthcoming year. In setting its Council Tax requirement, the Council takes into account any funding from reserves, income it expects to raise and general funding it will receive from Government as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

- 3.2 The Council is also required to set a basic amount of Council Tax for the financial year 2013/14. The Council Tax is set on the basis of:

- (a) The precept on the Collection Fund issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.
- (b) The precept on the Collection Fund issued by the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority.
- (c) The Borough Council's precept on the Collection Fund, which is dependent on two factors:
 - (i) its council tax requirement, and
 - (iv) the precepts issued by the seven Parish / Town Councils.

These are discussed in more detail later in the report.

4. RATIONALE

4.1 To ensure that sufficient Council Tax is generated to meet all precepts.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Council Tax Requirement for 2013/14, together with the basic amount of Council Tax in relation to Band D properties for that part of the Borough having no Parish Councils are calculated as follows:

	£M
Council's proposed net expenditure	142.522
Add: Council's share of estimated deficit on the Collection Fund	0.400
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	142.922
Less: General government grant funding	- 82.437
Retained business rates income	- 21.770
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Borough Council's Council Tax Requirement	38.715
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Council Tax Base:	30,560.04
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Council Tax at Band D	£1,266.85

5.2 Parish / Town Council's Precepts

From 2013/14, there are significant changes to the way in which Parish council tax bases have been calculated, due to the introduction of localised support for council tax. Each Parish council tax base will be reduced where a dwelling is in receipt of council tax support in a similar manner to other council tax discounts. This reduction in the tax base will need to be reflected in the calculation of the Parish's Band D council tax, and will reduce the additional amount of council tax income that can be raised for the Parish area. In order to mitigate the effects of any reduction in tax base, the Council has agreed to make a grant payment to make up the shortfall.

The Parish / Town Councils have each submitted their funding requirement, as detailed in Appendix 2. Members should be aware that the Parish Council precepts form part of the Council's expenditure for the purposes of the Council Tax i.e. the Parish Precepts are added to the Council's Council Tax requirement and the payments to Parishes are met from the General Fund. Subsequently, there is no adjustment to it, even though the Council may collect more or less from the Parish by way of Council Tax.

The average of the Parishes element of the Council Tax is calculated as follows:

Total Parish Requirement	£181,087.64
Less: Grants paid by Borough Council	£27,336.50
Total Parish Precepts	<hr/> £153,751.14
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Council Tax Base:	30,560.04
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Average Parish Council Tax at Band D	£5.03

- 5.3 In accordance with Section 31B of the Act, the basic amount of Council Tax for the year, including Parish precepts, is £1,271.88 (i.e. £1,266.85 + £5.03)

5.4 Collection Fund

Members will note from the calculation shown in paragraph 5.1 above, that Blackburn's share of the deficit on the Collection Fund is £0.4M. It is a

requirement of the legislation that this must be reflected in the Council Tax, which results in an increase in Band D tax of £13.09 (Band A £8.73). The main factor generating the deficit is the continued incidence of backdated downwards revaluations, which are outside the Council's control.

5.5 Major Precepting Authorities

On 15th February 2013, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire agreed a budget and an expenditure precept for the year 2013/14. The amount of precept due from Blackburn with Darwen Council has been set at £4,673,258, after an adjustment of £47,185 in respect of the precepting authority's share of the estimated Collection Fund deficit. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £152.92, an increase of 1.99%.

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority met on 11th February 2013, and agreed a budget and an expenditure precept for the year 2013/14. The amount of precept due from Blackburn with Darwen Council has been set at £1,945,147, after an adjustment of £20,032 in respect of the precepting authority's share of the estimated Collection Fund deficit. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £63.65

The aggregate Council Tax calculation in relation to Band D properties for that part of the Borough having no Parish Councils, is as follows:

	£M
Borough Council's Council Tax Requirement	38.715
Lancashire Police Authority Precept	4.673
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority Precept	1.945
Total Council Tax requirement	45.333
Council Tax Base:	30,560.04
Aggregate Council Tax at Band D	£1,483.42

5.6 Having calculated the basic amount of Council Tax for a Band D property, the Council is then required to convert it into amounts for all Bands by applying the following proportions:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9

The Borough element of the Council Tax together with the amount calculated for each band by the major precepting authorities forms the aggregate Council Tax for each band.

For those parts of the Borough which have a Parish or Town Council, a higher tax is levied to finance the Parish or Town Council Precept as well. It follows therefore that the Borough will have 64 different Tax Rates i.e. 8 bands for 8 areas (7 Parish or Town Councils and the area of the Borough having no Parish), and these are shown in detail on the attached draft resolution.

5.7 Draft Resolution

The draft resolution for setting the Council Tax is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. The elements which form the Council Tax calculation, as detailed in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.6 above, are:

- the "basic amount" of Blackburn's element of the Council Tax for 2013/14 is £1,271.88.

- the average of the Parishes element (£5.03) is then deducted to give the Council Tax at Band D for those parts of the Borough not having a Parish Council (£1,266.85).
- the calculation for all other Bands then follows e.g. Band A is 6/9ths (66.67%) of Band D, Band H is 18/9ths (200%) of Band D.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The policy implications from this report are contained within the Budget Strategy.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implication arising from the proposed recommendations of this report have been incorporated into the Budget Strategy.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the amounts set for each band will be the aggregate of the Borough element for each band calculated under Section 36 and the amount calculated for each band by the major precepting authorities. The Council Tax must be set before 11 March in the financial preceding that for which it is set.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None as a direct consequence of this report.

10. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The decisions to be taken do not change policy and do not require any further consideration in respect of equality issues.

11. CONSULTATIONS

The Council has consulted with its residents, business community, partners and other stakeholders throughout the Council Tax setting process.

Chief Officer/Member	Liz Hall, Director of Finance – Ext. 5482
Contact Officer:	Julie Jewson, Senior Finance Manager – Ext. 5893
Date:	20th February 2013
Background Papers:	Budget documentation and reports previously issued

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Draft Council Tax Resolution 2013/14 – Finance Council, 4 March 2013

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. That it be noted that on 31st January 2013, the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2013/14 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - a) 30,560.04 being the Council Tax Base for the whole of the Council area (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Act); and
 - b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates, as detailed in Appendix 2.
2. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2013/14 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - a) £403,263,100 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - b) £364,394,300 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - c) £38,868,800 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - d) £1,271.88 being the amount at 2 (c) above (Item R) divided by the amount at 1(a) above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - e) £153,751.14 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (see Appendix 2).
 - f) £1,266.85 Being the amount at 2 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2 (e) above by Item T (1 (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 Parish precept relates.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2013/14 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as indicated in the tables below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 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 the year 2013/14 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

a) Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
Eccleshill Parish	£862.74	£1,006.53	£1,150.32	£1,294.11	£1,581.69	£1,869.27	£2,156.85	£2,588.22
Livesey Parish	£849.95	£991.60	£1,133.26	£1,274.92	£1,558.24	£1,841.55	£2,124.87	£2,549.84
North Turton Parish	£856.06	£998.74	£1,141.41	£1,284.09	£1,569.44	£1,854.80	£2,140.15	£2,568.18
Pleasington Parish	£848.43	£989.84	£1,131.24	£1,272.65	£1,555.46	£1,838.27	£2,121.08	£2,545.30
Tockholes Parish	£865.85	£1,010.15	£1,154.46	£1,298.77	£1,587.39	£1,876.00	£2,164.62	£2,597.54
Yate and Pickup Bank Parish	£860.79	£1,004.25	£1,147.72	£1,291.18	£1,578.11	£1,865.04	£2,151.97	£2,582.36
Darwen Town Council	£854.47	£996.88	£1,139.29	£1,281.70	£1,566.52	£1,851.34	£2,136.17	£2,563.40
All other parts of the Council's area	£844.57	£985.33	£1,126.09	£1,266.85	£1,548.37	£1,829.89	£2,111.42	£2,533.70

b) Major Precepting Authorities

<u>Precepting Authority</u>	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
Lancashire Police Authority	£101.95	£118.94	£135.93	£152.92	£186.90	£220.88	£254.87	£305.84
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	£42.43	£49.51	£56.58	£63.65	£77.79	£91.94	£106.08	£127.30

d) Aggregate Council Tax

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
Eccleshill Parish	£1,007.12	£1,174.98	£1,342.83	£1,510.68	£1,846.38	£2,182.09	£2,517.80	£3,021.36
Livesey Parish	£994.33	£1,160.05	£1,325.77	£1,491.49	£1,822.93	£2,154.37	£2,485.82	£2,982.98
North Turton Parish	£1,000.44	£1,167.19	£1,333.92	£1,500.66	£1,834.13	£2,167.62	£2,501.10	£3,001.32
Pleasington Parish	£992.81	£1,158.29	£1,323.75	£1,489.22	£1,820.15	£2,151.09	£2,482.03	£2,978.44
Tockholes Parish	£1,010.23	£1,178.60	£1,346.97	£1,515.34	£1,852.08	£2,188.82	£2,525.57	£3,030.68
Yate and Pickup Bank Parish	£1,005.17	£1,172.70	£1,340.23	£1,507.75	£1,842.80	£2,177.86	£2,512.92	£3,015.50
Darwen Town Council	£998.85	£1,165.33	£1,331.80	£1,498.27	£1,831.21	£2,164.16	£2,497.12	£2,996.54
All other parts of the Council's area	£988.95	£1,153.78	£1,318.60	£1,483.42	£1,813.06	£2,142.71	£2,472.37	£2,966.84

Appendix 2

Town and Parish Council Precepts

<u>Parish/Town Council</u>	<u>2012/13</u>			<u>2013/14</u>			<u>Council Tax Increase / (Reduction)</u>	
	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precepts</u>	<u>Council Tax Band D</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Precepts</u>	<u>Grant</u>		<u>Council Tax Band D</u>
		£	£		£	£	£	£
Eccleshill Parish	100.57	2,741.50	27.26	85.40	2,328.00	413.50	27.26	0.00
Livesey Parish	1,983.39	16,000.00	8.07	1,813.43	14,629.00	1,371.00	8.07	0.00
North Turton Parish	1,671.05	29,450.00	17.62	1,600.65	27,589.00	1,241.00	17.24	(0.38)
Pleasington Parish	248.52	1,450.00	5.83	250.13	1,450.00	0.00	5.80	(0.03)
Tockholes Parish	206.06	6,056.74	29.39	201.11	6,420.14	146.00	31.92	2.53
Yate and Pickup Bank Parish	142.14	4,125.00	29.02	133.17	3,240.00	260.00	24.33	(4.69)
Darwen Town Council	8,213.80	122,000.00	14.85	6,604.36	98,095.00	23,905.00	14.85	0.00
TOTAL / AVERAGE	12,565.53	181,823.24	4.60	10,688.25	153,751.14	27,336.50	5.03	0.43