

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING 2021/22 PRECEPT SETTING**

### **1. Council Tax breakdown for 2021/22**

The band D council tax rose by £97.85 from £1,968.47 p.a. in 2020/21 to £2,066.32 p.a. in 2021/22. This was split as follows:

	<u>Band D</u>	<u>Share of increase</u>
Kent County Council	1,418.76	67.50
Sevenoaks District Council	224.91	4.95
Kent Police	218.15	15.00
Kent Fire	80.82	1.53
Westerham Town Council	<u>123.68</u>	<u>8.87</u>
	2,066.32	97.85

\* When comparing SDC's £4.95 increase to WTC's £8.87 increase it is important to consider not only the amount levied against the Council Tax, but also the level of income generated. In 2021/22 SDC generated 11.4 million from Council Tax, compared to WTC's £252,000 income from the precept.

### **2. How did WTC compare with our neighbouring towns in 2021/22?**

	<u>Band D charge</u>	<u>Precept generated</u>
Edenbridge Town Council	156.22	582,722
Sevenoaks Town Council	128.50	1,239,898
Westerham Town Council	123.68	252,000

## **SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR 2022/23**

### **1. Neighbouring Councils' proposed precept increases**

- Edenbridge Town Council have to date agreed a rise of £15.62 per year to the band D, increasing their band D payment to £171.84, generating a precept of £653,919.
- Sevenoaks Town Council are working to reduce their proposed increase to below 5%.

### **2. WTC first draft proposed budget**

Following WTC's established committee budgeting procedures and a review of WTC reserves, the resultant consolidated budget proposed a £264,650 precept for 2022/23. The increase in precept from £252,000 to £264,650 would generate an additional £12,650 in income and represented a 5% increase in real terms.

WTC taxbase was reduced in 2021/22 due to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the increased allowance made for non-collection of taxes by SDC. As a result of these measures now being lifted, WTC taxbase has increased for 2022/23. This means that the first draft proposed budget would be presented as a 2.9% increase.

### **3. Alternative budget proposals**

In view of the considerable costs associated with the redevelopment of King George's Field the RFO presented F&GP with a number of alternative budget proposals which would generate additional funds for this project. These ranged from: a 3.8% increase (additional £2,350); 4.2% increase (additional £3,350); 4.6% increase (additional £4,350) to a 5% increase (additional £5,350). Following discussion, F&GP felt the need to balance the need to generate further funds for KGF redevelopment project, with the wish to show restraint in the precept increase in order to support residents in the light of COVID-19.

## **F&GP RECOMMENDATION**

F&GP **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the precept be increased to £267,000. This will be presented as a 3.8% increase to the band D, increasing the payment from £123.68 per year to £128.40 per year; from £2.38 per week to £2.47 per week; an increase of 9p per week.

Debbie Marshall, RFO  
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