

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

TO:	COUNCIL		
DATE:	27 JANUARY 2009	AGENDA ITEM:	9
TITLE:	RECOMMENDED FINANCIAL MATTERS BY CABINET		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR LOVELOCK	AREA COVERED:	CORPORATE SERVICES
SERVICE:	FINANCIAL	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendations of Cabinet of 19 January 2009 in respect of Council Tax collection rate and Council Tax base for 2009/10. A copy of the report to Cabinet is appended to the report.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That for the purpose of, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations, 1992 (as amended):
- (a) the estimated Council Tax collection rate for the financial year 2009/10 be set at 97.75%;
 - (b) taking account of (a) above, the amount calculated by Reading Borough Council as its Council Tax base for the financial year 2009/10 shall be 52,532.
- 2.2 That no change be made to existing Council Tax discounts in respect of empty and second homes, and that no local discounts be introduced.
- 2.3 That the recommendations made by Cabinet on 19 January 2009 as set out below be agreed:

- (a) Recommend to Council that the Director of Resources and Head of Finance, in consultation with the relevant Corporate Director and Lead Councillor(s) be given delegated authority to respond to consultation documents relating to finance and submit expressions of interest and bids for funding during 2009/10 and give capital spending approval for schemes up to the level of any Government Grant allocations and other external contributions awarded during 2009/10.
- (b) Recommend to Council that Standing Orders be waived, and that the Director of Resources and Head of Finance be given delegated authority to enter into leasing arrangements to fund approved expenditure where this proves beneficial to the Council.

3. COUNCIL TAX BASE AND COLLECTION RATE FOR 2009/10

3.1 Under original Government regulations, the calculation of the Council Tax base and of the collection rate to be used for calculating Council Tax can only be made by the full Council, and cannot be delegated to a Committee or to an Officer.

3.2 The Cabinet on 19 January 2009 agreed the following recommendation to Council.

1. That for the purpose of, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended):

(a) the estimated Council Tax collection rate for the financial year 2009/10 be set at 97.75%;

(b) taking account of (a) above, the amount calculated by Reading Borough Council as its Council Tax base for the financial year 2009/10 shall be 52,532.

2. That no change be made to existing Council Tax discounts in respect of empty and second homes, and that no local discounts be introduced.

3.3 The detailed report to Cabinet is attached.

4. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS BY CABINET

4.1 Cabinet on 3 December also made the following recommendations for approval by Council in connection with future employer superannuation rates, bidding for resources and funding of expenditure.

- (a) Recommend to Council that the Director of Resources and Head of Finance, in consultation with the relevant Corporate Director and Lead Councillor(s) be given delegated authority to respond to consultation documents relating

to finance and submit expressions of interest and bids for funding during 2009/10 and give capital spending approval for schemes up to the level of any Government Grant allocations and other external contributions awarded during 2009/10.

- (b) Recommend to Council that Standing Orders be waived, and that the Director of Resources and Head of Finance be given delegated authority to enter into leasing arrangements to fund approved expenditure where this proves beneficial to the Council.

5. **CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

None directly from this report.

6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

None directly from this report.

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

As set out in the report.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As set out in the report.

9. **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet 19 January 2009 Reports:

General Financial Matters

Calculation of Council Tax Base and Collection Rate and Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits