

SPECIAL EXPENSES POLICY

At its meeting of 3rd March 2008, the Council implemented a differential taxation policy by introducing special expense charges as set out in the following recommendations:

- i) *That the resolutions of the former Policy and Resources Committee of 15 January 2001, relating to special expenses (minute 13), be rescinded in relation to categories (a) and (b) as set out in the minute, so that items falling within those categories (parks, gardens, open spaces and games sites) or within this resolution but outside those categories (Christmas lights/trees) will become the council's special expenses under section 35(2)(d) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and that the items of Special Expenses as listed in paragraph 9.4 be approved.*
- ii) *That the principle of differential taxation be agreed and the impact is set out in Table A of Appendix E.*

For clarification purposes the special expense charge relates to costs incurred in respect of the provision of recreational resources on parks, playing fields, open spaces and gardens located within Lytham and St Annes, together with the costs of Christmas lights and/or trees in those same locations.

Until the Special Expenses Policy applicable to 2013/14 was approved by Council, annual fluctuations in the cost of concurrent services charged as special expenses resulted in corresponding fluctuations in amounts payable by residents. The 2013/14 Special Expenses Policy set the charge for 2013/14 at the same level as for 2012/13. Up until 2015/16 each element of the Council Tax remained at the same level. For 2016/17 a 2% increase was applied to each of the individual elements of the Council Tax charge i.e. the borough-wide charge and the special expense charge, in order that both elements were increased to an equivalent extent.

For 2017/18 an average Band D Council Tax of £195.76 is proposed (an increase of £4.99 as compared to the 2016/17 charge). This equates to a proposed 2.76% increase in respect of each of the individual elements of the Council Tax charge.

Therefore, the special expenses policy for 2016/17 shall be:

- the annual special expense charge per property will be set for 2017/18 at the 2016/17 level plus 2.76%, that being £71.77 per band D property;
- the annual borough wide charge per property will be set for 2017/18 at the 2016/17 level plus 2.76%, that being £152.98 per band D property; and
- the budget resource to be allocated to delivering concurrent services and chargeable as special expenses for 2017/18 will be set at a sum equivalent to the annual special expense charge per property (band D equivalent) multiplied by the tax base for the special expense area.

For the purposes of charging special expenses, both the special expense costs and the tax bases relating to the areas of Lytham and St Annes will each be aggregated and the Council Tax charge per property at each band level will be the same across the whole area.