

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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BEXLEY AGREES COUNCIL TAX INCREASE OF 3.99%

The Council Tax payable by Bexley's residents will rise by 1.86% from 1 April. The increase equates to 52p more a week for a property in Band D.

At last night's (2 March) full Council meeting, Councillors voted to increase Bexley's share of the Council Tax by the maximum 3.99% allowed. The increase residents pay will be less because the Mayor of London's element of the Tax has reduced by 6.4%.

Bexley has taken the opportunity offered by the Government for an extra 2% tax increase to help meet some of the increased cost of adult social care. While welcome, the extra 2% will only go part of the way to meeting these extra costs. They include the introduction of the national living wage and the increasing numbers of people living longer and with more complex needs.

The Council's budget for 2016/17 provides for £235m of spending. Spending reductions have been agreed across all services, with priority given to safeguarding vulnerable residents and the achievement of the Borough's three strategic priorities: Providing value for money; Growing a thriving economy; Living long, fulfilling and independent lives.

"We are working hard to adapt to unprecedented changes in the way local government is funded and that involves making tough choices," said Council Leader Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE. "Our focus is on doing what is in the long-term interests of all our residents."

The Council's future investment programme includes £11 million for

schools, £14 million on social and transport infrastructure and £5 million to support economic growth.

Further information about the Council's Budget will be included in the Spring issue of the Bexley Magazine, which will be published next week.

'ENDS'

A table showing the amount of tax payable by each band relative to Band D is available from the Communications Team.

**Please contact: John Ferry on 020 3045 4867
john.ferry@bexley.gov.uk**

