

Indicative Band D council taxes for combined fire authorities and constituent authorities for 2003/04

A note by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

1. Because combined fire authorities (CFAs) were not major precepting authorities, and so did not set their own council taxes, for 2003/04, it is necessary to use an indicative figure when making comparisons with the actual council taxes set for 2004/05. Indicative figures for all CFAs and their constituent authorities are given in the table below.

2. The figures given are consistent with the Alternative Notional Amounts (ANAs) set out in the draft Limitation of Council Tax and Precepts (Alternative Notional Amounts) Report (England) 2004/05 that was laid in Parliament on 25 March 2004¹.

3. They have been calculated as follows:

	The draft ANA for 2003/04 ² ;
<i>less</i>	The indicative formula grant for 2003/04 ³ ;
<i>plus</i>	Community charge items and collection fund surplus/deficit from 2002/03 (constituent authorities only) ⁴ ;
<i>equals</i>	The indicative council tax requirement for 2003/04 (excluding any local precepts);
<i>divided by</i>	The tax-setting tax base for 2003/04 for the area ⁵ ;
<i>equals</i>	Band D council tax (excluding any local precepts).

4. Authorities should note that these are indicative figures, provided only as guidance, and that the ANAs on which they are based are subject to the approval of Parliament.

5. Any decisions as to what constitutes an excessive budget requirement under the powers to cap local authority budgets⁶ must be based on a comparison between the budget requirement for the year in question and an earlier year, but may also take account of other factors, including a comparison of council tax levels.

LGF3F

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, April 2004

¹ HC 474. Available at <http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/precepts.pdf>.

² As set out in the draft Limitation of Council Tax and Precepts (Alternative Notional Amounts) Report (England) 2004/05 that was laid in Parliament on 25 March 2004.

³ Figures available under 'Other papers' at <http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0405/grant.htm>.

⁴ As reported to ODPM on Budget Requirement returns for 2003/04.

⁵ As reported to ODPM on Budget Requirement returns for 2003/04. Figures for CFAs are derived by adding figures for the constituent authorities. These are shown at <http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/taxbase.pdf>.

⁶ Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Local Government Act 1999).