

**Full Council
23rd April 2007**

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman,
Leader of the Conservative Group.**

Council Tax Revaluation Means Higher Taxes

This Council expresses its deep concern at the Government's threat to conduct a complete revaluation of all domestic properties for council tax, with the further threat that regular and subsequent revaluations will take place automatically every five years. Despite the Government's claim to have postponed council tax revaluation in England, Labour Ministers have given explicit authorisation for the council tax revaluation database to go ahead, even after the announcement of the postponement.

This Council records its concern that Taxpayers' money is being spent on refining technology costing £6 million. This Council believes that this database will allow for the imposition of a house price tax, now being piloted in Northern Ireland from April.

This Council notes the scope of possible revaluations. Homes would be photographed to record architectural style, brick, thatch, or stone facia, sash windows, age periods and house dimensions. In addition 'Value Significant' property features would be coded by tax inspectors to calculate tax bills including:- living in a quiet road, or cul-de-sac, proximity to convenient public transport, garden, patio, roof terrace, balcony, water or hill views, near a field or golf course, conservatory, double glazing and number of bedrooms, bathrooms, garage spaces and parking spaces.

This Council believes that the proposed process of revaluation will be intrusive and an invasion of householders' privacy.

This Council further believes that the combined process of revaluation, increased number of Council Tax bands and threatened house price tax will lead to higher bills for all.