



## **Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**

### **Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

### **Report of the Director of Finance – Huw Jones**

#### **MATTER FOR DECISION:**

#### **CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2025-26**

**Wards Affected: All**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To formally set the Council Tax Base for the 2025/26 financial year.

#### **Background**

2. The Council Tax Base is an amount required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to be used in the calculation of Council Tax by billing authorities and major precepting authorities and in the calculation of the amount of a precept payable by each billing authority to a major precepting authority. The Base is a measure of the tax-raising capacity of an authority. It is expressed in terms of the number of Band D equivalent dwellings in an authority's area, taking into account exemptions, discounts, disablement relief, premiums and the authority's estimate of its collection rate for Council Tax.
3. The rules for the calculation of the Council Tax Base are contained in The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 which amend The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995. The amendments in the 2016 Regulations have been made as a consequence of amendments to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 by section 139 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Those amendments enable billing authorities to apply a higher

amount of Council Tax (“a premium”) in respect of long-term empty dwellings and dwellings that are occupied periodically (second homes). It must be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2025/26 has been calculated to include Council Tax premiums from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 following members decision to charge 100% on top of the standard rate of Council Tax for long term empty dwellings and dwellings that are occupied periodically (commonly referred to as second homes).

The calculation of the Council Tax Base is required to be made before 31<sup>st</sup> December. The Tax Base must also be notified to all Precepting Authorities (e.g. Police Authority) by that date. Although this is still the statutory timetable, this year the Assembly requested a provisional calculation be supplied by the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in order to meet the deadline for the calculation of the distribution of Revenue Support Grant for 2025-26.

### **Calculation**

4. The gross Council Tax Base calculated for 2025-26 is 50,717.89 and using a collection rate of 98% produces a net Council Tax base of 49,703.53 This means that for next year and for every £1 levied in council tax terms will generate £49,703 to meet the Council’s Budget Requirement. The detailed calculation is contained in Appendix 1.

It is also necessary to calculate the Council Tax Base in respect of areas which are served by Town and Community Councils, and these are summarized in the following table:

Town and Community Council	Council Tax Base
Blaengwrach	383.95
Blaenhonddan	4,451.61
Briton Ferry	1,953.17
Clyne & Melincourt	280.61
Coedffranc	3,759.38
Crynant	704.23
Dyffryn Clydach	1,343.06
Glynneath	1,424.52
Neath	6,771.26
Onllwyn	387.23
Pelenna	408.51

Town and Community Council	Council Tax Base
Resolven	746.23
Seven Sisters	644.52
Tonna	988.94
Cilybebyll	2,046.29
Cwmllynfell	395.80
Gwaun Cae Gurwen	1,376.28
Pontardawe	2,604.85
Ystalyfera	1,641.48

### **Financial Impact**

5. The Council must approve the Council Tax Base by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the preceding financial year. The gross tax base used by the Welsh Government to distribute Revenue Support Grant to individual Authorities is 49,879.45, this is calculated net of Council Tax premiums. Together with the Council Tax level it determines the quantum of Council Tax proceeds available to fund the Council's Budget and Services. This will be dealt with as part of the Budget Requirement and Council Tax setting reports that will be considered by Council in February 2025.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 9 There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment in respect of this item.

### **Valleys Communities Impacts**

10. No implications.

### **Workforce Impacts**

11. No implications.

### **Legal impact**

12. There is a statutory requirement to agree and set the Council Tax Base for the forthcoming financial year prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **Risk management Impact**

13. There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

## **Consultation**

14. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

15. It is recommended that members approve the 2025/26 net Council Tax Base
  - of 49,703.53 for the whole of the County Borough; and
  - for each Town and Community Council area the amount shown in paragraph 4 of this report.

## **Reason for Proposed Decisions**

16. To determine the Council Tax Base for 2025/26.

## **Implementation of Decisions**

17. The decisions are urgent ones for immediate implementation, subject to the consent of the relevant Scrutiny Chair (and is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure). This will also enable the Council to forward the tax base to the Welsh Government within the required timescales.

## **Appendices**

18. Appendix 1 - Calculation of Council Tax Base

## **List of Background Papers**

19. Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995/2561)  
Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/2935)  
Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3094) (W268))

Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales)  
Regulations 2016 (SI 2016/969) (W238))  
Local Government Finance Act 1992  
NAW Letter - Council Tax Dwellings Return (CT1) for 2025/26  
Council Tax Dwellings (CT1) Return 2025/26

### **Officer Contact**

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	A*	Valuation band									Total (= sum of band figures)
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
All chargeable dwellings		13,167	26,571	11,434	7,218	4,413	1,353	526	104	20	64,806
Dwellings subject to disability reduction (included in line A1)		69	346	168	125	98	32	16	18	6	878
Adjusted chargeable dwellings (taking into account disability reductions)	69	13,444	26,393	11,391	7,191	4,347	1,337	528	92	14	64,806
Dwellings with no discount or premium (including long term empty properties and second homes with no discount or premium)	57	5,021	15,136	7,273	5,055	3,448	1,086	413	66	8	37,563
Dwellings with a 25% discount (excluding long term empty properties and second homes)	11	8,135	10,822	3,919	2,017	834	229	90	14	3	26,074
Dwellings with a 50% discount (excluding long term empty properties and second homes)	1	7	32	21	19	24	13	19	10	2	148
Dwellings with variable discount	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dwellings with long term empty property or second homes discount		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dwellings with long term empty property or second homes premium		281	403	178	100	41	9	6	2	1	1,021
Total adjusted chargeable dwellings	69	13,444	26,393	11,391	7,191	4,347	1,337	528	92	14	64,806
Total variable discounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long term empty property and second homes discount adjustment		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Long term empty property and second homes premiums adjustment		281.0	403.0	178.0	100.0	41.0	9.0	6.0	2.0	1.0	1,021.0
Total dwellings including discounts and premiums	66	11,688	24,075	10,579	6,777	4,168	1,282	502	86	13	
Ratio to band D	<b>5/9</b>	<b>6/9</b>	<b>7/9</b>	<b>8/9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11/9</b>	<b>13/9</b>	<b>15/9</b>	<b>18/9</b>	<b>21/9</b>	
Band D equivalents 100%	36.53	7,791.83	18,724.61	9,403.33	6,777.25	5,093.61	1,852.14	836.67	171.00	30.92	50,717.89
Total discounted dwellings excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment	66	11,407	23,672	10,401	6,677	4,127	1,273	496	84	12	
Band D equivalents excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment	36.53	7,604.50	18,411.17	9,245.11	6,677.25	5,043.50	1,839.14	826.67	167.00	28.58	49,879.45
Band D equivalent at 98%											49,703.53