

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Cabinet

November 2018

Report of the Head of Finance – Huw Jones

MATTER FOR DECISION:

CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2019/20

Wards Affected: All

Purpose of report

1. To formally set the Council Tax Base for the 2019/20 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, 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. It must be noted that this authority has not considered this option to date.

The calculation of the Council Tax Base is required to be made before 31st 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 23rd November 2018 in order to meet the deadline for the calculation of the distribution of Revenue Support Grant for 2019-20.

Calculation

4. The gross Council Tax Base calculated for 2019/20 is 48,813.19 and using a collection rate of 97% produces a net Council Tax base of 47,348.79. This means that for next year and for every £1 levied in council tax terms will generate £47,348 to meet the Council's Budget Requirement. The detailed calculation is contained in Appendix 1.
5. Members should note that this is an increase from the 2018/19 base of 47,257.40 (calculated at 97% collection rate) by some 91 Band D equivalent dwellings.
6. 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	360.90
Blaenhonddan	4,568.74
Briton Ferry	1,832.46
Clyne and Melincourt	253.98
Coedffranc	3,568.17
Crynant	677.29
Dyffryn Clydach	1,089.34
Glynneath	1,365.22
Neath	6,416.95
Onllwyn	371.38

Town and Community Council	Council Tax Base
Pelenna	392.96
Resolven	721.37
Seven Sisters	619.25
Tonna	890.32
Cilybebyll	1,886.25
Cwmllynfell	377.09
Gwauncaegurwen	1,315.93
Pontardawe	2,460.77
Ystalyfera	1,570.89

7. Further details of the calculation for each Town and Community Council area is shown in Appendix 2.

Financial Impact

8. The Council must approve the Council Tax Base by 31st December of the preceding financial year. The gross tax base is used by the Welsh Government to distribute Revenue Support Grant to individual Authorities. 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 2019.

Equality Impact Assessment

10. There is no requirement for an equality impact assessment in respect of this item

Workforce impacts

11. There are no workforce impacts arising from this report.

Legal impact

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

Risk management

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 2019/20 Council Tax Base
 - of 47,348.79 for the whole of the County Borough; and
 - for each Town and Community Council area the amount shown in paragraph 6 of this report.

Reason for Proposed Decisions

16. To determine the Council Tax Base for 2019/20.

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

Appendix 2 - Calculation of Council Tax Base for Community Councils

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 2019/20
Council Tax Dwellings (CT1) Return 2019/20

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Appendix 2

Council Tax Base 2019/20 - Calculation for Community Councils

Community Council	Discounted Chargeable Dwellings @97% at 31/10/18	New Properties @97% (Band D Equivalent)	Total Discounted Chargeable Dwellings Adjusted @97%	Council Tax Base 2019/2020
Blaengwrach	357.98	2.92	360.90	360.90
Blaenhonddan	4,560.64	8.10	4,568.74	4,568.74
Briton Ferry	1,832.46	0.00	1,832.46	1,832.46
Clyne & Melincourt	253.98	0.00	253.98	253.98
Coedffranc	3,554.67	13.50	3,568.17	3,568.17
Crynant	676.32	0.97	677.29	677.29
Dyffryn Clydach	1,087.40	1.94	1,089.34	1,089.34
Glynneath	1,365.22	0.00	1,365.22	1,365.22
Neath	6,415.22	1.73	6,416.95	6,416.95
Onllwyn	366.11	5.27	371.38	371.38
Pelenna	392.96	0.00	392.96	392.96
Resolven	720.08	1.29	721.37	721.37
Seven Sisters	617.81	1.44	619.25	619.25
Tonna	870.87	19.45	890.32	890.32
Cilybebyll	1,873.61	12.64	1,886.25	1,886.25
Cwmllynfell	377.09	0.00	377.09	377.09
Gwaun Cae Gurwen	1,313.47	2.46	1,315.93	1,315.93
Pontardawe	2,455.56	5.21	2,460.77	2,460.77
Ystalyfera	1,570.89	0.00	1,570.89	1,570.89