



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

### **Cabinet**

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

### **Report of the Chief Finance Officer – Huw Jones**

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

#### **CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2023-24**

**Wards Affected: All**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To formally set the Council Tax Base for the 2023/24 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 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 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in order to meet the deadline for the calculation of the distribution of Revenue Support Grant for 2023-24.

### **Calculation**

4. The gross Council Tax Base calculated for 2023-24 is 49,804.18 and using a collection rate of 98% produces a net Council Tax base of 48,808.10. This means that for next year and for every £1 levied in council tax terms will generate £48,808 to meet the Council’s Budget Requirement. The detailed calculation is contained in Appendix 1.
5. Members should note that this year the assumed collection rate has been increased from 97.5% to 98% due to the council tax collection rate exceeding our targeted collection rate in recent years. This means the council tax base has increased from the 2022/23 base of 48,393.69 (calculated at 97.5% collection rate) by some 414 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	373.51
Blaenhonddan	4,423.11
Briton Ferry	1,896.25
Clyne & Melincourt	278.66
Coedffranc	3,680.66
Crynant	698.75
Dyffryn Clydach	1,330.06

Town and Community Council	Council Tax Base
Glynneath	1,388.27
Neath	6,602.59
Onllwyn	381.55
Pelenna	405.49
Resolven	742.82
Seven Sisters	642.61
Tonna	973.71
Cilybebyll	2,002.83
Cwmllynfell	390.29
Gwaun Cae Gurwen	1,355.34
Pontardawe	2,555.82
Ystalyfera	1,615.77

### **Financial Impact**

7. The Council must approve the Council Tax Base by 31<sup>st</sup> 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 March 2023.

### **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 2023/24 net Council Tax Base
  - of 48,808.10 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 2023/24.

### **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 2023/24  
Council Tax Dwellings (CT1) Return 2023/24

**Officer Contact**

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**Council Tax Base Calculation 2023/24**

	Band A	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I	Total
	Disabled										
Chargeable dwellings											
Chargeable dwellings		12,996	26,571	11,428	7,147	4,464	1,366	521	104	22	64,619
Dwellings subject to Disability		57	319	151	100	87	24	15	19	7	779
Adjusted Chargeable Dwellings											
	57	13,258	26,403	11,377	7,134	4,401	1,357	525	92	15	64,619
Dwellings with no discount	48	5,198	15,528	7,467	5,061	3,578	1,132	421	66	11	38,510
Dwellings with 25% Discount (exclude 2nd homes/empty)	8	8,050	10,845	3,892	2,055	796	213	83	15	2	25,959
Dwellings with a 50% Discount (exclude 2nd homes/empty)	1	10	30	18	18	27	12	21	11	2	150
Dwellings with other than 25% or 50% Discount	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dwellings with empty prop or 2nd home discount	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dwellings with empty prop or 2nd home premium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adjusted Chargeable Dwellings (sum B1 to B3c=A3)	57	13,258	26,403	11,377	7,134	4,401	1,357	525	92	15	64,619
Discount and premium adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total variable discounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calc of chargeable dwellings with discounts and premiums											
Total discounted dwellings	54.50	11,240.50	23,676.75	10,395.00	6,611.25	4,188.50	1,297.75	493.75	82.75	13.50	58,054
Ratio to band	"5/9	"6/9	"7/9	"8/9	"9/9	"11/9	"13/9	"15/9	"18/9	"21/9	0.000
Band D equivalents (=C2xC3)+D8	30.28	7,493.67	18,415.25	9,240.00	6,611.25	5,119.28	1,874.53	822.92	165.50	31.50	49,804.18
Band D equivalents excluding premiums	30.28	7,493.67	18,415.25	9,240.00	6,611.25	5,119.28	1,874.53	822.92	165.50	31.50	49,804.18
Collection Rate											98.00%
Council Tax Base @ 98% Band D Equivalents											actual council tax base
											<b>48,808.10</b>