



Policy and Resources Committee 9 January 2017

Council Tax Base 2017/18

Purpose of report

This report sets out the Council's estimated tax base for the financial year 2017/18.

Attachments

Appendix 1 – Estimated Billing Authority tax base

Appendix 2 – Estimated Parish tax bases.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Billing Authorities are required to carry out the calculation of their council tax base and their budget requirement, inclusive of any local precepts, to set an amount of council tax for each financial year.
- 1.2 The council tax base is the measure of the relative taxable capacity of different areas and is calculated in accordance with prescribed rules. The tax base figure represents the estimated full year equivalent number of chargeable dwellings in the area, expressed as the equivalent number of band D dwellings. It also takes into account the Billing Authority's estimated collection rate.

2.0 Council Tax Base for 2017/18

- 2.1 Appendix 1 shows the calculation for the district, and Appendix 2 lists the individual parish tax bases.
- 2.2 The estimated Billing Authority tax base for 2017/18 is 30,871 compared to 30,084 for 2016/17. The increase in the tax base is attributable mainly to property growth and the reduction in Council Tax Support expenditure. This is illustrated in the table below.

- 2.3 The proposed tax base for 2017/18 also takes into account other discounts and exemptions, anticipated additional new properties and a small provision for non-collection.

2016/17 Tax base estimate	30,084	
16/17 adjustment	189	Actual new property occupations in addition to the 433 included in the original 2016/17 estimate.
New Properties	342	Anticipated number of new property occupations in 2017/18 (adjusted for anticipated relief and discount levels)
Council Tax Support	293	Significant reduction in CTS expenditure due to caseload reducing as a consequence of welfare reforms.
Discounts & Exemptions	(37)	Slight increase in exemptions and single occupier discounts.(The increase may have been greater had it not been for a proactive approach to verifying single person discounts)
2016/17 Tax base estimate	30,871	

3.0 Important issues to consider

- 3.1 There has been significant property growth since the previous year's tax base calculation. However, based on existing development consent, there appears to be less potential for new property growth over the next twelve months.
- 3.2 If the council tax base calculation proves to be over-estimated, there is a risk that we could collect less council tax than we need. If the calculation proves to be an underestimate, there is a risk that we could collect more council tax than we need.

4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 4.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 It is a statutory requirement for the council to set a council tax base each year.

6.0 Risk Management

- 6.1 There is an element of risk due to the uncertainty of the housing market and new property completions. However, officers have endeavoured to mitigate much of the risk by making realistic assumptions and exercising prudence in terms of the council tax collection rate.

7.0 Resource and Financial Implications

- 7.1 The council tax base is a forecast of the council's tax-raising potential over the next financial year and is incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Strategy each year. Therefore, it needs to reflect as accurately as possible what the actual position will be. There are no additional cost implications.

8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

9.0 Customer Service Implications

9.1 There are no customer service implications arising from this report.

10.0 Corporate Outcomes




10.1 This report links to the following corporate outcomes

Good value for money (Financial stability) – Accurate estimation of the council tax base is an essential part of the budget-setting process.

Effective Management (Legal compliance) – It is a statutory requirement for the Council to make a formal estimation of its council tax base each year.

11.0 Recommendation

11.1 That, after considering the calculation of the estimated tax base, Members resolve to adopt a tax base of 30,871 for the year 2017/18.

Legal	Power: Local Government Finance Act 1992, Local Government Act 2003, Local Government Finance Act 2012 and associated regulations.				
	Other considerations: S.I.1992/612				
Background Papers: Council Tax base working papers					
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Date: 12 December 2016					
CFO		MO		CX	

APPENDIX 1

Billing Authority Tax Base for 2017

BAND	Band A Disat	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
Dwellings		9,229	10,803	6,494	5,061	3,812	2,430	1,420	141	39,390
Exemptions		145	106	82	64	48	69	36	0	550
Disabled Relief - Actual Band		14	25	31	16	32	19	19	8	164
Disabled Relief - Charge band	14	25	31	16	32	19	19	8		164
Chargeable Dwellings	14	9,095	10,703	6,397	5,013	3,751	2,361	1,373	133	38,840
Discounts 25%		4,233	3,828	1,802	994	543	296	160	14	11,870
Discounts 50%		7	4	8	2	9	6	10	7	53
Dwellings - no discount	14	4,855	6,871	4,587	4,017	3,199	2,059	1,203	112	26,917
New Dwellings					342					342
150% premium		34	22	24	11	6	4	4	0	105
LCTS @ 20%	2.23	1522.07	1140.62	299.54	104.79	45.56	20.83	3.49	1.00	3140.12
Total equivalent dwellings	12	6,562	8,636	5,679	5,017	3,574	2,269	1,331	125	33,205
	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
BAND D EQUIVALENTS	6.54	4374.79	6717.19	5047.96	5017.04	4368.46	3277.69	2217.51	250.00	31277.18

Total Band D	31277.2
Collection Rate	0.987
Tax Base	30871

APPENDIX 2

Parish	Taxbase
Aldwincle	162
Apethorpe	91
Ashton	118
Barnwell	178
Benefield	173
Blatherwycke	24
Brigstock	516
Bulwick	79
Chelveston	208
Clopton	61
Collyweston	223
Cotterstock	80
Deene	33
Deenethorpe	75
Denford	139
Duddington	77
Easton	443
Fineshade	17
Fotheringhay	74
Glaphorn	134
GT Addington	135
Hargrave	116
Harringworth	132
Hemington	45
Higham Ferrers	2805
Irthlingborough	2658
Islip	289
Kings Cliffe	610
Laxton	59
Lilford	57
LT Addington	142
Lowick	130
Luddington	33
Lutton	64
Nassington	355
Newton Bromswold	29
Oundle	2211
Pilton	29
Polebrook	201
Raunds	2785
Stanwick	694
Ringstead	492
Rushden	9603
Southwick	79
Stoke Doyle	39
Sudborough	103
Tansor	98
Thorpe Achurch	75

APPENDIX 2

Thrapston	2104
Thurning	49
Titchmarsh	249
Twywell	81
Wadenhoe	60
Wakerley	40
Warmington	432
Woodford	493
Woodnewton	228
Yarwell	162