



Policy and Resources Committee 4 December 2017

Council Tax Base 2018/19

Purpose of report

This report sets out the Council's estimated tax base for the financial year 2018/19.

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 2018/19

- 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 2018/19 is 31,348 compared to 30,871 for 2017/18. 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 2018/19 also takes into account other discounts and exemptions, anticipated additional new properties and a small provision for non-collection.

2017/18 Tax base estimate	30,871	
17/18 adjustment	217	Actual new property occupations in addition to the 342 included in the original 2017/18 estimate.
New Properties	231	Anticipated number of new property occupations in 2018/19 (adjusted for anticipated relief and discount levels)
Council Tax Support (CTS)	102	Reduction in CTS expenditure due to caseload reducing as a consequence of welfare reforms.
Discounts & Exemptions	(73)	Increase in exemptions and single occupier discounts
2018/19 Tax base estimate	31,348	

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 arising from this report.

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 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 Implications for our Customers

9.1 The implications for our customers cannot be confirmed at present as the budget requirement and amount of council tax required for 2018/19 has not been decided yet.

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 recommend to Council that they adopt a tax base of 31,348 for the year 2018/19.

(Reason – to fulfil the Council's statutory requirements.)

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: 10 November 2017					
CFO		MO		CX	

Billing Authority Tax Base for 2018

Appendix 1

BAND	Band A Disabled	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
Dwellings		9,275	11,013	6,677	5,130	3,863	2,462	1,438	142	40,000
Exemptions		129	114	73	77	62	64	36	1	556
Disabled Relief - Actual Band		14	24	33	21	33	16	17	8	166
Disabled Relief - Charge band	14	24	33	21	33	16	17	8		166
Chargeable Dwellings	14	9,156	10,908	6,592	5,065	3,784	2,399	1,393	133	39,444
Discounts 25%		4,345	3,996	1,914	1,009	560	296	165	17	12,302
Discounts 50%		7	2	10	2	8	6	10	8	53
Dwellings - no discount	14	4,804	6,910	4,668	4,054	3,216	2,097	1,218	108	27,089
New Dwellings					231					231
150% premium		45	25	25	13	8	5	4	1	126
LCTS @ 20%		1455.51	1120.23	269.47	96.94	43.61	20.51	2.86	0.00	3009.13
Total equivalent dwellings	14	6,678	8,825	5,877	4,965	3,608	2,309	1,350	126	33,753
	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
BAND D EQUIVALENTS	7.78	4452.16	6864.10	5223.58	4965.31	4410.25	3335.21	2249.82	252.50	31760.71

Total Band D	31760.7
Collection Rate	0.987
Tax Base	31348

APPENDIX 2

Parish	Taxbase
Aldwincle	161
Apethorpe	91
Ashton	118
Barnwell	178
Benefield	176
Blatherwycke	23
Brigstock	529
Bulwick	81
Chelveston	206
Clopton	63
Collyweston	220
Cotterstock	82
Deene	28
Deenethorpe	73
Denford	135
Duddington	79
Easton	449
Fineshade	17
Fotheringhay	73
Glaphorn	140
GT Addington	135
Hargrave	117
Harringworth	136
Hemington	43
Higham Ferrers	2846
Irthlingborough	2678
Islip	289
Kings Cliffe	611
Laxton	61
Lilford	56
LT Addington	144
Lowick	128
Luddington	32
Lutton	63
Nassington	355
Newton Bromswold	31
Oundle	2255
Pilton	29
Polebrook	196
Raunds	2916
Stanwick	689
Ringstead	504
Rushden	9726
Southwick	74
Stoke Doyle	44
Sudborough	102
Tansor	103
Thorpe Achurch	74

Thrapston	2170
Thurning	52
Titchmarsh	248
Twywell	82
Wadenhoe	58
Wakerley	42
Warmington	435
Woodford	498
Woodnewton	225
Yarwell	176

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