



Policy and Resources Committee 13 January 2020

Council Tax Base 2020/21

Purpose of report

This report sets out the Council's estimated tax base for the financial year 2020/21.

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 2020/21

- 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 2020/21 is 32,320 compared to 31,860 for 2019/20. 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 2020/21 also takes into account other discounts and exemptions, anticipated additional new properties and a small provision for non-collection.

2019/20 Tax base estimate	31,860	
19/20 adjustment	181	Actual new property occupations in addition to the 262 included in the original 2019/20 estimate.
New Properties	296	Anticipated number of new property occupations in 2020/21 (adjusted for anticipated relief and discount levels)
Council Tax Support (CTS)	53	Reduction in CTS expenditure due to caseload reducing as a consequence of welfare reforms.
Exemptions	(18)	Increases in the following exemptions: Class B – Unoccupied and owned by a charity Class E - liable person in hospital or care home Class N – occupied only by students
Discounts	(52)	Increase in discounts.
2020/21 Tax base estimate	32,320	

3.0 Important issues to consider

3.1 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 Privacy Impact Implications

5.1 There are no privacy implications.

6.0 Health Impact Assessments

6.1 There are no known health implications arising from this report.

7.0 Legal Implications

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

8.0 Risk Management

8.1 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.

9.0 Resource and Financial Implications

9.1 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.

10.0 Constitutional Implications

10.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

11.0 Implications for our Customers

11.1 The implications for our customers cannot be confirmed at present as the budget requirement and amount of council tax required for 2020/21 has not been decided yet.

12.0 Corporate Outcomes


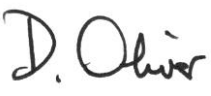
12.1 This report links to the following corporate outcomes:

- 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.

13.0 Recommendation

13.1 It is recommended that, after considering the calculation of the estimated tax base, the Committee resolves to recommend to Council that it adopts a tax base of 32,320 for the year 2020/21.

(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: 9 December 2019					
CFO 19/12/19		MO		CX 18/12/19	

Billing Authority Tax Base for 2020

APPENDIX 1

BAND	Band A Disabled	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
Dwellings		9,358	11,279	6,871	5,223	4,052	2,512	1,467	143	40,905
Exemptions		179	115	88	79	76	74	46	1	658
Disabled Relief - Actual Band		13	32	38	25	30	22	20	8	188
Disabled Relief - Charge band	13	32	38	25	30	22	20	8		188
Chargeable Dwellings	13	9,198	11,170	6,770	5,149	3,968	2,436	1,409	134	40,247
Discounts 25%		4,209	4,019	1,962	1,069	626	322	169	15	12,391
Discounts 50%		8	2	9	2	9	7	10	7	54
Dwellings - no discount	13	4,981	7,149	4,799	4,078	3,333	2,107	1,230	112	27,802
New Dwellings					296					296
150% premium		40	33	22	16	14	5	4	1	135
LCTS @ 20%		1340.33	1049.91	257.82	84.24	39.16	18.70	3.54	0.00	2793.70
Total equivalent dwellings	13	6,861	9,164	6,050	5,117	3,789	2,341	1,364	128	34,827
	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
BAND D EQUIVALENTS	7.22	4574.28	7127.43	5377.94	5116.51	4630.80	3381.16	2273.68	256.50	32745.52

Total Band D	32745.5
Collection Rate	0.987
Tax Base	32320

Parish Taxbase

APPENDIX 2

Aldwincle	161
Apethorpe	91
Ashton	120
Barnwell	180
Benefield	176
Blatherwycke	22
Brigstock	538
Bulwick	81
Chelveston	212
Clopton	63
Collyweston	219
Cotterstock	86
Deene	28
Deenethorpe	75
Denford	137
Duddington	79
Easton	461
Fineshade	18
Fotheringhay	70
Glaphorn	151
GT Addington	132
Hargrave	113
Harringworth	137
Hemington	46
Higham Ferrers	2901
Irthlingborough	2746
Islip	292
Kings Cliffe	615
Laxton	64
Lilford	59
LT Addington	143
Lowick	134
Luddington	32
Lutton	69
Nassington	359
Newton Bromswold	31
Oundle	2256
Pilton	30
Polebrook	197
Raunds	3234
Stanwick	700
Ringstead	491
Rushden	9902
Southwick	74
Stoke Doyle	42
Sudborough	100
Tansor	103
Thorpe Achurch	77

Thrapston	2423
Thurning	52
Titchmarsh	241
Twywell	81
Wadenhoe	60
Wakerley	40
Warmington	432
Woodford	497
Woodnewton	229
Yarwell	215
Total	<u>32320</u>