

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Council Tax Base 2025/26

Meeting/Date: Chair of Corporate Governance Committee and
Section 151 Officer –19 December 2024

Executive Portfolio: Councillor B Mickelburgh – Executive Councillor
for Finance and Resources

Report by: Revenues and Benefits Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The calculation of the Council Tax base is a statutory requirement that sets the number of band D equivalent dwellings liable for Council Tax after allowing for the impact of discounts, exemptions, Council Tax Support and any additional premiums.

An estimate of growth in property numbers and an allowance for non-collection is also required as part of the calculation, which is used by precepting authorities when setting Council Tax precepts.

Recommendation:

The Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee and the Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer are

RECOMMENDED

to approve the Council Tax Base for 2025/26 as set out within the report.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set the Council Tax Base for 2025/26 as required by Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires Billing Authorities to calculate and approve a Tax Base for the District as a whole and for each separate Town and Parish Council within the District. Precepting Authorities must be notified of the outcome by 31 January each year.

3. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 3.1 The process for calculating the council tax base is prescribed within regulations. The number of properties recorded on the valuation list is adjusted for the impact of discounts, exemptions, premiums and Council Tax Support. The Council must make an estimate for growth in property numbers, and provide an allowance for non-collection, both of which form part of the calculation.
- 3.2 The initial tax base was 70,483.0, after allowing for discounts and premiums. This is an increase of 769.2, or 1.1% compared to the initial taxbase from last year.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that 182.5 band D equivalent properties will be completed by 31st March 2025, with a further 498 expected to be completed in 2025/26. These estimates have been compiled using information from the Council's property inspector alongside details from property developers where possible. Anecdotal evidence from developers suggests continued uncertainty regarding build rates, as the industry continues to be affected by availability of materials, workforce and consumer confidence following changes in interest rates. An allowance for the impact of discounts and exemptions is included within the estimates.
- 3.4 The number of band D equivalent dwellings foregone in the tax base as a result of Council Tax Support has increased to 4,402.7. This reflects the greater levels of support provided to low-income households across the district and accessibility improvements delivered by the new Council Tax Support Scheme, which was implemented in April 2024 in line with the Council's Corporate Priorities.
- 3.5 An allowance of 0.6% for non-collection has been included within the calculation, which reflects the overall proportion of Council Tax collected rather than the in-year collection rate. This remains the same as in previous years as it is still considered to be reasonable.
- 3.6 A Contribution in lieu of Council Tax, equivalent to 277.3 band D equivalent dwellings, is received from the Ministry of Defence. In previous years this has been included in the totals rather than shown as a separate figure.

- 3.7 A summary of the Council Tax base calculation and comparison to the previous year is shown on the table below.

BAND D EQUIVALENTS	2025/26	2024/25
Initial Taxbase inclusive of discounts and premiums	70,483.0	69,713.8
Growth forecast 2024/25	182.5	342
Growth forecast 2025/26	498	611
Impact of discounts on Growth* *included in growth forecast for 2025/26		-179.7
Subtotal	<u>71,163.5</u>	<u>70,487.1</u>
Council Tax Support	-4,402.7	-3,992.7
Bad debt provision 0.6%	-400.1	-398.5
Contributions in Lieu of Council Tax* *included in total in 24/25	277.3	
2025 / 26 Taxbase	<u>66,638.0</u>	<u>66,095.9</u>
Difference to previous year (Band D equivalents)	542.1	768.6

- 3.8 The Tax Base figure is used to calculate the Council Tax charge for each major precepting authority and for local councils, i.e. Towns and Parish Councils for 2025/26. Appendix A shows how the Council Tax Base for 2025/26 is apportioned across the Town and Parish Councils.

4. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The regulations stipulate that the Tax Base must be approved between 1 December and 31 January in the preceding financial year for which Council Tax bills are issued.
- 4.2 All major preceptors will be advised of the Tax Base figure by 31 January deadline, including a split by Flood Defence Area for the County Council. Similarly, all Town and Parish Councils will receive confirmation of their precept request, their respective Tax Base and Band D level for 2025/26.

5. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The Tax Base must be calculated in accordance with regulations and is fundamental in establishing the level of Council Tax charged to local residents. Council Tax revenue is an essential part of the Council's overall budget and helps to support Corporate Priorities.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has a legal obligation to set the Council Tax Base in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Whilst the final tax base for 2025/26 has increased by 0.82% compared to the previous year, there remains a significant uncertainty regarding the economy which makes it difficult to predict the level of future growth.
- 7.2 Based on the Huntingdonshire District Council's current band D precept of £160.86, an increase of 542.1 band D equivalent properties would generate additional income for the District Council of around £87,200.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 8.1 The Council is required to set a Tax Base for each financial year, for both the district as a whole and for each Town and Parish Council with its boundaries.

9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A – 2025/26 Tax Base Calculation by Town / Parish Council area

CONTACT OFFICER

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Decision of the Section 151 Officer

I hereby set the Council Tax Base for Huntingdonshire District at 66,638.0, for the financial year 2025/26. I also set the Council Tax base for each Town and Parish Council contained within the boundaries of Huntingdonshire District as set out in the attached APPENDIX A

Signed

Date

Director of Finance / s151

Signed

Date

Chair - Corporate Governance Committee

Appendix A

2025/26 Tax Base Calculation by Town / Parish Council area

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amounts calculated by Huntingdonshire District Council as their (net) Tax Base for the whole District for the year 2025/26 is 66,638.0, and shall be as listed below for each Town and Parish of the District:

Abbots Ripton	141.8	Holme	250.0
Abbotsley	269.6	Holywell-cum-Needingworth	1101.6
Alconbury	549.5	Houghton & Wyton	843.8
Alconbury Weston	300.1	Huntingdon	7726.5
Alwalton	120.0	Kimbolton	617.8
Barham & Woolley	29.4	Kings Ripton	81.5
Bluntisham	782.6	Leighton Bromswold	79.4
Brampton	2537.6	Little Paxton	1738.5
Brington & Molesworth	191.2	Morborne	12.2
Broughton	104.3	Offord Cluny & Offord D'Arcy	538.8
Buckden	1339.8	Old Weston	106.5
Buckworth	55.4	Oldhurst	103.7
Bury	784.9	Perry	256.8
Bythorn & Keyston	156.9	Pidley-cum-Fenton	204.7
Catworth	162.4	Ramsey	3247.8
Chesterton	69.0	Sawtry	2092.6
Colne	394.7	Sibson-cum-Stibbington	234.2
Conington	74.9	Somersham	1425.4
Covington	48.0	Southoe & Midloe	158.9
Denton & Caldecote	29.3	Spaldwick	260.8
Earith	604.0	St.Ives	6070.8
Easton	82.5	St.Neots	11694.4
Ellington	237.6	Stilton	822.3
Elton	298.3	Stow Longa	73.6
Farcet	544.0	The Stukeleys	1448.4
Fenstanton	1336.9	Tilbrook	129.0
Folksworth & Washingley	355.7	Toseland	35.9
Glatton	136.9	Upton and Coppingford	91.3
Godmanchester	3161.1	Upwood and the Raveleys	460.0
Grafham	235.9	Warboys	1592.8
Great & Little Gidding	126.4	Waresley-cum-Tetworth	149.3
Great Gransden	494.9	Water Newton	41.2
Great Paxton	367.4	Winwick	54.0
Great Staughton	335.6	Wistow	231.2
Haddon	23.7	Woodhurst	155.3
Hail Weston	245.4	Woodwalton	82.5
Hamerton & Steeple Gidding	53.4	Wyton-on-the-Hill	454.9
Hemingford Abbots	340.7	Yaxley	2945.9
Hemingford Grey	1298.3	Yelling	150.3
Hilton	453.3		
		TOTAL	66,638.0