

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Delegated Approval of Council Tax Base 2016/17

Meeting/Date: Approval by Head of Resources (Section 151 Officer) after consultation with Chairman of Corporate Governance Panel

Executive Portfolio: Resources

Report by: Local Taxation Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires a Billing Authority (Huntingdonshire District Council) to calculate and approve a tax base for Council Tax purposes by 31 January in respect of the following financial year.

The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 contain the rules for making the necessary calculations for years commencing from 1 April 2013 including the new requirement to take account of the cost of Council Tax Support which is now deemed to be treated as a "Discount".

The tax base calculation is designed to convert all existing properties and those due for completion before the 31 March 2017 into a Band D Equivalent. This is achieved by applying a prescribed weighting to the properties in each of the respective valuation bands.

The resulting figure, after taking into account relevant allowances, is called the (Net) Tax Base. Once agreed, this figure is divided into a Council's Net Expenditure, to be raised from Council Tax, and the actual Council Tax Charge for a Band D property is thus derived.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the net Tax Base for 2016/17 is approved as 59,358 as calculated and listed in Section 6 of this report

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1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set the Council Tax Base for 2016/17.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the "Billing Authority" (Huntingdonshire District Council) to calculate and approve a tax base for Council Tax purposes by 31 January in respect of the following financial year.

3. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 All major precepting authorities will be advised of the Tax Base figure by the 31 January deadline (including a split by Flood Defence Area for the County Council); similarly all local councils will receive a confirmation of their precept request, their respective Tax Base, and their consequent Band D tax level for 2016/17.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is no legal implication other than for the timely decision to be formally resolved, and the major preceptors to be informed accordingly. The Head of Resources (Section 151 Officer) has, under the Council's scheme of delegation, consulted with the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Panel on this Tax Base calculation.

5 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CALCULATION

- 5.1 A tax base calculation for the whole of the District Council's area has been undertaken, starting with relevant Tax Base data held as at November 2015. Added to this information are details of new properties likely to be completed and banded for Council Tax purposes during the period December 2015 to March 2017. Estimates have been made regarding the possible level of occupation of these new properties and the likely discounts that they may attract, and in particular it assumes that the discount awarded to "second homes", and that the discount awarded to properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished will be 0% for up to one month and 0% thereafter; Properties left unoccupied for more than two years will be charged the "Empty Homes Premium of 50%. Expected levels of Council Tax Support have also led to a reduction in the Tax Base. The resulting calculation shows a Band D equivalent tax base of 59,716 properties before provision for losses on collection.
- 5.2 The tax base calculation has to be reduced by a percentage which, in the District Council's opinion, represents the likely losses on collection during the financial year. This "bad debt provision" has been once again assumed to be 0.6%. On applying the reduction to this calculation, a net tax base figure of 59,358 is achieved.
- 5.3 This compares with the current tax base of 58,329 and the consequent increase is therefore 1.76% (which is fairly consistent with an increase of 1.69% last year).

6 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 6.1 The recommendation will provide for the Council to meet its legal obligation in setting the Tax Base for 2016/17, and for the prerequisite Band D calculations

to determine tax level for all preceptors when the formal Resolution is passed in February 2016.

Recommendation(s):

Based on the information contained within this report, it is recommended that pursuant to the Local Taxation Manager's report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amounts calculated by the Huntingdonshire District Council as their (net) tax base for the whole District for the year 2016/2017 be 59,358 and shall be as listed below for each Parish of the District.:

Abbotsley	249
Abbots Ripton	133
Alconbury	546
Alconbury Weston	284
Alwalton	119
Barham & Woolley	29
Bluntisham	737
Brampton	1725
Brington & Molesworth	166
Broughton	88
Buckden (incorporating Diddington)	1152
Buckworth	52
Bury	617
Bythorn & Keyston	141
Catworth	154
Chesterton	58
Colne	352
Conington	66
Covington	44
Denton & Caldecote	27
Earith	576
Easton	76
Ellington	233
Elton	285
Farcet	524
Fenstanton	1146
Folksworth & Washingley	348
Glatton	129
Godmanchester	2403
Grafham	235
Great & Little Gidding	122
Great Gransden	451
Great Paxton	367
Great Staughton	324
Haddon	25
Hail Weston	243
Hamerton & Steeple Gidding	48
Hemingford Abbots	339
Hemingford Grey	1274
Hilton	451
Holme	230
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth	969
Houghton & Wyton	785
Huntingdon	7255
Kimbolton & Stonely	588

Kings Ripton	80
Leighton Bromswold	81
Little Paxton	1523
Morborne	10
Offord Cluny & Offord D'Arcy	501
Old Hurst	97
Old Weston	93
Perry	260
Pidley-cum-Fenton	157
Ramsey	2758
St Ives	5789
St Neots	10760
Sawtry	1788
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	216
Somersham	1354
Southoe & Midloe	152
Spaldwick	245
Stilton	773
Stow Longa	67
The Stukeleys	414
Tilbrook	119
Toseland	37
Upton & Coppingford	81
Upwood & The Raveleys	416
Warboys	1327
Waresley-cum-Tetworth	145
Water Newton	41
Winwick	41
Wistow	218
Woodhurst	153
Woodwalton	78
Wyton-on-the-Hill	412
Yaxley	2859
Yelling	148
	<u>59358</u>

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Working Papers and Spreadsheets held in the Local Taxation Section
- The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012

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