



CABINET – 12TH DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2019-2020

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 For Cabinet to agree the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2019/20.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of the Council Tax base for 2019/20 for tax setting purposes and the collection percentage to be applied.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The Council Tax is a significant resource which assists the Council in achieving its various strategies.

3.2 The revenue raised through Council Tax is a key element in setting a balanced budget which in turn supports the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015: -

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended set out the rules for the calculation of the Council Tax base. This is the amount required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to be used in the calculation of the Council Tax.

4.2 The Council Tax base for discounted chargeable dwellings expressed as Band D equivalents has been calculated at 61,727.14 for 2019/20. This figure is used by Welsh Government in calculating the Revenue Support Grant.

- 4.3 The in-year collection rate for Council Tax has been maintained around 97% over the past few years, with 97.1% in 2016/17 being the best ever performance for Caerphilly CBC. This has been achieved against the backdrop of reducing budgets and staffing levels. The Authority actively pursues all Council Tax arrears which results in the collection rate of 97% being regularly exceeded over time. This generates a Council Tax surplus at the end of the financial year; for 2017/18 the Council Tax surplus was £1.61m. Members should note that the surplus is used to support the Authority's base budget.
- 4.4 As the collection rate is regularly exceeded over time, it is proposed that the budgeted collection rate be increased for 2019/20 from 97% to 97.50%. Members are advised that this increase will be offset by a corresponding reduction in the Council Tax surplus generated. This means that there will be no change in the overall level of budgeted Council Tax income.
- 4.5 The Council Tax base for 2019/20 is 61,727.14 x 97.50%, which equates to **60,183.96**. Members are advised that increases in Band D equivalents can result in a reduced Revenue Support Grant when the final settlement announcement is made later this year. The Council Tax base analysed over community council areas is as follows:

Community Councils' Tax Base 2019/20

Community Council	Band D
Aber Valley	2,011.26
Argoed	859.55
Bargoed	3,630.06
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	3,768.49
Blackwood	2,947.24
Caerphilly	6,261.53
Darran Valley	702.98
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	617.09
Gelligaer	6,271.29
Llanbradach & Pwllypant	1,480.37
Maesycwmmmer	797.55
Nelson	1,601.40
New Tredegar	1,337.70
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	4,435.13
Rhymney	2,542.19
Risca East	2,040.70
Risca West	1,785.37
Van	1,641.44
Areas without Community Councils	15,452.62
Total	60,183.96

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The revenue raised through Council Tax supports effective financial planning which is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no potential equalities implications of this report and its recommendations on groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, therefore no Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As identified throughout this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are none.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that:

- The Council Tax collection rate is increased to 97.50% for 2019/20.
- The Council Tax Base for the year 2019/20 be 60,183.96, with the Council Tax Base for each community council area as outlined in paragraph 4.5.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To determine the Council Tax base for 2019/20.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Finance Act 1992 and regulations made under the Act.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Council Tax Dwellings Return for 2019-20