



CABINET – 9TH DECEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021-2022

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 2021/22.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of the Council Tax base for 2021/22 for tax setting purposes and the collection percentage to be applied.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that:

- The Council Tax collection rate is maintained at 97.50% for 2021/22.
- The Council Tax base for the year 2021/22 be 60,793.26, with the Council Tax base for each community council area being as outlined in paragraph 5.5.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To determine the Council Tax base for 2021/22.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Council Tax base for discounted chargeable dwellings expressed as Band D equivalents has been calculated at 62,352.06 for 2021/22. This figure is used by Welsh Government in calculating the Revenue Support Grant.
- 5.3 The in-year collection rate for Council Tax has been maintained at around 97% over the past few years. 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 2019/20 the Council Tax surplus was £1.305m. Members should note that the surplus is used to support the Authority's base budget.
- 5.4 As the collection rate is regularly exceeded over time, it is proposed that the budgeted

collection rate be maintained at 97.50% for 2021/22.

- 5.5 The Council Tax base for 2021/22 is 62,352.06 x 97.50%, which equates to 60,793.26. Members are advised that increases in Band D equivalents can result in a reduced Revenue Support Grant when the final 2021/22 settlement announcement is made. The Council Tax base analysed over community council areas is as follows: -

Community Councils' Tax Base 2021/22		
Community Council		Band D
Aber Valley		2,021.25
Argoed		857.68
Bargoed		3,689.61
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen		3,878.38
Blackwood		2,952.00
Caerphilly		6,281.05
Darran Valley		718.70
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry		615.41
Gelligaer		6,279.57
Llanbradach & Pwllypant		1,486.17
Maesycwmmer		897.09
Nelson		1,591.05
New Tredegar		1,347.84
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn		4,468.28
Rhymney		2,566.71
Risca East		2,043.13
Risca West		1,819.97
Van		1,639.61
Areas without Community Councils		15,639.76
Total		60,793.26

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 It is assumed that although the council tax collection rate of 97.50% is unlikely to be reached by the end of the financial year, it will be met over a period of time.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The Council Tax is a significant resource which assists the Council in achieving its various strategies.
- 7.2 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.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 Effective financial planning is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As identified throughout this report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are none in respect of this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

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

13. STATUTORY POWER

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

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 Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer
 Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
 John Carpenter, Finance Manager (Revenues)
 Andrew Southcombe, Finance Manager - Corporate Finance

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Council Tax Dwellings Return for 2021-22