

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

20 January 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Robbie Payne (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder)

Officers: John Morton, Assistant Chief Finance and Customer Services Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

41. Council Tax Base 2011/12 – *Chief Finance Officer*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to the calculated Council Tax Base for 2011/12 which will be used for council tax billing purposes.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Council was required by law to calculate its Council Tax Base for the forthcoming year, and inform the major precepting authorities and local precepting authorities before 31 January 2011. The Council Tax Base was expressed as the number of band D equivalent properties. The amount levied on each band D property is determined by dividing the total amount of the precepts made by the Council, the Police Authority and the fire Authority on the Collection Fund in 2011/12, by the Council Tax base. The amount payable for other bands is determined by applying a fixed proportion of the band D amount. The Assistant Chief Finance and Customer Services Officer further highlighted that as the in-year collection rate for Council Tax continued to be sustained it was intended to maintain the non-collection level at 1.5%. Hartlepool's long-term collection rate continued to be higher than other unitary authorities and very little Council Tax was written off.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether a freeze on Council Tax would affect this Council Tax Base. The Assistant Chief Finance and Customer Services Officer said it would not. He explained that the

annual settlement given by the government was based in part on data in a different Council Tax base return sent to Central Government in October each year. The Portfolio Holder asked how an increase in band D properties would affect the Council tax base. The Assistant Chief Finance and Customer Services Officer indicated that this would increase the Tax Base and for an agreed council budget would reduce levels of council tax. He stated that this was in accordance with the national Council Tax scheme but made reference to a forthcoming local government resource review in 2011 which would be considering firstly business rates and then looking at council tax. Alternative arrangements may result.

Decision

That a Council Tax Base for 2010/11 of 27,961.5 be approved

and

that a Council Tax Base be approved for those Parishes capable of levying a precept upon the Council's General Fund:

Brierton	12.1	Greatham	667.7
Claxton	15.5	Hart	304.7
Dalton Piercy	103.7	Newton Bewley	33.1
Elwick	435.8	Headland	983.7

The meeting concluded at 12:10 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 31st January 2011