

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION SCHEDULE



30 January 2013

at 3.00 p.m.

in Committee Room A, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Councillor Paul Thompson, Cabinet Member responsible for Finance and Corporate Services will consider the following items.

1. KEY DECISIONS

No Items

2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

2.1 Council Tax Base 2013/14 – *Chief Finance Officer*

3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

No Items

4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS

No items



FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Report To Portfolio Holder
30th January 2013



Report of: Chief Finance Officer

Subject: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013/14

1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1. Non key decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1. The report seeks approval to the calculated Council Tax Base for 2013/14 which will be used for council tax billing purposes. This report has been prepared on the assumption that full Council on 24th January 2013 will have approved a new framework covering council tax exemptions and discounts to apply from 1st April 2013 and also a Local Council Tax Support scheme that will restrict the cut in awards to claimants to 8.5%.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. The Council is required by law to calculate its Council Tax Base for the forthcoming year, and inform the major precepting authorities (Cleveland Police Authority and Cleveland Fire Authority) and local precepting authorities (Parish Councils), before 31st January 2013. The Council Tax Base is expressed as the number of band D equivalent properties.

3.2. The amount of Council Tax levied on each band D property located in the Borough of Hartlepool is determined by dividing the total amount of the precepts made by both this Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority on the Collection Fund in 2013/14, by the Council Tax Base. The amount of Council Tax payable for other bands is determined by applying a fixed proportion of the band D amount. A separate report on the calculation of the amount of Council Tax payable for each band for 2013/14 will be submitted to Council at a later date.

4. CALCULATION OF TAX BASE

4.1 To calculate the Council Tax Base it is necessary to:-

- (a) Calculate "the relevant amount" for the year for each valuation band in the valuation list. For each band this represents the full year equivalent of each chargeable dwelling in that band, taking into account entitlement to disability reductions and discounts.
- (b) The relevant amount for each band are expressed in terms of Band D equivalents.
- (c) Calculate the Empty Homes Premium impact across all valuation bands in equivalent Band D's.
- (d) The relevant amounts for each band (b) are then added together with (c) and the total is multiplied by the Council's estimated collection rate for the year.

4.2 As part of the government's welfare reforms, the national council tax benefit scheme is being abolished on 31st March 2013 and new Local Council Tax Support schemes must be implemented by councils from 1st April 2013. Under the new arrangements, there is a further requirement to adjust the Council Tax Base to reflect the impact of the Local Council Tax Support scheme. This new adjustment is expressed in terms of an equivalent number of Band D's within each Appendix.

A statement showing the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the Borough of Hartlepool is shown at **Appendix 1**.

4.3 In the current economic climate it would not be unreasonable to expect bad debts to increase. This would normally lead to an increase in the non collection level which is currently set at 1.5%. However, the level of in year collection of Council Tax for 2012/13 is being sustained reflecting robust and effective recovery arrangements. In addition long term collection rates continue to be positive therefore it is not proposed to amend the non collection level. In my professional opinion maintaining the non collection level at 1.5% is prudent and appropriate.

4.4 **Appendices 2 to 7** are attached to show the statement of calculation of the Council Tax Bases for the various Parishes who intend to levy precepts on the Collection Fund. The calculations follow the same principles as those adopted in the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the whole Borough. As it is necessary to request details of precepts from the Parishes, tax base calculation information has been transmitted, on a provisional basis, to the various Chairpersons in advance of your meeting.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) Approval of a Council Tax Base for 2013/14 of 21,701.7.
- b) Approve a Council Tax Base for those Parishes who intend to levy a precept upon the Council's General Fund:

Dalton Piercy	99.2	Elwick	446.5
Greatham	558.3	Hart	291.5
Newton Bewley	31.7	Headland	687.5

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. To enable the council to discharge its statutory responsibilities.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

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Appendix 1

line	VALUATION BAND	@	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
1	No. of properties in band		24,291	6,995	5,755	2,981	1,491	594	425	57	42589
2	Exempt dwellings adjusted		543	95	58	25	7	5	6	0	739
3	Demolished dwellings		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	CHARGEABLE DWELLINGS		23748	6900	5697	2956	1484	589	419	57	41850
5	Disabled reductions		125	66	63	55	33	10	12	16	380
6	Effectively chargeable	125	66	63	55	33	10	12	16	0	380
7	ADJ CHARGEABLE DWELLINGS	125	23689	6897	5689	2934	1461	591	423	41	41850
8	25% discounts	39	11543	2430	1469	629	237	71	53	0	16471
9	50% discounts	7	121	30	34	18	5	10	16	0	241
10	10% Discount (Second Homes)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	No discounts	79	12025	4437	4186	2287	1219	510	354	41	25138
12	TOTAL EQUIVALENT DWELLINGS	111.75	20742.75	6274.5	5304.75	2767.75	1399.25	568.25	401.75	41	37611.75
13	Ratio to Band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
14	BAND D EQUIVALENTS Empty Homes Premium	62.08	13828.50	4880.17	4715.33	2767.75	1710.19	820.81	669.58	82.00	29536.42
											112.9
											98.5
											29204.6
											-7502.9
											21701.7

Appendix 2

[illegible]

Appendix 3

[illegible]

Appendix 4

[illegible]

Appendix 5

[illegible]

Appendix 6

[illegible]

Appendix 7

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