

CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013/14

Submitted by: Head of Revenues & Benefits

Portfolio: Finance and Budget Management

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To approve the Council Tax Base to be used to calculate the 2013/14 levies for the Borough Council, the County Council, the Police Authority, the Fire Authority and each Town and Parish Council.

Recommendation

That, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amounts calculated as the Council Tax Base for 2013/14 shall be as follows:-

Band D Equivalent Properties

Newcastle Borough Council	34,361
Kidsgrove Town Council	6,259
Audley	2,423
Loggerheads	1,839
Balterley, Betley and Wrinehill	566
Chapel and Hill Chorlton	186
Keele	315
Madeley	1,413
Maer	245
Silverdale	1,240
Whitmore	808

Reasons

To enable the Borough Council, the County Council, the Police Authority, the Fire Authority and each Town and Parish Council to calculate the Council Tax applicable to there approved budgetary requirements.

1. Background

- 1.1 Sections 33 and 34 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require the Council to calculate the "Council Tax Base" for the Authority and for each of the areas covered by Parish Councils.
- 1.2 The legislation requires that the figure, when determined, be notified to precepting authorities before 31 January.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The calculation of the base changes for the financial year 2013/14. The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 has amended The Local Government Finance Act 1992, which previously detailed its calculation.

- 2.2 The "Council Tax Base" represents the number of properties in the area concerned, expressed as if all properties were valued at Band "D" and now takes account of discounts under section 11 and 11A, certain increases due to the application of the empty homes premium under section 11B and in other reduced amounts payable under section 13 and 13A.
- 2.3 For 2013/14 the "Council Tax Base" is calculated with a reduced discount rate of 0% in respect of Class A, B and C dwellings (second homes, furnished unoccupied dwellings and long term empty dwellings), locally determined discount rates of 0% in respect of properties formally entitled to Class A exemptions (properties undergoing or having recently completed major structural repair) and a locally determined discount rate of 100% for 56 days, followed by a locally determined discount rate of 0% thereafter in respect of properties formally entitled to Class C exemptions (properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished for up to six months), and an empty home premium of 50% in respect of Class C properties that have been empty for two years or longer.
- 2.4 For 2013/14 the "Council Tax Base" should be calculated by multiplying the total of the "relevant amounts" for each tax band by the estimated collection rate.
- 2.5 Calculations have been made for the Borough Council and for each Town and Parish Council and attached at Appendix A to this report is a schedule which shows the effect of applying the Estimated Collection Rate of 98%. This is 1% lower than used in recent previous financial years to reflect anticipated collection difficulties resulting from the introduction of Localised Council Tax Support.
- 2.6 The Council's approved budget requirement will be divided by the Council Tax Base to produce a Council Tax Rate for the Borough to which the various proportions (i.e. $\frac{6}{9}$ ths to $\frac{18}{9}$ ths) will be applied to produce the tax applicable for each band. A similar exercise will be carried out in relation to the County Council, Police Commissioner, the Fire Authority and Town and Parish Council's precept requirements.

3. **Options Considered**

Not applicable

4. **Proposal**

- 4.1 That the Council Tax Base calculations set out in the attached appendices be approved.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 5.1 Legislation directs the method of calculation of the Council Tax Base.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 6.1 The Council's approved budget covers all corporate priorities. Calculating the Council Tax Base enables the level of Council Tax to be determined to meet this budgetary requirement.

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 7.1 Sections 33 and 34 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require the Council to calculate the "Council Tax Base" for the Authority and for each of the areas covered by Parish Councils.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

Not applicable

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 Calculating the Council Tax Base enables the level of Council Tax to be determined to meet the Council's budgetary requirement.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Failure to set the Council Tax Base will leave the Council in breach of its statutory duty and unable to determine the appropriate level of Council Tax.

11. **Key Decision Information**

Not applicable

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Not applicable

13. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Council Tax Base calculation

14. **Background Papers**

Not applicable