

Agenda Item No: 10
Report To: Cabinet
Date: 8 December 2016
Report Title: Council Tax Base 2017/18
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Shorter Portfolio Holder for Finance & Budget, Resource Management and Procurement
Report Author: Jo Stocks - Senior Accountant



Summary: This Council is required to approve the tax base used to calculate the level of Council Tax for 2017/18. It is calculated with regard to the number of domestic properties (including a forecast of new properties), which are then converted to Band D equivalents.

The tax base has been calculated at 44,671.7 band D properties, an increase of 922 (or 2.11%) on the current year.

Key Decision: YES

Affected Wards: All

Recommendations: **The Cabinet be asked to:-**

1. Agree the 2017/18 'Net' tax base of 44,671.7 Band D equivalent properties
2. Agree the distribution across parished areas of the proposed grant to parish councils to help compensate for the negative impact caused by the council tax support scheme on parish council's' tax bases (see appendix D totalling £40,900).
3. Note the possibility of further Cabinet and Council decisions being required, before the end of January, should any material change in the tax base be required as a consequence of any further relevant funding announcements from government.

Policy Overview: The Council Tax base is required to be set in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculations of Tax Base) Regulations 2012

Financial Implications: The tax base recommended will be used to calculate the level of Council Tax requirement that will be recommended to the Council on 16 February 2017.

Equalities Impact: NO – a stage 1 screening tool will need to be completed for

Assessment the budget.

Other Material Implications: None

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Report Title: Council Tax Base 2017/18

Purpose of the Report

1. To set the Council Tax Base for 2017/18

Issue to be Decided

2. The Council Tax Base for 2017/18 and its distribution across parished and un-parished areas needs to be agreed.

Background

3. By 31 January 2017 the Council as the 'billing authority' is required to notify its major precepting bodies (Kent County Council, Kent Police Authority and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority) and the parishes of the relevant council tax base for the 2017/18 financial year.

Council Tax Support

4. The current Council Tax support scheme was introduced in April 2013 to address the abolition of Council Tax Benefit, and the associated 10% funding reduction by Government (Cabinet July 2012).
5. During 2015/16, at the request of the major preceptors, a Kent wide review of the scheme took place; a number of options were considered (Cabinet 8 May 2016).
6. The detail of the final agreed scheme is elsewhere on the agenda and has been used to calculate the Council Tax Base.
7. It is necessary to consult the preceptors each year on the totality of our scheme, and we are asking members to endorse the proposal for 2017/18.

Protection for Parish Councils

8. The introduction of Council Tax Support effectively reduced the tax base for many if not all of the parish councils. If no action were taken this would have resulted in taxpayers suffering increases in their tax towards parish precepts, even in circumstances where the cash amount of precept was unchanged. Following government guidelines the council introduced a grant (a total of £82,000) that paid parish councils the equivalent of the revenue they lost due to the changes in the tax base.
9. In 2014/15 a working group of parish and borough councillors met to discuss funding of this grant and recommended that the total funding for the grant be reduced in line with government cuts to formula grant. Accordingly the grant available for parish councils is proposed to be a total of £40,900 in 2017/18 to be allocated based on the level of their precept and the Council Tax Support discounts for their parish. The proposed allocation is detailed in **Appendix D**.

The Tax Base (adjusted for various allowances)

10. The council has already submitted a tax base return to central government, which will be used in the calculation of Revenue Support Grant. This figure is 49,187 (2016/17 48,205), but is based on the number of properties on the valuation list as at 1 October 2016 and excludes provisions for new properties, Council Tax Support discounts, and allowances for non-collection.
11. The tax base calculation made in this report allows for new properties anticipated to be coming on to the Valuation List. It is forecast that 754 properties will be completed during the 18 months from October 2016 to March 2017.
12. In calculating the tax base the authority must also have regard to discounts, exemptions, non-collection and appeals. For the purposes of this calculation 0.75% has been estimated for losses on collections and appeals, this is consistent with the collection levels that are being achieved.
13. For 2017/18 the tax base has been calculated at 44,671.7 (2016/17 was 43,750) as detailed at **Appendices A, B & C**.

Implications Assessment

14. The Council Tax base is an important element of the budget setting process, estimating the number of properties upon which council tax will be levied.

Handling

15. Once agreed by the Council the tax base will be notified to the County Council, Kent Police, Kent and Medway Fire Authority and the Parish Councils.

Conclusion

16. The 2017/18 tax base is slightly higher than assumptions within the Financial Strategy and the calculation results in a tax base of 44,671.7 band D equivalent properties. This will be used in the detailed budget and council tax setting calculations.

Portfolio Holder's Views

17. To be given at the meeting

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TAX BASE 2017/18
BAND D EQUIVALENTS

BAND		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
PARISH										
Aldington and Bonnington	0.00	17.38	10.34	118.19	94.69	80.93	123.57	150.84	3.00	598.94
Appledore	0.00	5.84	9.11	51.19	79.53	48.15	70.81	74.59	2.00	341.21
Bethersden	0.00	21.82	45.43	53.66	94.35	144.18	112.80	223.04	12.50	707.79
Biddenden	0.56	76.25	26.93	182.61	102.21	175.94	208.98	310.55	20.00	1,104.01
Bilsington	0.00	6.75	3.50	10.67	18.53	24.06	36.83	46.38	0.00	146.72
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	0.00	8.50	71.13	106.79	228.36	262.60	273.04	117.08	8.00	1,075.50
Brabourne	0.00	3.87	17.40	50.24	130.18	168.04	134.33	88.00	9.50	601.57
Brook	0.00	2.17	0.78	3.33	19.25	59.27	39.72	31.67	0.00	156.19
Challock	0.00	4.33	5.50	32.45	86.84	86.48	132.24	100.97	7.50	456.32
Charing	0.42	69.68	94.99	185.79	198.52	221.72	261.17	275.75	8.00	1,316.04
Chilham	0.28	6.36	36.70	103.09	154.28	172.37	119.54	138.75	20.50	751.86
Crundale (PM)	0.00	1.33	2.53	5.78	11.75	15.28	19.86	35.83	1.50	93.86
Egerton	0.00	7.58	20.86	32.73	81.95	96.37	131.50	130.00	4.00	504.99
Godmersham	0.00	-0.33	5.07	16.27	28.04	59.02	28.53	33.33	4.00	173.92
Great Chart with Singleton	0.00	92.28	364.73	637.72	707.62	344.50	182.29	99.76	4.00	2,432.90
Hastingleigh	0.00	3.00	2.14	4.89	25.32	10.39	35.72	29.58	4.00	115.04
High Halden	0.00	69.59	18.94	151.51	55.71	93.75	141.48	185.00	5.50	721.50
Hothfield	1.39	10.33	69.14	61.89	25.99	28.17	22.03	42.08	5.00	266.01
Kenardington	0.00	3.33	0.78	22.31	7.99	20.78	16.98	32.50	3.50	108.16
Kingsnorth	0.00	7.72	272.72	820.93	1,062.10	1,093.11	1,098.60	111.09	2.00	4,468.27
Little Chart	0.00	5.04	3.05	12.00	20.50	17.11	17.31	49.72	5.00	129.74
Mersham and Sevington	0.00	5.83	21.26	75.67	122.21	185.21	200.90	127.51	7.50	746.09
Molash	0.00	1.83	3.89	9.24	18.55	17.72	16.98	36.67	4.00	108.88
Newenden	0.00	0.00	1.09	13.44	17.25	14.36	22.19	32.41	2.00	102.74
Orlestone	0.00	3.17	26.20	186.16	137.37	56.14	151.67	39.04	2.00	601.76
Pluckley	0.00	9.17	12.16	67.52	66.40	61.40	96.16	163.46	3.00	479.28
Rolvenden	0.00	6.68	14.93	133.26	108.73	122.33	105.45	163.75	31.00	686.15
Ruckinge	0.00	10.67	5.06	24.45	30.11	96.00	103.09	66.60	2.00	337.98
Shadoxhurst	0.00	15.83	17.16	70.70	78.11	158.08	158.60	48.75	0.00	547.23
Smarden	0.00	11.26	22.28	60.79	82.13	80.28	114.25	252.92	21.50	645.40
Smeeth	0.00	6.00	11.81	66.79	58.51	96.70	60.56	57.92	4.50	362.79
Stanhope	0.00	121.84	532.74	118.30	4.74	3.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	782.62

Stone	0.00	4.87	3.89	29.71	25.98	25.59	36.82	72.92	3.50	203.28
Tenterden (TC)	0.42	29.36	124.61	528.54	712.23	742.29	756.51	616.68	50.00	3,560.64
Warehorne	0.00	3.50	6.03	23.34	29.31	39.45	28.50	44.05	2.00	176.18
Westwell	0.00	10.17	10.90	27.16	60.21	83.11	53.81	74.17	7.50	327.03
Wittersham	0.00	6.27	17.88	87.62	52.93	123.33	85.59	141.29	18.50	533.40
Woodchurch	0.56	88.93	16.37	104.93	141.41	112.83	159.43	208.60	8.00	841.06
Wye with Hinxhill	0.00	33.45	83.29	152.67	208.77	169.67	223.69	142.92	18.00	1,032.45
Unparished Area	0.97	941.65	4,873.27	4,794.66	2,573.76	1,637.67	1,487.07	267.50	8.00	16,584.56
	4.58	1,733.33	6,886.57	9,238.99	7,762.41	7,047.39	7,068.59	4,863.68	324.50	44,930.05
Contributions in Lieu					78.60					78.60
Less 1% Provision	0.00	(13.00)	(51.60)	(69.30)	(58.28)	(52.90)	(53.00)	(36.50)	(2.40)	(336.98)
	4.58	1,720.33	6,834.97	9,169.69	7,782.73	6,994.49	7,015.59	4,827.18	322.10	44,671.67

ANALYSIS OF PROPERTIES FOR WHOLE AUTHORITY 2017/18

		A No.	B No.	C No.	D No.	E No.	F No.	G No.	H No.	TOTAL No.
Total Chargeable Dwellings	12	3,994	12,379	12,483	8,693	6,346	5,219	3,077	173	52,376
Of which:										
Full Charge	3	1,808	7,404	8,455	6,349	4,955	4,323	2,602	143	36,042
Class C	0	19	62	38	27	15	3	6	0	170
Discount	3	2,033	4,669	3,763	2,134	1,265	803	381	19	15,070
Discount (Disregard Disc)	6	6	6	9	14	6	15	18	2	82
Discount on 2nd Homes	0	81	104	104	90	64	49	48	8	548
Full Charge on LT Empties	0	37	118	99	60	35	19	16	1	383
Premium on LT Empties	0	11	17	15	20	6	8	6	0	81
Total number of Properties	12	3,994	12,379	12,483	8,693	6,346	5,219	3,077	173	52,376
Total Equivalent Number - CTB1	5	2,282	8,629	10,174	8,081	7,309	7,198	4,905	327	48,910
Adjust for Council Tax Support	0	(612)	(1,717)	(1,165)	(493)	(236)	(115)	(30)	0	(4,368)
New Properties	0	111	22	273	252	0	0	0	0	658
Exemptions Factor	0	(48)	(48)	(44)	(77)	(26)	(14)	(11)	(2)	270
Adjusted Band D equivalents	5	1,733	6,886	9,238	7,763	7,047	7,069	4,864	325	44,930
Contributions in Lieu	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	0	0	79
Losses In Collection	0	(13)	(51)	(70)	(59)	(52)	(53)	(37)	(2)	(337)
Tax base	5	1,720	6,835	9,168	7,783	6,995	7,016	4,827	323	44,672

TAX BASE 2017/18
LOCAL TAX BASE (WHOLE/PART AREAS)

LOCAL TAX BASE 2016/2017	WHOLE AREA	BAND D EQUIVALENT	NEW OCCUPATIONS	1.0% PROVISION	Less discounts Council Tax Support	LOCAL TAX BASE 2017/18
		47,891.60	680.00	(440.40)	(4,381.20)	43,750.00
	<u>PARISH</u>					
579.80	Aldington & Bonnington	606.44	34.89	(4.49)	(42.39)	594.45
321.80	Appledore	381.78	0.89	(2.56)	(41.46)	338.65
701.50	Bethersden	767.14	4.67	(5.31)	(64.01)	702.48
1,086.90	Biddenden	1,178.50	2.78	(8.28)	(77.26)	1,095.73
147.90	Bilsington	156.94	0.00	(1.10)	(10.22)	145.62
1,043.90	Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,132.22	0.89	(8.07)	(57.61)	1,067.44
590.10	Brabourne	621.53	1.89	(4.51)	(21.85)	597.06
152.20	Brook	156.97	0.89	(1.17)	(1.67)	155.02
405.40	Challock	445.06	23.56	(3.42)	(12.29)	452.89
1,258.30	Charing	1,397.92	45.22	(9.87)	(127.10)	1,306.17
740.50	Chilham	813.11	9.44	(5.64)	(70.70)	746.22
92.50	Crundale (PM)	94.78	0.00	(0.70)	(0.91)	93.16
502.70	Egerton	525.81	0.89	(3.79)	(21.71)	501.20
176.40	Godmersham	177.56	0.00	(1.30)	(3.63)	172.62
2,420.20	Great Chart with Singleton	2,636.83	1.89	(18.25)	(205.82)	2,414.65
114.70	Hastingleigh	119.25	0.00	(0.86)	(4.21)	114.17
715.50	High Halden	771.19	4.67	(5.41)	(54.36)	716.09
287.10	Hothfield	334.69	0.00	(2.00)	(68.68)	264.02
106.10	Kenardington	116.53	0.89	(0.81)	(9.26)	107.35
4,334.50	Kingsnorth	4,575.81	109.56	(33.51)	(217.09)	4,434.76
123.70	Little Chart	131.81	0.89	(0.97)	(2.96)	128.76
637.1	Mersham and Sevington	752.61	25.44	(5.60)	(31.97)	740.49
103.8	Molash	117.14	0.89	(0.82)	(9.14)	108.07
103.2	Newenden	106.44	0.89	(0.77)	(4.60)	101.97
559.9	Orlestone	639.36	8.44	(4.51)	(46.04)	597.25

468.8	Pluckley	510.28	3.78	(3.59)	(34.77)	475.69
679.1	Rolvenden	728.89	14.11	(5.15)	(56.85)	681.00
317.7	Ruckinge	345.28	4.67	(2.53)	(11.97)	335.44
497.5	Shadoxhurst	543.25	38.67	(4.10)	(34.68)	543.13
620.5	Smarden	659.06	24.56	(4.84)	(38.22)	640.56
357	Smeeth	389.72	0.89	(2.72)	(27.83)	360.06
782.5	Stanhope	1,032.72	5.67	(5.87)	(255.77)	776.75
200.6	Stone	221.11	0.00	(1.52)	(17.83)	201.76
3438.5	Tenterden (TC)	3,774.56	58.44	(26.70)	(272.36)	3,533.93
176.7	Warehorne	180.47	0.00	(1.32)	(4.29)	174.86
319.5	Westwell	340.83	2.78	(2.45)	(16.58)	324.58
525.3	Wittersham	584.83	0.00	(4.00)	(51.44)	529.40
829.7	Woodchurch	896.00	4.67	(6.31)	(59.61)	834.75
1045.3	Wye with Hinxhill	1,116.78	10.33	(7.74)	(94.67)	1,024.70
16,185.60	Unparished Area	18,637.71	209.89	(124.38)	(2,184.44)	16,538.78
43,750.00		48,718.91	658.00	(336.98)	(4,368.26)	44,671.67

Proposed allocation of CTS grant

Parish	Discounts for Council Tax Support (Band D Equivalents)	Proposed Council Tax Support Grant 2017/18 £
Aldington & Bonnington	(42.39)	790.00
Appledore	(41.46)	780.00
Bethersden	(64.01)	1,200.00
Biddenden	(77.26)	1,450.00
Bilsington	(10.22)	190.00
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	(57.61)	1,080.00
Brabourne	(21.85)	410.00
Brook	(1.67)	30.00
Challock	(12.29)	230.00
Charing	(127.10)	2,380.00
Chilham	(70.70)	1,320.00
Crundale (PM)	(0.91)	20.00
Egerton	(21.71)	410.00
Godmersham	(3.63)	70.00
Great Chart with Singleton	(205.82)	3,850.00
Hastingleigh	(4.21)	80.00
High Halden	(54.36)	1,020.00
Hothfield	(68.68)	1,290.00
Kenardington	(9.26)	170.00
Kingsnorth	(217.09)	4,070.00
Little Chart	(2.96)	60.00
Mersham and Sevington	(31.97)	600.00
Molash	(9.14)	170.00
Newenden	(4.60)	90.00
Orlestone	(46.04)	860.00
Pluckley	(34.77)	650.00
Rolvenden	(56.85)	1,060.00
Ruckinge	(11.97)	220.00
Shadoxhurst	(34.68)	650.00
Smarden	(38.22)	720.00
Smeeth	(27.83)	520.00
Stanhope	(255.77)	4,790.00
Stone	(17.83)	330.00
Tenterden (TC)	(272.36)	5,100.00
Warehorne	(4.29)	80.00
Westwell	(16.58)	310.00
Wittersham	(51.44)	960.00
Woodchurch	(59.61)	1,120.00
Wye with Hinxhill	(94.67)	1,770.00
	2,183.81	40,900.00