

Council Meeting	
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Meeting Date	21 January 2015
Report Title	Resolutions For Calculating Council Tax Base
Cabinet Member	Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Cabinet Member for Finance
SMT Lead	Nick Vickers, Head of Finance, Brian Planner, Head of Service Delivery
Head of Service	Nick Vickers, Head of Finance
Lead Officer	Phil Wilson, Chief Accountant Zoe Kent, Assistant Revenues and Benefits Manager
Key Decision	Yes
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	

Recommendations	1. That the report of the Head of Finance for the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the year 2015/16 be approved.
	2. That pursuant to the Head of Finance report and in accordance with the Regulations made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended)) and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914), and the Local Government Act 2003, the amount calculated by Swale Borough Council as its Council Tax Base for the whole area for the year 2015/16 shall be 42,869.49. The Council Tax Base for the individual Town and Parish Councils within the borough area shall be as itemised in Appendix II to this report.

1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is submitted in order to formally approve the Tax Base for 2015/16.
- 1.2 The presentation of the proposed tax base in a report to Council is one of the procedures implemented to ensure that the Council approves the correct tax bases as part of the Council Tax resolution at the meeting due to be held on 18 February 2015.

2. Background

- 2.1 Regulations made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended)) require each billing authority to calculate its 'Council Tax Base'. The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914) provides amended statutory guidance to incorporate the changes as a result of the introduction of the council tax support scheme from 1 April 2013.
- 2.2 The Council Tax Base is a measure of the Council's taxable capacity, for the purpose of setting its Council Tax. Legislation requires the Council to set out the formula for that calculation and that the tax base is formally approved.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 The Council Tax Base has been arrived at by making a calculation of the Relevant Amount for each band i.e.
 - 3.1.1 the number of dwellings in each band;
 - 3.1.2 the estimated number of discounts;
 - 3.1.3 the assessment of these discounts at the appropriate percentage;
 - 3.1.4 the number of dwellings, which will be exempt.
- 3.2 In calculating the number of chargeable dwellings, due allowance has been made for the following:
 - 3.2.1 the number of dwellings within the area of the Authority as notified by the Valuation Officer;
 - 3.2.2 reductions anticipated during the year with due allowance for only part of the year.
- 3.3 Allowance has also been made where it is anticipated that, due to disability, the person liable to pay the Council Tax is to pay a sum relating to a band lower than that under which the property is listed.
- 3.4 In determining the Tax Base, I have also reviewed the allowance made for the collection rate. For 2014/15 the Council had a collection rate of 98.95%, but it is my opinion that it would be prudent to reduce slightly the collection rate to 98.77%.
- 3.5 The details of the calculations for the whole of the Swale Borough Council and for the Parish and Town Councils within the Borough are shown in Appendices I and II.
- 3.6 As a billing authority, Swale Borough Council must issue to precepting authorities by 31 December a schedule of proposed payments in respect of their precepts and its own. This schedule of proposed payments must be confirmed and notified to precepting authorities by 31 January.

3.7 The payment of Parish Precepts is to be the same as for the payment of Parish Precepts in 2014/15, i.e. 50% by end of April 2015 and 50% by end of September 2015.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 The alternative option would be to use an alternative collection rate to apply to the tax base.

5. Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 There has been no consultation undertaken.

6. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	None
Financial, Resource and Property	The Council Tax Base will be used to calculate the income from Council Tax for the Council following the setting of the Council Tax at the Council meeting on 18 February 2015.
Legal and Statutory	The Council must calculate the tax base each year in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended)), the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914), and the Local Government Act 2003
Crime and Disorder	None
Sustainability	None
Health and Wellbeing	None
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Risk Implications - Assuming this report is approved, there is no risk that the Council will not meet its statutory duty to approve the Council Tax Base for 2015/16 and notify precepting authorities by 31 January 2015.
Equality and Diversity	None

7. Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix I: 2015/16 Tax Base Calculation for the Whole Council Area
- Appendix II: 2015/16 Tax Base for Parishes in the Swale Area

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 The Finance Department and the Revenues and Benefits Section hold detailed information on the make up of the tax base for each Parish and every unparished area.

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
TAX BASE CALCULATION FOR THE WHOLE AREA 2015/16

Description	Band A-	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Total
Dwellings	0.00	9,828.00	15,577.00	16,365.00	10,316.00	5,204.00	2,352.00	1,169.00	111.00	60,922.00
Exemptions	0.00	-745.00	-128.00	-103.00	-65.00	-27.00	-14.00	-7.00	0.00	-1,089.00
Deletions	0.00	-14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-14.00
Disabled Relief	4.00	32.00	29.00	-6.00	-32.00	-16.00	0.00	3.00	-14.00	0.00
CHARGEABLE DWELLINGS	4.00	9,101.00	15,478.00	16,256.00	10,219.00	5,161.00	2,338.00	1,165.00	97.00	59,819.00
Discounts -										
Single/ Disregard (25%)	0.00	-4,373.00	-5,849.00	-4,712.00	-2,283.00	-888.00	-326.00	-134.00	-10.00	-18,575.00
Discount at 50%	0.00	-1.00	-10.00	-5.00	-9.00	-6.00	-12.00	-20.00	-3.00	-66.00
Discount at 100%	0.00	-133.00	-153.00	-100.00	-50.00	-26.00	-13.00	-6.00	-1.00	-482.00
Total Discounts	0.00	-4,507.00	-6,012.00	-4,817.00	-2,342.00	-920.00	-351.00	-160.00	-14.00	-19,123.00
DISCOUNT REDUCTION	0.00	-1,226.75	-1,620.25	-1,280.50	-625.25	-251.00	-100.50	-49.50	-5.00	-5,158.75
NET DWELLINGS	4.00	7,874.25	13,857.75	14,975.50	9,593.75	4,910.00	2,237.50	1,115.50	92.00	54,660.25
Number of Dwellings to be removed from Council Tax Base as a result of Council Tax Support scheme	-1.49	-2,428.11	-3,005.07	-2,152.46	-647.99	-167.42	-48.77	-8.96	0.00	-8,460.27
DWELLINGS AFTER Z FACTOR	2.51	5,446.14	10,852.68	12,823.04	8,945.76	4,742.58	2,188.73	1,106.54	92.00	46,199.98
BAND D EQUIVALENT	1.39	3,630.73	8,440.98	11,398.28	8,945.76	5,796.51	3,161.50	1,844.24	184.00	43,403.39
Collection Rate										98.77%
TAX BASE										42,869.49

Appendix II

2015/16 TAX BASE FOR PARISHES WITHIN THE SWALE AREA

PARISHES	2014/15 Tax Base	2015/16 Tax Base
BAPCHILD	448.70	451.05
BOBBING	688.52	700.12
BORDEN	1,003.21	1,021.03
BOUGHTON	660.21	664.98
BREDGAR	280.75	285.17
DODDINGTON	209.98	210.01
DUNKIRK	462.29	473.92
EASTCHURCH	652.25	665.47
EASTLING	140.21	140.70
FAVERSHAM	5,904.40	5,987.03
GRAVENEY & GOODNESTONE	177.02	177.22
HARTLIP	354.57	360.56
HERNHILL	279.52	279.36
IWADE	1,089.44	1,187.20
LEYSDOWN	1,056.23	1,141.19
LOWER HALSTOW	446.17	446.11
LUDDENHAM	42.76	44.77
LYNSTED	437.01	445.97
MILSTEAD	84.67	88.17
MINSTER	4,747.85	4,906.21
NEWINGTON	840.97	856.90
NEWNHAM	153.00	149.58
NORTON	149.15	151.95
BUCKLAND	28.84	29.04
SUB TOTAL Norton & Buckland	177.99	180.99
OARE	165.49	162.90
OSPRINGE	270.85	273.71
QUEENBOROUGH	702.59	746.90
RODMERSHAM	235.02	235.86
SELLING	325.52	326.56
SHELDWICH	244.61	245.10
LEAVELAND	44.27	44.58
BADLESMERE	55.79	54.63
SUB TOTAL Sheldwich, Leaveland & Badlesmere	344.67	344.31
STALISFIELD	91.98	90.83
TEYNHAM	794.22	838.07
THROWLEY	138.08	139.63
TONGE	110.84	110.94
TUNSTALL	389.05	391.94
UPCHURCH	892.64	889.71
WARDEN	434.39	464.54
Total	25,233.06	25,879.61