

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**



DECISION OF: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
S151 OFFICER
WITH ADVICE FROM: HEAD OF CORPORATE ACCOUNTANCY
DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES

DECISION NO: 2017 2018 CSD132

SUBJECT: Council Tax Base Setting 2018/19

KEY DECISION: YES

BACKGROUND:

Under the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under the powers of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council has a statutory duty to set its tax between 1st December and 31st January each year, ahead of the following financial year.

The tax base is required to be based on the valuation list on a specified day of the previous year, i.e. 30 November 2017. The tax base information must be passed to the Town and Parish Councils and other major precepting bodies in order that they may calculate their precepts, which is requested by the end of January in order that the full figures can be shown in the Council Tax Setting report to Council in February.

Under the regulations the council tax base is the aggregate of the relevant amounts calculated for each valuation band, multiplied by the authority's estimated collection rate for the year.

The relevant amounts are calculated as the number of chargeable dwellings in each band shown on the valuation list on a specified day of the previous year, adjusted for the following:

- the number of discounts and reductions that apply to those dwellings,
- the number of new properties expected to become taxable over the 16 months from the specified day on a pro rata basis,
- the estimated collection rate applied to cover collection risk factors

The calculated tax base for 2018/19 is shown in Appendix A. The proposed tax base of 78,003.5 has had a property/collection margin of 99.2% applied which reflects adjustments in respect of house-building timescales and also council tax collection.

One of the discounts included above is the Council Tax Support Scheme which came into effect in April 2013. During 2013/14 the Government provided a specific grant to North Somerset in respect of the lost income receivable by the town and parish councils as a result of the reduction in the tax base for the Scheme. This discretionary grant was paid directly over to the local councils, in addition to their annual precept requirement. The grant was allocated in accordance with the distribution of claimants throughout North Somerset.

In 2014/15 the grant was subsumed into the Council's overall General Government Grant settlement, which as Members will be aware, is reducing year on year. A decision to phase out the grant payment was made as part of last years MTFP process, and consequently the total grant payable to town and parish councils has been limited to £104,000 for 2018/19, and is the final year of payment.

The allocation of the Council Tax Support Grant is shown in Appendix B

DECISION:

1. Approve the Council Tax Base for 2018/19 (Appendix A)
2. Approve the payment of a discretionary Council Tax Support grant to Town and Parish Councils for 2018/19 (Appendix B)

REASONS:

The Council Tax Base is the measure of dwellings to which council tax is chargeable in an area or part of an area. It is used for the purpose of calculating the council's and precepting authority's Band D council tax.

The discretionary Council Tax Support grant was introduced to help compensate town and parish councils for their loss of tax base following the replacement of Council Tax Benefit with the Council Tax Support Scheme. The grant is being reduced annually and this is the final year of payment.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

No other options available.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Resources

The calculated tax base of 78,003.5 Band D properties is a little less than estimated earlier in the year, due to slippage of the housing forecasts. This tax base gives Council income (based on a 1.75% increase) of £103,428,000.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Under the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under the powers of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council has a statutory duty to set its tax between 1st December and 31st January each year, ahead of the following financial year

CONSULTATION
NA

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is a risk that the actual tax base in 2018/19 differs from the estimated tax base. If the actual tax base is lower than estimated then the Council will not collect the amount of Council Tax it expects, resulting in a potential deficit in the Collection Fund which will need to be funded in 2019/20. This risk is included in the collection rate applied to the tax base.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? NA

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

NA

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NA


SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: 

Title: ... HEAD OF FINANCE + PROPERTY

Date: ... 31/01/2018

Signed: 

Title: ... LEADER OF COUNCIL

Date: ... 31/01/2018

ANALYSIS OF TAX BASE BY LOCAL COUNCIL				
<u>Local Council</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>difference</u>	<u>% change</u>
	<u>Band D Eq</u>	<u>Band D Eq</u>	<u>Band D Eq</u>	
-				-
Abbots Leigh	433.3	423.2	10.1	2.39%
Backwell	1,930.3	1914.3	16.0	0.84%
Banwell	1,106.3	1118.0	-11.7	-1.05%
Barrow Gurney	225.8	222.1	3.7	1.67%
Blagdon	517.6	516.9	0.7	0.14%
Bleadon	549.3	535.4	13.9	2.60%
Brockley	134.5	131.4	3.1	2.36%
Burrington	259.1	260.6	-1.5	-0.58%
Butcombe	110.6	108.1	2.5	2.31%
Churchill	945.4	915.6	29.8	3.25%
Clapton -in- Gordano	185.1	183.4	1.7	0.93%
Cleeve	366.0	365.3	0.7	0.19%
Clevedon	7,839.6	7774.1	65.5	0.84%
Congresbury	1,400.1	1391.3	8.8	0.63%
Dundry	386.7	383.1	3.6	0.94%
Flax Bourton	351.6	349.7	1.9	0.54%
Hutton	1,084.6	1082.4	2.2	0.20%
Kenn	199.2	195.1	4.1	2.10%
Kewstoke	683.3	677.7	5.6	0.83%
Kingston Seymour	182.5	182.2	0.3	0.16%
Locking	1,181.3	1109.1	72.2	6.51%
Long Ashton	2,645.0	2659.4	-14.4	-0.54%
Loxton	93.8	94.2	-0.4	-0.42%
Nailsea	6,214.1	6148.7	65.4	1.06%
Pill & Easton -in- Gordano	1,769.8	1758.0	11.8	0.67%
Portishead	10,438.1	10381.8	56.3	0.54%
Portbury	446.3	444.6	1.7	0.38%
Puxton	132.8	129.1	3.7	2.87%
St Georges	1,124.4	1125.4	-1.0	-0.09%
Tickenham	459.5	450.1	9.4	2.09%
Walton -in- Gordano	139.5	137.9	1.6	1.16%
Weston -in- Gordano	149.1	147.4	1.7	1.15%
Weston -super- Mare	25,700.8	25319.6	381.2	1.51%
Wick St Lawrence	558.8	552.9	5.9	1.07%
Winford	992.6	988.7	3.9	0.39%
Winscombe & Sandford	1,962.6	1955.2	7.4	0.38%
Wraxall	1,159.3	1149.7	9.6	0.84%
Wrington	1,208.4	1210.6	-2.2	-0.18%
Yatton	2,736.4	2712.0	24.4	0.90%
Total Band D Equivalent	78,003.5	77204.3	799.2	1.04%

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT ALLOCATION 2018/19

	£
Abbots Leigh	121.39
Banwell	2,129.91
Backwell	1,399.32
Barrow Gurney	53.17
Blagdon	533.21
Bleadon	457.21
Brockley	4.34
Burrington	23.35
Butcombe	13.67
Churchill	458.39
Clapton-in-Gordano	19.12
Cleeve	175.95
Clevedon	6,151.06
Congresbury	2,245.19
Dundry	73.95
Easton-in-Gordano	1,995.58
Flax Bourton	149.35
Hutton	1,418.06
Kenn	55.12
Kewstoke	1,199.77
Kingston Seymour	57.70
Locking	2,152.58
Long Ashton	1,690.43
Loxton	28.50
Nailsea	6,552.96
Portbury	313.35
Portishead	3,394.11
Puxton	128.61
Tickenham	59.91
Walton-in-Gordano	43.00
Weston-in-Gordano	27.87
Wick St Lawrence	95.36
Winford	244.40
Winscombe	1,795.11
Wraxall	365.67
Wrington	978.92
Yatton	3,523.88
Weston-super-Mare	63,522.29
St Georges	348.24
	104,000.00

