

Cabinet – 17 January 2007

Council Tax Base 2007/8

Portfolio:	Councillor John O'Hare - Resources
Service Area:	Corporate finance and local taxation
Wards:	All
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Yes

Summary of report

This report recommends the council tax base for 2007/8 be set at 76,388 band D equivalents based on a collection rate of 98.5%. The authority is legally obliged to set the council tax base by 31 January each year and notify the precepting authorities (i.e. Police and Fire & Civil Defence Authorities) accordingly.

Recommendation

To set the council tax base for 2007/8 at 76,388 band D equivalents based on a collection rate of 98.5%.

Resource and legal considerations

The collection fund and council tax base are governed by *Statutory Instrument 1992 No.612 (Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations*. Council tax base figures are calculated by billing authorities and notified to relevant precept authorities and levying bodies between 1 December and 31 January of the financial year preceding the financial year to which it will apply. The *Local Government Act 2003, S84 (amends s67 of Local Government Act 1992)* repeals the need for the tax base to be set by full Council. We are legally obliged to set the council tax base by 31 January each year and notify the precepting authorities.

Council tax records on 1 December 2006 show 108,268 dwellings. A further 100 new properties are estimated as due for occupation in 2007/8; totalling 108,368 properties. Exemptions and personal discounts reduce this to 95,636. Most Walsall dwellings are in the lower bands, so the tax base (band D equivalents) is 77,551. The table shows the number of properties in each band.

BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
Properties	49,356	24,668	16,540	9,519	5,294	2,216	722	53	108,368
%age	45.54	22.76	15.26	8.79	4.89	2.05	0.66	0.05	100
Cumulative	45.54	68.30	83.56	92.35	97.24	99.29	99.95	100	

Therefore, the council tax base for 2007/8 should be set at 76,388 band D equivalents (76,095 2006/7), which provides 1.5% (1.6% in 2006/7) for non-payment and changes in assessments.

Citizen impact

Any significant change in the number of band D equivalents or the collection rate could result in a surplus or deficit in the collection fund which would require an increase or decrease in future council tax levels.

Community safety

None directly associated with this report.

Environmental impact

None directly associated with this report.

Performance and risk management issues

The actual collection rate reflects the council's success in collecting council tax due. If the actual collection rate is lower than the assumed rate used in these calculations, this could result in a collection fund deficit, requiring an increase in the following year's council tax. Conversely, a higher collection rate performance will increase the surplus and therefore potentially marginally reduce the following year's council tax level.

Equality implications

None directly associated with this report.

Consultation

The report is prepared in consultation with relevant managers and executive directors.

Vision 2008

Robust collection of council tax debt supports all strands of the council's vision.

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Executive Director: Carole Evans

Date: 08.01.07



Cllr John O'Hare – Deputy Leader

Date: 08.01.07