

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

2020-21 COUNCIL TAX BASE

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of the council tax base and estimated collection rate for 2020-21.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-

1. Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

2.2 The council tax base determines the amount of council tax which can be raised to fund the Council's budget. The budget strategy is an integral part of the Corporate Planning process.

3. Background.

3.1 Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the local Authorities (Calculation of Council tax base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, the Council is required to set the Council Tax Base upon which council tax is levied by the authority and other precepting bodies, for the following financial year, prior to 31st December each year. This information is required by the Welsh Government to allocate the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to local authorities and by the Council to calculate the council tax required to fund the 2020-21 budget.

3.2 The Council Tax Base is the measure of the relative taxable capacity of different areas within the County Borough and is calculated in accordance with

prescribed rules. Every domestic property in the County Borough has been valued by the Valuation Office. Once valued, properties are allocated one of nine valuation bands (Bands A to I). Each band is multiplied by a given factor to bring it to the Band D equivalent as set out in the table below:

Valuation Band	Tax Proportion	Percentage of Band D
A	6/9	67%
B	7/9	78%
C	8/9	89%
D	9/9	100%
E	11/9	122%
F	13/9	144%
G	15/9	167%
H	18/9	200%
I	21/9	233%

- 3.3 The Tax Base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in the area expressed as Band D equivalents, taking into account the total number of exemptions, discounts and disabled band reductions, with the net Tax Base calculated by taking account of the Council's estimated collection rate. Council tax is measured in 'Band D' equivalents as the standard for comparing council tax levels between and across local authorities.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The gross estimated Council Tax Base for 2020-21 is 55604.38 Band D equivalent properties and the estimated collection rate is 98%. The net council tax base is, therefore, 54492.29.
- 4.2 The Council Tax Base is provided to Welsh Government and is used as part of the distribution of the Revenue Support Grant in the Local Government Revenue Settlement. In order to ensure consistency across Wales no account is taken of Councils' assumptions about collection rates. For the purpose of distributing RSG, collection rates are assumed to be 100 per cent. The amount of Council Tax due for a dwelling in Band D is calculated by dividing the annual budget requirement to be funded by taxpayers by the Council Tax Base. A set formula is then used to calculate the liability for the remaining eight Bands.
- 4.3 The council tax element of the Council's budget requirement will be based on the net council tax base of 54492.29. Although the Council calculates the Tax base for the whole of the county borough, separate calculations are provided for each town and community council. This Council Tax Base is used by precepting authorities in calculating their own individual precepts. Town and community councils base their precepts on the tax base for each town and community area and details of these are shown in Appendix A.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 The council tax base is set in accordance with the Policy Framework and Budget Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 These are outlined in the report.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 Council is recommended:

- to approve the council tax base and collection rate for 2020-21 as shown in paragraph 4.1 of this report
- to approve the tax bases for the town and community areas set out in Appendix A.

Gill Lewis
Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
11 November 2019

Contact Officers
Helen Rodgers – Revenue Manager
Ext 3194. E-mail: Helen.Rodgers @bridgend.gov.uk

Deborah Exton – Interim Deputy Head of Finance
Ext 3604. E-mail: Deborah.Exton@bridgend.gov.uk

Background documents

None

Estimated County Borough Tax Base 2020-21

Community Council Area	Total Tax Base (No. Band D Equivalent Properties)	Estimated Collection Percentage	Net Tax Base (No. Band D Equivalent Properties)
Brackla	4279.17	98%	4193.59
Bridgend	6068.15	98%	5946.79
Cefn Cribbwr	560.61	98%	549.40
Coity Higher	3998.70	98%	3918.73
Cornelly	2640.22	98%	2587.42
Coychurch Higher	348.97	98%	341.99
Coychurch Lower	665.47	98%	652.16
Garw	2341.17	98%	2294.35
Laleston	5058.77	98%	4957.59
Llangynwyd Lower	172.23	98%	168.78
Llangynwyd Middle	1073.27	98%	1051.80
Maesteg	5764.18	98%	5648.89
Merthyr Mawr	153.67	98%	150.60
Newcastle Higher	1776.47	98%	1740.94
Ogmore Vale	2658.61	98%	2605.44
Pencoed	3525.71	98%	3455.19
Porthcawl	8211.91	98%	8047.67
Pyle	2557.67	98%	2506.52
St Brides Minor	2365.26	98%	2317.95
Ynysawdre	1384.17	98%	1356.49
Total County Borough	55604.38	98%	54492.29