

Corporate Policy & Resources



29 November 2021

Title	Determination of the 2022/23 Council Tax base for tax setting
Purpose of the report	To make a decision and a recommendation to Council
Report Author	Paul Taylor Chief Accountant
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Corporate Priority	Financial Sustainability
Recommendations	<p>That in accordance with its delegated powers the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee resolves that the following recommendation is made to Council for approval:</p> <p>A. the gross Council Tax Base for 2022/23 is determined at 40,867 (2021/22: 40,223) after taking account of the Council's agreed Council Tax Support Scheme, and</p> <p>B. the net Council Tax Base for 2022/23 calculated as Band D equivalents, is determined at 39,233 (2021/22: 39,016.3) after adjustment by 3% to allow for; irrecoverable amounts, appeals and property base changes.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	Not applicable.

1. Statutory Powers

- 1.1 Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to determine and approve its Council Tax Base for the following financial year before 31st January each year.
- 1.2 The Council is required to calculate the Council Tax Base for its area and has a statutory obligation to notify the figure to the major precepting authorities (Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police Authority) with the Council tax base no later than 31st January 2022. This explains the main criteria upon which the decision is to be based.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The Council Tax Base is one of the key elements of the calculation concerned with setting the Council Tax under the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulation 2012.

- 2.2 All domestic properties within the Borough are banded by the Valuation Officer in one of eight bands. The tax base calculation includes the estimated number of chargeable dwellings, which after allowing for discounts and exemptions, appeals and voids for each parish for the period to 31st March 2022 results in the number of chargeable properties. Chargeable properties are converted to a Band D equivalent by applying the prescribed formula and an allowance for losses on collection.
- 2.3 This report sets out the various factors which have to be taken into account and provides the calculations to arrive at the tax base for 2022/23.
- 2.4 The 2022/23 Council Tax base is set out in Appendix A.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The Local Government Finance Act 2012 (LGFA 2012) includes a number of amendments to the LGFA 1992 which affects the calculation of the Council of the council tax base. These amendments gave powers to determine discounts and set premiums in certain circumstances.
- 3.2 Section 10 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 imposes an obligation on Billing Authorities to set up a Council Tax Reduction Scheme to replace Council Tax Benefit from 1 April 2013. The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 specify that the tax base must be adjusted to take account of the amount to be paid in accordance with the reduction scheme. Explain the key financial headlines linked to appropriate data in appendices (if required).
- 3.3 In arriving at a net base, allowance must be made for irrecoverable amounts, movements as a result of appeals and property base changes (new properties). For this purpose, an allowance of 3% is proposed.
- 3.4 The Council Tax Base for 2022/23 has been calculated in accordance with the prescribed guidelines

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Council Tax Base is a key element of the statutory calculation of the Council Tax.

5. Equality and Diversity

- 5.1 None.

6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 None.

7. Timetable for implementation

- 7.1 Must be resolved by 31 January 2022

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – Council Tax Base for 2022/23