

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET

1)	Meeting:	Cabinet
2)	Date:	19th January 2011
3)	Title:	Calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2011/12
4)	Directorate:	Financial Services

5. Summary

This report provides details of the calculation of the Authority's proposed Council Tax base for the 2011/12 financial year. In accordance with the regulations governing its calculation it is determined that the tax base for the financial year 2011/12 is **75,311.58** Band D Equivalent Properties.

6 Recommendations

That Cabinet

- **approve submission of this report to Cabinet on 19th January ; and**
- **resolve that the amount calculated by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as its Council Tax Base and those of the Parish Councils shown at Appendix A for 2011/12 shall be a total of 75,311.58 Band D equivalent properties.**

7 Proposals and Details

- 7.1 Regulations under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require the Council to calculate its annual Council Tax Base before 31 January in the preceding financial year. Although this duty was in the past reserved for full Council, since 2003 it has been possible for Cabinet to determine the Tax Base by resolution, however the deadline of 31 January remains unchanged. Setting the Tax Base is a precursor within the Budget setting process to the determination of the Council Tax level.
- 7.2 The Regulations set out the formula for the calculation and the estimated Tax Base is shown in Appendix A. The Council Tax Base is derived from the total number of properties within the Council's area as at the 13th September 2010, which, in the opinion of the Listing Officer, were subject to Council Tax.
- 7.3 The Council Tax Base however must reflect several changes and adjustments both prior to April 2011 and during the forthcoming 2011/12 financial year such as:
- Changes in banding as a result of adjustments and appeals;
 - The completion of new properties;
 - Discounts, exemptions and reliefs (for example single person discounts -25%, the empty property discount of 50% and reductions in liabilities for disabled persons).
- 7.4 After allowing for the additions, discounts and reliefs the estimated property base is converted into Band D Equivalent properties, giving a total of **77,640.80** Band D Equivalents. Appendix A provides details of the total for both parished and non-parished areas.
- 7.5 It is recommended that an adjustment of 3% should be made to the tax base in respect of non-collection, giving a total of **75,311.58** Band D equivalents. The result of applying the 97% collection rate to the Band D Equivalents for each of the parishes within the Borough and for the Borough as a whole is shown in the final column of Appendix A attached. The Tax Base for the Council as a whole (both parished and unparished areas) is made up as follows:

<u>Tax Band</u>	<u>Band D Equivalent Properties</u>
Band A	34,534.62
Band B	14,530.80
Band C	11,189.15
Band D	7,419.82
Band E	4,605.75
Band F	2,108.78
Band G	869.31
Band H	53.35
TOTAL	<u>75,311.58</u>

- 7.6 Compared to 2010/11 the Council's Tax Base for 2011/12 has increased by just over 240 Band D equivalent properties or 0.32%. Around half of the increase in

Band D Properties - 120.67 properties is in the unparished area of the council, in particular in Wath. For the parished areas, the increase in tax base is largely attributable to new developments in Aston, Thurcroft and Wales parishes. In addition to the increase in property numbers, it should be noted that Parish Boundaries have been adjusted and a new Parish of Hellaby has been created with effect from April 2011.

8 Finance

There are no direct costs arising from this report – however determining the Council Tax Base is a fundamental part of the determining the level of Council Tax set, which is a significant element of the Council's resources for the coming financial year.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

As the Council Tax base must be set by the 31 January 2011, it contains projections in respect of the additions, adjustments, discounts and reliefs to be granted before the 31 March 2011 and during 2011/12.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The setting of the Council Tax Base is essential in underpinning all parts of the Council's activities.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations (Statutory Instruments 1992 no.612 and 1999 no.3123).
- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base/Supply of Information) Regulations 1992 (Statutory Instrument 2904).
- Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003

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