
Subject:	COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013/14
Meeting and Date:	Council – 30 January 2013
Report of:	Mike Davis, Director of Finance, Housing and Community
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mike Conolly, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance
Decision Type:	Key
Classification:	Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To set the Council Tax Base for 2013/14 by 31 January 2013, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Recommendation: Members are asked to approve the District's Council Tax Base for 2013/14 as 34,757.85 and the Tax Base for the town and parish parts of the Council's administrative area as set out in the table at Appendix 2.

1. Summary

1.1 The Council Tax Base for the coming year is set by DDC, and is used by Kent County Council, Kent Police Authority, Kent Fire and Rescue Authority and the various town and parish councils when setting their Council Tax and their precepts.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Council is required to set its Tax Base by 31 January every year, for the following financial year. The Tax Base is defined mainly in terms of the number of Band D equivalent properties, but it is then adjusted to reflect various discounts and the estimated collection rate.

2.2 The Tax Base has been prepared in accordance with the new regulations "Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI:2012:2194) which came into force on 30 November 2012, to enable local authorities to calculate the Tax Base for the financial year 2013/14. The calculations are shown in Appendix 1.

2.3 As the Council Tax Base is defined in terms of "Band D equivalent" dwellings, and Band D dwellings are treated as "average" houses, all other properties are defined as a ratio against Band D houses and pay Council Tax in accordance with that ratio. The table below uses the current 2012/13 Dover District Council Tax to show how this works.

Council Tax Band	Ratio to Band D	2013/14 DDC Council Tax £
Band A	6/9	109.62
Band B	7/9	127.89
Band C	8/9	146.16
Band D	9/9	164.43
Band E	11/9	200.97

Council Tax Band	Ratio to Band D	2013/14 DDC Council Tax £
Band F	13/9	237.51
Band G	15/9	274.05
Band H	18/9	328.86

2.4 The total for all the relevant dwellings, including the MOD properties, for each valuation band, is then multiplied by the collection rate to generate the Tax Base.

2.5 Based on these factors it is recommended that the Tax Base for 2013/14 is set at 34,757.85, as set out in Appendix 2.

3. Council Tax Support Scheme

3.1 The Tax Base for 2013/14 shows a significant reduction compared to the Tax Base for 2012/13. This is mainly due to the switch from the current Council Tax Benefit Scheme to a new Council Tax Support Scheme, as explained in the report on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which is also on the Council agenda.

3.2 The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolishes the current Council Tax Benefit from March 2013, paving the way for a new localised scheme commencing 1 April 2013.

3.3 In essence, the current Council Tax Benefit Scheme means that Council Tax bills are raised for the majority of households, but those claiming Council Tax Benefit have some / all of their Council Tax paid for them through the Benefit System.

3.4 Under the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme, those formerly entitled to benefit will receive a discount instead, so that the total of Council Tax bills raised will be lower.

3.5 The main features of the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme are:

(a) Dover District Council will follow the prescribed scheme for people of pensionable age, who will receive assistance for their Council Tax liability.

(b) Working age claimants will have a reduction made from their Council Tax Support of 6%.

(c) Second home discount of 10% will be removed.

(d) Empty property exemption (Class C) will be removed.

4. Identification of Options

4.1 The setting of the Council Tax Base is mainly a mechanical process based on the projected number of properties, level of discounts and collection rates, and so there are no other options available.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Comment from the Director of Finance, Housing and Community: The Director has been involved in the production of the report and has no further comment to make (MD).

5.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted and has no comments to add.

5.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: The equalities impact arising from the changes in Council Tax Support Scheme have been addressed in the report on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme also on the Council agenda. Accordingly, there are no further comments to add this report.

6. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – The Council Tax Base Calculation for 2013/14.

Appendix 2 – The Council Tax Base for 2013/14.

7. **Background Papers**

- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI: 2012:2914)
- Detailed calculations for District and Parish/Town Council Tax Bases

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The Council Tax Base Calculation for 2013/14

Council Tax Base = A x B:

- (i) A is the total of the “relevant amounts” (or Band D equivalents) for that year for each of the valuation bands which is shown, or is likely to be shown, for any day in that year in the authority’s valuation list as applicable to one or more dwellings situated in this area.
- (ii) B is the authority’s estimate of its collection rate for that year which is 97.61% for 2013/14.
- (iii) The “relevant amount” for a valuation band is the amount found by applying the formula: $(H - Q + E + J - Z) \times (F/G)$.
- (iv) H is the number of chargeable dwellings in the area of the Council (as billing authority) as calculated in accordance with the regulations at 30 November 2012.
- (v) Q is the factor to take account of the discounts to which the amount of Council Tax payable was subject to that band, estimated in accordance with the regulations at the 30 November 2012.
- (vi) E is a factor to take into account any premiums, if any, to which the Council Tax payable was subject to that band, estimated in accordance with the regulations at the 30 November 2012. This is zero for Dover as no premiums are being applied.
- (vii) J is the estimated adjustments due to change in the number of dwellings, exemptions and discounts.
- (viii) Z is the total amount that the Authority estimates will be applied in relation to the Authority’s Council Tax Reduction Scheme in relation to the band, expressed as an equivalent number of chargeable dwellings in the band.
- (ix) F is the number which is the proportion of dwellings in that band.
- (x) G is the number that, in that proportion, is applicable to dwellings in band D.

The amount calculated for Dover District Council’s Council Tax Base in 2013/14 is 34,757.85 save for the following parts of the Council’s administrative area where its Council Tax Base shall be the amounts shown against each part respectively.

The Collection Rate has been reviewed with regard to take into account the changes of the Council Tax Support Scheme discounts and exemptions awarded this year.

Appendix 2

Part of Council's Area	Taxbase	
	2012/13	2013/14
Alkham	319.15	295.62
Ash	1,214.70	1,085.28
Aylesham	1,102.77	837.88
Capel-le-Ferne	693.75	606.29
Deal	7,252.96	6,125.36
Denton	176.67	165.54
Dover	9,551.58	7,457.80
Eastry	878.96	751.40
Eythorne	877.59	758.93
Goodnestone	186.04	170.52
Great Mongeham	288.72	260.66
Guston	426.54	394.30
Hougham Without	191.53	181.94
Langdon	240.58	218.74
Lydden	251.38	239.61
Nonington	309.66	287.68
Northbourne	294.97	260.97
Preston	281.03	252.16
Ringwould with Kingsdown	1,056.26	963.13
Ripple	162.78	140.50
River	1,524.40	1,471.64
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1,287.70	1,216.05
Sandwich	2,032.33	1,823.45
Shepherdswell with Coldred	769.62	718.31
Sholden	439.75	388.65
Staple	236.06	224.89
Stourmouth	120.00	112.85
Sutton	321.19	290.75
Temple Ewell	635.26	608.77
Tilmanstone	155.51	145.79
Walmer	3,442.60	3,143.32
Whitfield	1,872.25	1,705.16
Wingham	707.38	645.48
Woodnesborough	429.42	379.88
Worth	457.35	428.55
Total	40,188.44	34,757.85