

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Report to:	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Date:	28 NOVEMBER 2023
Subject:	THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2024/25
Portfolio Holder(s):	COUNCILLOR ROBIN WILLIAMS - DEPUTY LEADER & PORTFOLIO HOLDER - FINANCE
Head of Service / Director:	MARC JONES - DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER
Report Author:	MARC JONES - DIRECTOR OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES) / SECTION 151 OFFICER
Tel:	01248 752601
E-mail:	rmjfi@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	N/A

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

I recommend that the Executive makes the following decisions:-

- To note the calculation of the Council Tax Base by the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer, this will be used by the Welsh Government in the calculation of the Revenue Support Grant for the Isle of Anglesey County Council for the 2024/25 financial year, being **31,241.64** (see **Appendix A** in respect of the calculation of the Council Tax Base for this purpose – Part E6).
- That the calculation by the Director of Function (Resources) / Section 151 Officer for the purpose of setting the Council Tax Base for the whole and parts of the area for the year 2024/25 is approved (see **Appendix A** for the calculation of the tax base – Part E5).
- That, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 (SI19956/2561) as amended by SI1999/2935 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) and Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, the amounts calculated by Isle of Anglesey County Council as its tax base for the year 2024/25 shall be **33.170.03**, and as follows for the parts of the area listed below :-

Amlwch	1,553.58	Llaneilian	621.16
Beaumaris	1,128.28	Llannerch-y-medd	541.56
Holyhead	4,122.23	Llaneugrad	194.77
Llangefni	2,104.10	Llanfair Mathafarn Eithaf	2,038.26
Menai Bridge	1,503.94	Cylch y Garn	427.15
Llanddaniel-fab	376.52	Mechell	592.04
Llanddona	417.01	Rhos-y-bol	488.24
Cwm Cadnant	1,231.69	Aberffraw	316.77
Llanfair Pwllgwyngyll	1,342.23	Bodedern	423.75
Llanfihangel Ysceifiog	714.29	Bodffordd	424.81
Bodorgan	483.02	Trearddur	1,492.47
Llangoed	698.88	Tref Alaw	272.44
Llangristiolus and Cerrigceinwen	645.03	Llanfachraeth	238.36
Llanidan	436.75	Llanfaelog	1,439.20
Rhosyr	1,061.51	Llanfaethlu	279.29

Penmynydd	252.52	Llanfair-yn-Neubwll	573.51
Pentraeth	603.97	Valley	1,052.48
Moelfre	692.31	Bryngwran	372.60
Llanbadrig	708.58	Rhoscolyn	399.54
Llanddyfnan	523.53	Trewalchmai	381.66

REASONS AND BACKGROUND

The calculations have been made in accordance with the Welsh Government Guidelines for Council Tax Dwellings (CT1 v.1.0) 2024/25 based on the number of properties in various bands on the valuation list on 31 October 2023 and summarised by the Authority under Section 22B (7) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The calculations take into account discounts, exemptions and premiums, as well as changes to the valuation list likely during 2024/25.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council, as the billing authority, is required to calculate the Council Tax Base for its area, and different parts of its area, and these amounts must be notified to the precepting and levying bodies by 31 December 2023. This year, the Welsh Government has requested the information for the purpose of setting the Revenue Support Grant by 14 November 2023, and for tax setting purposes (ratified by Executive decision) by 5 January 2024.

The calculations in **Appendix A** are based on discounts of nil being confirmed for Classes A, B and C; the premium of 100% on long term empty homes and a premium of 100% on second homes for 2024/25 are based on the Executive's intentions set out in their meeting on 25 October 2021 to increase the second home premium (subject to ratification by the Executive). The calculations are also based on the full Council decision at its meeting on 11 December 2018, that its current local Council Tax Reduction Scheme would apply for subsequent years unless substantially amended. For 2024/25, only the usual benefit upratings will apply. The Welsh Government is continuing to fully meet the costs of the previous UK national scheme, but costs arising from caseloads and / or increase in Council Tax will fall on local councils.

THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR CALCULATING THE REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

The total band D equivalent discount, before adjusting for the collection rate (and which includes allowance for Ministry of Defence properties), will be used in calculating claims for the Revenue Support Grant for 2024/25. This total, which is used in calculating the RSG, excludes adjustments for premiums and discounts granted by some authorities in respect of Classes A, B and C (this does not affect the Isle of Anglesey as no such discounts are granted). This figure is calculated to be 31,241.64 (compared to 31,272.36 for 2023/24). This is a decrease of 0.10%.

THE TAX BASE FOR TAX SETTING PURPOSES

The total band D equivalent discount that is used for tax setting purposes has been adjusted by a provision for non-collection, which continues to be 1.5%, and also includes allowance for Ministry of Defence properties. This figure is calculated to be 33,170.03. Note, therefore, that the figures under recommendation 3 includes the adjustments for premiums.

The total base proposed for 2024/25 for the purpose of tax setting purposes is 33,170.03. This compares with 32,819.56 for 2023/24 and is an increase of 1.07%. A number of factors impact on the taxbase, including the number of new properties that are estimated to be added to the Council Tax register in 2024/25, the number of exemptions and discounts granted and the number subject to the empty property and second homes premium and the premium percentage. The increase in the second homes premium, from 75% to 100%, in 2024/25 has resulted in a significant increase in the taxbase and, without the increase in the premium percentage, the taxbase would have fallen by 0.51%.

The tax base for long term empty properties for 2024/25 is 333.00, as compared to 311.69 for 2023/24, and is as a result of an increase of 14 empty properties which are subject to the empty property premium.

The tax base for second homes for 2024/25 is 2,097.42, as compared to 1,703.21 for 2023/24. The increase reflects a decrease of 281 in the number of properties which are currently subject to the premium, but the increase in the premium rate from 75% to 100% also has a significant impact on this element of the taxbase.

The change in the taxbase impacts on the Council's starting point for the revenue budget for 2024/25, and this will be covered in more detail in subsequent budget reports to the Executive. However, to summarise, the decrease in the number of properties subject to the standard Council Tax will result in a decrease of £44k in revenue (based on the 2023/24 Council Tax charge), but this will result in an increase of £45k in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) from Welsh Government (based on the Standard Spending Assessment for 2023/24 and the same estimated level of Band D Council Tax charge as 2023/24). The increase in the number of empty properties will increase the empty property premium income by £24k, but the decrease in the number of properties subject to the second homes premium will reduce the income generated by £220k. The increase in the second homes premium from 75% to 100% will generate an additional £742k in funding.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

The full Council has the discretion, under regulations made under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and, subsequently, under the Local Government Act 2003, to set discounts for prescribed classes of dwellings (mainly holiday homes and second homes (Classes A and B)). When this was introduced, the full Council decided to set a discount of nil for both prescribed classes A and B, and this has been confirmed annually thereafter. In March 2007, the full Council, on the recommendation of the Executive, also set a discount of nil for Prescribed Class C (certain types of long term empty properties) for the first time, and has done so annually thereafter.

To award discounts of 25%, 50% or 100% would be contrary to full Council policy and this option was rejected.

The full Council, on 27 February 2019, set a Council Tax premium of 100% on long term empty properties and a premium of 75% on second homes from 1 April 2023, with the intention to increase the premium on second homes to 100% from 1 April 2024. The calculation and recommendations herein are in accordance with that decision.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Until 2004, this calculation was determined by the full Council. This function has now been removed from the list of functions reserved for the full Council. Decisions relating to discounts and premiums, along with the setting of a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, however, still remains the responsibility of the full Council rather than the Executive.

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

The calculation of the tax base takes into account the full Council's current approved policy on the granting of discounts for prescribed classes A, B and C, and also the full Council's policy on awarding up to 100% Council Tax Reduction to those eligible under the Council's local scheme.

The calculation and recommendations herein are in accordance with that decision and also that the full Council, in its meeting on 27 February 2019, set a Council Tax premium of 100% on long term empty properties. The decision to increase the premium on second homes from 1 April 2024 to 100% will be ratified by the full Council when the budget is approved in March 2024.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?	
The tax base calculation will enable the full Council to set its Council Tax requirement to meet its approved budget for 2024/25.	
DD – Impact on our Future Generations(if relevant)	
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island The decision will impact on the Council's revenue budget and the implications of this decision on the long term needs of the Island will be considered as the revenue budget process continues.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority. If so, how:- Not applicable
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision, if so, please advise whom: Not applicable
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward? Please explain how:- The citizens of Anglesey will be consulted on the budget proposals in due course.
5	Outline what impact does this decision have on the Equalities agenda and the Welsh language Not applicable
E – Who did you consult? What did they say?	
1	Chief Executive / Leadership Team (LT) (mandatory) No additional comments made.
2	Finance / Section 151(mandatory) Author of the report.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory) No additional comments made.
4	Human Resources (HR) Not applicable
5	Property Not applicable
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT) Not applicable
7	Procurement Not applicable
8	Scrutiny Not applicable
9	Local Members Not applicable
F - Appendices:	
Appendix A: Calculation for the Local Tax Base 2024/25	
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):	
Welsh Government Notes for Guidance on Council Tax Dwellings (CT1) 2024/25	

APPENDIX A

CALCULATION OF LOCAL TAX BASE 2024/25

BAND	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	TOTAL	
Part A	CHARGEABLE DWELLINGS											
A.1	All Chargeable Dwellings		4,650	6,640	6,741	7,111	5,391	2,654	1,039	158	54	34,438
A.2	Dwellings subject to disability reduction		9	43	49	94	86	51	11	9	5	357
A.3	Adjusted chargeable dwellings (taking into account disability reductions)	9	4,684	6,646	6,786	7,103	5,356	2,614	1,037	154	49	34,438
Part B	DISCOUNT AND PREMIUM ADJUSTMENTS											
B.1	Dwellings with no discount or premium (including long term empty properties and second homes with no discount or premium)	5	1,897	3,533	3,872	4,368	3,599	1,879	724	94	29	20,000
B.2a	Dwellings with a 25% discount (excluding long term empty properties and second homes)	4	2,566	2,825	2,455	2,152	1,322	518	184	23	7	12,056
B.2b	Dwellings with a 50% discount (excluding long term empty properties and second homes)	0	7	10	15	13	13	8	11	3	2	82
B.3a	Dwellings with a variable discount other than 25% or 50%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.3b	Dwellings with long term empty or second homes discount	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.3c	Dwellings with long term empty or second homes premium	0	214	278	444	570	422	209	118	34	11	2,300
B.4	Total adjusted chargeable dwellings	9	4,684	6,646	6,786	7,103	5,356	2,614	1,037	154	49	34,438
B.5	Total variable discounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.6	Long term empty property and second homes discount adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.7	Long term empty property and second homes premium adjustment	0	214	278	444	570	422	209	118	34	11	2,300

Part C CALCULATION OF CHARGEABLE DWELLINGS WITH DISCOUNTS AND PREMIUMS												
C.2	Total dwellings including discounts and premiums	8	4,253	6,213	6,609	7,129	5,441	2,690	1,104	181	57	
C.3	Ratio to Band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9	
C.4	Band D equivalents (rounded to two decimal places)	4.44	2,835.33	4,832.14	5,874.44	7,128.50	6,650.11	3,884.83	1,839.17	361.50	133.58	33,544.06
C.7	Total discounted dwellings excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment	8	4,039	5,935	6,165	6,559	5,019	2,481	986	147	46	
C.8	Band D equivalents excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment	4.44	2,692.67	4,615.92	5,479.78	6,558.50	6,134.33	3,582.94	1,642.50	293.50	107.92	31,112.50
Part E CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE												
E.1	Chargeable dwellings: Band D equivalents (as per C.4)											33,544.06
E.2	Collection rate (rounded to two decimal places)											98.50%
E.3	= E1 x E2 (rounded to 2 decimal places)											33,040.89
E.4	Class O exempt dwellings: Band D equivalents (Ministry of Defence properties)											129.14
E.5	Council Tax Base for tax setting purposes (E.3 + E.4)											33,170.03
E.5b	Discounted chargeable dwellings excluding long term empty and second homes adjustment (as per C.8)											31,112.50
E.6	100% Council Tax Base for calculating Revenue Support Grant (E.5b + E.4)											31,241.64