
REPORT OF CABINET

MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2005

Chair: * Councillor N Shah

Councillors: * D Ashton * C Mote
* Burchell * Marie-Louise Nolan
* Margaret Davine * O'Dell
* Dighé * Stephenson
* Miss Lyne

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION I - Key Decision - Council Taxbase and Collection Fund 2005-06

The Executive Director (Business Connections) introduced the report and drew Members' attention to the tabled A3 version of Appendix 1. He advised that the Council had a statutory obligation to agree a Council Tax tax base for 2005/6 and to give the figure to preceptors by 31 January 2005.

The Executive Director (Business Connections) reported that in calculating the Council Tax tax base an assumed collection rate of 99% had been used. The detailed calculation of the Band D equivalent properties is set out in Appendix 1 to this recommendation.

In response to a Member's question in relation to the discount rate on empty properties, the Executive Director (Business Connections) confirmed that the discount rate applied each time the property became vacant.

Cabinet, having approved the estimated deficit of £845,769 on the Collection Fund as at 31 March 2005 and noted that an amount of £685,711 would be transferred from the General Fund in 2005-06,

Resolved to RECOMMEND:

(1) That the Band D equivalent number of taxable properties be calculated as shown in the appendix to this recommendation and in accordance with the Government Regulations;

(2) that the provision for non-collectable amounts of Council Tax for 2005-2006 be agreed at 1.0%, producing an expected collection rate of 99%;

(3) that subject to (1) and (2) above, a Council Tax tax base for 2005-2006 of 84,309 Band D equivalent properties (being 85,160 x 99%) be approved, allowing for payment in lieu of Ministry of Defence properties;

(4) that the Council continues with its policy of varying the discount rate on empty properties to 10% discount of second homes and furnished empty properties and no discount for unfurnished empty properties.

Reason for Recommendation: To fulfil the Council's statutory obligation to set the Council Tax tax base 2005-2006.

(See also Minute 683).