

## Blaby District Council

### Cabinet Executive

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 January 2026
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Council Tax Base 2026/27</b> This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore - Finance, People and Transformation (Deputy Leader)</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Council Tax Income & Debt Manager
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

#### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set the Council Tax Base for the 2026/27 year so that in February, Council will be able to use this information and set the Council Tax for the year. The report also seeks approval to set aside 'special items' of expenditure under Section 34 and 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

#### 2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That the Tax Base for the year 2026/27 is set at 34,926.50
- 2.2 The amount calculated by Blaby District Council as the Council Tax Base for each of the District's Parishes for the year 2026/27 is shown at Appendix C.
- 2.3 That the Tax Base is prepared without taking into account special expenses under Section 34a and 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

#### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The Council is statutorily required to set its base each year by 31st January before the subject year.
- 3.2 To enable the Tax Base to be prepared without taking into account special expenses as explained below.

#### 4. Matters to consider

##### 4.1 Background

The Council Tax Base is the measure used to calculate the Council's tax setting capacity for Council Tax. The Local Authorities (Calculation of

Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 contains the rules which officers have used to set the Council Tax Base.

- 4.2 The total number of dwellings in the district are included in one of eight Council Tax bands (with A being the lowest and H being the highest value property). The Tax Base is calculated by taking the total number of dwellings and then applying a number of discounts or premiums. A formula is then applied which converts the number of dwellings into an average number which is the number of properties equivalent to an average Band D property.

The Tax Base and Council Tax amount is always quoted as an average Band D equivalent.

Details of the applicable adjustments and the formula used is shown in Appendix A.

The level of Council Tax Support is also applied to the calculation.

The final element of the calculation is the assumed level of Council Tax that cannot be collected. For many years the collection rate has been set at 99%. In light of the impact of the current economic climate on growth on Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates collection, consideration has been given as to whether the collection rate should be reduced. As no major impact has been seen over the past 4 years to reduce the collection rate, it is proposed that the rate is left unchanged for 2026/27.

- 4.3 As of 1st December 2025, there were 44,964 Council Tax dwellings in the district which has been calculated to produce a Council Tax Base of 34,926.50, Band D equivalent dwellings.

The change in the Council Tax Base from 2025/26 is an increase of 253.75. This increase is due to a combination of growth in the number of dwellings, a change in the number of discounts awarded, discount changes for second homes and premium charges for both long term empty properties and second homes.

- 4.4 Section 34 and 35 of the Local Government Finance Act detail how Parish precepts are treated and allows the Parish precepts to be included in the Council Tax bills for the district.

Section 35 of the act requires the Authority to carry out separate calculations for each parish if the district carries out a function for one parish that is not provided to others and other parishes carry out that function themselves.

These calculations add an unnecessary complication to the precept setting and therefore recommendation 2.3 allows the Authority to calculate the Tax Base without having to take these 'special items' into consideration.

- 4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

## **5. Environmental impact**

- 5.1 None – the setting of the Council Tax Base is a statutory requirement.

## **6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

- 6.1 The financial implications of this Tax Base will be dealt with in the setting of the Council Tax 2026/27 at the Council Meeting in February 2026.

## **7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

### **7.1**

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Not setting the Tax Base correctly and thereby not collecting enough Council Tax to provide services.	The Tax Base calculations are based on the most current and up to date information.
The Tax Base may be impacted by the effects of the current economic climate on growth.	The current economic climate on growth may result in the number of properties being built being lower than estimated. This will reduce the Tax Base, but the Council will continue to monitor the situation to highlight any impact this may have.

## **8. Other options considered**

- 8.1 None – the setting of the Council Tax Base is a statutory requirement.

## **9. Appendix**

- 9.1 Appendix A – Definitions of Council Tax Base Calculation
- 9.2 Appendix B – Appendix B – District Summary Total, Council Tax Base Calculation 2026/27
- 9.3 Appendix C – Council Tax Base Summary by Parish

## **10. Background paper(s)**

- 10.1 File and calculations are held by the Council Tax Income & Debt Manager.

## **11. Report author's contact details**

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