

This report is public	
Council Tax Base 2026/27	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	6 January 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration, Councillor Lesley McLean
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	10 December 2025
Report of	Assistant Director of Finance (S151 Officer), Michael Furness

Purpose of report

To provide the Council tax Base for 2026/27.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To approve the report of the Assistant Director of Finance for the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for 2026/27
- 1.2 To agree that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Cherwell District Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2026/27 shall be **60,654.5**
- 1.3 To agree for the parishes which form part of its area shown in Appendix 1, the amount calculated as the Council Tax Base for the year 2026/27 in respect of special items shall be as indicated in the column titled Tax Base 2026/27.
- 1.3 To agree for the Flood Defence Areas which form part of its area, the amount calculated as the Council Tax Base for the year 2026/27 for the purposes of levies on Oxfordshire County Council by River Authorities, shall be:

Thames Flood Defence Area	58,217.8
Anglian (Great Ouse) Flood Defence Area	1,965.2
Severn Region Flood Defence Area	471.5
TOTAL	60,654.5

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council must legally set a tax base for the following year by 31 January. This will allow the Council to notify its preceptors of the taxbase in order for them (and the Council) to set their budgets for 2026/27.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications		Commentary		
Finance		There are no direct financial implications within this report. However, when the Council determines its Council Tax Requirement when setting the budget, the Council Tax Base is used for calculating the amount of Council Tax set by Cherwell District Council. The tax base of 60,654.5 will be reflected in the budget papers taken to Executive and Council in February 2026. Lynsey Parkinson, Strategic Finance Business Partner, 10 December 2025		
Legal		For each financial year and each category of dwellings in its area, the council must set an amount of council tax (section 30, Local Government Finance Act 1992). Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 demand that the council calculates a tax base by 31 January 2026. This will be used for Council Tax setting purposes in February 2026. Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director of Law and Governance, 10 December 2025		
Risk Management		If the Council does not set a tax base in accordance with statutory deadlines, then it will not be able to set its Council Tax for the 2026/27 financial year. This is managed as an operational risk and escalated to the leadership risk register as and when necessary. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 10 December 2025		
Impact Assessments				Commentary
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	
Equality Impact		X		All proposals are developed in line with the commitments set in our Equalities and Inclusion Framework. Any equalities and inclusion implications will be reflected with mitigating actions where possible in the correspondent Equalities Impact Assessment. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 10 December 2025
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is		X		

delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?				
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Climate & Environmental Impact				N/A
ICT & Digital Impact				N/A
Data Impact				N/A
Procurement & subsidy				N/A
Council Priorities	All			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	N/A			

Supporting Information

3. Background

3.1 For the purposes of Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012,

(a) the whole of its area and

(b) for any parts of its area for the purposes of:

- (i) Apportioning precepts and levies and
- (ii) Calculating the tax base for each area subject to a special item

3.2 In respect of the 1 (a) 'the whole of its area':

3.2.1 The tax base has to be notified by Cherwell District Council to major precepting bodies (i.e., Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley) and levy authorities (i.e., Thames Flood Defence Area, Anglian (Great Ouse) Flood Defence Area and Severn Region Flood Defence Area) by 31

Cherwell District Council

January 2026 to enable their precepts to be calculated as a tax per band D equivalent properties.

3.3 In respect of 1 (b) 'parts of its area'

3.3.1 Major precepting and levying authorities have to notify Cherwell District Council (the billing authority) by 31 December 2025 of the area(s) subject to a special item (expense) and for which an apportionment of the tax base is required. No such notification has been received.

3.3.2 Parishes who levy a precept are automatically treated as a special item and there has to be a tax base calculated for each of the parishes in the area. They are not required to calculate a precept as a tax per band D equivalent property but can request the tax base figure to be supplied to them within ten days of making a request. Each parish and town council are notified of the figure for their area.

4. Details

Calculation of the tax base

4.1 The starting point of the calculation, as shown in Appendix 3, is the total number of council tax dwellings and their council tax band.

4.2 The council then allows for the following information and estimates for each band:

(a) Dwellings which are exempt, so no council tax is payable (e.g., those where all occupiers are students)

(b) Dwellings which attract a 25 per cent reduction (e.g., those with a single adult occupier)

(c) Dwellings which attract a 50 per cent reduction (e.g., those properties where all adult residents are disregarded or 'don't count' for council tax purposes)

(d) Dwellings which are treated as paying a lower band because they have been adapted for a disabled person. The regulations specify how to adjust the tax base in respect of band A dwellings.

(e) Dwellings which attract a reduction through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

(f) Dwellings which are subject to additional charges from council tax (e.g. those that have been empty and unfurnished for 1 year and over).

4.3 Each band is then converted into "band D equivalents" by applying the factor required by legislation. A band H, for example, is multiplied by two. All of these are added together to give a total number of band D equivalents.

4.4 A further adjustment is made to allow for non-collection. The council is required to decide what its collection rate is likely to be and applies this to its council tax base. For 2025/26 this was 98% and it is proposed it should be 98% in 2026/27.

4.5 A final adjustment is made for Class O exempt properties (Armed forces' Cherwell District Council

accommodation) as the Ministry of Defence makes a payment roughly equal to the council tax that it would have had to pay for each property if they were not exempt.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 There are no alternative options. The Council has to set a tax base in order to set its council tax for 2026/27.

6. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The Council must legally set a tax base for the following year by 31 January. This will allow the Council to notify its preceptors of the taxbase in order for them (and the Council) to set their budgets for 2026/27.

Decision Information

Key Decision	No
Subject to Call in	Yes
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Council Tax Base by Parish Area 2026/27
Appendix 2	Council Tax Base by Flood defence area 2026/27
Appendix 3	Council Tax Valuation Bands 2026/27
Appendix 4	Equality Impact Assessment 2026/27
Background Papers	N/A
Reference Papers	N/A
Report Author	Sven Hoffmann, Service Accountant
Report Author contact details	Sven.hoffmann@cherwell-dc.gov.uk 01295 221853
Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Report of Statutory Officer, S151 Officer