

To: Members of the County Council

Date: 24 January 2018

Direct Dial: 01824706141

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Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held at **10.00 am** on **TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2018** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN LL15 1YN**.

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

PART 1 - THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS PART OF THE MEETING

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4 CHAIRMAN'S DIARY (Pages 5 - 6)

To note the civic engagements undertaken by the Chairman of the Council (copy attached).

5 MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 5 December 2017 (to follow)

6 BUDGET 2018/19 - FINAL PROPOSALS (Pages 7 - 44)

To consider a report by the Head of Finance (copy attached) to provide an update of the budget process and the impact of the Local Government Settlement and to approve the budget for 2018/19, including the level of Council Tax.

7 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2018/19 (Pages 45 - 86)

To consider a report by the Service Delivery Manager and the Chief Accountant (copy attached) to adopt the All Wales Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Amendments Regulations 2018, in respect of the 2018/19 financial year.

8 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Graham Timms (on behalf of the Labour Group) put forward the following Notice of Motion for consideration by Full Council:

“Denbighshire County Council aspires to become a Real Living Wage employer by April 2020. The Council instructs officers to prepare a paper to be discussed by the full council on 11th September 2018 outlining how this could be implemented”.

9 NOTICE OF MOTION (Pages 87 - 88)

Councillor Mabon ap Gwynfor (on behalf of the Plaid Cymru Group) put forward the following Notice of Motion for consideration by Full Council:

“This Council calls:

- 1. On the UK Government to pause the roll-out of Universal Credit*
- 2. On Welsh Government to demand devolution powers to vary how Universal Credit is paid in Wales”.*

10 MEMBER CHAMPIONS (Pages 89 - 92)

To consider a report by the Democratic Services Manager (copy attached) to appoint Councillors to four “Member Champion” roles.

11 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT LAY MEMBER TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE (Pages 93 - 96)

To consider a report by the Monitoring Officer (copy attached) for Council to approve the appointment of an Independent Lay Member to the Standards Committee.

12 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 97 - 100)

To consider the Council’s forward work programme (copy attached).

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Pete Prendergast (Chair)

Mabon ap Gwynfor
Brian Blakeley
Joan Butterfield
Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones
Ellie Chard
Ann Davies
Gareth Davies
Meirick Davies
Hugh Evans
Peter Evans
Bobby Feeley
Rachel Flynn
Tony Flynn
Huw Hilditch-Roberts
Martyn Holland
Hugh Irving
Alan James
Brian Jones
Huw Jones
Pat Jones
Tina Jones
Gwyneth Kensler
Geraint Lloyd-Williams

Richard Mainon
Christine Marston
Barry Mellor
Melvyn Mile
Bob Murray
Merfyn Parry
Paul Penlington
Arwel Roberts
Anton Sampson
Peter Scott
Glenn Swingler
Andrew Thomas
Rhys Thomas
Tony Thomas
Julian Thompson-Hill
Graham Timms
Joe Welch
Cheryl Williams
David Williams
Eryl Williams
Huw Williams
Emrys Wynne
Mark Young

COPIES TO:

Press and Libraries
Town and Community Councils

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Agenda Item 4

Digwyddiadau wedi eu mynychu gan y Cadeirydd / Events attended by Chairman

<u>Dyddiad/Date</u>	<u>Digwyddiad/Event</u>	<u>Lleoliad/Location</u>
28/11/17	Noson Caws a Gwin Maer Rhuthun Mayor of Ruthin Cheese and Wine Evening	Rhuthun / Ruthin
01/12/17	Ymweliad i safle ysgol newydd yng Nglasdir Visit to new School Site at Glasdir (Is-Gadeirydd wedi mynychu/ Vice-Chairman attended)	Rhuthun / Ruthin
04/12/17	Lansiad Cystadleuaeth arlunio Launch of Art Competition	Rhuthun / Ruthin
04/12/17	Seremoni Ddinasyddiaeth Citizenship Ceremony	Y Rhyl / Rhyl
04/12/17	Gwasanaeth Carolau Sir Ddinbych Denbighshire's Carol Service	Y Rhyl / Rhyl
07/12/17	Ymweliad Ysgol i Neuadd y Sir School Visit to County Hall	Rhuthun / Ruthin
14/12/17	Ymweliad I Ysgol caer Drewyn I gyflwyno Tocyn Llyfrau Visit to Ysgol Caer Drewyn - Book token presentation	Corwen
18/12/17	Dathlu pen-blwydd Mr William John Pritchard yn 100oed 100th birthday celebrations of Mr William John Pritchard (Is-Gadeirydd wedi mynychu/ Vice-Chairman attended)	Rhuthun / Ruthin
19/12/17	"Gadewch i ni Ddathlu" – Menter Darllen Sir Ddinbych "Lets Celebrate" – Denbighshire Reading Initiative	Amrywiol/Various
12/01/18	Digwyddiad Lloyd George Event	Llanystumdwy
18/01/18	Seremoni Ddinasyddiaeth Citizenship Ceremony	Rhuthun / Ruthin
19/01/18	Dathliad Gweithgaredd Cynnig Cynnig Activity Celebration	Dinbych / Denbigh

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Report To: County Council
Date of Meeting: 30th January 2018
Lead Member / Officer: Julian Thompson-Hill/Richard Weigh
Report Author: Richard Weigh, Head of Finance
Title: Budget 2018/19 - Final Proposals

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report sets out the implications of the Local Government Settlement 2018/19 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2018/19.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 The Council is legally required to set a balanced and deliverable budget before the start of each financial year and to set the resulting level of Council Tax to allow bills to be sent to residents.

2.2 To provide an overview of the budget process and the impact of the Local Government Settlement and to approve the budget for 2018/19, including the level of Council Tax.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 To note the impact of the Local Government Settlement 2018/19.

3.2 To approve the budget as outlined in Appendix 1, which is in line with the assumptions presented to members at budget briefings held in November 2017.

3.3 To approve the savings totalling £411k listed in Appendix 2 as part of the budget package.

3.4 To approve the average Council Tax rise of 4.75%, which recognises the increasing cost pressures in adults and children's social care and supports the allocation of £1.5m of additional funding to across the two services.

3.5 That Council confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessments submitted as part of the budget process.

4. Report details

4.1 The Final Local Government Settlement for 2018/19 8 was received on 20th December and resulted in a cash reduction of -0.2% (the Welsh average being +0.2%). The Provisional Settlement received in October indicated a reduction of -0.9% (Wales average 0.5%). For the funding position to have been neutral in terms of *minimum*

funding pressures in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the Settlement would have had to be at least +3.6%.

- 4.2 The change between the two reflects an additional £20m allocated to local government as part of the Welsh Government's final budget proposals. This follows additional funding allocated to Wales as a consequence of the UK Government budget in November and mitigates the impact of the latest employers' pay offer, which was higher than planned and reflects a move away from the policy of a 1% pay cap.

Included in the Settlement are 'transfers in' (items previously funded by grant) of £2.9m. These are as follows:

• Waste element of the Single Environment Grant	£1.2m
• Welsh Independent Living Grant	£0.8m
• Social Care Workforce Grant	£0.6m
• Looked After Children	£0.2m
• Carers' Respite Care Grant	£0.1m

- 4.4 It should be noted that the Single Environment Grant has been cut by 10% in total.

- 4.5 New responsibilities are also included in the Settlement and these will be transferred directly to the relevant service. These are:

• Support for Homeless Prevention	£0.155m
• Increase in Capital Limit for Residential Care Charges	£0.251m

- 4.6 The final proposals to balance the 2018/19 budget are shown in the extract from the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in Appendix 1. The headlines are broadly as set out when presented to members in November, with the main changes being the cut to the Settlement being less but pay cost pressures have increased. The general points are:

- Reduction of 0.2% in cash terms to the Settlement (RSG - £276k)
- Pay, pension and National Living Wage pressures are funded (£1.6m)
- Price and energy inflation (£250k)
- 1% increase to the Fire Service Levy (£44k)
- Allowances for increases to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme costs, reduction in DWP Administration Grant and central contingencies (£740k)

- 4.7 In addition, the council continues to support schools by funding pay and related inflation and movement in pupil numbers. This amounts to a cash increase for schools of £1.792m (2.7% in total). The council's allocation will help continue the stabilisation of the position with school balances. However, Welsh Government have announced that the Education Improvement Grant will be cut by 11% and this will have an impact on school budgets.

- 4.8 The proposals for 2018/19 include additional revenue budget investment in Corporate Priorities of £500k. This is in addition to £1m of cash identified and agreed during 2017/18.
- 4.9 In order to fund the pressures identified, savings of £4.6m have had to be identified. These include:
- Changes to the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision policy (agreed by the full Council in September 2017) and generates ongoing savings of £2m and provides a cash buffer in 2018/19
 - Corporate savings identified in 2017/18 (£1m)
 - Service efficiency savings (£1.2m)
 - Service savings (£0.4m)
- 4.10 The budget process for 2018/19 required all services except schools to identify 1% efficiency savings and for services other than Community Support Services and Education & Children's Services to identify further savings up to 2.8%. These targets were based on MTFP assumptions last April. A process was undertaken in the autumn to review all service proposals with CET, lead members and Finance. The process also involved a detailed analysis of service budgets, income and cash reserves. An outcome from this process was to confirm efficiency savings of £1.2m to be approved and implemented by the relevant Head of Service. Details of all of the efficiency savings were circulated to members and are recorded in the online members' library. A further £411k of savings were deemed to have a level of impact on service delivery or change in delivery method. These are listed in Appendix 2 and Wellbeing Impact Assessments for each proposal are attached.
- 4.11 The council's MTFP assumptions were reviewed in July and cost pressures reassessed. While the majority of MTFP assumptions have proved correct, the level of cost pressure in adult and child social care provision showed an increase compared to previous assessments. Both areas of provision have seen cost pressures rising in recent years but the council has managed to contain the pressure by using specific cash reserves in a managed way to smooth the impact. Costs of mental health and provision to younger adults has increased beyond expectations so far in 2017/18, meaning the cash available to smooth the pressure is reduced in future years. The same issue has arisen in specialist residential placements for children, where the number of placements has increased significantly in the last year.
- 4.12 As the nature of these pressures is ongoing, it is unsustainable to manage the pressures without permanently increasing the council's funding base. As financial support from Welsh Government reduces annually, the burden has to be met locally and therefore a higher than originally planned Council Tax rise is proposed.
- 4.13 Raising the Council Tax by 4.75% will raise an additional £945k compared to the original proposal of 2.75%. This additional amount will be used as part of the overall package, which includes an additional allocation to social care of £1.5m. The proposed increase would add £56.58 per year to the average Band D property charge (£1.08 per week) and is £23.82 per year (46p per week) higher than the original proposal. This is set out in Appendix 3.

4.14 The budget proposals continue to include an element of cash funding to support the overall position. This is never an ideal position and reflects the ongoing financially difficult position the council faces. The cash identified for 2018/19 has been generated from the MRP policy review and allows cash previously identified for 2018/19 to be rolled forward into 2019/20. This will help to smooth the impact of further funding reductions in 2019/20, where based on current assumptions, there will be a budget gap of £6.4m.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 Effective management of the council's budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas, including corporate priorities. The proposals include allocations to support the new priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 As set out above.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1 Wellbeing assessments for the savings proposals in Appendix 2 and the Council Tax rise are attached. An assessment for the MRP policy change was included in the report to Council in September.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 Members were briefed on the financial position in September and following the provisional settlement announcement in October. Two specific budget briefings were held in November. SLT have been part of the budget process. Briefings with political groups have been offered by the Lead Member.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The aim of the budget process is to ensure that the council delivers a balanced budget. The uncertainty over the level financial settlements in recent years has made financial planning in already difficult circumstances even more challenging

It is seems more certain now that significant real terms funding reductions to local authorities in Wales will continue in the medium term and while the council will always endeavour to be more efficient to save money, this in itself will not be sufficient in future years. The current MTFP extract shows a saving requirement of over £6m per year for the next two years. This will have a significant impact on the shape of the council and the services it delivers.

The budget proposed for 2018/19 allows the council time to develop a budget programme and proposals for the following two financial years. The MTFP will be updated early in 2019 and will underpin the budget process for the coming two years.

Social care pressures are an ongoing risk for this and all other councils. The proposals in 2018/19 help to mitigate the demand and cost pressure but it is not sufficient to fully fund all of the underlying pressures permanently. Cost pressures in other service areas are being contained but pose a risk to future years.

If the proposals in this report are not accepted, alternative proposals must be submitted to balance the budget.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 The budget process itself is a risk management measure with the aim of identifying, assessing and agreeing budget proposals in a planned and timely way.

10.2 Failure to agree these proposals without viable alternatives will risk achieving a balanced budget for 2018/19.

11. Powers to make the Decision

11.1 Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

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Appendix 1 Financial Projection - as at December 2017 - Final

	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000
Funding				
Revenue Support Grant & NNDR (RSG)	140,474	143,119	140,972	138,858
Council Tax	46,656	49,299	51,019	52,486
SSA / Budget Requirement	187,130	192,418	191,992	191,343
Use of Balances	2,122	2,000	1,378	
Total Funding	189,252	194,418	193,370	191,343
Expenditure				
Base Budget	185,062	189,252	194,418	199,842
Inflation / Pressures:				
Pay	519	1,611	1,587	519
Pensions	350		350	350
National Insurance	-		-	-
Living Wage	500			500
Price - targeted	125	100	100	100
Price - NSI Energy	395	150	150	150
CTRS / Contingency	350	740	350	350
Fire Levy	161	44	100	100
Social Services	750	750	500	500
Childrens Service		750		
Transport	300			
Apprenticeship Levy	500			
Schools Protection	1,246	1,502	1,000	1,000
Schools Demography Adjustment	656	290	787	787
Contingency				
Other known items:				
Investment in Priorities	200	500	500	500
Transfers into/out of Settlement	68	2,934		
New Responsibilities	327	406		
EFFICIENCIES / SAVINGS:				
Capital and Corporate Savings	(1,355)	(2,000)		
Other Corporate Savings		(1,000)		
Service Efficiency Target	(902)	(1,200)		
Service Savings Target		(411)		
Total Expenditure	189,252	194,418	199,842	204,698
Funding Shortfall / (Available)	(0)	(0)	6,472	13,354
Annual increase/(decrease) in shortfall	0	0	6,473	6,883
Key Assumptions				
Settlement %	0.62%	-0.20%	-1.50%	-1.50%
Council Tax Increase % Band D	2.75%	4.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Schools Protection	1.93%	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Appendix 2 Summary of Saving Proposals - December 2017

Ref	OLD REF	RAYG	Service	Saving Title	Category	Further Description	2018/19 £000
BIM SP001	BIM SP006	Yellow	Business Improvement and Modernisation	ICT - revisions to staffing structure	Efficiency - no negative effect on service levels but may impact on staffing	Reduction in capacity will have an impact on the delivery capability of the service	-52
HES SP001	HES SP001	Yellow	Highways and Environmental Services	Deliver Trade Waste service via external contractor	Efficiency - no negative effect on service levels but may impact on staffing	This service is at best breakeven and potentially loss making due to lack of volume. Building volume is a slow, costly process that runs at a loss in the short to medium term. Proposal is for DCC to retain the customers but outsource the service to the private sector to retain the recycling percentage.	-252
HES SP001	HES SP002	Yellow	Highways and Environmental Services	Deletion of Archaeologist post following retirement	Alternative commissioning / procurement / service delivery	This means that there will be no support for the Authority for Archaeology from April 2018 because the service will cease. Performance in this area will reduce. Archaeological advice and guidance is a county-wide function, so this reduction in service will have an impact on several services, including: Planning; Property; Highways; Tourism; and Heritage. Expertise will be lost, and we may have to bring in consultants in certain circumstances because the authority will need to ensure its Archaeology and Heritage responsibilities are given due consideration. CADW will expect important and protected sites are conserved and managed.	-42
LHD SP001	LHD SP001	Yellow	Legal, HR & Democratic Services	End additional funding for external events from Civic budget (£4.5k)	Service Reduction/withdrawal	The Civic budget, has, for several years, supported/sponsored an evening concert at Llangollen Eisteddfod (£3,500) and has also supported the annual North Wales International Musical Festival in St Asaph (£1,000) p.a. The tickets provided to us as part of the sponsorship package at Llangollen Eisteddfod are used mainly to invite civic dignitaries from the other North Wales authorities. Despite previous efforts, we have been unable to use the tickets to enhance business or tourism opportunities for DCC. Denbighshire County Council already provides substantial financial support to the Llangollen Eisteddfod via the Facilities Management Team who provide an array of services at the site (up to £65,000 - total amount to be confirmed)	-5
PPP SP001	PPP SP002	Green	Planning and Public Protection	Reduce Small Business Development Grant Budget	Alternative commissioning / procurement / service delivery	The Small Business Grant Scheme was introduced by the former Economic Ambition Board in 2015/16 to support the then Corporate Priority of developing the economy. £120k of revenue was annually committed to the grant. Given the need for further corporate savings and the adoption of new Priorities within the latest Corporate Plan retaining this grant is now difficult to justify. It is proposed to take £60k from the grant towards 18/19 savings. The remaining £60k will be reallocated to support similar, but new priorities in the Corporate Plan (e.g. assist young people to gain employment)	-60
TOTAL							-411

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Appendix 3

2018/19	Increase %	Increase in Band D £	Proposed Band D £	Total Funding £000	Inc/Dec in Funding £000
	0.00%	0.00	1,191.26	46,990	-1,296
	0.50%	5.96	1,197.22	47,226	-1,060
	1.00%	11.91	1,203.17	47,461	-825
	1.50%	17.87	1,209.13	47,697	-589
	1.75%	20.85	1,212.11	47,815	-471
	2.00%	23.83	1,215.09	47,933	-353
	2.25%	26.80	1,218.06	48,050	-236
	2.50%	29.78	1,221.04	48,168	-118
Original Assumption in MTFP	2.75%	32.76	1,224.02	48,286	0
	3.00%	35.74	1,227.00	48,404	118
	3.25%	38.72	1,229.98	48,522	236
	3.50%	41.69	1,232.95	48,639	353
	3.75%	44.67	1,235.93	48,757	471
	4.00%	47.65	1,238.91	48,875	589
	4.25%	50.63	1,241.89	48,993	707
	4.50%	53.61	1,244.87	49,111	825
Revised Proposal November	4.75%	56.58	1,247.84	49,228	942
	5.00%	59.56	1,250.82	49,346	1,060

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ICT Savings proposal 2018/19

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	340
Brief description:	A proposal to reduce the staffing in ICT to deliver a financial saving
Date Completed:	30/11/2017 14:50:30 Version: 2
Completed by:	Alan Smith
Responsible Service:	Business Improvement & Modernisation
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Does it need more thought?

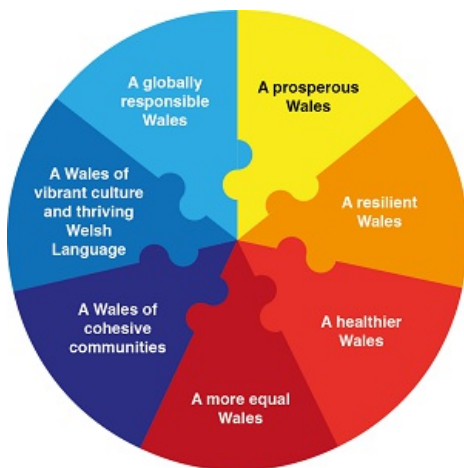


(1 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 7 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



A prosperous Denbighshire	Negative
A resilient Denbighshire	Neutral
A healthier Denbighshire	Neutral
A more equal Denbighshire	Negative
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Neutral
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Neutral

Main conclusions

This proposal is intended to create a financial saving for the Council, in order that other services can be sustained. It will mean a reduction in the capacity of ICT to deliver its service, which may impact the plans of other areas, but the service itself will not be fundamentally threatened. The proposal will entail a small reduction in job opportunities for Denbighshire residents.

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	There will be a reduction in employment opportunities within DCC

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Will impact on jobs available at DCC
Will reduce opportunities for skills development in DCC

Mitigating actions:

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	This change will have no real impact on the external environment

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	This change is likely to have no perceivable impact on the overall health of the community

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
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Justification for impact	There will, be fewer job opportunities for Denbighshire residents
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Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Reduced employment opportunities in Denbighshire

Mitigating actions:

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

Council Tax 2018/19

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	360
Brief description:	It is a proposed rise in Council Tax of 4.75% in order to support the 2018/19 budget.
Date Completed:	16/01/2018 12:39:14 Version: 1
Completed by:	Richard Weigh
Responsible Service:	Finance
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Could some small changes in your thinking produce a better result?

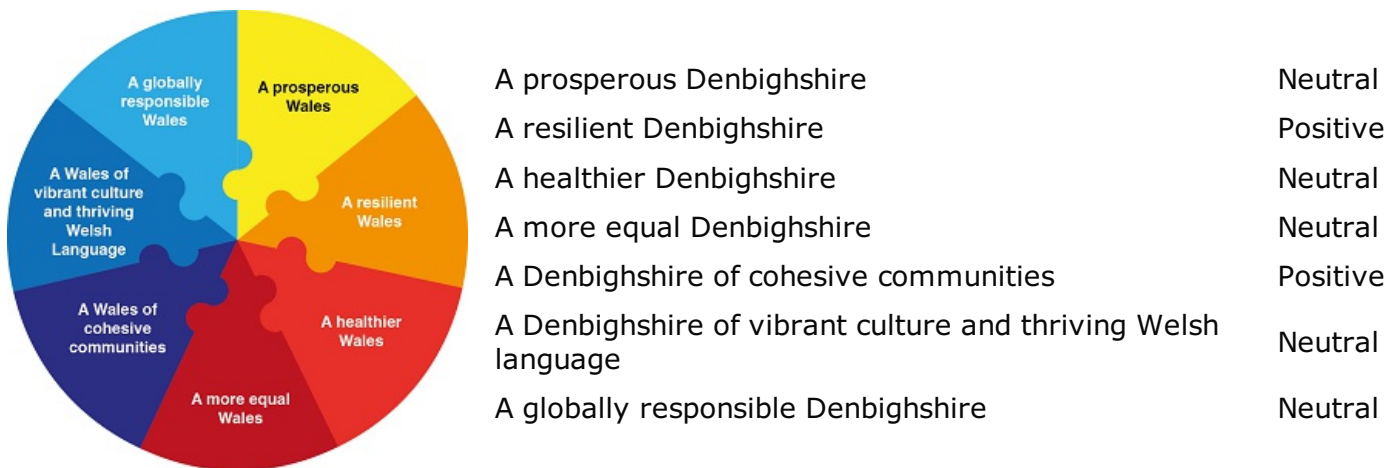


(3 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 20 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



Main conclusions

The focus of the proposal is on the short-medium term to maintain vital services in 2018/19. The impacts are broadly neutral. This is because the Council Tax rise proposed supports a budget that protects existing service levels and increases investment in social care, schools and in new priorities. Clearly the impact is the increased tax paid by residents. The main mitigation is that around 25% of tax payers receive financial support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. However, it is recognised that for some taxpayers, the proposed rise will create an additional financial burden, particularly for those with relatively fixed incomes or little disposable income. For such residents, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to offer support with personal budgeting and benefit maximisation.

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Whilst the Council Tax rise will increase the amount paid, it also allows the council to increase funding to provision in key areas such as social care and schools and maintain service levels generally throughout other areas during 2018/19. The impact on our local economy, skills and employment is considered to be neutral.

Positive consequences identified:

Allows the council to continue existing financial provision in 2018/19.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

There will be an impact on the personal budgets of those who will not qualify for support: residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax reduction scheme for those who qualify for such support.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Council Tax rise proposed supports a budget that includes investment in key areas highlighted such as biodiversity and flood risk management.

Positive consequences identified:

The Council Tax rise supports a budget that includes new priorities, including enhancing biodiversity, the natural environment and flood risk management.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be maintained in 2018/19. Not implementing the proposed rise would inevitably lead to reductions in service provision.

Positive consequences identified:

The Council Tax proposal supports a budget that maintains activity and service levels in 2018/19 and provides increased funding for social care.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

In some circumstances, where residents have relatively fixed incomes or little disposable income and do not qualify for support, the additional cost may cause a degree of anxiety or stress.

Mitigating actions:

Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax reduction scheme for those who qualify for such support. Help to those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, flexible payment options are available. Also, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be maintained in 2018/19 without cutting important services. There are no known negative impacts on people with protected characteristics, there is an assumption that some people with protected characteristics will be eligible for council tax relief

Positive consequences identified:

The proposals allow for additional funding to be allocated to social care budgets. There are no known negative impacts on people with protected characteristics, there is an assumption that some people with protected characteristics will be eligible for council tax relief.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Residents will pay more Council Tax. Those who qualify will be supported by the Council Tax reduction scheme. There will be some residents who do not qualify and for whom the tax rise will be an additional burden.

Mitigating actions:

Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. If someone is eligible for Council Tax support, the support applies immediately and so there would be no delay in accessing the support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively

with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be maintained in 2018/19 and for investment in new priority areas to enhance community resilience.

Positive consequences identified:

The proposal allows for service levels to be maintained during 2018/19 and builds in priority investment in connecting communities and resilience as part of the priority funding for 2018/19.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be maintained in 2018/19 so should not have any negative impact on the Welsh Language.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be maintained in 2018/19 and so should not impact supply chains or service provision.

Positive consequences identified:

The proposal allows for service levels to be maintained during 2018/19.

Unintended negative consequences identified:**Mitigating actions:**

Residents will pay more Council Tax - however there is support via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for those who qualify for such support. For those who do not qualify for Council Tax Reduction Scheme support, the Council works closely and proactively with Citizens Advice to provide help and support with personal budgeting to those residents who may require it. Flexible payment options are available over ten or twelve months.

Outsourcing Commercial Waste Operations

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	329
Brief description:	Outsourcing operation of commercial waste collection (currently 2 members of staff perform this duty).
Date Completed:	21/11/2017 13:34:07 Version: 1
Completed by:	Jim Espley
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Does it need more thought?

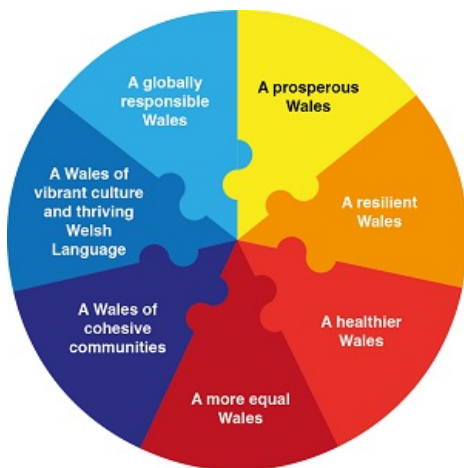


(1 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 7 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



A prosperous Denbighshire	Neutral
A resilient Denbighshire	Neutral
A healthier Denbighshire	Neutral
A more equal Denbighshire	Neutral
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Neutral
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Neutral

Main conclusions

The outsourcing of commercial waste operations has no material impacts on the wellbeing factors (the same operation will be undertaken, same waste will be collected, same amount of fuel will be used etc) - the procurement purely involves switching an operation from one provider to another,

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The procurement is to contract out the operation of the commercial waste collections. The carbon impact, jobs etc will be the same regardless of whether Denbighshire undertakes the service or it is contracted out

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The procurement is to contract out the operation of the commercial waste collections. The impact of the operation is the same regardless of whether Denbighshire undertakes the service or it is contracted out

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The procurement of outsourcing commercial waste operations does not relate to this category

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
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Justification for impact	The procurement of outsourcing commercial waste operations does not relate to this category
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Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The procurement of outsourcing commercial waste operations does not relate to this category

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The procurement of outsourcing commercial waste operations does not relate to this category

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The procurement of outsourcing commercial waste operations does not relate to this category

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

Savings Proposal: Non-replacement of County Archaeologist following retirement

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	330
Brief description:	The County Archaeologist is currently on flexible retirement and will be leaving the Authority on 31/03/2018. The salary has been put forward as a budget saving for 2018-19. This WIA will consider the impacts of this proposal.
Date Completed:	24/11/2017 09:34:05 Version: 2
Completed by:	Huw Rees
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Could you do more to make your approach more sustainable?

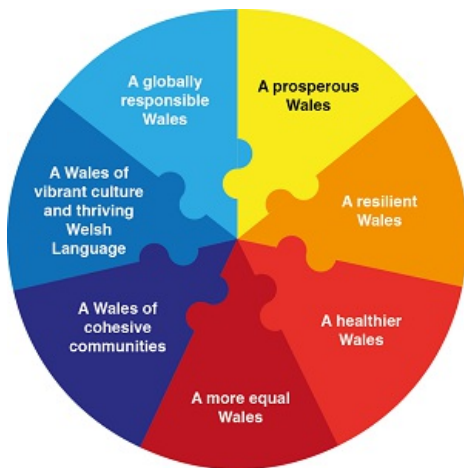


(2 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 9 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



A prosperous Denbighshire	Negative
A resilient Denbighshire	Negative
A healthier Denbighshire	Negative
A more equal Denbighshire	Negative
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Negative
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Negative
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Negative

Main conclusions

This proposal would result in the loss of a post that has a specific role and represents wholly the authority's delivery of that role. Any analysis of this will inevitably produce a negative impact. It is a loss of service. However, it should be recognised that Denbighshire is one of only a few Local Authorities [LAs] in Wales that have a County Archaeologist [CA] and the only one in North Wales [Snowdonia National Park has a similar post]. This results in our historic landscape being well promoted, protected and embedded in our planning, countryside, economic and tourism activities. Some of this would still be present when the post is gone but inevitably the focus will not be as strong. Other LAs manage to protect their historic environment but not to the degree that Denbighshire has. The County has used it to bring in grants [Heritage Lottery Fund being the most notable], engage communities, support the success of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty [AONB] and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site and underpin tourism and economic regeneration, particularly in the rural areas. However, given the tough economic climate and the pressure for savings, there is a bigger picture. The retirement of the post holder provides an opportunity to make a saving and prevent the potential redundancy of other staff in the Countryside Service.

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The County Archaeologist role makes a positive contribution to the economic wellbeing of the County and the wider area, in terms of tourism, conservation of the historic and cultural environment and landscape projects. This expertise may be found elsewhere but will be less easy to access and probably cost more if it is removed from the Authority.

Positive consequences identified:

The retirement of the CA provides an opportunity to make obligatory savings for the Countryside and Heritage Service. Taking this opportunity means that other staff may be protected from redundancy [for at least another year].

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The CA is constantly aiming to improve the condition and knowledge of the County's Historic Environment. A better quality historic environment is intrinsically good, but also good for residents and tourists alike. Examples of projects which have achieved this are Castell Dinas Brân, Clive Engine House, Dyserth, Gop cairn (in the AONB), Jubilee Tower, Moel Famau, several of the areas hillforts in both public and private ownership. Following on from projects such as the Heather and Hillforts project, there have been a number of archaeological excavations in the area, particularly at Penycloddiau, Moel y Gaer Bodfari and on the slopes outside Moel Arthur. The historic environment is good for tourism and rural economic regeneration. Having that expertise in the Authority raises the profile and embeds it into the work of the Authority. The CA was strongly involved in the World Heritage Site in the Dee Valley.

This proposal involves a retirement and a loss of a service/role for the Authority. The expertise will be lost and over time the focus on archaeology that currently exists in the County will wane. As part of the role, the CA was involved with volunteers, school placements and university projects in the County.

Mitigating actions:

Arrangements could be made with CPAT [Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust] to provide some services as replacements. These would be under SLAs or specific project briefs and would, by their nature, be less flexible. Certainly planning application consultations will need to be undertaken as archaeology is a 'material consideration' in the planning process.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The CA is instrumental in maintaining a high profile for all aspects of the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. When the post is gone, there will be less of an emphasis on this work and resilience will be diminished.

Positive consequences identified:

The saving from the retirement will protect other staff in the Service who also have a strong role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Currently the CA is involved in the protection and enhancement of the historic landscape of Denbighshire - ruined castles [Dinas Bran] ,Iron Age Hillforts, parkland and caves for example. Any reduction in their protection will possibly result in a negative impact on biodiversity as a natural progression.

Historic buildings and structures are , by their nature, closely associated with wildlife and often provide ideal habitat for protected species. The CA is involved in the protection of these types of buildings and structures. This work, by default helps biodiversity and wildlife. The bats at Nant Clwyd y Dre is a good example and there have been many other incidents of this connection. If this type of work reduces there is likely to be a negative impact on biodiversity, habitats and species.

The role of County Archaeologist inputs into interpretation of the historic environment in the County and the AONB, leaflets about particular sites (Dinas Bran, Gop, Hillforts) as well as contributions to other more general information eg. Limestone Legacy leaflet, Community Miles, panels on sites like Hillforts, Dinas Bran soon to be OPL projects If this expertise is lost the information for interpretation material will take longer to find and potentially will be more generalised. The CA is involved in publicity for the historic environment, event organisation, walks, talks and written materials. This is likely to be 'light touch' in the future.

Mitigating actions:

CPAT can be contracted to complete various aspects of the role and other ecological contractors can be engaged to undertake specific activities but this work will be infrequent and limited in its scope.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The proposal will inevitably reduce the opportunities for engagement with the historic landscape.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Currently, in the county, the historic landscape is promoted and is relatively accessible for recreation. Walks and events are also held in the historic environment. This gives opportunities to encourage residents' health and wellbeing. Protection of the intrinsic value of the historic landscape has benefits for peoples' health/ wellbeing. The CA is involved in all this activity

As above in health and wellbeing. The CA organised archaeological 'digs' open to the public and volunteers as well as other walks and events. Archaeology is popular with older people and the events and walks are very well attended by that demographic.

There is a proven strong link between engagement with the outdoors and green environment and individuals' emotional and mental health- eco therapy. Opportunities to visit the historic environment of the county contributed to that agenda.

Mitigating actions:

The countryside service can continue to offer opportunities to engage with the historic environment and landscape but it will not have quite the focus that it currently has.

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The proposal may have a negative impact on access to green outdoor space and the natural environment and consequently reduce the opportunities for people with protected characteristics..

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The proposal may have a negative impact on access to green outdoor space and the natural environment.

Mitigating actions:

Ensure that any remaining or new opportunities for the public to engage with the historic environment are accessible to all as is reasonably possible.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The CA is active in numerous communities throughout the County and local communities have an interest in their local history. This support and expertise will be reduced.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The proposal reduces engagement and volunteering opportunities for residents and visitors. The CA is involved in the protection of the historic environment- landscape, houses, monuments etc. This improves the look and appearance of the County[the work at Dinas Bran is a good example- led by the CA] and contributes to resilient communities and tourism.

Mitigating actions:

The Countryside Service will continue to work to improve the historic landscape of the County and engage communities to protect their local environment, through community volunteering and support.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	As an important aspect of the culture and heritage of the County, the historic landscape will be less well considered as a result of this proposal.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The Welsh language is synonymous with the landscape and protecting and enhancing the latter improves the former. History and culture are interwoven in place names and landscape descriptions. The CA's work helps the conservation of the Welsh language. The CA is primarily involved in conserving and enhancing culture and heritage - buildings of cultural or historical importance, special sites, monuments and landmarks.

Mitigating actions:

Countryside and Heritage services will endeavour to continue to protect and enhance the heritage of the county where it is able.

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The historic environment and landscape has intrinsic worth. Its protection benefits the County, Wales and contributes to global historic diversity. The proposal might reduce our ability to contribute to that diversity.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Planning Services may be less able to find information about the historic landscape to help with planning decisions and to protect the historic environment. The AONB has objectives to protect and enhance the historic landscape of the protected area. These objectives might be more difficult to fulfil when the CA leaves.

Mitigating actions:

Develop a robust SLA with CPAT to deliver the Planning aspects of the CA's current work. This will help to protect the historic environment under threat from development.

Proposed 100% cut to Small Business Development Grant Scheme

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	339
Brief description:	It is proposed that the current £120k Small Business Development Grant Scheme is removed from the range of services offered by the Council to support local business growth and employment creation
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Planning & Public Protection
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Does it need more thought?

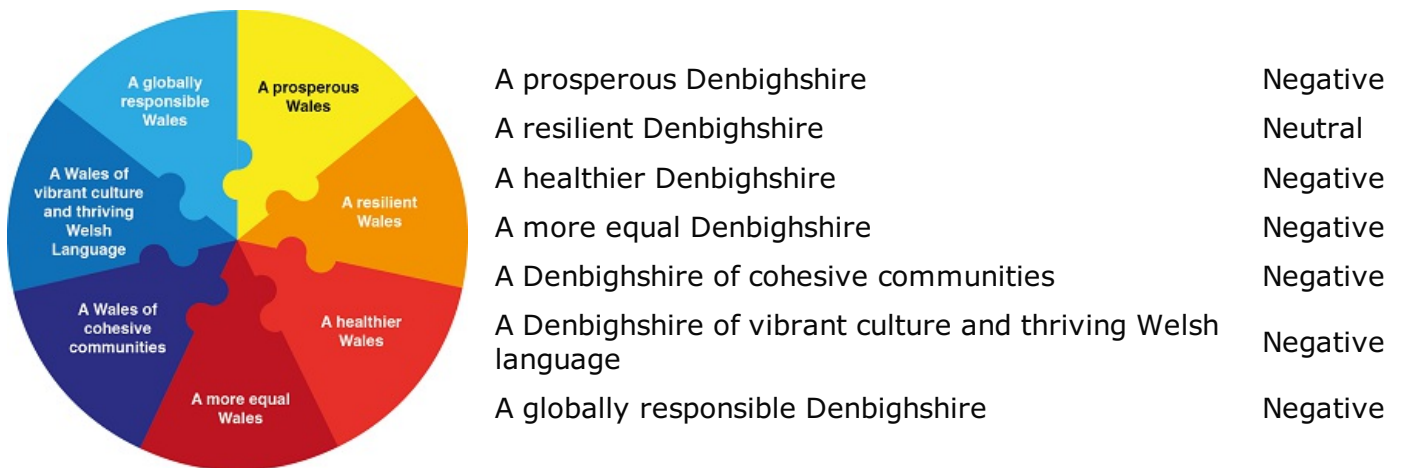


(1 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 7 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



Main conclusions

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	Grants Approved since 2016: 56 Local businesses supported Grants Paid: £147,264.62 Private Sector Investment levered into local economy: £189,028.44 Jobs Created to date: 31 local jobs Jobs to be created in next 6 months from grants approved but not yet claimed: 8 part time, 1 apprentice Average cost to the council per job created to date is £4,750.45. Average total cost of creating a job through the scheme has been £10,848.16 per job created. This is a significantly lower cost to the public purse than sustaining a local person on benefit. The impact will result in lost future potential to create similar economic / employment impact to that listed above

Positive consequences identified:

lower business growth may mean less carbon produced locally in the manufacture / delivery of goods & services
residents may seek better paid jobs in other counties / North West England
fewer local businesses / reduced economic activity reduces vehicular traffic

Unintended negative consequences identified:

businesses may not be supported to implement more efficient production methods which results in higher than necessary local carbon emissions
fewer businesses start up locally fewer local businesses expand private sector investment is not levered local businesses unable to secure investment stagnate Welsh Government match funds not levered Business confidence is lowered Denbighshire loses its main current competitive advantage as a better place to do business than other counties because it does not offer financial incentives to investors Business Wales choose other counties as first port of call EBD Team receive fewer enquiries from businesses that reduce opportunities to cross promote support from other service areas e.g. Planning, Public Protection Negative response from wider business community
fewer local job opportunities for local residents greater reliance on non-local sources of employment increases risk to families Potential increased benefit claims
reduced investment in developing skills within local businesses local business skills stagnate local businesses do not achieve quality marks that enable them to win orders e.g. ISO9000/1
fewer local jobs require more commuting to find work, increasing congestion
loss of demand for childcare locally as parents travel further afield to find work fewer local jobs requires less local childcare provision

Mitigating actions:

Promote other ways in which the council provides support to business / local employment creation
Replace the scheme with a business loans scheme that recycles the investment Work closely with local business organisations (FSB, WCNWCC) to help them understand the financial pressures faced by the council and the alternatives to cutting business grant support

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Positives may balance out negatives

Positive consequences identified:

less locally produced product will result in less local waste
 lower rates of economic activity will involve less consumption locally

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Businesses less likely to invest in higher risk / more efficient processing operations without assistance from grant monies
 Local residents will travel further afield to find work Local businesses will continue to outsource supply of goods and services rather than expand into producing them locally, resulting in greater delivery miles

Mitigating actions:

Promote efficient business operations and links for local businesses to other support organisations that offer advice. Provide more information / case study examples of local businesses that have achieved a positive return on investment from waste / energy reduction initiatives.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	A number of local businesses have approached the scheme to date with significant business issues that we have been able to help them with - either by referring to more appropriate sources of help and advice or by working with them to develop proposals to grow the business to a point where it is sustainable. The proposal to cut business grant support will in these instances make it harder for local businesses to survive by removing a source of last resort funding.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The majority of businesses in the county are micro businesses that have one owner who is responsible for all aspects of the business. Those supported by the Small Business Grants Scheme have already been denied other sources of financial support e.g. bank loans and the council is the funder of last resort. Removing support for businesses at this stage will reduce our opportunity to engage with and help - on a wider range of topics - small business owners under considerable pressure.

Mitigating actions:

Promote sources of mental health support for local business owners Encourage business owners to network, share experiences and develop supportive relationships with a wider range of business support providers

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	Jobs further afield are harder to obtain and financially less viable when travel is required. This is particularly so for low income families. Local employment supported by the Small Business Development Grant Scheme offers accessible local opportunity. When businesses apply to the scheme they are linked up with Employment Support Agencies in order to try and secure the jobs / apprenticeships created for people on low incomes / unemployed - this opportunity will be lost.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Opportunity to access local employment as a route out of poverty is reduced.

Mitigating actions:

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	Businesses facing significant change / competition will not be able to access match funding that supports them to adapt more rapidly or to take advantage of opportunities presented to them that may build their resilience e.g. local businesses have benefitted through the scheme from support to export their products in the face of dwindling local markets, enabling them to be more resilient.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Businesses will be less resilient to change

Mitigating actions:

Signpost businesses looking to adapt to change towards other agencies for practical (though non financial) support

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	Grants are provided to enable Small Businesses to develop their use of Welsh in the business and as a sales and marketing tool e.g. bilingual signage, bilingual staff development, point of sale material, menus, bilingual website and social media operations etc. This offers people the opportunity to shop and work through the medium of Welsh. Because many businesses see the financial returns of investing in Welsh as too low the Business Development Grant Scheme has provided an incentive.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Reduced council influence on opportunities for people to speak Welsh
Reduced promotion of Welsh in business
Reduced visibility of the Welsh language in town centres

Mitigating actions:

Reduce the level of the proposed cut from 100% to 90% in order to retain funds for incentivising the use of Welsh in Business

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
Justification for impact	The Small Business Grants Scheme is widely promoted and attracts a good level of enquiries from local businesses - it acts as an incentive to contact the council. These enquiries are in turn shared with Business Wales who provide a business planning support service that results in better, more viable business plans. Removing a major incentive to engage with the council will reduce business contact and the subsequent level of referrals to business Wales that enable other aspects of business support to be delivered to business in the county. Where Business Wales are able to access finance to support some small business ventures this must be match funded - reducing available match funding limits the extent to which WG money can be drawn down by local businesses.

Positive consequences identified:

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Reduced effectiveness of Business Wales in Denbighshire
Reduced Welsh Government Investment in Denbighshire
A less attractive region in which to do business

Mitigating actions:

Report To:	Full Council
Date of Meeting:	30th January 2018
Lead Member / Officer:	Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh, Chief Finance Officer
Report Author:	Dawn Davies, Service Delivery Manager / Steve Gadd, Chief Accountant
Title:	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19

1. What is the report about?

The adoption of the All Wales Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the All Wales Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Amendments Regulations 2018.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contained provisions to abolish council tax benefit in its current form across the UK. From 31 March 2013 council tax benefit ceased and the responsibility for providing support for council tax and the funding associated with it, has been passed to the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government, in partnership with local authorities in Wales, introduced a new scheme to provide council tax support which was adopted by the Council in January 2013.

The Welsh Government have finalised both sets of regulations on 9th January 2018 and the new Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and amendments Regulations 2018 are required to be adopted by 31st January 2018.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members adopt the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Amendments Regulations 2018, in respect of the 2018/19 financial year.

That members approve the 3 discretionary elements of the scheme, shown in section 4.2, for 2018/19.

4. Report details

4.1 The Proposed Scheme 2018/19

In considering the development of a new scheme for 2018/19 the Welsh Government agreed that the amended scheme should observe the following parameters:

- To continue with a single nationally defined scheme to providing a consistent level of support to claimants across Wales. The maximum level of support is set at 100%.
- To continue providing a small number of discretionary elements, similar to those available under the current scheme, allowing local authorities to respond to their

differing local circumstances (provided that the costs of any local variation are locally funded).

- To continue to be based on a reform of the previous Council Tax Benefit system, until 2019-20 so that operational risks are managed and that support can continue to be provided.

Uprating for 2018-19

The 2013 CTRS Regulations are amended in order to uprate certain financial figures for 2018-19 used to calculate entitlement to a reduction for non-passported applicants.

A number of other figures included in the 2013 CTRS Regulations will be amended, these include:

- **Personal allowances in relation to working age, carer and disabled premiums.**

The financial figures in respect of these allowances have been amended and have increased in line with the cost of living rises. The convention is to uprate in line with the Consumer Price Index September figure from the previous year (which is 3.0% for 2018-19). As the Welfare Reform and Work Act has frozen the uprating of working age allowances in social security benefits, the effect of increasing these allowances within CTRS is that they will no longer be aligned with similar components in Housing Benefit.

- **Personal allowances in relation to pensioners.**

The financial figures in respect of pensioner rates have been amended and are aligned with Housing Benefit. These have been calculated with assistance from the Department of Work and Pensions following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2017 and have been uprated by different mechanisms. For example, the Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee is uprated by earnings, whereas the Additional Pension and increments are uprated by prices.

- **Non-dependant deductions**

The financial figures in relation to both the income bands and deductions made in relation to 'non-dependants' will be uprated. If amendments are not made, appropriate deductions would not be made from CTRS awards as the income thresholds would no longer reflect average earnings and the deduction would no longer reflect the overall cost of council tax.

Additional Amendments

In addition to the uprating of financial figures, a number of consequential amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations are required to ensure the 2013 Regulations remain up to date and fit for purpose.

- Amendments are made in relation to Employment Support Allowance (ESA). The Work-Related Activity Component paid to those in the ESA (Work Related Activity Group) was abolished for New Claims from 3.4.2017 and the equivalent element in Universal Credit will also be abolished. However, there will be some cases which will continue to have access to the Work Related Activity Group, Consequential

textual amendments will be made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to ensure they remain up to date.

- In April 2018, Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 will be commenced for certain purposes. Part 1 of the Act will replace the regime for the regulation and inspection of social care settings in Wales. When fully implemented, these provisions will replace the regulation of social care establishments and agencies under the Care Standards Act 2000. Part 1 of the Act will be commenced in respect of the following settings from April 2018, a care home service, a secure accommodation service, a residential family service and a domiciliary support service. Changes are made to the CTRS 2013 Regulations to reflect the new service.
- Bereavement Support Payment was introduced for surviving spouses and civil partners who were widowed after April 2017. Changes have been made to the 2013 CTRS regulations to ensure these payments are not included in the Capital and Income disregards list.
- Two charitable funds were created in 2017 to help victims of terrorist attacks called We Love Manchester Emergency Fund and London Emergencies Trust. Changes will be made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to ensure these payments are included in the list of income and capital disregards.
- The Welsh Infected Blood scheme (Wales) was introduced in Wales to provide financial support to people infected with HIV or Hepatitis C following NHS treatment with contaminated blood in the 1970's and 80's. The 2013 CTRS regulations will be changed to ensure the payments are disregarded in the calculation of income and capital for the purpose of assessing a person's entitlement to a Council Tax Reduction.
- Payments made to victims of National Socialist persecution by Governments of Germany and Austria have a weekly £10 disregard applied to CTRS in Wales. The 2013 CTRS Regulations will be amended so that payments made to victims of National Socialist persecution by the Netherlands Government will be treated in the same way.
- The Thalidomide Trust administers the Thalidomide Health Grant on behalf of the Department of Health. Payments from the Trust are intended to assist with meeting health – related costs of people whose disabilities were caused by Thalidomide use. The 2013 CTRS Regulations will be amended to ensure that such payments are to be fully disregarded in the calculation of capital for the purposes of assessing a person's entitlement to a Council Tax reduction and when determining the income of non-dependants.

4.2 **Discretionary Elements for Council decision**

- a) The ability to increase the standard extended payment period of 4 weeks given to people after they return to work, when they have been in receipt of a relevant qualifying benefit for at least 26 weeks
- b) Discretion to disregard part or the whole amount of War Disablement pensions and War Widows Pensions when calculating income

- c) The ability to backdate, for up to 6 months, any application of Council Tax Support awards for working age customers more than the standard period of 3 months prior to the claim.

4.3 The Welsh Government undertook a formal consultation exercise on the current scheme and potential changes, enabling it to be cost neutral to Local Authorities. Representation was made by many organisations, including Denbighshire County Council, suggesting amendments to the scheme.

After due consideration it was decided to continue with the scheme as is , with any shortfall between the amount of reduction granted and the specific grant received being owned by the Local Authority.

Unfortunately the Welsh Government has also decided that the funding levels for the scheme are to remain at the 2013/14 levels, which created a budgetary pressure in 2017/18 and will continue to do so in 2018/19.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Adopting this scheme will help vulnerable people, ensuring they live as independently as possible.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

£9.172 has been identified in the settlement for Denbighshire for Council Tax Support from the Welsh Government. However current expenditure is £9.393 and if the Net Council Tax increased by 4.46% (i.e the council's proposed increase and an allowance for changes to other precepts included in the total bill) the forecast expenditure for 2018/19 is circa £9.812m. This gives a shortfall of around £640k for 2018/19 for which budgetary provision has been made as part of the budget proposals for 2018/19.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report as the proposal is for the extension of the current scheme which was consulted on in 2012. There are no material changes proposed (and no changes to the discretionary elements), however it is a legal requirement that the scheme is formally approved by Council on an annual basis.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Not applicable as this is an extension of the current scheme, which was consulted on in 2012.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The Council is required to adopt a reduction scheme annually. As funding for CTRS has remained static across Wales for a number of years the impact of Council Tax rises on the reduction scheme has to be funded locally. The proposals in this report have been included as part of the budget proposals for 2018/19.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There are risks to the Council in not adopting this scheme, in that Denbighshire CC would then have to adopt the default scheme, which may increase the total cost.

11. Power to make the Decision

- Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013.
- The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Default Scheme)(Wales) Regulations 2013.
- Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

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Explanatory Memorandum to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by Local Government Strategic Finance Division and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in conjunction with the above subordinate legislation and in accordance with Standing Order 27.1.

Minister's Declaration

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018. I am satisfied that the benefits outweigh any costs.

Mark Drakeford
Cabinet Secretary for Finance
27 November 2017

Description

1. Council Tax Reduction Schemes (CTRS) are the mechanism through which local authorities provide support to low income households in meeting their council tax liability.
2. This statutory instrument makes amendments to both the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013 (referred to collectively in this Explanatory Memorandum as “the 2013 CTRS Regulations”). It uprates certain figures used to calculate an applicant’s entitlement to a reduction under a Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and the subsequent level of reduction.
3. This instrument also makes consequential amendments as a result of changes to the wider welfare and tax system.

Matters of special interest to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

4. None.

Legislative background

5. Section 10 of, and Schedule 4 to, the Local Government Finance Act 2012 inserted a new Section 13A and new Schedule 1B into the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the 1992 Act”). These provisions enabled the Welsh Ministers to introduce Council Tax Reduction Schemes (“CTRS”) in Wales via regulations.
6. The relevant provisions in the Local Government Finance Act 2012 were subject to a Legislative Consent Motion which was approved by the National Assembly for Wales on 26 June 2012. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 received Royal Assent on 1 November 2012.
7. This statutory instrument is laid and made under the new section 13A of, and the new Schedule 1B to, the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The instrument is subject to approval of the Assembly (the affirmative procedure).

Purpose and intended effect of the legislation

8. This statutory instrument amends the 2013 CTRS Regulations to uprate certain figures used within those Regulations to calculate entitlement to a council tax reduction, and the amount of any reduction awarded to applicants in the 2018-19 financial year. It also makes a number of consequential and technical amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to take account of related welfare benefits and ensure they remain fit for purpose.

Background

9. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contained provisions to abolish Council Tax Benefit from 31 March 2013. From 1 April 2013, responsibility for providing support for council tax devolved to local authorities in England. Fixed funding, reduced by 10% compared to 2012-13 costs, was passed to the Welsh Government and to the Scottish Government to allow the Devolved Administrations to develop replacement schemes.
10. Following the UK Government's decision, the Welsh Government sought provisions in the Local Government Finance Act 2012 which amended the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act"), to provide the Welsh Ministers with executive powers to introduce Council Tax Reduction Schemes in Wales via regulations.
11. The 2013 CTRS Regulations were approved by the National Assembly for Wales on 26 November 2013.
12. The Welsh Government provided £244m in the Local Government Settlement for CTRS for 2013-14. This was partly funded through the fixed budget of £222m which was transferred from the UK Government. The Welsh Government provided an additional £22m to enable local authorities to continue to provide all eligible applicants with their full entitlement to support. The Welsh Government has continued to provide £244m within the local government settlement each year since.

2013 CTRS Regulations

13. Aligned with the provisions in the 1992 Act, the 2013 CTRS Regulations govern the operation of CTRS in Wales. These regulations were closely based on the previous Council Tax Benefit rules and all eligible applicants were automatically transferred from Council Tax Benefit onto Council Tax Reduction Schemes from 1 April 2013.
14. If an applicant receives Income Support, Income Based JSA, Income Based ESA, Pension Credit, or Pension Credit Guarantee, they are entitled to the maximum reduction in their council tax liability. Approximately 70% of CTRS applicants in Wales receive the passported benefits.
15. If an applicant does not receive any of the passported benefits, the weekly amount of money which they are judged to need to live on is calculated. This is known as the 'applicable amount' and consists of two components:
 - The first is the personal allowance – the basic amount a person needs to live, which varies according to the household's circumstances. For example, the allowance for a couple with children is higher than for a single person without children. These allowances are also set at higher rates for those who have reached State Pension Age.

- The second component is the premium – additional amounts added to reflect any personal circumstances which increase the cost of living, such as a disability or carer’s responsibilities. Once the applicable amount has been determined, the applicant’s level of income is calculated.
16. Universal Credit (UC) recipients are treated in a similar way as non-passported applicants. However, instead of an ‘applicable amount’ being calculated, the ‘maximum amount’ (calculated within their UC application) is used instead.
 17. If the applicable amount (or maximum amount) is higher than an applicant’s calculated income, they are entitled to the maximum reduction in their council tax liability. If income exceeds the applicable amount, the weekly entitlement is reduced by 20p for each £1 of excess weekly income, until entitlement is withdrawn – this is known as the taper.
 18. Adjustments can be made to the maximum amount of reduction a person can receive to take account of adults living in the dwelling who are not dependants of the applicant and who are therefore assumed to make a financial contribution to the household (non-dependant deductions).
 19. Adjustments can also be made to take into account of savings. If an applicant has capital of £6,000 (or £10,000 for pension age claimants) or less, this will be ignored when working out whether they are entitled to CTR.
 20. If a working age applicant has capital of between £6,000 and £10,000, the local authority will treat it as income. This is known as tariff income. The local authority will assume an applicant has an income of £1 a week for each £500 of capital between £6,000 and £10,000. This will be added to other income to work out whether an applicant is entitled to CTR and how much they are entitled to.

Uprating figures for 2018-19

21. This statutory instrument amends the 2013 CTRS Regulations to uprate financial figures used to calculate entitlement to a reduction in line with Welsh Government policy.
22. The statutory instrument seeks to uprate a number of other figures included in the 2013 CTRS Regulations. These include:
 - Personal allowances in relation to working age, and carer and disabled premiums
The financial figures in respect of these allowances have been amended and have increased in line with the cost of living rises. The convention is to uprate in line with the Consumer Price Index September figure from the previous year (2017), which is 3.0%.
 - Personal allowances in relation to pensioners
The financial figures in respect of pensioner rates have been amended and are aligned with Housing Benefit. These have been calculated with

assistance from the Department of Work and Pensions following the Chancellor's Autumn Budget 2017 and have been uprated by different mechanisms. For example, the Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee is uprated by earnings, whereas the Additional Pension and increments are uprated by prices.

- Non-dependant deductions

The financial figures in relation to both the income bands and deductions made in relation to 'non-dependants' will be uprated. If amendments are not made, appropriate deductions would not be made from CTRS awards as the income thresholds would no longer reflect average earnings and the deduction would no longer reflect the overall cost of council tax.

Additional Consequential Amendments

23. In addition to the uprating of financial figures, this statutory instrument makes a number of consequential amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations. These will ensure the 2013 Regulations remain up-to-date and fit for purpose.

Changes to Employment Support Allowance (ESA)

24. ESA is an income-replacement benefit for people of working age and is currently the main income-replacement benefit for those who cannot work because of a health condition or disability. Universal Credit provides a new single system of means-tested support for people of working age who are either in or out of work. UC is gradually replacing income-related ESA as it is rolled out and becoming available in an increasing number of areas across Great Britain.

25. In the Summer Budget 2015, it was announced that the Work-Related Activity Component paid to those in the ESA (Work Related Activity Group) (WRAG) would be abolished for new claims from 3 April 2017. The equivalent element in Universal Credit will also be abolished. However, there will be some ESA cases after April which will continue to have access to the Work-Related Activity Component.

26. This statutory instrument will make consequential textual amendments to largely mirror changes made to the benefit system to the 2013 CTRS Regulations whilst maintaining reference to the Work-Related Activity Component which will continue to be payable to some applicants. This will ensure the 2013 CTRS Regulations remain up-to-date.

The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016

27. In April 2018, Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 will be commenced for certain purposes. Part 1 of the Act will replace the regime for the regulation and inspection of social care settings in Wales. When fully implemented, these provisions will replace the regulation of social care establishments and agencies under the Care Standards Act 2000.

28. Part 1 of the 2016 Act will be commenced in respect of the following settings from April 2018:

- A care home service;
- A secure accommodation service;
- A residential family service; and
- A domiciliary support service.

29. This statutory instrument makes consequential changes to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to reflect the new services provision.

Change of Circumstances

30. Last year, consequential changes were made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Prescribed Requirements and Default) Regulations 2017 to reflect an Upper Tribunal decision. The Tribunal found that, unless legislation provided otherwise, a person's earnings should only be attributed to them over the period following their receipt, rather than over the period for which they were earned. Amendments were made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to address this and to enable earnings to be attributed to applicants over the period for which they were earned.

31. An anomaly has been identified in the wording of the amending provisions and their interaction with the change of circumstances provisions in the 2013 CTRS Regulations and this statutory instrument amends that anomaly.

Changes to income and capital disregards

32. A number of payments are disregarded for the purposes of calculating 'income' and/or 'capital'. This statutory instrument will ensure these references in the 2013 Regulations remain up-to-date for 2018-19.

Bereavement Support Payments

33. If a person's husband, wife or civil partner died before 6 April 2017, they would have been entitled to a Bereavement Payment or bereavement allowance. These payments are disregarded when calculating 'income' and 'capital' within the CTRS means test.

34. A new social security benefit called Bereavement Support Payment has been introduced for surviving spouses and civil partners who are widowed after April 2017. This statutory instrument will ensure changes are made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to ensure these payments are not included in the list of capital and income disregards in respect of CTRS entitlement.

Manchester attack and compensation disregard and London Emergencies Trust

35. In 2017, two charitable funds were created to help victims of terrorist attacks:

- We Love Manchester Emergency Fund; and
- London Emergencies Trust.

36. This statutory instrument will ensure changes are made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to ensure these payments are included in the list of income and capital disregards in calculating a person's entitlement to a council tax reduction.

Approved blood scheme (England), Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (Scotland) and Welsh Infected Blood Scheme (Wales).

37. Until recently, a UK-wide scheme provided financial support to people infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C following NHS treatment with contaminated blood in the 1970's and 80's. That scheme was administered by five individual bodies contracted by the Department of Health (the Skipton Fund, the Caxton Foundation, the Macfarlane Trust, the Eileen Trust and MFET Ltd). The scheme has been replaced in England by an approved blood scheme (schemes approved by the Secretary of State); in Scotland, by the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme; and in Wales, by the Welsh Infected Blood Scheme. Payments made from those schemes are exempt from tax and are not included in HMRC or DWP calculations for tax liability or benefits purposes.

38. This statutory instrument makes the changes to the 2013 CTRS Regulations so as to ensure that payments made from each of the above schemes are disregarded in the calculation of income or capital for the purpose of assessing a person's entitlement to a council tax reduction.

National Socialist Persecution payments

39. Currently, payments made to victims of National Socialist persecution by the Governments of Germany and Austria have a weekly £10 disregard applied from a number of UK welfare benefits, including CTRS in Wales. However, similar payments made by other governments are taken into account in full.

40. Following a Housing Benefit appeal, an Upper Tribunal held that payments made to victims of National Socialist persecution by the Netherlands Government should be treated in the same way as payments made by the Austrian and German Governments.

41. This statutory instrument makes necessary changes to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to ensure these payments are included in the list of income and capital disregards in respect of CTRS entitlement.

Thalidomide Health Grant

42. The Thalidomide Trust administers the Thalidomide Health Grant on behalf of the Department of Health. Payments from the Trust are intended to assist with meeting health-related costs of people whose disabilities were caused by Thalidomide use.

43. This statutory instrument amends the 2013 Regulations to make provision that such payments are to be disregarded in the calculation of capital for the

purposes of assessing a person's entitlement to a council tax reduction and when determining the income of non-dependants.

Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

Options

Option 1 – Do nothing

44. If the financial figures used to assess the eligibility of households' allowances within the Council Tax Reduction means test remained static, the criteria used will be slightly less generous for non-passported applicants and lead to a small decrease in support in real terms.
45. The financial figures used to assess the eligibility of households with non-dependants would be out-of-date. The income thresholds would no longer reflect average earnings and the adjustment made to the final council tax reduction would no longer reflect overall cost of council tax.
46. It would also mean that consequential amendments would not be made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to take account of changes to related welfare benefits and other legislation. This could disadvantage some applicants by reducing or stopping their entitlement to support and could also create confusion for applicants and increase the administrative burden for local authorities and advice providers.

Option 2 – Make amending Regulations

47. This option would mean that amendments would be made to uprate the financial figures in the 2013 CTRS Regulations according to Welsh Government policy.
48. The financial figures in relation to working age, disability or carer rates will continue to increase with the cost of living (3.0%, as measured by CPI) for 2018-19. The personal allowances for pensioners will be uprated to align with those for Housing Benefit and the benefit system. The increase would be aligned to the UK Government's Standard Minimum Guarantee and Savings Credit.
49. The financial figures used to calculate the adjustment for non-dependant deductions would be uprated. The income thresholds in relation to non-dependants would be uprated to reflect average earnings and the non-dependant deduction from CTRS would reflect the average increase in council tax.
50. In addition, consequential and technical amendments will be made to reflect wider welfare changes made by the UK Government. This ensures Council Tax Reduction Schemes reflect changes to interrelated social security benefits which often determine entitlement to a reduction.

Costs and Benefits

Costs

Option 1 – Do nothing

51. If the financial figures for working age and pensioner allowances do not increase with the cost of living (as measured by CPI) the CTRS recipients affected would be slightly worse off in real terms.
52. The financial figures used to assess the eligibility of households with non-dependants would also be out-of-date. The calculation would no longer make a fair assessment of the income of non-dependants or the overall cost of council tax. There is a risk that this aspect of the scheme would be viewed as unfair or inequitable.
53. If the technical and consequential amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations are not made, they would no longer align with Housing Benefit provisions or other related benefits. It would lead to references being out of sync with the overall benefits system and could disadvantage certain applicants by reducing their entitlement to support. This could potentially lead to additional administrative burden on local authorities and advice providers. It may also lead to confusion for some applicants who, as a result, could be treated significantly differently under benefit schemes.

Benefits

54. Not uprating pensioner and working age figures would help to limit any increases in total reductions under Council Tax Reduction Schemes. However not uprating figures in relation to non-dependant deductions, would result in council tax reductions for relevant households being higher than they otherwise would be.

Option 2 – Make amending Regulations

Costs

55. Uprating the financial figures in respect of pensioners and working age allowances would slightly increase total reductions under Council Tax Reduction Schemes. However, if the financial figures in relation to Non-Dependant Deductions were also uprated, this would mitigate some of the increase in total reductions. Consequently, total council tax reductions are not expected to rise significantly as a result of the uprating.

Benefits

56. Uprating the financial figures in the 2013 CTRS Regulations will ensure that the personal allowance for working age applicants continues to increase in line

with the CPI (which is set at 3.0%). For example in 2018-19, the single person allowance would increase from £73.85 to £76.10 (an increase of £2.25).

57. Up-rating the financial figures in respect of the personal allowance for pensioners continues to increase in line with the standard minimum guarantee and savings credit. For example in 2018-19, the single person allowance would increase from £172.55 to £176.45 (an increase of £3.90).
58. If the financial figures in relation to non-dependant deduction rates are up-rated, this will ensure the calculation used to assess the eligibility of non-dependant households remains up-to-date. The calculation would continue to make a fair assessment of the income of non-dependants and the cost of council tax. This will ensure the system remains fair and equitable.
59. As part of these Regulations, consequential and technical amendments are made that are associated with wider welfare changes made by the UK government. This will ensure Council Tax Reduction Schemes reflect changes made to interrelated social security benefits which often determine entitlement to a reduction. It will also avoid any additional administrative burden for local authorities or advice providers.

Sectors

60. Local government and the voluntary sector were consulted during the development of proposals to introduce Council Tax Reduction Schemes in Wales.
61. This legislation will not affect the business sector.

Duties

62. In drafting these Regulations consideration has been given to the duty on Welsh Ministers to promote equality and eliminate discrimination.
63. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the introduction of the 2013 CTRS Regulations.
64. This statutory instrument is provided bilingually. Council Tax Reduction Schemes are implemented and operated by local authorities who are under general duties to comply with Welsh language and sustainable development duties.
65. Further consideration has been given as to whether CTRS could be used to improve the opportunities of persons to use the Welsh language treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. As the sole purpose of CTRS is to provide support to low-income households in meeting their council tax liability, it is considered there are no such opportunities.
66. The policy supports the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Maintaining full entitlement to CTRS will continue to help

low income households in meeting their council tax liability and as such will help to contribute to the wellbeing objectives of: a prosperous Wales; and a more equal Wales.

Competition Assessment

67. This has been scored against the competition filter test which indicated that there will be no detrimental effect on competition.

Consultation

68. No consultation has been undertaken in respect of this statutory instrument. The 2013 CTRS Regulations were consulted upon and details are provided in the Regulatory Impact Assessments accompanying those Regulations.

Post implementation review

69. Amendments are required on an annual basis to update the financial figures used to calculate entitlement to a reduction. This provides an opportunity to review the legislation.

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Draft Regulations laid before the National Assembly for Wales under section 13A(8) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for approval by resolution of the National Assembly for Wales.

DRAFT WELSH STATUTORY
INSTRUMENTS

2018 No. (W.)

COUNCIL TAX, WALES

**The Council Tax Reduction
Schemes (Prescribed Requirements
and Default Scheme) (Wales)
(Amendment) Regulations 2018**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 (“the Prescribed Requirements Regulations”) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013 (“the Default Scheme Regulations”) made under section 13A(4) and (5) of, and Schedule 1B to, the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Prescribed Requirements Regulations require each billing authority in Wales to make a scheme specifying the reductions which are to apply to amounts of council tax payable by persons, or classes of persons, whom the authority considers are in financial need. The Prescribed Requirements Regulations also set out the matters that must be included within such a scheme.

The Default Scheme Regulations set out a scheme that will take effect, in respect of dwellings situated in the area of a billing authority, if the authority fails to make its own scheme.

These Regulations amend both the Prescribed Requirements Regulations and the Default Scheme Regulations.

The amendments to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations made by regulations 4(a)(i) to (v), 5, 9(a)(i) to (v) and 10(a), (c) and (e) increase certain figures that are used in calculating whether a person is

entitled to a reduction and the amount of that reduction. The uprated figures relate to non-dependant deductions (adjustments made to the maximum amount of reduction a person can receive to take account of adults living in the dwelling who are not dependants of the applicant); and the applicable amount in relation to an application for a reduction (the amount against which an applicant's income is compared in order to determine the amount of reduction to which the applicant is entitled). The same amendments are made in relation to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 17(a) to (e), 24 and 25(a), (c) and (e).

The amendments to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations made by regulations 3(a)(iii) and (c), 4(d)(ii), 6, 9(d)(ii) and (iii), 10(b) and (d) and 11 are made in consequence of provision in sections 15 and 16 of the Welfare Reform Act 2016. From 3 April 2017, generally entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance is based on whether or not a person has limited capability for work rather than receipt of the Employment and Support Allowance work-related activity component. Regulation 3(a)(iii) inserts a new definition into regulation 2 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations namely, "member of a work-related activity group". The subsequent amendments introduce references to an applicant or applicant's partner being a member of a work-related activity group or having limited capability for work. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 16(a)(iii) and (c), 17(f), 22(b) and (c), 25(b) and (d), 26 and 28.

The amendments to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations made by regulations 3(b), 4(d)(i) and 9(d)(i) are made in consequence of provision in the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 ("the 2016 Act"). Regulation 3(b) amends the definition of "care home" to include reference to a care home service within the meaning of Part 1 of the 2016 Act. Regulations 4(d)(i) and 9(d)(i) substitute the reference to a domiciliary care worker with reference to a person who is employed, or engaged under a contract for services, to provide care and support by the provider of a domiciliary support service within the meaning of Part 1 of the 2016 Act. Regulation 16(b) makes the same amendment to the definition of "care home" in the Default Scheme Regulations, and the substituted reference to domiciliary care home worker is inserted by regulation 22(a).

The amendment to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations made by regulation 4(b)(i) is made in consequence of the Pensions Act 2014 which replaces the bereavement allowance and payment with a bereavement support allowance. The reference to "bereavement payment" in the provision dealing with

the meaning of income in respect of pensioners has been replaced with “bereavement support payment”. The same amendment is made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulation 18(a).

The amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations by regulations 3(a)(i), (ii), (iv), (v) and (d), 8(a), 9(a)(vii), (c), (e) and (f), 12(b), 13(a) and (b) and 14 define and add an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust and the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund to the list of schemes or trusts payments from which are to be disregarded in the calculation of income or capital for the purposes of assessing a person’s entitlement to a council tax reduction. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 16(a)(i), (ii), (iv), (v) and (d), 17(g), 21, 23, 29(b), 30(a) and 31(a) to (c).

The amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations by regulations 4(c) and 9(b) clarify the date on which an applicant’s earnings are taken into account where an applicant commences employment or an applicant’s earnings change in order to provide consistency with corresponding provision in the Regulations regarding a change of circumstances. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 19 and 20.

The amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations by regulations 4(a)(vii), 8(b), 9(a)(viii) and (ix) and 13(c) provide that payments made under or by certain trusts established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled people whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their pregnancy their mother had taken the drug known as Thalidomide, are to be disregarded in the calculation of capital for the purposes of assessing a person’s entitlement to a council tax reduction, and when determining the income of non-dependents. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 17(i), 30(b) and 31(d).

The amendments made to the Prescribed Requirement Regulations by regulations 4(b)(ii), 7 and 12(a) amend the lists of income other than earnings when determining a persons eligibility for a reduction so that any payment made by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution is disregarded. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 18(b), 27 and 29(a).

The Welsh Ministers’ Code of Practice on the carrying out of Regulatory Impact Assessments was considered in relation to these Regulations. As a result, a regulatory impact assessment has been prepared as to the likely costs and benefits of complying with these

Regulations. A copy can be obtained from the Local Government Finance and Public Services Performance Division, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

Draft Regulations laid before the National Assembly for Wales under section 13A(8) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for approval by resolution of the National Assembly for Wales.

DRAFT WELSH STATUTORY
INSTRUMENTS

2018 No. (W.)

COUNCIL TAX, WALES

**The Council Tax Reduction
Schemes (Prescribed Requirements
and Default Scheme) (Wales)
(Amendment) Regulations 2018**

Made

*Coming into force in accordance with
regulation 1(2)*

The Welsh Ministers make the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by section 13A(4) and (5) of, and paragraphs 2 to 7 of Schedule 1B to, the Local Government Finance Act 1992(1).

In accordance with section 13A(8) of that Act, a draft of this instrument has been laid before and approved by resolution of the National Assembly for Wales.

Title, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) The title of these Regulations is the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

(2) These Regulations come into force the day after the day on which they are made.

(3) These Regulations apply in relation to a council tax reduction scheme made for a financial year beginning on or after 1 April 2018.

(1) 1992 c. 14. Section 13A was substituted by section 10(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (c. 17) and Schedule 1B was inserted by section 10(2) of, and Schedule 4 to, that Act.

(4) In these Regulations “council tax reduction scheme” (“*cynllun gostyngiadau'r dreth gyngor*”) means a scheme made by a billing authority in accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013⁽¹⁾, or the scheme that applies in default by virtue of paragraph 6(1)(e) of Schedule 1B to the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Amendments to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013

2. The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 are amended in accordance with regulations 3 to 14.

3. In regulation 2 (interpretation) in paragraph (1)—

(a) in the appropriate place insert—

(i) ““approved blood scheme” (“*cynllun gwaed cymeradwy*”) means—

(a) a scheme established or approved by the Secretary of State, or a trust established with funds provided by the Secretary of State, for the purpose of providing compensation in respect of a person having been infected from contaminated blood products; or

(b) a scheme established under sections 1 to 3 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006⁽²⁾ and administered by the Velindre Trust⁽³⁾ for the purpose of making payments and providing support to, or in respect of, individuals infected with Hepatitis C, HIV or both, through contaminated blood or blood products used by the NHS;”;

(ii) ““the London Emergencies Trust” (“*Ymddiriedolaeth Argyfyngau Llundain*”) means the company of that name (number 09928465) incorporated on 23 December 2015 and the registered charity of that name (number 1172307) established on 28 March 2017;”;

(iii) ““member of the work-related activity group” (“*aelod o'r grŵp gweithgaredd perthynol i waith*”) means a person who

(1) S.I. 2013/3029 (W. 301), as amended by S.I. 2014/66 (W. 6), S.I. 2014/825 (W. 83), S.I. 2015/44 (W. 3), S.I. 2015/971, S.I. 2016/50 (W. 21) and S.I. 2017/46 (W. 20).

(2) 2006 c. 42.

(3) The Velindre NHS Trust was established under article 2 of the Velindre National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 1993 (S.I. 1993/2838, amended by S.I. 1999/826).

has or is treated as having limited capability for work under either—

- (a) Part 5 of the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008⁽¹⁾ other than by virtue of regulation 30 of those Regulations; or
 - (b) Part 4 of the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2013⁽²⁾ other than by virtue of regulation 26 of those Regulations;”;
- (iv) ““the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme” (*“Cynllun Cymorth Gwaed Heintiedig yr Alban”*) means the scheme of that name administered by the Common Services Agency (constituted by section 10 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978⁽³⁾);”;
- (v) ““the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund” (*“Cronfa Argyfwng We Love Manchester”*) means the registered charity of that name (number 1173260) established on 30 May 2017;”;
- (b) for the definition of “care home” (*“cartref gofal”*) substitute—
- ““care home” (*“cartref gofal”*)—
- (a) in England has the meaning given by section 3 of the Care Standards Act 2000⁽⁴⁾;
 - (b) in Wales means a place at which a care home service, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016⁽⁵⁾, is provided wholly or mainly to adults;
 - (c) in Scotland means a care home service within the meaning given by paragraph 2 of Schedule 12 to the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010⁽⁶⁾; and
 - (d) in Northern Ireland means a nursing home within the meaning of article 11 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003⁽⁷⁾ or a residential care home within the meaning of article 10 of that Order;”;

(1) S.I. 2008/794.
(2) S.I. 2013/379.
(3) 1978 c. 29.
(4) 2000 c. 14.
(5) 2016 anaw 2.
(6) 2010 asp 8.
(7) 2003 No. 431 (N.I. 9).

- (c) for the definition of “main phase employment and support allowance” (“*lwfans cyflogaeth a chymorth prif wedd*”) substitute—

““main phase employment and support allowance” (“*lwfans cyflogaeth a chymorth prif wedd*”), except in Part 1 of Schedule 7, means an employment and support allowance where—

- (a) the calculation of the amount payable in respect of the applicant includes a component under section 2(1)(b) or 4(2)(b) of the Welfare Reform Act 2007; or

- (b) the applicant is a member of the work-related activity group;”;

- (d) in the definition of “qualifying person” (“*person cymwys*”), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert, “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”.

4. In Schedule 1 (determining eligibility for a reduction: pensioners)—

- (a) in paragraph 3 (non-dependant deductions: pensioners)—

- (i) in sub-paragraph (1)(a) for “£12.70” substitute “£13.10”;

- (ii) in sub-paragraph (1)(b) for “£4.20” substitute “£4.35”;

- (iii) in sub-paragraph (2)(a) for “£200.00” substitute “£205.00”;

- (iv) in sub-paragraph (2)(b) for “£200.00”, “£346.00” and “£8.40” substitute “£205.00”, “£355.00” and “£8.70” respectively;

- (v) in sub-paragraph (2)(c) for “£346.00”, “£430.00” and “£10.60” substitute “£355.00”, “£440.00” and “£10.95” respectively;

- (vi) in sub-paragraph (8)(a) after “income related employment and support allowance” insert “and where the non-dependant is not a member of the work-related activity group”;

- (vii) for sub-paragraph (9) substitute—

“(9) In the application of sub-paragraph (2) there is to be disregarded from the non-dependant’s weekly gross income—

- (a) any attendance allowance, disability living allowance, personal independence payment or AFIP received by the non-dependant;

- (b) any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother's pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.”;
- (b) in paragraph 10(1) (meaning of “income”: pensioners)—
 - (i) for paragraph (j)(xiii) substitute—
 - “(xiii) bereavement support payment under section 30 of the Pensions Act 2014(1);”;
 - (ii) for paragraph (m) substitute—
 - “(m) a pension paid by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution;”;
- (c) in paragraph 11 (calculation of weekly income: pensioners)—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (3A)—
 - (aa) in paragraph (a) for “regardless of whether those earnings were actually received in that reduction week” substitute “regardless of when those earnings were actually received”;
 - (bb) for paragraphs (b) and (c) substitute—
 - “(b) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant commences employment, the day on which the applicant commences that employment, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received; or
 - (c) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant's average weekly earnings from employment change, the day on which the applicant's earnings change, so as to require recalculation under this paragraph, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when

(1) 2014 c. 19.

those earnings were actually received.”;

(ii) in sub-paragraph (4A)—

(aa) in paragraph (a) for “regardless of whether those earnings were actually received in that reduction week” substitute “regardless of when those earnings were actually received”;

(bb) for paragraphs (b) and (c) substitute—

“(b) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant commences employment, the day on which the applicant commences that employment, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received; or

(c) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant’s average weekly earnings from employment change, the day on which the applicant’s earnings from employment change and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received.”;

(d) in paragraph 19 (treatment of child care charges: pensioners)—

(i) for sub-paragraph (8)(l) substitute—

“(1) by a person who is employed, or engaged under a contract for services, to provide care and support by the provider of a domiciliary support service, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016;”;

(ii) in sub-paragraph (11)(c) after “having limited capability for work” the first time it appears, insert “or the other member of the couple would be a member of the work-related activity group”.

5. In Schedule 2 (applicable amounts: pensioners)—

(a) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 1 (personal allowances)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£159.35” and “£172.55” substitute “£163.00” and “£176.40” respectively;

- (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£243.25” and “£258.15” substitute “£248.80” and “£263.80” respectively;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£243.25” and “£83.90” substitute “£248.80” and “£85.80” respectively;
 - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4) for “£258.15” and “£85.60” substitute “£263.80” and “£87.40” respectively;
- (b) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premium specified in Part 3), in the second column—
- (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£62.45” in each place where it occurs substitute “£64.30” and for “£124.90” substitute “£128.60”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£24.78” substitute “£25.48”;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£60.90” substitute “£62.86”;
 - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4) for “£34.95” substitute “£36.00”.

6. In Schedule 3 (sums disregarded from applicant’s earnings: pensioners), in paragraph 5(1)(d)(ii) for “or the work-related activity component arising” substitute “arises”.

7. In Schedule 4 (amounts to be disregarded in the calculation of income other than earnings: pensioners), for paragraph 1(g), substitute—

“(g) a pension paid by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution.”

8. In Schedule 5 (capital disregards: pensioners)—

- (a) in paragraph 16(1)(a), after “the Caxton Foundation,” insert “an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;
- (b) after paragraph 28A insert—

“**28B.** Any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother’s pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.”

9. In Schedule 6 (determining eligibility for a reduction under an authority’s scheme, amount of reduction and calculation of income and capital: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) in paragraph 5 (non-dependant deductions: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (i) in sub-paragraph (1)(a) for “£12.70” substitute “£13.10”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (1)(b) for “£4.20” substitute “£4.35”;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (2)(a) for “£200.00” substitute “£205.00”;
 - (iv) in sub-paragraph (2)(b) for “£200.00”, “£346.00” and “£8.40” substitute “£205.00”, “£355.00” and “£8.70” respectively;
 - (v) in sub-paragraph (2)(c) for “£346.00”, “£430.00” and “£10.60” substitute “£355.00”, “£440.00” and “£10.95” respectively;
 - (vi) in sub-paragraph (8)(a), after “income related employment and support allowance” insert “or where the non-dependent is not a member of the work-related activity group”;
 - (vii) in sub-paragraph (9)(b) after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;
 - (viii) at the end of sub-paragraph (9)(c) for “.” substitute “,”;
 - (ix) after sub-paragraph (9)(c) insert—
 - “(d) any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother’s pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.”;
- (b) in paragraph 10A (date on which income consisting of earnings from employment as an employed earner are taken into account: persons who are not pensioners)—
- (i) in sub-paragraph (a) for “regardless of whether those earnings were actually received in that reduction week” substitute “regardless of when those earnings were actually received”;
 - (ii) for sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) substitute—
 - “(b) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant commences employment, the day on which the applicant commences that employment, and the first day of

each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received; or

- (c) in the case of an application or reduction under a scheme where the applicant's average weekly earnings from employment change, the day on which the applicant's earnings from employment change, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received.”;
- (c) in paragraph 19(4)(a) (notional income: persons who are not pensioners), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;
- (d) in paragraph 21 (treatment of child care charges)—
 - (i) for sub-paragraph (8)(l) substitute—

“(1) by a person who is employed, or engaged under a contract for services, to provide care and support by the provider of a domiciliary support service, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016; or ”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (11)(a) after “the work-related activity component” insert “or the other member would be a member of the work-related activity group”;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (11)(c) after “the work-related activity component” insert “or the other member would be a member of the work-related activity group”;
- (e) in paragraph 27(7) (income treated as capital: persons who are not pensioners), after “the Caxton Foundation,” insert “an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund,”;
- (f) in paragraph 30 (notional capital: persons who are not pensioners), in sub-paragraph (4)(a), after “the Caxton Foundation,” insert “an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”.

10. In Schedule 7 (applicable amounts: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 1 (personal allowances)—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£73.85” in each place in which it occurs substitute “£76.10” and for “£58.50” substitute “£60.25”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£73.85” substitute “£76.10”;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£116.00” substitute “£119.50”;
- (b) in paragraph 2(a) after “the applicant” insert “or the applicant is a member of the work-related activity group”;
- (c) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premiums specified in Part 3), in the second column—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£32.55” and “£46.40” substitute “£33.55” and “£47.80” respectively;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£62.45” in each place in which it occurs substitute “£64.30” and for “£124.90” substitute “£128.60”;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£60.90” substitute “£62.86”;
 - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4) for “£34.95” substitute “£36.00”;
 - (v) in sub-paragraph (5) for “£24.78”, “£15.90” and “£22.85” substitute “£25.48”, “£16.40” and “£23.55” respectively;
- (d) in Part 5 (the components), in paragraph 18(c)(ii) omit “or the work-related activity component”;
- (e) in Part 6 (amount of components), in paragraph 24 (amount of support component), for “£36.55” substitute “£37.65”.

11. In Schedule 8 (sums disregarded in the calculation of earnings: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) in paragraph 4(2), after “Schedule 7 (applicable amounts: persons who are not pensioners)” insert “or where the applicant or the applicant’s partner is a member of the work-related activity group”;
- (b) in paragraph 18, in sub-paragraph (2)(b)(iv)—
 - (i) in paragraph (aa), for “respectively” substitute “, or the applicant or the applicant’s partner is a member of the work-related activity group”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (bb), for “and is engaged in remunerative work for on average not

less than 16 hours per week” substitute “, or at least one of the couple is a member of the work-related activity group”.

12. In Schedule 9 (sums disregarded in the calculation of income other than earnings: persons who are not pensioners)—

(a) for paragraph 20(g) substitute—

“(g) a pension paid by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution.”;

(b) in paragraph 41, in sub-paragraphs (1) and (7), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”.

13. In Schedule 10 (capital disregards: persons who are not pensioners)—

(a) in paragraph 29—

(i) in sub-paragraph (1), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;

(ii) in sub-paragraph (7), after “the Caxton Foundation,” insert “an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;

(b) in paragraph 38, after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;

(c) after paragraph 63 insert—

“**64.** Any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother’s pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.”

14. In Schedule 13 (all applicants: matters that must be included in an authority’s scheme—other matters), in paragraph 5(7)(a)(ii) (evidence and information), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”.

Amendments to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013

15. The scheme set out in the Schedule to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013⁽¹⁾ is amended in accordance with regulations 16 to 33.

16. In paragraph 2 (interpretation), in sub-paragraph (1)—

- (a) in the appropriate place insert—
 - (i) ““approved blood scheme” (*“cynllun gwaed cymeradwy”*) means—
 - (a) a scheme established or approved by the Secretary of State, or a trust established with funds provided by the Secretary of State, for the purpose of providing compensation in respect of a person having been infected from contaminated blood products; or
 - (b) a scheme established under sections 1 to 3 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006⁽²⁾ and administered by Velindre Trust⁽³⁾ for the purpose of making payments and providing support to, or in respect of, individuals infected with Hepatitis C, HIV or both, through contaminated blood or blood products used by the NHS;”;
 - (ii) ““the London Emergencies Trust” (*“Ymddiriedolaeth Argyfyngau Llundain”*) means the company of that name (number 09928465) incorporated on 23 December 2015 and the registered charity of that name (number 1172307) established on 28 March 2017;”;
 - (iii) ““member of the work-related activity group” (*“aelod o’r grŵp gweithgaredd perthynol i waith”*) means a person who has or is treated as having limited capability for work under either—
 - (a) Part 5 of the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008 other than by virtue of regulation 30 of those Regulations; or
 - (b) Part 4 of the Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2013 other than

(1) S.I. 2013/3035 (W. 303), as amended by S.I. 2014/66 (W. 6), S.I. 2014/825 (W. 83), S.I. 2015/44 (W. 3), S.I. 2015/971, S.I. 2016/50 (W. 21) and S.I. 2017/46 (W. 20).

(2) 2006 c. 42.

(3) The Velindre NHS Trust was established under article 2 of the Velindre National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 1993 (S.I. 1993/2838, amended by S.I. 1999/826).

- by virtue of regulation 26 of those Regulations;”;
- (iv) ““the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme” (“*Cynllun Cymorth Gwaed Heintiedig yr Alban*”) means the scheme of that name administered by the Common Services Agency (constituted by section 10 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978);”;
- (v) ““the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund” (“*Cronfa Argyfwng We Love Manchester*”) means the registered charity of that name (number 1173260) established on 30 May 2017;”;
- (b) for the definition of “care home” (“*cartref gofal*”) substitute—
- ““care home” (“*cartref gofal*”)—
- (a) in England has the meaning given by section 3 of the Care Standards Act 2000;
- (b) in Wales means a place at which a care home service, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016, is provided wholly or mainly to adults;
- (c) in Scotland means a care home service within the meaning given by paragraph 2 of Schedule 12 to the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010; and
- (d) in Northern Ireland means a nursing home within the meaning of article 11 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 or a residential care home within the meaning of article 10 of that Order;”;
- (c) for the definition of “main phase employment and support allowance” (“*lwfans cyflogaeth a chymorth prif wedd*”) substitute—
- ““main phase employment and support allowance (“*lwfans cyflogaeth a chymorth prif wedd*”), except in Part 1 of Schedule 3, means an employment and support allowance where—
- (a) the calculation of the amount payable in respect of the applicant includes a component under section 2(1)(b) or 4(2)(b) of the Welfare Reform Act 2007; or
- (b) the applicant is a member of the work-related activity group;”;

- (d) in the definition of “qualifying person” (“*person cymwys*”), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”.

17. In paragraph 28 (non-dependant deductions: pensioners and persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (1)(a) for “£12.70” substitute “£13.10”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (1)(b) for “£4.20” substitute “£4.35”;
- (c) in sub-paragraph (2)(a) for “£200.00” substitute “£205.00”;
- (d) in sub-paragraph (2)(b) for “£200.00”, “£346.00” and “£8.40” substitute “£205.00”, “£355.00” and “£8.70” respectively;
- (e) in sub-paragraph (2)(c) for “£346.00”, “£430.00” and “£10.60” substitute “£355.00”, “£440.00” and “£10.95” respectively;
- (f) in sub-paragraph (8)(a) after “income-related employment and support allowance” insert “and where the non-dependant is not a member of the work- related activity group”;
- (g) in sub-paragraph (9)(b), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;
- (h) in sub-paragraph (9)(c) for “.” substitute “; and”;
- (i) after sub-paragraph (9)(c) insert—
 - “(d) any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother’s pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.”

18. In paragraph 36(1) (meaning of “income”: pensioners)—

- (a) for paragraph (j)(xiii) substitute—
 - “(xiii) bereavement support payment under section 30 of the Pensions Act 2014;”;
- (b) for paragraph (m) substitute—
 - “(m) a pension paid by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution;”.

19. In paragraph 37 (calculation of weekly income: pensioners)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (3A)—

(i) in paragraph (a) for “regardless of whether those earnings were actually received in that reduction week” substitute “regardless of when those earnings were actually received”;

(ii) for paragraphs (b) and (c) substitute—

“(b) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant commences employment, the day on which the applicant commences that employment, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received; or

(c) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant’s average weekly earnings from employment change, the day on which the applicant’s earnings from employment change, so as to require recalculation under this paragraph, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received.”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (4A)—

(i) in paragraph (a) for “regardless of whether those earnings were actually received in that reduction week” substitute “regardless of when those earnings were actually received”;

(ii) for paragraphs (b) and (c) substitute—

“(b) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant commences employment, the day on which the applicant commences that employment, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received; or

(c) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant’s average weekly earnings from employment change, the day on which the applicant’s earnings from employment change and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received.”

20. For paragraph 44A (date on which income consisting of earnings from employment as an

employed earner are taken into account: persons who are not pensioners) substitute—

“Date on which income consisting of earnings from employment as an employed earner are taken into account: persons who are not pensioners

44A. An applicant’s average weekly earnings from employment estimated pursuant to paragraph 44 (average weekly earnings of employed earners: persons who are not pensioners) must be taken into account—

- (a) in the case of an application, on the date on which the application was made or treated as made, and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received;
- (b) in the case of an application or a reduction under a scheme where the applicant commences employment, the day on which the applicant commences that employment and the first day of the reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received; or
- (c) in the case of an application or reduction under a scheme where the applicant’s average weekly earnings from employment change, the day on which the applicant’s earnings from employment change and the first day of each reduction week thereafter, regardless of when those earnings were actually received.”

21. In paragraph 53 (notional income: persons who are not pensioners), in sub-paragraph (4)(a), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund ”.

22. In paragraph 55 (treatment of child care charges)—

- (a) for sub-paragraph (8)(1) substitute—

“(1) by a person who is employed, or engaged under a contract for services, to provide care and support by the provider of a domiciliary support service, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016; or”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (11)(c), after “the work-related activity component” insert “or the

other member would be a member of the work-related activity group”;

- (c) in sub-paragraph (11)(e), after “work related activity component” insert “or the other member of the couple would be a member of the work-related activity group”.

23. In each of the following provisions, after “the Caxton Foundation” insert, “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”—

- (a) paragraph 61(7) (income treated as capital: persons who are not pensioners);
- (b) paragraph 64(6)(a) (notional capital);
- (c) paragraph 111(7)(a)(ii) (evidence and information).

24. In Schedule 2 (applicable amounts: pensioners)—

- (a) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 1 (personal allowances)—
- (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£159.35” and “£172.55” substitute “£163.00” and “£176.40” respectively;
- (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£243.25” and “£258.15” substitute “£248.80” and “£263.80” respectively;
- (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£243.25” and “£83.90” substitute “£248.80” and “£85.80” respectively;
- (iv) in sub-paragraph (4) for “£258.15” and “£85.60” substitute “£263.80” and “£87.40” respectively;
- (b) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premiums specified in Part 3), in the second column—
- (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£62.45” in each place in which it occurs substitute “£64.30” and for “£124.90” substitute “£128.60”;
- (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£24.78” substitute “£25.48”;
- (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£60.90” substitute “£62.86”;
- (iv) in sub-paragraph (4) for “£34.95” substitute “£36.00”.

25. In Schedule 3 (applicable amounts: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) In column (2) of the Table in paragraph 1 (personal allowances)—
- (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£73.85” in each place in which it occurs substitute

- “£76.10” and for “£58.50” substitute “£60.25”;
- (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£73.85” substitute “£76.10”;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£116.00” substitute “£119.50”;
- (b) in paragraph 2(a) after “the applicant” insert “or the applicant is a member of the work-related activity group”;
- (c) in the Table in Part 4 (amount of premiums specified in Part 3), in the second column—
- (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£32.55” and “£46.40” substitute “£33.55” and “£47.80” respectively;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£62.45” in each place in which it occurs substitute “£64.30” and for “£124.90” substitute “£128.60”;
 - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£60.90” substitute “£62.86”;
 - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4) for “£34.95” substitute “£36.00”;
 - (v) in sub-paragraph (5) for “£24.78”, “£15.90” and “£22.85” substitute “£25.48”, “£16.40” and “£23.55” respectively;
- (d) in Part 5 (the components), in paragraph 18(c)(ii), omit “or the work related activity component”;
- (e) in Part 6 (amount of components), in paragraph 24 (amount of support component), for “£36.55” substitute “£37.65”.

26. In Schedule 4 (sums disregarded from applicant’s earnings: pensioners), in paragraph 5(1)(d)(ii) for “or the work-related activity component arising” substitute “arises”.

27. In Schedule 5 (amounts to be disregarded in the calculation of income other than earnings: pensioners), for paragraph 1(g) substitute—

“(g) a pension paid by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution.”

28. In Schedule 6 (sums disregarded in the calculation of earnings: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) in paragraph 4(2), after “Schedule 3 (applicable amounts: persons who are not pensioners)” insert “or where the applicant or the applicant’s partner is a member of the work-related activity group”;
- (b) in paragraph 18, in sub-paragraph (2)(b)(iv)—

- (i) in paragraph (aa), for “respectively” substitute “, or the applicant or the applicant’s partner is a member of the work-related activity group”;
- (ii) in paragraph (bb), for “and is engaged in remunerative work for on average not less than 16 hours per week” substitute “or at least one of the couple is a member of the work-related activity group”.

29. In Schedule 7 (sums disregarded in the calculation of income other than earnings: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) for paragraph 20(g) substitute—
 - “(g) a pension paid by a government to victims of National Socialist persecution.”;
- (b) in paragraph 41(1) and (7), after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”.

30. In Schedule 8 (capital disregards: pensioners)—

- (a) in paragraph 16(1)(a), after “the Caxton Foundation,” insert “an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;
- (b) after paragraph 28A insert—
 - “**28B.** Any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother’s pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.”

31. In Schedule 9 (capital disregards: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) in paragraph 29(1) after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;
- (b) in paragraph 29(8) after “the Caxton Foundation,” insert “an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;
- (c) in paragraph 38 after “the Caxton Foundation” insert “, an approved blood scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, the London Emergencies Trust, the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund”;

(d) after paragraph 63 insert—

“**64.** Any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother’s pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.”

Cabinet Secretary for Finance, one of the Welsh
Ministers
Date

This Council notes with concern:

1. That the Westminster Government's Universal Credit scheme is causing a social emergency;
2. That the rollout of Universal Credit outside of Wales has caused serious financial difficulties for thousands of claimants;
3. The account of Flintshire Citizens' Advice Bureau outlining their experience of assisting Universal Credit claimants since April 2017, which concludes that:
 - a. People are waiting up to 12 weeks for their first payment without any income;
 - b. The Universal Credit system is too complicated;
 - c. People are not getting help when the system fails them;
4. That accessing Universal Credit is dependent on
 - a. Recipients having a persona bank account;
 - b. Access to internet;
5. Under Universal Credit, housing costs will be paid to the claimant and not the landlord
6. Universal Credit will be paid 5 weeks in arrears;
7. Universal Credit will be paid per household not per individual;
8. Universal Credit will be rolled out to the whole of Denbighshire by April 2018.

This Council also notes:

1. The difficulty in accessing the internet for many residents across Denbighshire;
2. The closure of many community banks across Denbighshire;
3. The cut in the block grant funds received by Denbighshire from the Welsh Government which will put pressure on services which are not ring fenced, such as bus services and libraries;
4. The relatively large housing stock that Denbighshire County Council has means that the Council's housing income could be impacted;
5. DCC's Homelessness Strategy Report which has concerns about increasing homelessness in the County;

The Council further notes:

1. That the Scotland Act (2016) gave the Scottish Government powers to vary how Universal Credit is paid in Scotland, sometimes referred to as "The Scottish Flexibilities".
2. That the Scottish Flexibilities mean that people living in Scotland making a new Universal Credit claim, in full service areas have a choice to:
 - a. Be paid monthly or twice monthly
 - b. Have the relevant housing costs in the Universal Credit award paid to themselves or to their landlord.

This Council calls:

1. On the UK Government to pause the roll-out of Universal Credit
2. On Welsh Government to demand devolution powers to vary how Universal Credit is paid in Wales.

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Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Mark Young /
Gary Williams, Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

Report Author: Steve Price, Democratic Services Manager

Title: Member Champions

1. What is the report about?

Council is asked to consider re-appointing councillors to four 'member champion' roles.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The previous Council set out the framework for member champions and appointed a councillor to each role. Only two of the councillors appointed are still members of the county council and following last May's council elections it is considered appropriate to see Council's views on member champions.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Council considers the information in this report and:

- (i) Confirms that the champion roles for Older People, Homelessness, Carers and Learning Disabilities be retained; and
- (ii) Considers any nominations submitted by councillors for appointment to the roles.

4. Report details

4.1 Section 19 of the Council's Constitution currently identifies four Champion roles. These are:

- Older People's Champion
- Homelessness Champion
- Carers' Champion
- Learning Disabilities Champion

4.2 In November 2012 Council resolved that the four Champion roles set out above should be appointed and role descriptions were developed to guide these champions (attached as Appendix 1). The previous Council made the following appointments:

- Older People's Champion – Councillor Bobby Feeley

- Carers' Champion – Councillor Ann Davies
- Learning Disabilities Champion – Councillor Ray Bartley
- Homelessness Champion – Councillor Bill Tasker

4.3 The role of Champions in this authority has evolved from the one appointment of an 'Older People's Champion' which emanated from the guidance in the Strategy for Older People issued by the Welsh Assembly, that every local authority in Wales should have such a Champion. The Corporate Governance Committee considered in 2013 whether to recommend further Champions roles and the minutes of the Committee's discussion are attached for information as Appendix 2. The Committee decided not to recommend creating further champions. However, additional 'champion' roles may be included in Cabinet members' portfolios, such as Armed Forces Champion (Councillor Mainon) or addressed generally as part of a lead member's duties. The Chair of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Group (Councillor Irving) would undertake the role of Scrutiny Champion when required.

4.4 All councillors have been issued with information on the 4 roles and invited to express an interest in being appointed with a short CV. Those received will be circulated to members prior to the Council meeting.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Corporate Plan 2017 – 2022 contains specific priorities for young people and housing and homelessness, and actions to support older people and carers within its resilient communities' priority. The re-appointment of member champions undertaking the roles outlined in the role descriptions would assist the Council's aims of supporting these areas.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There are occasional travelling costs incurred if a member champion attends meetings or events related to their champion role. These will be contained within the existing budgets allocated for member travel and, if necessary, subsistence.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A well-being impact assessment is not required for these appointments.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

During the last Council term full Council and the Corporate Governance Committee considered the roles of champions. All members have been issued with information on the roles and invited to submit nominations and CVs for Council to consider. It will be for Council to decide whether to re-appoint member champions.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The financial impact of re-appointing councillors to the member champion roles is negligible and likely to be limited to meeting occasional travel and subsistence costs incurred undertaking the roles.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The previous Council's approach had been to make appointments to the 4 key roles whilst minimising the risk that creating champion roles could lead to confusion in terms of Cabinet members' duties, accountability and powers and the activities of separate member champions.

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 19 and 19.6 of the Council's Constitution which outlines the roles and functions of councillors and permits the nomination of councillors as champions for the 4 roles outlined in this report.

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Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Report Author: Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer

Title: Appointment of an Independent Lay Member to Standards Committee

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report is about the appointment of an independent lay member to the Standards Committee.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 Appointments to the Standards Committee require the approval of the Full Council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Peter Lamb be appointed to the Standards Committee for a term of office to expire on the date of the next Local Government Elections in 2022

4. Report details.

4.1 The Standards Committee Regulations 2001, as amended, (the Regulations) govern the composition and proceedings of the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee is not required to be politically balanced. A Standards Committee must have a membership of between five and nine members to include independent lay members, County Councillors and City, Town and Community Council representation. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee must always be independent lay members and the meeting is only quorate if the majority of those present are independent lay members.

4.2 The Standards Committee of this Council has a membership of seven members comprised as follows two County Councillors, one Community Council member and four independent lay members.

4.3 A vacancy has arisen for an independent lay member of the Standards Committee.

4.4 The Regulations require that the Council must publish an advertisement for the post of independent lay member and establish a panel of no more than five members (the Panel) to consider each application received and make recommendations to the Council on the appointment. The Panel must contain

at least one lay member and one representative of City, Town and Community Councils. At its meeting on 17th October Council appointed Councillors Gareth Davies, Richard Mainon and Mark Young to the Panel.

4.5 There were two applicants for the post of independent lay member, both of whom were interviewed by the Panel on 19th January 2018. Mr. Lamb was considered by the Panel to be the most suitable candidate and is therefore recommended to the Council for appointment.

4.6 The Regulations provide that an independent lay member may serve a term of office of between four and six years. At the end of that term it is possible for the member to serve one further term if re-appointed by the Council. It is suggested that Mr. Lamb serve until the date of the Local Government Elections in 2022.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 A fully functioning and representative Standards Committee which upholds the high standards expected of Members helps underpin the Council's exercise of its democratic functions.

5.2 The requirement in the Measure to appoint a lay member to the Committee is compulsory. Failure to appoint a lay member would render the proceedings of the Committee invalid.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The lay member will be entitled under the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' report to a daily fee and travel expenses as laid down in law from time to time.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

There are no well being implications as a result of this decision, an open public recruitment exercise was run for this appointments.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

There is no statutory requirement to consult on the appointment sought by this report. There is a statutory requirement to advertise publically for independent lay members of the Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The costs associated with the decision are minor and will be contained within existing resources.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

With regard to Standards Committee, the Council Constitution stipulates that there are to be four lay members. The risk of not appointing members to the Standards Committee is that a reduced membership may increase the likelihood of the Committee being inquorate.

11. Power to make the Decision

Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 as amended.

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COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Meeting	Item (Description / Title)		Purpose of Report	Council Decision Required (yes/no)	Lead member and Contact Officer
20 February 2018	1	Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board's Well-Being Plan	To present the report to Council to seek their approval – this is a statutory requirement under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.	Yes	Lead Member – Cllr Hugh Evans. Nicola Kneale / Alan Smith (Lead officer – Chief Executive)
	2	Council Tax 2017/18 & Associated Matters	To set the levels of Council Tax for 2018/19	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	3	Capital Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21 and recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group	To consider an updated Capital Plan	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh / Richard Humphreys
	4	Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Prudential Indicators (tbc)	To seek approval of the Statement and prudential indicators	Yes	Cllr Julian Thompson-Hill / Richard Weigh
	5	North Wales Population Assessment (for health and social care services)	A regional plan on working across North Wales to deliver health and social care services is based on this Assessment	Tbc	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Gary Major
COUNCIL BRIEFING 12 March 2018	1	Community Support Services Modernisation and Pressures	Briefing for members requested by CET.	N/A	Cllr Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy
	2	Denbighshire Strategic Employment Approach	A briefing to members.	N/A	Cllr Hugh Evans / Nicola Stubbins / Mel Evans
10 April 2018	1	Committee Timetable for 2019 & Annual Review of Political Balance	To approve the committee timetable for 2019 and review the membership	Yes	Steve Price

COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

			and political balance of the committees		
	2	Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report	To adopt a scheme of payments according to the requirements of the Panel's annual report	Yes	Cllr Mark Young / Gary Williams / Steve Price
	3	Arrangements for the Election of the Chair & Vice Chair of Council	To agree the process and candidates to be formally elected at the Council's Annual Meeting in May	No	Gary Williams / Steve Price / Eleri Woolford
	4	Member Training and Development	To review the Training and Development Policy.	Yes	Cllr Mark Young / Steve Price
ANNUAL COUNCIL 15 May 2018	1	Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair of Denbighshire County Council	To appoint the civic heads for the 2018/19 municipal year	Yes	Gary Williams
	2	Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees	To consider the activities of the Scrutiny Committees	No	Rhian Evans / Steve Price
COUNCIL BRIEFING 11 June 2018					
3 July 2018					
11 September 2018					
23 October 2018					
4 December 2018					

COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Note for Officers – Full Council Report Deadlines

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>February 2018</i>	<i>6 February 2018</i>	<i>April 2018</i>	<i>27 March 2018</i>	<i>May 2018</i>	<i>1 May 2018</i>
<i>July 2018</i>	<i>19 June 2018</i>	<i>September 2018</i>	<i>28 August 2018</i>	<i>October 2018</i>	<i>9 October 2018</i>
<i>December 2018</i>	<i>20 November 2018</i>				

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