

To: Members of the County Council

Date: 19 January 2022

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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, 25 JANUARY 2022** in **VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

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 (Pages 5 - 6)**

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 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 16)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 7 December 2021 (copy attached).

#### **5 BUDGET 2022/23 - FINAL PROPOSALS (Pages 17 - 38)**

To consider a report by the Head of Finance and Property (copy attached).

- 6 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022/2023** (Pages 39 - 66)  
To consider a report by the Head of Finance and Property (copy attached).
- 7 NOTICE OF MOTION** (Pages 67 - 68)  
Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Brian Jones for consideration by Full Council (copy attached).
- 8 NOTICE OF MOTION** (Pages 69 - 70)  
Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Paul Penlington for consideration by Full Council (copy attached).
- 9 NOTICE OF MOTION** (Pages 71 - 72)  
Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Tony Flynn for consideration by Full Council (copy attached).
- 10 NOTICE OF MOTION** (Pages 73 - 74)  
Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Rachel Flynn for consideration by Full Council (copy attached).
- 11 YOUNG PERSONS' CHAMPION** (Pages 75 - 78)  
To consider a report by the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services (copy attached) to seek the appointment of a Young Persons' Champion.
- 12 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 79 - 84)  
To consider the Council's forward work programme (copy attached).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Councillors**

Councillor Alan James (Chair)

Brian Blakeley

Joan Butterfield

Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones

Ellie Chard

Ann Davies

Gareth Davies

Meirick Davies

Gwyneth Ellis

Hugh Evans

Peter Evans

Councillor Christine Marston (Vice-Chair)

Barry Mellor

Melvyn Mile

Bob Murray

Merfyn Parry

Paul Penlington

Pete Prendergast

Arwel Roberts

Anton Sampson

Peter Scott

Glenn Swingler

Bobby Feeley  
Rachel Flynn  
Tony Flynn  
Huw Hilditch-Roberts  
Martyn Holland  
Alan Hughes  
Hugh Irving  
Brian Jones  
Pat Jones  
Tina Jones  
Gwyneth Kensler  
Geraint Lloyd-Williams  
Richard Mainon

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

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

### Code of Conduct for Members

### DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a \*member/co-opted member of

*(\*please delete as appropriate)*

**Denbighshire County Council**

**CONFIRM** that I have declared a **\*personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-

*(\*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)\**

Signed

Date

\*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

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## COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the County Council held via VIDEO CONFERENCE on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 10.00 am.

### PRESENT

Councillors Brian Blakeley, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Ellie Chard, Ann Davies, Gareth Davies, Meirick Davies, Gwyneth Ellis, Hugh Evans, Peter Evans, Bobby Feeley, Rachel Flynn, Tony Flynn, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Martyn Holland, Alan Hughes, Hugh Irving, Alan James (Chair), Brian Jones, Pat Jones, Tina Jones, Gwyneth Kensler, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Christine Marston (Vice-Chair), Barry Mellor, Melvyn Mile, Bob Murray, Merfyn Parry, Paul Penlington, Pete Prendergast, 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, Emrys Wynne and Mark Young

### ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (GB); Corporate Director: Communities (NS); Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services (GW); Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation (AS); Head of Highways and Environmental Services (TW); Head of Education (GD); Head of Children's Services (RM); Principal Manager – Support Services (AL); Risk and Asset Manager (TT), and Committee Administrator (SLW)

### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joan Butterfield and Huw Williams

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Pete Prendergast, Bobby Feeley and Huw Hilditch Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 6, Appointment of Director – Denbighshire Leisure Limited as they were all members of the Board.

Cllrs Hugh Irving and Tony Flynn declared a personal interest in Item 10, Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Paul Penlington, as they were Governors of Prestatyn High School.

Cllr Rachel Flynn declared a personal interest in Item 10, Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Paul Penlington, as she occasionally worked at Prestatyn High School.

### 3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters.

At this juncture, Councillor Arwel Roberts put forward a Petition to Full Council regarding the Abergele Road in Rhuddlan. He stated there had been a problem with drivers ignoring the speed limit along the Abergele Road and the petition was to lower the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph along the length of the road. Councillor Roberts expressed his thanks to Rhuddlan Town Council for purchasing a speed indicator device and also to Denbighshire County Council for organising the device to be located. The petition was also requesting a pedestrian crossing for walkers, residents and visitors for safety reasons when attempting to cross the road and there was a great need for more dropped kerbs for wheelchair users. Councillor Roberts confirmed he would pass on the petition to the highways officers in Denbigh.

The Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services confirmed on receipt of the petition by the relevant department, a response would be sent to Councillor Arwel Roberts within 14 days.

At this juncture, Councillor Glenn Swingler put forward a question:

“Has progress been made over the last 4 difficult years to prevent and also to support those Denbighshire families that are at risk of becoming homeless through no fault of their own?”

Response from the Lead Member for Bobby Feeley – “thank you for the question and for your continuing interest and empathy towards homelessness. As you say anyone can find themselves homeless through no fault of their own. Progress has been made and every effort has been made to support families at risk of homelessness. My ultimate ambition would be to see the end of homelessness here in Denbighshire although, strategically good progress has been made, some solutions will take a little more time to be delivered fully. The last few years has been a difficult time, particularly for this service. The pandemic has undoubtedly increased the workload and staff vacancies continue to impact on our homelessness service. We have a new structure which will focus on prevention and we have linked closer with housing. There has been a reduction in the number of families presenting as homeless. This is, obviously, partly to the Welsh Government preventing evictions during the pandemic but this lifts, we may well see more people coming through again. We are in the process of tendering for HSG funding early intervention contract to prevent homelessness. This will involve mediation, for example, with Landlords, maybe clearing debts, helping with rent arrears and help with all sorts of other family issues. Over the last 12 months we have run a pilot project with Civica, which has been successful and, in fact, it has prevented 84 households from becoming homeless. We have also used HSG monies to develop a specialist tenancy support workers team working across the county and the private rented sector to try and avoid people becoming homeless in the first place. Welsh Government launched a tenancy hardship grant earlier this year to help those in arrears. We have encouraged people to apply for this grant but, unfortunately, the take-up has not been as high as expected. We have also worked with housing and Registered Social Landlords to take advantage of suspension of SARTH which has resulted in 99 households being given permanent tenancies. When I read recent updates from internal audit, which goes to



Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 16 December, I was re-assured it had progressed well, in fact, I was surprised when I got towards the end I noticed it was still low assurance and I was perturbed by this so spoke to Lisa Harte in Internal Audit and she did agree with me that we had made progress but because certain areas had not been addressed sufficiently, we had to remain at a low assurance. A full and frank report will go to Partnerships Scrutiny on 16 December and there will be time for as many detailed questions and answers as members may have but, I hope this brief explanation will suffice for now. Ann Lloyd who is Head of Service and Nicola Stubbins, Corporate Director covering social services are here this morning and if you wish to ask a supplementary question”

Councillor Swingler confirmed he would ask a supplementary question and thanked the Lead Member for the comprehensive response and wanted it noted that he supported the Homeless Prevention Team who did an awesome job. “Has reorganisation worked or is there still more work to do and how bad are staffing levels?”

Councillor Bobby Feeley responded to the supplementary question as follows: “it is going to work but very early days. The more holistic approach to homelessness and preventing it happening in the first place was required and hence the new structure. We have improved regarding the staffing now but still have 1 vacancy.”

Ann Lloyd responded as follows:

“Following consultation, we did get everyone in post but, unfortunately, we lost some members of the team because they applied for other posts within the Council, so we have actually seen a significant change in the staffing team since the consultation and for a lot of them, that was promotion, so it was good for them, not good for us. It has taken us a little while to get the team into a stable position but all the posts we wanted in our multi-disciplinary team are there. We have a dedicated counsellor, a dedicated mental health practitioner, dedicated offending manager role, and social worker in the team. We are just in the process of bringing in the final role of a substance misuse/ mental health person who has come on secondment from Betsi Cadwaladr who will still have access to all the mainstream provision through Betsi Cadwaladr services for substance misuse and mental health but will be dedicated to the homelessness team so picking up those individuals who have got lower level needs and medium level needs but still also being able to access some of the services there. Biggest issue we have the moment is moving people from emergency accommodation into permanent tenancies and that is something we will struggle with for some time. The housing market over the last 12 months has not helped at all because, obviously, rents have soared, property prices have soared so we are battling against getting affordable properties, but we have the corporate approach to that now. We are working closely with other departments, Planning and Public Protection, Community Housing, and we have got the Senior Leadership Team Sub-Group who look at this from a corporate perspective. Working together, we are really moving forward and we have recently received the Welsh Governments Ending Homeless High Action Plan which now needs to be looked at and we need to develop Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan which is a five year plan as to how we are going to move to the Welsh Governments Rapid Re-Housing model that means as soon as someone

comes into homelessness we virtually offer them a tenancy. We are putting that support in place right away. It is quite ambitious but with the support of the whole council we will get there.”

The Chair, Councillor Alan James suggested if any further statements were released, they could be circulated to all councillors and if any queries arose, they could contact the relevant officer direct.

#### **4 MINUTES**

The minutes of Full Council held on 12 October 2021 were submitted.

##### Accuracy -

Cllr Meirick Lloyd Davies stated he had raised a number of questions but his name had not been allocated to the questions within the minutes.

Councillor Lloyd Davies also thanked Councillor Peter Scott for raising the issue of Glan Llyn Farm in Trefnant Ward .

Councillor Lloyd Davies also requested that the minutes be corrected as they referred to a gravity valve, but did not note the location, this valve is on a small river let from Cefnmeiriadog.

##### Matters Arising –

Councillor Paul Penlington (item 6) asked if a response had been received from the UK Government.

Councillor Bobby Feeley confirmed a response had been received and had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Feeley felt the response was disappointing and did not address the question asked and, therefore, felt it had not been successful.

At this juncture Councillor Gwyneth Kensler expressed her thanks to all the teams who had worked during Storm Arwen the previous weekend.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the minutes of Full Council held on 12 October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **5 20TH JANUARY 2021 FLOOD EVENT - SECTION 19 FLOOD INVESTIGATION REPORT**

The Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment, Councillor Brian Jones, introduced the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Flood Event – Section 19 Flood Investigation Report.

On the 20th of January 2021, extensive flooding occurred across Denbighshire as a result of Storm Christoph. Council officers, as well as officers from Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, had carried out investigations into

the flooding in accordance with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act. The investigation was to understand the reason why the flooding occurred, the likelihood of it happening again and to assess whether measures could be put in place to reduce flooding in future

The main sources of flooding during the January 2021 event were the River Clwyd River Ystrad and River Alyn. These were classified as main rivers and the responsibility for the detailed investigation of each flood location was with Natural Resources Wales. There were five separate locations affected by main river flooding. These ranged from large communities, such as Ruthin and Denbigh (Brookhouse), to individual isolated properties within the Llandyrnog, Llanrheadr and Llanarmon yn Iâl Communities.

There were also some localised surface water flooding experienced at Llanynys, Llanfair D.C, St.Asaph, Bodelwyddan and Dyserth Communities, and the latter Community also experienced flooding from the section of ordinary watercourse known as Afon Ffyddion . The responsibility for the investigation of the events was with Denbighshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The Investigation Report had previously been presented at Scrutiny Committee following which the recommendations were currently being worked through.

Following the flood events, a Flood Task and Finish Group had been set up which encapsulated representation from Denbighshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water, together with inclusion of representations from the Farmers Union. The Task and Finish Group will submit a formal report to Full Council prior to April 2022.

The Head of Highways and Environmental Services, Tony Ward, informed members that the Risk and Asset Manager, Tim Towers, Flood Risk Engineer, Wayne Hope and the representative from Natural Resources Wales were in attendance to respond to any questions put forward by the members.

During discussions, the following points were raised:

- Regarding the flooding at Mill Street and Clwyd Street, Ruthin, the bund level had been raised but local members enquired as to how to respond if flooding were likely to happen in the future. Also whether the drains could be inspected as to whether they are clear on a more regular basis than currently eg: every three months. Officers confirmed there was a comprehensive review currently taking place regarding highways drainage. Due to the time of the review taking place, the focus would be on highway drainage hot spots. Improvement works to the Cae Ddol embankment had taken place to raise certain areas of the embankment. A Partnership Flood Group had been established and work was taking place with Ruthin Town Council to ensure the community were involved.
- It was confirmed that NRW were undertaking modelling work to look into future flood events and the impact of climate change.
- It was raised the fact that Llannerch Bridge had not been included within the flood investigation report. It was clarified that the flood investigation had focussed on property and where there had been risk to life. Officers also

confirmed the investigation report was not required to cover infrastructure but plans were being taken forward to ascertain funding opportunities to replace the bridge.

- The Capacity to respond to storms was confirmed as there were teams on standby together with contractors to assist. Information regarding response to storms was available on the NRW website.
- The area of Rhuddlan was at risk from a number of sources and some work had been undertaken in risk areas. It was confirmed it was a challenge to manage river flows and fluvial flood waters but there were work plans in place with relevant teams to minimise the risk.
- Plans were still ongoing regarding the Dyserth Flood Defence Scheme and the scheme was in the development phase.
- Work was taking place to look into the advantage of tree planting in the future and both DCC and NRW were working closely together regarding this.

Councillor Brian Jones proposed approval of the investigation report, seconded by Councillor Christine Marston.

A vote took place and it was unanimously agreed to approve the investigation report.

The Chair thanked the representative from NRW and officers for the comprehensive report and for attending the Full Council meeting.

**RESOLVED** that:

- Members considered the flood investigation report and provided feedback and comments.*
- The Council seeks assurance from Natural Resources Wales that the recommendations identified in Natural Resources Wales' flood investigation reports would be carried out.*

## **6 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR - DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE LIMITED**

The Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services introduced the Appointment of Director – Denbighshire Leisure Limited (DLL) report (previously circulated).

Council were requested to amend the composition of the DLL Board and the appointment of a director following the resignation of Graham Boase as a consequence of his appointment as Chief Executive.

It had been recommended that the Corporate Director : Communities, Nicola Stubbins be appointed as Director of DLL.

Following a brief discussion, Councillor Barry Mellor proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill.

The recommendation was unanimously approved by all those members present.

**RESOLVED** that

- Council approves the amendment of the composition of the DLL Board, and*

*(ii) Council resolves that Nicola Stubbins be appointed as a director of Denbighshire Leisure Limited.*

## **7 ROLE OF YOUNG PERSONS' CHAMPION**

The Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services, Gary Williams, introduced the Role of Young Persons' Champion report (previously circulated).

On the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Council considered the following notice of motion; "That Denbighshire County Council appoint a Young Persons Champion covering all ages up to 18."

Council resolved that a report on the role of a Young Persons Champion be presented to Democratic Services Committee to define the role and a further report to be presented to Full Council. A role description had been drafted (attached to the report). The role description was drafted to follow the same form as the role descriptions adopted for the current champions as set out in Appendices 1-4 of the report.

Democratic Services Committee agreed to recommend to Council that there should be a role of Young Person's Champion and that it should be carried out by a non-Cabinet member. The Committee considered the definition of young person should include persons up to the age of 25 years and that the role description should be amended to reflect this.

Councillor Hugh Evans proposed approval of the Role of Young Persons' Champion report, seconded by Councillor Barry Mellor.

The recommendation was unanimously approved by all those present.

**RESOLVED** that Council approves the creation of the role of Young Persons' Champion in accordance with the role description set out in Appendix 5.

**At this juncture (12.15 p.m.) there was a 20 minute break.**

**The meeting reconvened at 12.35 p.m.**

## **8 PROPOSALS FOR MEMBERS TO ADOPT NEW WAYS OF WORKING**

The Lead Member for Finance and Property, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, introduced the Proposals for Members to Adopt New Ways of Working Report (previously circulated). The report had been a joint report with the Leader, Councillor Hugh Evans, the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services, Gary Williams and the Head of Business Improvement and Modernisation, Alan Smith.

The report summarised proposals generated by the work of the Members' New Ways of Working Task & Finish Group, and which were intended to apply to the new Council following the elections in May 2022. The report considered two elements: Firstly, how Members should conduct meetings and secondly, what ICT equipment would be required to do so.

A New Ways of Working Protocol had been attached to the report as an Appendix.

It was confirmed that following the election taking place in May 2022, all members would be issued with a laptop and mobile phone. Ipads would no longer be utilised as the level of support for them would no longer be provided.

It was also confirmed that Councillors would be able to make public their new mobile phone numbers rather than home phone numbers which would be better from a security aspect.

Following discussions, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill proposed the approval of the Proposals for Members to Adopt New Ways of Working Report, seconded by Councillor Gwyneth Kensler.

A vote took place and it was unanimously agreed by all those present.

**RESOLVED that :**

- (i) Council agrees, in accordance with the recommendation of Democratic Services Committee, the method by which to hold different categories of meeting on the basis of the proposals set out in the report presented to the Members' New Ways of Working Task and Finish Group and attached to this report as Appendix 1*
- (ii) Council agrees, in accordance with the recommendation of Democratic Services Committee, that the ICT equipment to be provided to Members in the new Council should be as set out in Section 2 of the report presented to the Members' New Ways of Working Group and attached to this report as Appendix 1.*
- (iii) Council adopts, in accordance with the recommendation of Democratic Services Committee, a Protocol in respect of the conduct of Hybrid meetings in substantially the same terms as those set out in Appendix 2 to this report*

**At this juncture, the order of the Agenda was amended to accommodate Councillor Gwyneth Kensler who had to leave the meeting shortly.**

## **9 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Gwyneth Kensler for consideration by Full Council –

'That Council create and appoint a Champion for diversity'.

The Leader, Councillor Hugh Evans recommended the appointment of a Champion for Equality and Diversity be put before the Democratic Services Committee to look at the role in more detail and the bring it back to Full Council as soon as possible so that a Champion to this role could be appointed.

Councillor Hugh Evans proposed the appointment of a Champion for Equality and Diversity be put forward to the Democratic Services Committee, seconded by Councillor Glenn Swingler.

At this juncture, Councillor Graham Timms proposed a question be put forward, seconded by Councillor Gwyneth Kensler.

A vote took place and it was unanimously agreed by all those present.

**RESOLVED** that the appointment of a Champion for Equality and Diversity be submitted to the Democratic Services Committee to assess the role in more detail and then to re-submit to Full Council as soon as possible.

## 10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Pete Prendergast put forward the Notice of Motion in the absence of Councillor Joan Butterfield. The Notice of Motion was originally put forward on behalf of the Labour Group for consideration by Full Council:

“That the council support a call for the UK Government to continue with the £20 per week enhancement to Universal Credit to support the vulnerable at a time of rising household costs and economic uncertainty. That this council writes to our local members of Parliament to invite support”.

The Lead Member for Finance and Property, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, confirmed that the setting of levels of Universal Credit was not within the remit of either the Local Authority or the Welsh Government but lay with the Treasury. A lot of work had taken place in relation to Welfare reform and Universal Credit which had been presented at Scrutiny on a number of occasions. The pandemic did result in an increase in the take up of Universal Credit within Denbighshire.

In the first response to the pandemic the UK Government introduced a number of short term and temporary measures to support both businesses and individuals which included the furlough scheme and the increase to the universal credit referred to in the Notice of Motion. Both furlough and the uplift to universal credit ceased approximately two months ago there would not be a practical reason for the call for it to be continued as it does not actually exist at present. It is clearly a matter for members as to how they want to address the issue.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Pete Prendergast and seconded by Councillor Barry Mellor.

Councillor Glenn Swingler confirmed his support this Notice of Motion and proposed an amendment – that this Council writes to our local Member of Parliament and Members of the Senedd to invite support.

Councillor Pete Prendergast confirmed he was in agreement to the amendment being added to the original Notice of Motion.

Councillor Bob Murray seconded the amendment to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies proposed a further amendment that the Notice of Motion should say the amount should be reintroduced and not continued with. Seconded by Councillor Barry Mellor.

Vote took place on the amendment and it was unanimously agreed

Amendment carried, therefore a vote took place on the substantive Motion which was unanimously in favour of the Notice of Motion.

**RESOLVED** that the council support a call for the UK Government to reinstate the £20 per week enhancement to Universal Credit to support the vulnerable at a time of rising household costs and economic uncertainty. That this council writes to our local Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd to invite their support

## **11 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Paul Penlington withdrew the Notice of Motion as he required to take advice from the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services on the way forward for the Motion.

## **12 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services introduced the Council's Forward Work Programme together with the Council Briefing Forward Work Programme (previously circulated).

5 April 2021 – in pre-election period and will consult as to whether the meeting will take place.

A Budget Workshop is to take place on 17 December 2021.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the Council and Council Briefing Forward Work Programme be approved and noted.

**The meeting concluded at 1.50 p.m.**



<b>Report to</b>	County Council
<b>Date of meeting</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Julian Thompson Hill
<b>Report author</b>	Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
<b>Title</b>	Budget 2022/23 - Final Proposals

## **1. What is the report about?**

The report sets out the implications of the Local Government Settlement 2022/23 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2022/23.

## **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 2022/23, including the level of Council Tax.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 To note the impact of the Draft Local Government Settlement 2022/23.

3.2 That Council supports the proposals outlined in Appendix 1, and detailed in Section 4, in order to finalise the budget for 2022/23.

3.3 That Council approve the average Council Tax rise of 2.95% proposed.

3.4 That Council delegate authority to the Head of Finance and Property in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance to adjust the use of cash included in the budget

proposals by up to £500k if there is movement between the draft and final settlement figures in order to allow the setting of Council Tax in a timely manner.

3.5 That Council confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment.

## **4. Report details**

4.1 The Draft Local Government Settlement for 2022/23 was received by the council on 21<sup>st</sup> December and resulted in a positive settlement of 9.2%, compared to the Welsh average of 9.4%. The Final Settlement is expected on the 1<sup>st</sup> March but Welsh Government (WG) have indicated that there should be very few changes. Within the announced figure Welsh Government have advised that there are a number of new responsibilities, not all of which have clear funding consequentials within the data. Those expectations that we are required to fund include the following:

- All pay increases for both teaching and non-teaching posts are included within the RSG.
- The responsibility to pay both our own Social Care and the private sector Social Care sector the Real Living Wage.
- The core operational costs in connection with the new Corporate Joint Committee.
- Mitigation for the fact that the Covid Hardship Fund will cease as from the end of the existing financial year.

4.2 As promised by WG the draft settlement includes indicative average settlement increases of 3.5% for 2023/24 and 2.4% for 2024/25 (estimated DCC figures would 3.3% and 2.2%). Although this is very welcome from a planning perspective it does indicate that difficult decisions will be required over the coming years.

4.3 As part of the settlement there were 'transfers in' of £0.275m which have been passported to the relevant service areas as in previous years:

- Gate Fees for Regional Waste Recycling £0.109m
- Social Care Workforce Grant £0.166m

4.4 The final proposals to balance the 2022/23 budget are shown in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in Appendix 1. The main areas of growth and pressures are:

- Pay pressures (including impact of increase in National Insurance) of £3.000m
- Price and energy inflation of £0.250m
- Fire Service Charge of £0.321m
- Allowance for increase in Council Tax Reduction Scheme of £0.350m
- Schools inflationary pressures are recognised amounting to £3.769m
- Schools demographic pressure of £0.606m
- £3.127m to recognise demand pressures and forecasts in Community Support Services as part of the council's long term strategy to manage care budgets as well as recognising the agenda to ensure all care staff are paid the Real Living Wage
- £0.750m to recognise existing pressures in Education and Children's Services relating to Out of County Placements and Recoupment.
- £0.500m pressure to meet the increased costs within School Transport which is becoming evident in the monthly monitoring
- Investment in priorities amounting to £1.281m:
  - Further investment in Carbon Zero Project of £0.440m, £0.233m of this is for additional staff to undertake the necessary work and the remaining £0.207m is to fund the revenue impact of capital spend (prudential borrowing)
  - Final increase required for the Rhyl Flood scheme amounting to £0.081m
  - Increased Investment in Highways Capital Programme as proposed by Council (£4m capital) – requires an estimated £0.235m in Capital Finance Budget
  - £0.175m is required in order to maintain the existing levels of Capital Spend within the Block Allocations to make up for a shortfall in WG funding this year
  - This leaves £0.350m which it is proposed will be used in year to start to fund capital projects in year (eg those that were brought forward by the Horizon Scanning exercise or that come out of the new Corporate Plan)
- Service non-strategic pressures of £1.111m – pressures and requirements for investments identified by services themselves and summarised in Appendix 2.
- An estimated pressure of £0.300m has been included to pay for DCC's element of the ongoing budget requirement for the new Corporate Joint Committee.
- In light of the scale of the draft settlement indicating that there will be no general Covid Hardship Fund next financial year (but that funds have been included within the settlement) a Covid contingency of £1.988m has been included. It is hoped that this will be used for one-off unavoidable costs next financial year but that we would look to release this the following year to help balance the budget.

4.5 The pressures identified above amount to £17.628m. A draft settlement of around 11% would have been required in order to fund all these pressures. The net +9.2% settlement generates £15.005m additional revenue leaving a funding gap of £2.623m. The following items are included in the proposals in order to bridge that gap:

- Fees and Charges Income Budgets have been inflated in line with agreed Fees and Charges policy which increases external income by £0.120m.
- Operational efficiencies amounting to £0.634m have been identified which are within Head Service delegated responsibility in consultation with Lead Members (see Appendix 2 for summary by category).
- No savings have been requested from Community Support Services or Schools.
- It is recommended that the Council Tax increases by 2.95% which, along with minor changes to the Council Tax Base, will generate £1.869m additional revenue. This compares to last year's increase of 3.8% and 4.3% the year before that.

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

Effective management of the council's budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas. The proposals include allocations to continue to support both corporate and service priorities.

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

Details are set out in Section 4.

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

Well-being Impact Assessments for the Council Tax increase is included in Appendix 4.

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

In addition to regular reports to the Corporate Governance Committee, the budget process has been considered by SLT, Cabinet Briefing, Group Leaders and Council Briefing meetings. The School Budget Forum have been included in the proposals through-out the

year. Trade Unions have been consulted through Local Joint Consultative Committee. The Covid pandemic has continued to impact on the level of consultation and engagement with the public, however plans are in place to engage early with all stakeholders during the budget process for 2023/24.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1 The aim of the budget process is to ensure that the council delivers a balanced budget. The proposals set out in this report offer a balanced approach which takes into account the principles of the new budget process:

- Aim to recognise and remedy in year and forecast service pressures as much as possible in order to build in resilience.
- Ensure services are challenged to deliver efficient services, but to try and minimise the impact of proposals on services users and staff.
- Keep Council Tax increases as low as practicable.
- Limit the use of Cash which only delays the need to identify savings.
- Maintain funding for corporate priorities.

9.5 Due to the very late date for the Final Settlement it is recommended that Cabinet and Council delegate authority to the Head of Finance and Property in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance to adjust the use of cash included in the budget proposals by up to £500k. WG has indicated that there are unlikely to be any material changes, however it is sensible to have a contingency plan agreed beforehand.

9.4 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?**

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. Failure to agree these proposals without viable alternatives will risk achieving a balanced budget for 2022/23.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

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 Proposed Budget - as at January 2022

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
<b>Funding</b>				
Revenue Support Grant & NNDR (RSG)	158,632	173,637	179,367	183,313
Council Tax	58,187	60,055	62,881	65,703
<b>SSA / Budget Requirement</b>	<b>216,818</b>	<b>233,692</b>	<b>242,248</b>	<b>249,016</b>
<b>Use of Balances</b>				
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>216,818</b>	<b>233,692</b>	<b>242,248</b>	<b>249,016</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Base Budget</b>	<b>208,302</b>	<b>216,819</b>	<b>233,693</b>	<b>240,062</b>
<b>Inflation / Pressures:</b>				
Pay	870	3,000	1,019	1,019
Price - targeted	100		100	100
Price - NSI Energy	150	250	150	150
CTRS	350	350	350	350
Fire Service Charge	162	321	100	100
Income Inflation	(462)	(120)	(250)	(250)
Social Services	2,397	3,127	1,000	1,000
Childrens Service	750	750		
Other Service Pressures	286	500		
CJCs		300		
Waste Pressures	250			
Schools Inflation	1,205	3,769	1,000	1,000
Schools Investment	1,353			
Schools Demography Adjustment	718	606	700	700
Covid / Brexit Contingency	683	1,988		
<b>Other known items:</b>				
Investment in Priorities 1		81		
Investment in Priorities 2		1,200	700	700
Service Non-Strategic Pressures	176	1,111	1,500	1,500
NWEAB Growth Deal	64			
Carbon Zero Project	389			
Transfers into/out of Settlement	1,280	275		
<b>EFFICIENCIES / SAVINGS:</b>				
Service Efficiencies - BAU - 1%	(690)	(634)		
Service Savings	(781)			
Schools Efficiency Target	(733)			
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>216,819</b>	<b>233,693</b>	<b>240,062</b>	<b>246,431</b>
<b>Funding Shortfall / (Available)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,186)</b>	<b>(2,585)</b>
<b>Annual increase/(decrease) in shortfall</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(2,187)</b>	<b>(399)</b>
<b>Key Assumptions</b>				
Settlement %	3.60%	9.20%	3.30%	2.20%
Council Tax Increase % Band D	3.80%	2.95%	3.80%	3.80%

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**Non Strategic Service Pressures**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Pressures £'000</b>
<b>Investment in Services:</b>	
IT Services	140
Democratic Services	92
HR - Recruitment and Retention	41
Streetscene	115
Highways Revenue	162
Contract Management	50
Facilities Management	45
Strategic Financial Research	50
Countryside Services	50
ALN Reforms	89
Children's Counselling Services	26
Website Development	40
Blue Badges	41
<b>Other Unavoidable Pressures</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,111</b>

**Service Efficiencies by Category**

<b>Saving Type</b>	<b>Savings £'000</b>
Procurement	42
Technical budget reduction (eg decrease in costs)	165
Service Restructures	175
Maximisation of grant/external income	48
Removal of Corporate Contingencies	200
Service Change / Other	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>634</b>

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## Council Tax Sensitivity Analysis

2022/23	Increase %	Increase in Band D £	Proposed Band D £	Total Funding £000	Inc/Dec in Funding £000
	0.00%	0.00	1,436.76	58,333	0
	0.50%	7.18	1,443.94	58,625	292
	1.00%	14.37	1,451.13	58,917	584
	1.50%	21.55	1,458.31	59,209	876
	2.00%	28.74	1,465.49	59,501	1,168
	2.50%	35.92	1,472.68	59,793	1,460
	2.75%	39.51	1,476.27	59,939	1,606
<b>Proposed 2022/23 Level</b>	<b>2.95%</b>	<b>42.38</b>	<b>1,479.14</b>	<b>60,055</b>	<b>1,723</b>
	3.00%	43.10	1,479.86	60,085	1,752
	3.25%	46.69	1,483.45	60,231	1,898
<b>15 Year Average</b>	<b>3.31%</b>	<b>47.56</b>	<b>1,484.31</b>	<b>60,266</b>	<b>1,933</b>
	3.50%	50.29	1,487.04	60,376	2,044
	3.75%	53.88	1,490.64	60,522	2,190
<b>2021/22 Increase</b>	<b>3.80%</b>	<b>54.60</b>	<b>1,491.35</b>	<b>60,552</b>	<b>2,219</b>
<b>6 Year Average</b>	<b>3.91%</b>	<b>56.18</b>	<b>1,492.94</b>	<b>60,616</b>	<b>2,283</b>
	4.00%	57.47	1,494.23	60,668	2,336
<b>2020/21 Increase</b>	<b>4.30%</b>	<b>61.78</b>	<b>1,498.54</b>	<b>60,844</b>	<b>2,511</b>
	4.50%	64.65	1,501.41	60,960	2,628
	5.00%	71.84	1,508.60	61,252	2,920
	5.50%	79.02	1,515.78	61,544	3,212
	6.00%	86.21	1,522.96	61,836	3,504
<b>2019/20 Increase</b>	<b>6.35%</b>	<b>91.23</b>	<b>1,527.99</b>	<b>62,041</b>	<b>3,708</b>
	6.50%	93.39	1,530.15	62,128	3,796
	7.00%	100.57	1,537.33	62,420	4,087

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# Council Tax Level for 2022/23

## Well-being Impact Assessment Report


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

Assessment Number:	998
Brief description:	Proposal is to increase Council Tax by 2.95%
Date Completed:	11/01/2022 11:24:32 Version: 1
Completed by:	Steve Gadd
Responsible Service:	Finance
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	All Council Tax Payers and service users within the County
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

# 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


 ( 3 out of 4 stars ) Actual score : 30 / 36.

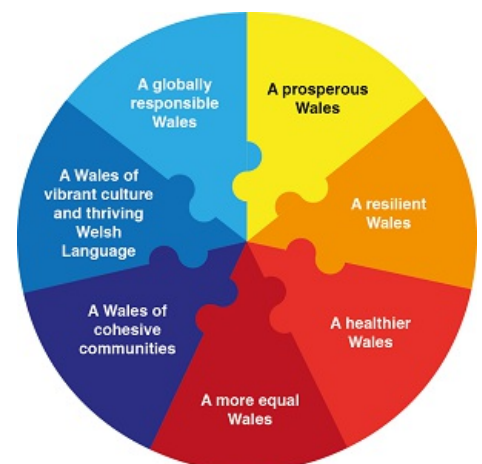
## Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

<b>Long term</b>	Proposed increase is to ensure that the Council can continue to improve services and invest in people and infrastructure. The proposals form part of a five year budget process to manage resources.
<b>Prevention</b>	The proposals include significant investment in zero Carbon and Biodiversity project. There is also significant investment in Social Care and Childrens' Services and Schools. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme helps ensure that those in most need are protected from the increase to Council Tax.
<b>Integration</b>	The increase form part of a balanced set of budget proposals that ensures investment in Corporate Priorities.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Full consultation of the overall proposals have taken place with Cabinet, Council, Budget Board, Unions, School Budget Forum and the Senior Leadership Team.
<b>Involvement</b>	A Communication plan with the public was agreed with the Comms Team in the Autumn to ensure that full involvement and consultation will take place next year. Full consultation has been undertaken this year with Cabinet, Council, SLT, Trade Unions, Group Leaders and the School Budget Forum. Press releases have clearly shown the level of Council Tax proposed and highlighting how to access the full report prior to both Cabinet and Council meetings.

## Summary of impact

### Well-being Goals

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



## Main conclusions

The impacts are broadly positive. 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 investment in key priorities such as highways and the environment. This year the proposed increase of 2.95% is below inflation and the lowest increase for five years. 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.

### **Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment**

- We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
- We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal
- We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

# THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

## A prosperous Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The budget process and the setting of Council Tax is an enabling activity which should allow services to develop proposals and services which will help achieve the Wellbeing goals. I believe the proposals for 2022/23 are a balanced package that allow for investment in services alongside ensuring that unavoidable pressures are funded. Hopefully this allows services to deliver on their plans.
<b>Further actions required</b>	Negative impacts on services have been minimised this year. Social Care and School have been protected completely and only efficiencies of 1% requested from other services. A thorough process led by the Budget Board scrutinised all proposals.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>A low carbon society</b>	Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 target
<b>Quality communications, infrastructure and transport</b>	Proposals include large investment in Highways infrastructure and flooding schemes
<b>Economic development</b>	Investment above will aid Economic development - further commitments include match funding for the Levelling-up Exercise
<b>Quality skills for the long term</b>	Investment for HR to help with recruitment and retention included
<b>Quality jobs for the long term</b>	
<b>Childcare</b>	

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>A low carbon society</b>	High impact schemes such as Highways and flood defences obviously increase Emissions, especially during the construction phase
<b>Quality communications, infrastructure and transport</b>	
<b>Economic development</b>	
<b>Quality skills for the long term</b>	
<b>Quality jobs for the long term</b>	
<b>Childcare</b>	

## A resilient Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
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<b>Justification for impact</b>	The budget process and the setting of Council Tax is an enabling activity which should allow services to develop proposals and services which will help achieve the Wellbeing goals. I believe the proposals for 2022/23 are a balanced package that allow for investment in services alongside ensuring that unavoidable pressures are funded. Hopefully this allows services to deliver on their plans.
<b>Further actions required</b>	Negative impacts on services have been minimised this year. Social Care and School have been protected completely and only efficiencies of 1% requested from other services. A thorough process led by the Budget Board scrutinised all proposals.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>Biodiversity and the natural environment</b>	Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target
<b>Biodiversity in the built environment</b>	Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target
<b>Reducing waste, reusing and recycling</b>	
<b>Reduced energy/fuel consumption</b>	Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target
<b>People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity</b>	Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target
<b>Flood risk management</b>	Proposals include large investment in flood defences

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>Biodiversity and the natural environment</b>	
<b>Biodiversity in the built environment</b>	
<b>Reducing waste, reusing and recycling</b>	
<b>Reduced energy/fuel consumption</b>	High impact schemes such as Highways and flood defences obviously increase Emissions, especially during the construction phase
<b>People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity</b>	
<b>Flood risk management</b>	

## A healthier Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Neutral
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The Budget supports the key services to help deliver a healthier Denbighshire.
<b>Further actions required</b>	Negative impacts on services have been minimised this year. Social Care and School have been protected completely and only efficiencies of 1% requested from other services. A thorough process led by the Budget Board scrutinised all proposals.

**Positive impacts identified:**

<b>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</b>	Proposals include £3.1m above inflation investment in Social Care
<b>Access to good quality, healthy food</b>	
<b>People's emotional and mental well-being</b>	
<b>Access to healthcare</b>	
<b>Participation in leisure opportunities</b>	Funding for DLL has been maintained at existing levels which will hopefully allow DLL to flourish, especially if Covid restrictions come to an end in 22/23

**Negative impacts identified:**

<b>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</b>	
<b>Access to good quality, healthy food</b>	
<b>People's emotional and mental well-being</b>	
<b>Access to healthcare</b>	
<b>Participation in leisure opportunities</b>	

**A more equal Denbighshire**

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Neutral
<b>Justification for impact</b>	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, waste services, children's services and schools and maintain service levels broadly. It also allows funding of a number of corporate priorities including Carbon Neutral targets, Flood Defence and investing in regeneration.
<b>Further actions required</b>	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.

**Positive impacts identified:**

<b>Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation</b>	
<b>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</b>	
<b>People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes</b>	Budget also includes provision to increase spending on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which helps protect vulnerable residents from Council Tax
<b>Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage</b>	

**Negative impacts identified:**

<b>Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation</b>	
<b>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</b>	
<b>People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes</b>	Any Council Tax increase will impact on residents budgets, however the most vulnerable are protected
<b>Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage</b>	

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that protects front line services and protects the investment in new priority areas to enhance community resilience.
<b>Further actions required</b>	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.

**Positive impacts identified:**

<b>Safe communities and individuals</b>	
<b>Community participation and resilience</b>	
<b>The attractiveness of the area</b>	The funding for biodiversity projects should help with attractiveness of the area.
<b>Connected communities</b>	Large investment in Highways infrastructure will help ensure communities feel connected
<b>Rural resilience</b>	Highways investment is particularly aimed to help the quality of the rural network

**Negative impacts identified:**

<b>Safe communities and individuals</b>	
<b>Community participation and resilience</b>	
<b>The attractiveness of the area</b>	
<b>Connected communities</b>	
<b>Rural resilience</b>	

**A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Neutral
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that helps to maintain services received by the public.
<b>Further actions required</b>	The negatives are managed through Council Tax relief being available for those who qualify for the support, though clearly this does not address the impact on all residents.

**Positive impacts identified:**

<b>People using Welsh</b>	The Council tax collection service and all correspondence is available through the medium of Welsh.
<b>Promoting the Welsh language</b>	
<b>Culture and heritage</b>	

**Negative impacts identified:**

<b>People using Welsh</b>	
<b>Promoting the Welsh language</b>	
<b>Culture and heritage</b>	

**A globally responsible Denbighshire**

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be broadly maintained in 2021/22 and so should not therefore adversely impact supply chains. Significant investment also included for reducing climate change and coping with its impact.
<b>Further actions required</b>	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.

**Positive impacts identified:**

<b>Local, national, international supply chains</b>	The proposal allows for service levels to be broadly maintained during 2022/23.
<b>Human rights</b>	
<b>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</b>	It also allows funding of a number of corporate priorities including Carbon Neutral targets, Schools, Social Care, Flood defences and match funding for the Levelling-Up fund.
<b>Reducing climate change</b>	The budget continues the significant investment in trying to reduce climate change through the 2030 targets and also ensuring the Council is resilient to change which we already know is happening (eg flood defences)

**Negative impacts identified:**

<b>Local, national, international supply chains</b>	
<b>Human rights</b>	
<b>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</b>	
<b>Reducing climate change</b>	

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<b>Report to</b>	County Council
<b>Date of meeting</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
<b>Report author</b>	Leah Gray (Civica) / Steve Gadd
<b>Title</b>	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23

## 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 (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2022.

## 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 7th December 2021 and the new Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and amendments Regulations 2022 are required to be adopted by 31st January 2022.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1. That members adopt the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 in respect of the 2022/23 financial year.

3.2. That members approve the discretionary elements of the scheme, shown in section 4.4, for 2022/23 financial year.

## **4. Report details**

### **4.1. The Proposed Scheme 2022/23**

In considering the development of a new scheme for 2022/23 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 2023-24 so that operational risks are managed and that support can continue to be provided.

### **4.2 Uprating for 2022/23**

The amended 2013 CTRS Regulations uprate financial figures used to calculate entitlement to a reduction in line with Welsh Government policy. A number of other figures are included in the uprating for 2022/23. 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 figure for September from the previous year (2021), which is 3.1%.
- 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 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 for the income bands and deductions made in relation to non-dependants have been uprated. If amendments are not made, the deductions from CTRS awards would not be appropriate as the income thresholds would no longer reflect average earnings and the deduction would no longer reflect the overall cost of council tax.

### **4.3 Additional Amendments**

#### Afghan Nationals and UK Nationals from Afghanistan

This amendment is designed to support Afghan nationals and UK nationals from Afghanistan as a consequence of the recent changes to the Afghan Government.

The proposed amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations make provision to exempt this group from those counted as persons not being in Great Britain. The effect of these amendments is that this group will be eligible to be included in a local authority's CTRS and will be eligible for a discount if they meet the other requirements of the CTRS.

#### Redress scheme for survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland.

The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 23 April 2021. The Act sets up a scheme to make financial payments ('redress payments') to survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland.

To ensure that no applicant living in Wales is negatively affected because they have received a redress payment, a consequential amendment is made to disregard any redress payment received from the calculation of an applicant's capital under the scheme. A similar amendment is also made to disregard any ex gratia payment made by the Scottish Ministers from the Advance Payment Scheme set up by the Scottish Ministers in respect of cases of historical child abuse in care.

#### Pensioners reaching state pension age: personal allowance

The 2013 CTRS Regulations currently provide for higher or lower personal allowance rates for pensioners depending on whether they are over or under 65 respectively. There are no longer pensioners (within the meaning of the Regulations) who are under the age of 65. An amendment is therefore made to remove the redundant references. The effect of the

amendment is that pensioners in Wales are entitled to the higher rate of personal allowance.

#### **4.4 Discretionary Elements for Council Decision**

Council are recommended to adopt the following three discretionary elements of the scheme:

- not to increase the standard extended payment period of 4 weeks Council Tax Reduction to applicants, after they return to work when they have been in receipt of a relevant qualifying benefit.
- disregard 100% of the War Disablement pensions and War Widows Pensions when calculating income
- not to increase the CTR maximum backdate period beyond the standard 3 months

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

Adopting this scheme will help vulnerable people, ensuring they are able to live as independently as possible, reduce homelessness and child poverty. If the uprating figures were not adopted, the eligibility criteria would be out of date, with earning thresholds no longer reflecting the overall cost of council tax. Applicants would be disadvantaged by reducing or stopping their entitlement to support. It could also cause confusion for applicants and increase the administrative burden for the Local Authority and local support providers.

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

£8.536m has been identified in the settlement for Denbighshire for Council Tax Support from the Welsh Government (£8.920m last year). However current expenditure is £10.663m and if the Net Council Tax increased by 2.95% (i.e the councils proposed increase) the forecast expenditure for 2022/23 is circa £10.978m. This gives a shortfall of around £2.442m for 2022/23 for which budgetary provision has been made since 2013 and further £350k additional provision has been proposed as part of the budget proposals for 2022/23.

## **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, or reduced 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 2022/23.

## **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 2022.

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**Explanatory Memorandum to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes  
(Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment)  
Regulations 2022**

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by Local Government Finance Reform Division and is laid before Senedd Cymru 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 2022. I am satisfied the benefits justify the likely costs.

**Rebecca Evans**  
**Minister for Finance and Local Government**  
**7 December 2021**

## **PART 1: DESCRIPTION**

### **1 Overview**

- 1.1 Council Tax Reduction Schemes (CTRS) are the mechanism by which local authorities provide support to low-income households in meeting their council tax liability.
- 1.2 This statutory instrument makes amendments to 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, and makes certain technical and consequential amendments.

### **2 Matters of special interest to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

- 2.1 There are no matters of special interest.

### **3 Legislative background**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 This statutory instrument is made pursuant to powers in section 13A and Schedule 1B to the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The instrument is subject to approval of the Senedd (the draft affirmative procedure) by virtue of sections 13A(4) and (8) of the 1992 Act.

### **4 Purpose and intended effect of the legislation**

- 4.1 This statutory instrument amends the 2013 CTRS Regulations to uprate certain figures in those Regulations used to calculate entitlement to a council tax reduction, and the amount of any reduction awarded to applicants in the 2022-23 financial year to reflect increases in the cost-of living. It also makes minor technical, presentational and consequential changes to the 2013 CTRS Regulations.

#### Background

- 4.2 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 was transferred to local authorities in England. Fixed funding, reduced by 10% compared to the 2012-13 costs, was passed to the Welsh Government and to the Scottish Government to allow the Devolved Governments to develop replacement schemes.

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The 2013 CTRS Regulations were approved by the National Assembly for Wales on 26 November 2013.
- 4.5 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. In 2020-21 an additional £10.9m of grant funding was provided to address the increase in caseload arising from the impact of Covid-19 on work and incomes.

#### 2013 CTRS Regulations

- 4.6 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 to prevent low-income households facing sharp changes in the level of support they received. All eligible applicants were automatically and seamlessly transferred from Council Tax Benefit onto Council Tax Reduction Schemes from 1 April 2013. If an applicant receives Income Support, Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Income-Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Pension Credit, or Pension Credit Guarantee, they are entitled to the maximum, full, reduction in their council tax liability. Approximately 50% of CTRS applicants in Wales receive these passporting benefits.
- 4.7 If an applicant does not receive any of the passporting 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.

- 4.8 For CTRS, Universal Credit (UC) recipients are treated in a similar way to non-passported applicants. However, instead of an 'applicable amount' being calculated, the 'maximum amount' (calculated within their UC application) is used instead.
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 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).
- 4.11 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 applicants) or less, this will be ignored when working out whether they are entitled to a reduction.
- 4.12 If a working-age applicant has capital of between £6,000 and £16,000, 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 £250 of capital between £6,000 and £16,000. This will be added to other income to work out whether an applicant is entitled to a reduction and how much they are entitled to.
- 4.13 If a pension-age applicant has capital of between £10,000 and £16,000, the local authority will treat it as income. The local authority will assume an applicant has an income of £1 a week for each £500 of capital between £10,000 and £16,000. This will be added to other income to work out whether an applicant is entitled to a reduction and how much they are entitled to.

#### Uprating figures for 2022-23

- 4.14 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.
- 4.15 The statutory instrument seeks to uprate a number of other figures included in the 2013 CTRS Regulations. These include the following.
- 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 figure for September from the previous year (2021), which is 3.1%.

- 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 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 for the income bands and deductions made in relation to non-dependants have been uprated. If amendments are not made, the deductions from CTRS awards would not be appropriate 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

4.16 In addition to uprating the financial figures, this statutory instrument makes a number of other amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations. These make provision for the treatment of two other types of payments and ensure the 2013 Regulations remain up-to-date and fit for purpose.

#### Afghan Nationals and UK Nationals from Afghanistan

4.17 This amendment is designed to support Afghan nationals and UK nationals from Afghanistan as a consequence of the recent changes to the Afghan Government.

4.18 The proposed amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations make provision to exempt this group from those counted as persons not being in Great Britain. The effect of these amendments is that this group will be eligible to be included in a local authority's CTRS and will be eligible for a discount if they meet the other requirements of the CTRS.

#### Redress scheme for survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland

4.19 The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 23 April 2021. The Act sets up a scheme to make financial payments ('redress payments') to survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland.

4.20 To ensure that no applicant living in Wales is negatively affected because they have received a redress payment, a consequential amendment is made to disregard any redress payment received from the calculation of an applicant's capital under the scheme. A similar amendment is also made to disregard any ex gratia payment made by the Scottish Ministers from the Advance

Payment Scheme set up by the Scottish Ministers in respect of cases of historical child abuse in care.

Pensioners reaching state pension age: personal allowance

4.21 The 2013 CTRS Regulations currently provide for higher or lower personal allowance rates for pensioners depending on whether they are over or under 65 respectively. There are no longer pensioners (within the meaning of the Regulations) who are under the age of 65. An amendment is therefore made to remove the redundant references. The effect of the amendment is that pensioners in Wales are entitled to the higher rate of personal allowance.

## **PART 2: REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (RIA)**

### **Options**

#### Option 1 – Do nothing

- 1 If the financial figures used to assess household allowances in the council tax reduction means-test remained static, the criteria used would be slightly less generous for non-passported applicants and would lead to small decreases in support in real terms.
- 2 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.
- 3 If consequential amendments are not made to the 2013 CTRS Regulations, this would mean that they would not take account of changes to related welfare benefits and other legislation. This could disadvantage some applicants by reducing or stopping their entitlement to support. It could also create confusion for applicants and increase the administrative burden for local authorities and advice providers.

#### Option 2 – Make amending Regulations

- 4 This option would mean that amendments would be made to uprate the financial figures in the 2013 CTRS Regulations in line with to Welsh Government policy, cost-of-living increases and changes to qualifying benefits.
- 5 The financial figures in relation to working age, disability or carer rates will continue to increase with the cost of living for 2022-23 which is 3.1%, as measured by CPI. The personal allowances for all pensioners will be uprated to reflect the higher personal allowance provided within the Housing Benefit system. The increase would be aligned to the UK Government's Standard Minimum Guarantee (in Pension Credit) plus the maximum amount of Savings Credit (in Pension Credit).
- 6 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.
- 7 The necessary technical and consequential amendments would also be made.

## **Costs and Benefits**

### **Costs**

#### Option 1 – Do nothing

- 8 If the financial figures for working age and pensioner allowances do not increase with the cost of living (as measured by CPI), CTRS recipients would be slightly worse off in real terms.
- 9 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.
- 10 If the technical and consequential amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations are not made, they would no longer align with Housing Benefit provisions and 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**

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

#### Option 2 – Make amending Regulations

### **Costs**

- 12 Uprating the financial figures in respect of pensioners and working age allowances would slightly increase total reductions under CTRS. 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 substantially as a result of the uprating.

### **Benefits**

- 13 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 (3.1%).

- 14 Uprating the financial figures in respect of the personal allowance for pensioners continues to increase in line with the Standard Minimum Guarantee plus the Savings Credit. Maintaining the higher personal allowance for CTRS will help low-income households that reach state pension age to meet council tax liability who may receive less housing benefit compared to a pensioner that has already reached pension age.
- 15 If the financial figures in relation to non-dependant deduction rates are uprated, 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.
- 16 As part of these Regulations, consequential and technical amendments are made that are associated with wider welfare changes made by the UK government. This would ensure CTRS reflects changes made to interrelated social security benefits which often determine entitlement to a reduction. It would also avoid any additional administrative burden for local authorities or advice providers arising from managing different regimes.

## **Sectors**

- 17 Local government and the voluntary sector were consulted during the development of proposals to introduce CTRS in Wales. Local authorities have been informed of the proposed amendments for 2022-23.
- 18 This legislation will not affect the business sector.

## **Duties**

- 19 In drafting these Regulations consideration has been given to the duty on Welsh Ministers to promote equality and eliminate discrimination.
- 20 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the introduction of the 2013 CTRS Regulations.
- 21 This statutory instrument is provided bilingually. CTRS is implemented and operated by local authorities who are under general duties to comply with Welsh language and sustainable development duties.
- 22 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.
- 23 Maintaining full entitlements to CTRS will continue to help low-income households in meeting their council tax liability and, as such, will contribute to the Welsh Government's commitment to make council tax fairer.

### **Competition assessment**

- 24 These Regulations have been scored against the competition filter test which indicated that there will be no detrimental effect on competition.

### **Consultation**

- 25 There is no requirement to consult and no formal consultation has been undertaken in respect of this statutory instrument. However, the 2013 CTRS Regulations were consulted upon and details are provided in the Regulatory Impact Assessments accompanying those Regulations. Dialogue is maintained between Welsh Government officials and local authorities to continue to ensure that all changes made are to benefit applicants. The regulations cannot be finalised until DWP has provided figures in relation to uprating. This occurs in the last few weeks of November each year. They must then be made prior to 31 January preceding the financial year as this is the date by which an authority must make its CTRS.

### **Post implementation review**

- 26 Amendments are required on an annual basis to uprate the financial figures used to calculate entitlements to reductions. This provides an opportunity to review the legislation.

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

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DRAFT WELSH STATUTORY  
INSTRUMENTS

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**2022 No. (W.)**

**COUNCIL TAX, WALES**

**The Council Tax Reduction  
Schemes (Prescribed Requirements  
and Default Scheme) (Wales)  
(Amendment) Regulations 2022**

**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 and the Default Scheme Regulations.

Regulation 3 inserts new categories into the list of persons who are not to be treated as not being in Great Britain for the purpose of the residence criteria set out in regulation 28 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. The new categories are persons to whom leave is granted under immigration rules by virtue of

the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy or the previous scheme for locally-employed staff in Afghanistan (otherwise known as the ex-gratia scheme), persons to whom leave is granted under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, and persons not coming within those schemes, but who arrived in Great Britain from Afghanistan in connection with the fall of the Afghan government that took place on 15 August 2021. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulation 12.

The amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations by regulations 4, 5(b) to (d), 7 and 8 increase certain figures that are used in calculating whether a person is entitled to a reduction, and the amount of that reduction. The updated 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). Other figures are also updated to reflect changes over time to various entitlements. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 13, 15(b) to (d) and 16.

The amendment made by regulation 5(a) replaces the existing table in paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations to remove redundant references to persons under 65. The same amendment is made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulation 15(a). The effect of these amendments is to extend the higher rate of personal allowance to pensioners.

The amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations by regulations 6, 9 and 10 provide for how compensation payments made by the Scottish Ministers in relation to cases of historical child abuse are to be taken into account when determining eligibility for a reduction and the amount of a reduction. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 14, 17 and 18.

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 Local Government Finance Reform, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.



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

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DRAFT WELSH STATUTORY  
INSTRUMENTS

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**2022 No. (W.)**

**COUNCIL TAX, WALES**

**The Council Tax Reduction  
Schemes (Prescribed Requirements  
and Default Scheme) (Wales)  
(Amendment) Regulations 2022**

*Made*

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*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 6 of Schedule 1B to, the Local Government Finance Act 1992<sup>(1)</sup>.

In accordance with section 13A(8) of that Act, a draft of this instrument has been laid before and approved by resolution of Senedd Cymru<sup>(2)</sup>.

**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 2022.

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

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(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. See section 116 for the definition of “prescribed”.

(2) The reference in section 13A(8) to the National Assembly for Wales now has effect as a reference to Senedd Cymru, by virtue of section 150A(2) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (c. 32), as amended by section 9 of, and Schedule 1 to, the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020 (anaw 1).

(3) These Regulations apply in relation to a council tax reduction scheme made for a financial year beginning on or after 1 April 2022.

(4) In these Regulations—

“billing authority” (“*awdurdod bilio*”) has the meaning given in section 1(2)(b) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the 1992 Act”);

“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 1992 Act.

### **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 10.

3.—(1) Regulation 28(5) (persons treated as not being in Great Britain) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (5).

(2) In sub-paragraph (e)—

(a) after paragraph (ii) omit “or”;

(b) at the end of paragraph (iii) for “;” substitute “,”;

(c) after paragraph (iii) insert—

“or

(iv) granted under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme(2),”.

(3) After sub-paragraph (k) omit “or”.

(4) At the end of sub-paragraph (l) for “.” substitute “;”.

(5) After sub-paragraph (l) insert—

“(m) a person granted leave in accordance with the rules referred to in sub-paragraph (e), where such leave is granted by virtue of—

(i) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy(1), or

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(1) S.I. 2013/3029 (W. 301), 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), S.I. 2017/46 (W. 20), S.I. 2018/14 (W. 7), S.I. 2019/11 (W. 5), S.I. 2020/16 (W. 2) and S.I. 2021/34 (W. 9).

(2) The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme was announced by the United Kingdom Government on 18 August 2021 and is published: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>.

(ii) the previous scheme for locally-employed staff in Afghanistan (sometimes referred to as the ex-gratia scheme)(2); or

(n) a person in Great Britain not coming within sub-paragraph (e)(iv) or (m) who left Afghanistan in connection with the collapse of the Afghan government that took place on 15 August 2021.”

4. In Schedule 1 (determining eligibility for a reduction: pensioners), in paragraph 3 (non-dependant deductions: pensioners)—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (1)(a), for “£15.35” substitute “£15.95”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (1)(b), for “£5.10” substitute “£5.30”;
- (c) in sub-paragraph (2)(a), for “£217.00” substitute “£224.00”;
- (d) in sub-paragraph (2)(b), for “£217.00”, “£377.00” and “£10.20” substitute “£224.00”, “£389.00” and “£10.60” respectively;
- (e) in sub-paragraph (2)(c), for “£377.00”, “£469.00” and “£12.85” substitute “£389.00”, “£484.00” and “£13.35” respectively.

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

- (a) for the Table in paragraph 1 (personal allowance) substitute—

“

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
<i>Person, couple or polygamous marriage</i>	<i>Amount</i>
(1) Single applicant or lone parent who has attained pensionable age	£197.10
(2) Couple where one or both members have attained pensionable age	£294.90
(3) If the applicant is a member of a polygamous marriage	

(1) The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy was announced by the United Kingdom Government on 29 December 2020 and is published: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>.

(2) See Part 7 of the rules made under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (c. 77); the relevant rules are rules 276BA1 – 276BS2.

and one or more members of the marriage have attained pensionable age—

- (a) for the applicant and the other party to the marriage; £294.90
- (b) for each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the applicant. £97.80

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”;

- (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 2(1) (child or young person amounts), for “£66.90”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£70.80”;
- (c) in paragraph 3 (family premium), for “£17.45” substitute “£17.85”;
- (d) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premium specified in Part 3), in the second column—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£67.30”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£69.40” and for “£134.60” substitute “£138.80”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£26.67” substitute “£27.44”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£65.94” substitute “£68.04”;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£37.70” substitute “£38.85”.

**6.** In Schedule 5 (capital disregards: pensioners), after paragraph 28C insert—

**“28D.** Any ex gratia payment made at the discretion of the Scottish Ministers from the Advance Payment Scheme which the Scottish Ministers set up in respect of cases of historical child abuse in care<sup>(1)</sup>.

**28E.** Any redress payment made under Part 4 of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021<sup>(2)</sup>.”

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(1) The Advance Payment Scheme was announced by the Scottish Government on 25 April 2019 and is published: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-care-advance-payment-scheme/>.

(2) 2021 asp 15.

**7.** In Schedule 6 (determining eligibility for a reduction: persons who are not pensioners), in paragraph 5 (non-dependant deductions: persons who are not pensioners)—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (1)(a), for “£15.35” substitute “£15.95”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (1)(b), for “£5.10” substitute “£5.30”;
- (c) in sub-paragraph (2)(a), for “£217.00” substitute “£224.00”;
- (d) in sub-paragraph (2)(b), for “£217.00”, “£377.00” and “£10.20” substitute “£224.00”, “£389.00” and “£10.60” respectively;
- (e) in sub-paragraph (2)(c), for “£377.00”, “£469.00” and “£12.85” substitute “£389.00”, “£484.00” and “£13.35” respectively.

**8.** 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 “£79.60”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£82.10” and for “£63.05” substitute “£65.00”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£79.60” substitute “£82.10”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£125.05” substitute “£128.95”;
- (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 3(1), for “£66.90”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£70.80”;
- (c) in paragraph 4(1)(b) (family premium), for “£17.45” substitute “£17.85”;
- (d) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premiums specified in Part 3), in the second column—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£35.10” and “£50.05” substitute “£36.20” and “£51.60” respectively;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£67.30”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£69.40” and for “£134.60” substitute “£138.80”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£65.94” substitute “£68.04”;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£37.70” substitute “£38.85”;
  - (v) in sub-paragraph (5), for “£26.67”, “£17.20” and “£24.60” substitute “£27.44”, “£17.75” and “£25.35” respectively;
- (e) in Part 6 (amount of components)—

- (i) in paragraph 23, for “£29.70” substitute “£30.60”;
- (ii) in paragraph 24, for “£39.40” substitute “£40.60”.

**9.** In Schedule 10 (capital disregards: persons who are not pensioners), after paragraph 65 insert—

“**66.** Any ex gratia payment made at the discretion of the Scottish Ministers from the Advance Payment Scheme which the Scottish Ministers set up in respect of cases of historical child abuse in care.

**67.** Any redress payment made under Part 4 of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021.”

**10.** In Schedule 13 (all applicants: matters that must be included in an authority’s scheme - other matters), in paragraph 5—

- (a) at the end of sub-paragraph (7)(c) for “.” substitute “,”;
- (b) after sub-paragraph (7)(c) insert—
  - “(d) a payment which is disregarded under paragraph 28D or 28E of Schedule 5 (capital disregards: pensioners) or paragraph 66 or 67 of Schedule 10 (capital disregards: persons who are not pensioners).”

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

**11.** 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 12 to 18.

**12.—**(1) Paragraph 19(5) (persons treated as not being in Great Britain) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (5).

- (2) In paragraph (e)—
  - (a) after sub-paragraph (ii) omit “or”;
  - (b) at the end of sub-paragraph (iii) for “.” substitute “,”;
  - (c) after sub-paragraph (iii) insert—
    - “or

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(1) S.I. 2013/3035 (W. 303), 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), S.I. 2017/46 (W. 20), S.I. 2018/14 (W. 7), S.I. 2019/11 (W. 5), S.I. 2020/16 (W. 2) and S.I. 2021/34 (W. 9).

(iv) granted under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme(1);”.

(3) After paragraph (k) omit “or”.

(4) At the end of paragraph (l) for “.” substitute “;”.

(5) After paragraph (l) insert—

“(m) a person granted leave in accordance with the rules referred to in paragraph (e), where such leave is granted by virtue of—

(i) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy(2), or

(ii) the previous scheme for locally-employed staff in Afghanistan (sometimes referred to as the ex-gratia scheme)(3); or

(n) a person in Great Britain not coming within paragraph (e)(iv) or (m) who left Afghanistan in connection with the collapse of the Afghan government that took place on 15 August 2021.”

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

(a) in sub-paragraph (1)(a), for “£15.35” substitute “£15.95”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (1)(b), for “£5.10” substitute “£5.30”;

(c) in sub-paragraph (2)(a), for “£217.00” substitute “£224.00”;

(d) in sub-paragraph (2)(b), for “£217.00”, “£377.00” and “£10.20” substitute “£224.00”, “£389.00” and “£10.60” respectively;

(e) in sub-paragraph (2)(c), for “£377.00”, “£469.00” and “£12.85” substitute “£389.00”, “£484.00” and “£13.35” respectively.

**14.** In paragraph 111 (evidence and information)—

(a) at the end of sub-paragraph (7)(c) for “.” substitute “;”;

(b) after sub-paragraph (7)(c) insert—

“(d) a payment which is disregarded under paragraph 28D or 28E of Schedule 8

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(1) The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme was announced by the United Kingdom Government on 18 August 2021 and is published: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>.

(2) The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy was announced by the United Kingdom Government on 29 December 2020 and is published: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>.

(3) See Part 7 of the rules made under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (c. 77); the relevant rules are rules 276BA1 – 276BS2.

(capital disregards: pensioners) or paragraph 66 or 67 of Schedule 9 (capital disregards: persons who are not pensioners).”

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

(a) in paragraph 1 (personal allowance), for the Table substitute—

“

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
<i>Person, couple or polygamous marriage</i>	<i>Amount</i>
(1) Single applicant or lone parent who has attained pensionable age	£197.10
(2) Couple where one or both members have attained pensionable age	£294.90
(3) If the applicant is a member of a polygamous marriage and one or more members of the marriage have attained pensionable age—	
(a) for the applicant and the other party to the marriage;	£294.90
(b) for each additional spouse who is a member of the same household as the applicant.	£97.80

”;

(b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 2(1) (child or young person amounts), for “£66.90”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£70.80”;

(c) in paragraph 3 (family premium), for “£17.45” substitute “£17.85”;

(d) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premium specified in Part 3), in the second column—

(i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£67.30” in each place it occurs, substitute “£69.40” and for “£134.60” substitute “£138.80”;



- (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£26.67” substitute “£27.44”;
- (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£65.94” substitute “£68.04”;
- (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£37.70” substitute “£38.85”.

**16.** 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 “£79.60”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£82.10” and for “£63.05” substitute “£65.00”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£79.60” substitute “£82.10”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£125.05” substitute “£128.95”;
- (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 3(1) (child or young person amounts), for “£66.90”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£70.80”;
- (c) in paragraph 4(1)(b) (family premium), for “£17.45” substitute “£17.85”;
- (d) in the Table in Part 4 (amount of premiums specified in Part 3), in the second column—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£35.10” and “£50.05” substitute “£36.20” and “£51.60” respectively;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£67.30”, in each place it occurs, substitute “£69.40” and for “£134.60” substitute “£138.80”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£65.94” substitute “£68.04”;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£37.70” substitute “£38.85”;
  - (v) in sub-paragraph (5), for “£26.67”, “£17.20” and “£24.60” substitute “£27.44”, “£17.75” and “£25.35” respectively;
- (e) in Part 6 (amount of components)—
  - (i) in paragraph 23, for “£29.70” substitute “£30.60”;
  - (ii) in paragraph 24, for “£39.40” substitute “£40.60”.

**17.** In Schedule 8 (capital disregards: pensioners), after paragraph 28C insert—

**“28D.** Any ex gratia payment made at the discretion of the Scottish Ministers from the Advance Payment Scheme which the Scottish

Ministers set up in respect of cases of historical child abuse in care<sup>(1)</sup>.

**28E.** Any redress payment made under Part 4 of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021<sup>(2)</sup>.”

**18.** In Schedule 9 (capital disregards: persons who are not pensioners), after paragraph 65 insert—

“**66.** Any ex gratia payment made at the discretion of the Scottish Ministers from the Advance Payment Scheme which the Scottish Ministers set up in respect of cases of historical child abuse in care.

**67.** Any redress payment made under Part 4 of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021.”

*Name*  
Minister for Finance and Local Government, one of  
the Welsh Ministers  
*Date*

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(1) The Advance Payment Scheme was announced by the Scottish Government on 25 April 2019 and is published: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/financial-redress-for-survivors-of-child-abuse-in-care-advance-payment-scheme/>.

(2) 2021 asp 15.

# Agenda Item 7

Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Brian Jones on behalf of the Welsh Conservative Group for consideration by Full Council:

That Denbighshire County Council acknowledge that proposals for a large scale tidal project off the coast of Denbighshire are being developed by the private sector.

That significant work is required to bring mature proposals before the council and that the council would consider these detailed proposals in due course.

That the Council is supportive in principle to the development of a tidal energy project off the Denbighshire Coastline.

Accordingly, Denbighshire County Council resolve to:

- 1) Support in principle to the development of a large scale tidal energy project off the Denbighshire Coast line.
- 2) Call for the DCC Cabinet to lobby both the UK and Welsh Government to progress the Tidal Lagoon agenda.
- 3) That a Group of DCC elected members be set up to lobby both the UK and Welsh Government to progress the project and that this group of elected members include the Leader or a nominated deputy along with one representative from each MAG.

The motion will be moved by Cllr Brian Jones.

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## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Paul Penlington on behalf of the Plaid Group for consideration by Full Council:

“That this council tasks officers to seek additional WG funding in order to fund a complete re-build of PHS.”

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# Agenda Item 9

We ask Denbighshire County Council to acknowledge and recognise that Prestatyn High School will require a new building fit for future generations. We ask that the Council fully cost a design project to redevelop the present site with a new building.

Therefore, we propose that this matter be referred to the Modernising Education Board to take forward so that as and when funding sources become available there would be no delays in submitting an appropriate application.

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## Notice of Motion

We ask that Denbighshire County council take a more decisive stance with its grievance policy and procedure. In light of the updated diversity and equalities act, we ask that the council forms a new internal procedure to ensure the behaviour of councillors can be held to account.

We also ask that the council reviews its policies and procedure for reviewing grievances concerning bullying and harassment, involving Councillors, Officers, and others whether it be virtually, physically or on social media.'

'Recommendation.

1. That the Democratic Services Committee look at the current grievance process to ensure it is fit for purpose.
2. That the council create a diversity and ethics working group to examine how the council protects and promotes diversity and good ethics in Wales, including awareness of how women are still being treated unequally and the effects of misogyny and sexual discrimination on women.
3. That we are more forthright as a council in tackling unacceptable behaviour in any Community, Town or County Council forum.

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<b>Report to</b>	Council
<b>Date of meeting</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Gary Williams, Head of Legal/HR and Democratic Services
<b>Report author</b>	Gary Williams, Head of Legal/HR and Democratic Services
<b>Title</b>	Appointment of Young Persons' Champion

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. The report is about the appointment of a Young Persons' Champion.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1. To seek the appointment of a Young Persons' Champion.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1. That the Council appoints a member to become the Young Persons' Champion.

## **4. Report details**

4.1. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Council resolved to create the role of Young Persons' Champion in accordance with the role description attached as Appendix 1.

4.2. Nominations have been sought from the political groups in order that Council may elect a member to be appointed as Young Persons' Champion. Details of those nominations will be provided at the meeting.

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

5.1. The role of the champion would be consistent with the corporate priority that Denbighshire is a place that younger people want to live and work and have the necessary skills to do so.

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

6.1. There may be 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.

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

7.1. An assessment is not required for this report.

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

8.1. There has been no consultation with Scrutiny. The matter was referred to the Democratic Services Committee directly by Council. Democratic Services Committee recommended that the role be created.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. The report confirms that any modest additional costs will be contained within existing budgets allocated for member travel. There does not appear to be any wider financial considerations.

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

10.1. There is a risk that there is confusion or duplication arising out of the role of member champion and the role of the relevant Lead Member if the champion is not also the Lead Member. This can be mitigated by having a clear role description and a good working relationship between the Lead Member and the Champion.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. s111 Local Government Act 1972

## **Denbighshire County Council**

### **Role Description – Young Person’s Champion**

#### **Accountability**

To the Full Council

#### **Role, purpose and activities**

1. To act as a strong strategic leader on raising and promoting young people’s issues
2. To argue, support and defend the concerns, issues and needs of young people in the Councils’ area.
3. To establish good working relationships with officers and others driving forward strategies, policies and plans.
4. To gain an understanding of young people’s issues and the Council’s statutory obligations to them and where required to explain the duties.
5. To commit to attending nationally facilitated events (such as provided by the WLGA) and to consider making your own regional, cross border and national links as are necessary.
6. To ensure that young people are and remain a priority in the Councils’ work. As a spokesperson to keep issues at the forefront of debate; raising awareness amongst fellow elected members on young people’s issues and the implications of these for the Council.
7. To promote the wider local democracy in the involvement, participation and engagement of young people in the planning and reviewing of all aspects of a local authority’s work, including service delivery and policy development.
8. To consider and highlight the role of public, private and third sectors in bringing forward solutions.
9. To attend training and regular briefings.
10. To visit projects run by the voluntary and third sector and to learn from the experience and knowledge of young people’s organizations.
11. To keep abreast of the evolving impact of national and legislative changes.
12. Where required, in conjunction with the Lead Member (if relevant) and the Councils’ Communications team, to engage with the media.
13. To consider the role of other Champions and their impact on this role and whether to work together where appropriate.

#### **Person Specification**

##### **Within the Council**

Understanding of the area of interest being championed in terms of council strategies and policy, good practice, improvement and national agendas and the needs of the client group

Ability to engage with a range of members and officers around the area of interest and listening to requirements

Ability to advocate on behalf of the area of interest within the council

##### **In the Community**

Understanding of the needs of the community in relation to the interest

Ability to engage with citizens and community groups in matters related to the interest.

Ability to lead and support local initiatives related to the interest.

Ability to represent the position of the council to the community in relation to the interest.

**Note: In this role description the term 'Young people' includes people up to the age of 25 years.**

COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Meeting	Item (Description / Title)	Purpose of Report	Council Decision Required (yes/no)	Lead member and Contact Officer
<b>22 February 2022</b>				
	1	Climate and Ecological Change Strategy – Update on Year 1 Delivery	No	Councillors Brian Jones, Tony Thomas and Graham Timms Alan Smith / Helen Vaughan-Evans
	2	Council Tax 2022/2023 and Associated matters	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	3	North Wales Population Needs Assessment Draft Report 2022	Yes	Sarah Bartlett, Lowri Roberts (Ann Lloyd & Sue Hudson presenting report)
	4	Capital Plan 2021/22 to 2024/25 and recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Steve Gadd
	5	Pay Policy 2022/2023	Yes	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill / Louise Dougal / Sophie Vaughan
<b>5 April 2022</b>				
<b>24 May 2022 ANNUAL COUNCIL</b>	1	Appointment of Chair		Gary Williams
	2	Appointment of Vice-Chair		Gary Williams
	3	Election of Leader of the Council	Yes	Gary Williams

COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

<b>5 July 2022</b>					
<b>6 September 2022</b>					
<b>11 October 2022</b>					
<b>6 December 2022</b>					

**FUTURE ITEMS**

Real Living Wage Accreditation	Report requested by Council to consider the steps to becoming an accredited Real Living Wage Employer	Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill/ Catrin Roberts / Sophie Vaughan	<b>TBC</b>

***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>
		25.01.2022	11.01.2022	22.02.2022	08.02.2022



COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

<i>05.04.2022</i>	<i>22.03.2022</i>	<i>24.05.2022</i>	<i>10.05.2022</i>	<i>05.07.2022</i>	<i>21.06.2022</i>
<i>06.09.2022</i>	<i>23.08.2022</i>	<i>11.10.2022</i>	<i>27.09.2022</i>	<i>06.12.2022</i>	<i>22.11.2022</i>

Updated 11/1/2022 SLW

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## Council Briefing Forward Work Programme

Meeting	Item (Description / Title)		Purpose of Report	Lead member and Contact Officer
<b>14 March 2022</b>	1	Update on the Waste Model	To brief members.	Cllr Brian Jones / Tony Ward
<b>13 June 2022</b>				
<b>7 November 2022</b>	1	Inclusion Service & Pupil Referral Unit	To brief members of the roles the Inclusion Service and PRU undertake on behalf of the Council and wider partners.	Geraint Davies / Nicola Roberts

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