

To: Members of the County Council

Date: 25 January 2023

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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, 31 JANUARY 2023** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

Yours sincerely

G Williams  
Monitoring Officer

## **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 - 12)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 6 December 2022 (copy attached).

#### **5 BUDGET 2023/24 - FINAL PROPOSALS (Pages 13 - 42)**

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

- 6 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2023/24** (Pages 43 - 72)  
To consider a report by the Head of Finance and Property (copy attached).
- 7 SURVEY OF MEMBERS ON THE TIMING OF MEETINGS** (Pages 73 - 84)  
To consider a report by the Democratic Services Manager (copy attached).
- 8 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 85 - 90)  
To consider the Council's forward work programme (copy attached).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Councillors**

Councillor Arwel Roberts (Chair)

Michelle Blakeley-Walker  
Joan Butterfield  
Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones  
Ellie Chard  
Kelly Clewett  
Ann Davies  
Karen Edwards  
Pauline Edwards  
Gwyneth Ellis  
James Elson  
Chris Evans  
Hugh Evans  
Justine Evans  
Bobby Feeley  
Gill German  
Jon Harland  
Elen Heaton  
Huw Hilditch-Roberts  
Martyn Hogg  
Carol Holliday  
Alan Hughes  
Hugh Irving  
Alan James

Councillor Pete Prendergast (Vice-Chair)

Delyth Jones  
Paul Keddie  
Diane King  
Geraint Lloyd-Williams  
Julie Matthews  
Jason McLellan  
Barry Mellor  
Terry Mendies  
Raj Metri  
Win Mullen-James  
Merfyn Parry  
Gareth Sandilands  
Peter Scott  
Rhys Thomas  
Andrea Tomlin  
Cheryl Williams  
David Williams  
Elfed 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 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin and via Video Conference on Tuesday, 6 December 2022 at 10.00 am.

### PRESENT

Councillors Michelle Blakeley-Walker, Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Ellie Chard, Kelly Clewett, Ann Davies, Karen Edwards, Pauline Edwards, Gwyneth Ellis, James Elson, Justine Evans, Gill German, Jon Harland, Elen Heaton, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Martyn Hogg, Carol Holliday, Alan Hughes, Hugh Irving, Alan James, Delyth Jones, Paul Keddie, Diane King, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Julie Matthews, Jason McLellan, Barry Mellor, Win Mullen-James, Merfyn Parry, Pete Prendergast (Vice-Chair), Arwel Roberts (Chair), Gareth Sandilands, Peter Scott, Rhys Thomas, Andrea Tomlin, Cheryl Williams, Elfed Williams, Eryl Williams, Huw Williams, Emrys Wynne and Mark Young

### ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Business and Governance (Monitoring Officer)(GW); Corporate Director: Economy and Environment (TW); Planning and Public Protection Manager (AL); Senior Planning Officer (LG); Education Enrichment Coordinator (SD); Asset and Risk Manager (TT); Zoom Host and Webcast Officers (RTJ and NPH); and Committee Administrator (SLW)

Also in Attendance – Chair of Standards Committee, Julia Hughes

### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Evans, Hugh Evans, Bobby Feeley, Raj Metri and David Williams

At this juncture there was a minutes silence held for the late Councillor Brian Blakeley and the ex-Councillor the late Rhys Webb.

The Chair and Group Leaders paid tribute to the late Councillor Brian Blakeley. They acknowledged his work ethic and dedication to the community for which he was local Councillor and also the work for the county. The late Councillor Blakeley had been a well respected Councillor and would be sadly missed.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

- (i) The Chair informed members that he had attended an event in Cardiff to represent Denbighshire County Council (DCC). DCC had been awarded a

national recognition to the commitment to the Armed Forces personal, past and present, together with their families. The Chair presented the award to the Lead Member for Corporate Strategy, Policy and Equalities, Councillor Julie Matthews. Councillor Matthews acknowledged the hard work of the staff at DCC in supporting the armed forces within Denbighshire. Councillor Matthews also thanked the Chair, Councillor Arwel Roberts for attending the event and receiving the reward on her behalf.

- (ii) The Chair confirmed that one of his Charities whilst he was in post was “Save the Children”. The Chair confirmed he had been working with the Education Enrichment Coordinator, Sarah Dixon, and they were to attend schools within Denbighshire to launch the Denbighshire School Art Competition entitled “Beth Syn Eich Gwneud Chi’n Hapus” “What Makes You Happy”. The competition would be for under 12 year olds. The NSPCC Hub in Prestatyn had also been involved with the Art Competition and DCC were extremely proud to support NSPCC North Wales. The art would be on display in libraries across the county during Childrens Mental Health week (6 – 12 February 2023). The overall winner would win a free workshop in school with a leading Welsh artist. The closing date for entries is 27 January 2023.

#### **4 CHAIRMAN'S DIARY**

A list of civic engagements undertaken by the Chair for the period 1 October 2022 to 1 December 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

***RESOLVED** that the list of civic engagements undertaken by the Chair be received.*

#### **5 MINUTES**

The minutes of Full Council held on 6 December 2022 were submitted.

***RESOLVED** that the minutes of Full Council held on 6 December 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.*

#### **6 CENTRAL RHYL AND CENTRAL PRESTATYN COASTAL DEFENCE SCHEMES**

At this juncture, the Monitoring Officer informed members that Appendices 4 and 5 were Part II Confidential and if discussions were to involve those Appendices the meeting would be required to move to Part II.

The Lead Member for Environment and Transport, Councillor Barry Mellor, introduced the Central Rhyl and Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Schemes report (previously circulated).

Due to the level of financial commitment required by the council, approval is sought to proceed to the construction phase of both schemes.

The existing coastal defences along Rhyl Golf Course frontage were constructed approximately 70 years ago and were in poor condition. Due to the condition of the coastal defences, the council wanted to ensure they were upgraded well

ahead of time. If the existing defences failed in this location, the flood risk to over 2,000 properties in the Prestatyn area would increase significantly.

The central area of Rhyl (between Splash Point and the Drift Park) was currently protected by sea defences that were deteriorating. The Council wanted to ensure that existing defences were replaced well ahead of time, to protect this popular part of Rhyl's coastline from flooding and coastal erosion. If the existing defences failed in this location, the flood risk to over 600 properties in the Rhyl area would increase significantly.

The planned schemes were set out within the report and summarised by Councillor Mellor.

A full Business Case for both schemes had been submitted to the Welsh Government (WG) in November 2022. The Council had worked closely with WG throughout development of the schemes and anticipated WG approval to be granted by the end of December 2022.

A carbon impact assessment had been carried out which showed that, over the lifetime of the scheme, the carbon impacts were very similar to the carbon benefits, which meant that the scheme was carbon neutral.

The Council has been involved in positive discussions and negotiations with businesses affected by the scheme.

The combined cost of both schemes was approximately £92m. 85% was to be funded by the Welsh Government as grant in aid, paid to the Council over a 25-year period through the Revenue Support Grant.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- Local members spoke of the devastation to residents during the floods in previous years and welcomed the flood defence schemes.
- Members were reassured that the calculation of the modelling for the scheme was correct and would alleviate flooding in the Central Rhyl and Prestatyn areas.
- It was confirmed that Balfour Beattie representatives would monitor and manage the projects together with consultation with officers. It was confirmed that the two schemes would seal up the Denbighshire coastline.
- The construction phase would take place over a three year period. There was an ongoing dialogue with residents to keep them notified of the works taking place, levels of noise and biodiversity etc. A public meeting had also recently taken place to ensure local residents were kept fully informed.
- A Project Board would meet monthly to monitor the scheme progress.
- Access to the beach would be improved following the construction of the scheme.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and for the work they had carried out.

PROPOSED by Councillor Barry Mellor, SECONDED by Councillor Alan James

**RESOLVED that –**

- That Council confirms that it has considered the content of the Well-being Impact Assessments for each scheme (attached at Appendix 3a and Appendix 3b).
- That Council supports the proposal to progress the Central Rhyl Coastal Defence scheme to the construction phase, using the grant aid funding model set out by the Welsh Government. This is subject to Welsh Government approving the Full Business Case and agreeing to provide 85% of the cost of borrowing to fund the scheme.
- That Council supports the proposal to progress the Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence scheme to the construction phase, using the grant aid funding model set out by the Welsh Government. This is subject to Welsh Government approving the Full Business Case and agreeing to provide 85% of the cost of borrowing to fund the scheme.
- That Council delegates authority to the Coastal Defence Project Board to deliver the schemes.

**At this juncture (11.15 a.m.), there was a 20 minute break.  
The meeting reconvened at 11.35 a.m.**

**7 REVISED DELIVERY AGREEMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Lead Member for Local Development and Planning, Councillor Win Mullen-James, introduced the Revised Delivery Agreement for the replacement Local Development Plan report (previously circulated).

The report set out the revised Delivery Agreement for the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018 – 2033. The Delivery Agreement (DA) set out the timetable for progressing the replacement LDP to adoption and outlined whom, how and when the Council would consult on the various stages of the LDP preparation. A revised DA was required due to delays in the agreed timetable brought about by the Covid – 19 pandemic; delays in the publication of flood risk policy and guidance and, local elections. A revised DA needed to be approved by Cabinet and Council then formally submitted to Welsh Government for their agreement.

The Strategic Planning Group and Cabinet had recommended that the revised DA be put forward to Council for approval and subsequent submission to Welsh Government.

The Senior Planning Officer informed members that the DA set out the timetable for the preparation of the LDP and the consultation arrangements. The current DA had been approved in May 2018. The revised Delivery Agreement was a key stage in progressing the replacement LDP and no further formal consultation stages could be delivered until the revised DA was approved

The Leader, Councillor Jason McLellan stated that a great deal of debate had taken place during Cabinet.



PROPOSED by Councillor Peter Scott, and SECONDED by Councillor Karen Edwards.

**RESOLVED** that –

- *That Council confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) as part of its consideration.*
- *That Council approve the revised Delivery Agreement (DA) at Appendix 1 and subsequent submission to Welsh Government.*
- *That Council authorises the Lead Member for Local Development and Planning in consultation with the Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services to agree any future amendments required to the Denbighshire Replacement Local Development Plan Delivery Agreement.*

## **8 STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRS' ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair of Standards Committee, Julia Hughes, presented the Standards Committee Chairs' Annual Report (previously circulated)

The Annual Report of Standards Committee covered the calendar year January to December 2021. The report covered the period where the current Chair (Julia Hughes) presenting this report was Vice Chair and the Committee membership related to the last Council term.

The Standards Committee Annual Report was presented on the work of the committee each year and its findings and observations. This was part of the Committee's drive to increase standards of ethical behaviour and compliance with the Members Code of Conduct.

Standards Committee regulations stipulated that the size of the Committee would not be less than 5 but no more than 9 Members with the Committee. In Denbighshire the Standards Committee consisted of 2 County Councillors, 4 Independent (co-opted) Members, and 1 Community Council Member, therefore 7 members. The majority of the Members were not elected, but recruited from members of the public as per the requirements of the Standards legislation in Wales. The Committee could also only be quorate when at least half of those Members present were the independent lay members.

During 2021 the Welsh Government commissioned an independent review of the ethical framework in Wales – the Penn Review, which looked at whether the framework remained fit for purpose. The overall conclusion was that the framework was fit for purpose and did not need significant alteration. It was recommended some minor adjustments and amendments to include consideration of the role of Standards Committees in supporting community councils and additional powers that may be needed, not least resource implications in delivering such support. Of note the review highlighted serious concerns about the extent of bullying, lack of respect or otherwise generally disruptive behaviour by some members at meetings of Town and Community Councils in Wales.

This had been the first phase of the review with the second phase focusing on working with partners and stakeholders to deliver any changes to the ethical

standards framework that were considered appropriate and necessary by Welsh Ministers in the light of the findings and recommendations of the first phase of the review.

Following the summary of the Annual report, the Chair thanked the Chair of Standards Committee for her presentation and work.

PROPOSED by Councillor Hugh Irving and SECONDED by Councillor Paul Keddie.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the contents of the Standards Committee Annual Report.

## **9 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Corporate Director – Business and Governance, introduced the Council Forward Work Programme together with the Council Workshop Forward Work Programme (previously circulated).

The next Council meetings were scheduled to take place on 31 January 2023 and 28 February 2023.

The next Council Workshop meeting was due to take place on 16 December 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the Council and Council Workshop Forward Work Programme be approved and noted.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:10 P.M.**

<b>Report to</b>	County Council
<b>Date of meeting</b>	31st January 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets
<b>Report author</b>	Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
<b>Title</b>	Budget 2023/24 - Final Proposals

## 1. What is the report about?

The report sets out the implications of the Local Government Settlement 2023/24 and proposals to finalise the budget for 2023/24.

## 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 2023/24, including the level of Council Tax.

## 3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 To note the impact of the Draft Local Government Settlement 2023/24.

3.2 That Council supports the proposals outlined in Appendix 1, and detailed in Section 4, and recommends them to the full Council in order to finalise the budget for 2023/24.

3.3 That Council approve the average Council Tax rise of 3.8% 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 2023/24 was received by the council on 14<sup>th</sup> December and resulted in a positive settlement of 8.2%, compared to the Welsh average of 7.9%. The Final Settlement is expected in early March but Welsh Government (WG) have indicated that there should be very few changes. Within the announced figure WG have advised 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.

4.2 The draft settlement includes a slightly increased indicative average settlement increases of 3.0% for 2024/25. Although this is very welcome from a planning perspective it does indicate that difficult decisions will be required over the coming years.

4.3 There were no 'transfers in' included in the draft settlement.

4.4 The final proposals to balance the 2023/24 budget are shown in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in Appendix 1. The main areas of growth and pressures are:

- Pay pressures (including net impact of decrease in National Insurance) of £3.269m
- Price and energy inflation of £2.897m – this includes the latest energy increase estimates received on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December (increase of £2.6m)
- Fire Service Charge of £535k
- Allowance for increase in Council Tax Reduction Scheme of £350k
- Schools inflationary pressures are recognised amounting to £3.936m
- Schools demographic pressure of £310k

- £8.187m 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
- £2.700m to recognise existing pressures in Education and Children's Services relating to Out of County Placements and Recoupment.
- £1.000m pressure to meet the increased costs within School Transport which is becoming evident in the monthly monitoring
- Increase in insurance costs relating to impact of inflation of £150k
- Investment in priorities amounting to £0.500m:
  - Further investment in Carbon Zero Project of £134k for additional staff to undertake the necessary work. The programme proposes to use the existing allocation of prudential borrowing to fund capital spend in 23/24 due to underspends over the last two years.
  - Increased Investment in Highways Capital Programme as proposed by Council (£4m capital) – requires an estimated £235k in Capital Finance Budget
  - This leaves £131k which it is proposed will be used in year to continue to fund capital projects in year (eg those that were brought forward by the Horizon Scanning exercise or that come out of the new Capital Plan) - £131k would equate to capital investment of c£2.2m.
- Service non-strategic pressures of £1.282m – pressures and requirements for investments identified by services themselves and summarised in Appendix 2.

4.5 The pressures identified above amount to £25.116m. A draft settlement of around 14.5% would have been required in order to fund all these pressures. The net +8.2% settlement generates £14.231m additional revenue leaving a funding gap of £10.885m. The following items are included in the proposals in order to bridge that gap:

- There are savings in the Capital Financing Budget amounting to £1.067m – these do not reflect reductions in the capital programme but an increase use of cash and delays to some projects.
- Corporate contingencies relating to the unused element of the Covid Contingency put aside as part of last year's budget process amounting to £1.200m.

- The impact of the triennial actuarial review of the Clwyd Pension Fund means that the Council now finds itself in a position of a small surplus instead of a significant deficit that required repaying. This results in a saving of £3.828m.
- The savings from bringing the Revenues and Benefits Service back in house are now confirmed and a further £300k can be released.
- Services were asked to identify 1% savings/efficiencies and were able to identify £961k of savings as summarised below (and included in full at Appendix 3):
  - Fees and Charges Income Budgets have been inflated in line with agreed Fees and Charges policy which increases external income by £423k.
  - Savings involving some element of service change amount to £371k
  - Technical budget reductions which have no impact on service delivery amount to £167k
- Schools were also asked to plan for 1% efficiencies which amount to £816k.
- It is recommended that the Council Tax increases by 3.8% which, along with minor changes to the Council Tax Base, will generate £2.713m additional revenue. This level is at the lower end of indicative increases across Wales. It is also lower than the average of 4.35% over the last four years.

## **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?**

A Well-being Impact Assessments for the Council Tax increase is included in Appendix 5.

## **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.

## **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 2023/24.

## **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.



	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
<b>Funding</b>				
Revenue Support Grant & NNDR (RSG)	173,640	187,871	193,507	197,764
Council Tax	60,055	62,768	65,720	68,668
<b>SSA / Budget Requirement</b>	<b>233,696</b>	<b>250,639</b>	<b>259,227</b>	<b>266,433</b>
<b>Use of Balances</b>				
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>233,696</b>	<b>250,639</b>	<b>259,227</b>	<b>266,433</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Base Budget</b>	<b>216,819</b>	<b>233,696</b>	<b>250,640</b>	<b>265,590</b>
<b>Inflation / Pressures:</b>				
Pay	3,000	3,269	4,000	1,019
Price - targeted		2,897	400	100
Price	250	150	150	150
CTRS	350	350	350	350
Fire Levy	321	535	100	100
Income Inflation	(120)		(250)	(250)
Social Services	3,127	8,187	2,000	1,000
Childrens Service	750	2,700	2,000	1,000
Other Service Pressures	500			
Covid Contingency	1,991	(1,000)		
CJCs	300	(200)		
School Transport		1,000		
Schools Inflation	3,769	3,936	4,000	2,000
Schools Demography Adjustment	606	310	700	700
<b>Other known items:</b>				
Investment in Priorities 1	81			
Investment in Priorities 2	1,200	500	500	700
Service Non-Strategic Pressures	1,111	1,282	1,000	1,500
Transfers into/out of Settlement	275			
New Responsibilities				
<b>EFFICIENCIES / SAVINGS:</b>				
Capital and Corporate Savings		(1,067)		
Pensions Triennial Review		(3,828)		
Service Efficiencies - 1%	(634)	(961)		
Service Savings - Projects		(300)		
Schools Efficiency Target		(816)		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>233,696</b>	<b>250,640</b>	<b>265,590</b>	<b>273,959</b>
<b>Funding Shortfall / (Available)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,362</b>	<b>7,526</b>
<b>Annual increase/(decrease) in shortfall</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,362</b>	<b>1,164</b>
<b>Key Assumptions</b>				
Settlement %	9.20%	8.20%	3.00%	2.20%
Council Tax Increase % Band D	2.95%	3.80%	3.80%	3.80%

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**NON-STRATEGIC PRESSURES**

REF	SERVICE	TITLE	DETAILED DECSRIPTION	CUMULATIVE BUDGET AGREED 2023/24 £
C&C-P02	Communications and Customers	Blue Badge Support	20 hours - Libraries Grade 5 /37 hours - Grade 2 @ Contact Centre: originally £64K now £49K. Covered under slippage this year, but pressure for next year	49,000
C&C-P06	Communications and Customers	Youth Service	We have seen a significant increase in personal support and targeted 1 to 1 interventions with young people especially after Covid and an increase in more complex cases being referred to the service. To reduce pressure on the team's waiting list we would need an increase in staffing to reduce the current waiting list of 72 young people. 2X Full Time youth workers with all included costs including programme costs would be £84,000 per year (with recruitment April 23-June 24 would be an overall cost of £112,000) which could reduce the current waiting list by approx. 60 young people by the end of June 2024.	84,000
ECS-P01	Education and Children's Service	Sensory Service	Tri sensory service WCBC, DCC & FCC. FCC are host authority original cost £175k, increased to £194k	19,000
BIM-P01	Business Improvement and Modernisation	Internal Audit Structure	As Audit Wales have reduced their performance auditing work for DCC it is vital that we have an Internal Audit structure which can repond to this and maintain a lower level of input from Audit Wales . The team requires an additional Senior Auditor who is able to work independently and therefore enable the team to succeed in delivery.	8,700
BIM-P03	Business Improvement and Modernisation	Strategic Planning & Performance Team	1 FTE @ G9. With an increase in Corporate Plan themes from 5 to 9, there will be added work required for this team to provide strategic support to boards/groups, develop and monitor performance, write reports, etc.	17,581
LHR&D-P01	Legal, HR and Democratic Services	Electoral and Election Services	A re-structure of the existing unit to add sufficient capacity to sustainably support electoral and election services in Denbighshire.	34,302
LHR&D-P02	Legal, HR and Democratic Services	Legal services	Trainees have applied for and been successful in securing permanent positions that we have been struggling to fill. We wish to submit a pressure to continue with this strategy to recruit 2 further trainees. These are 2 year fixed term posts.	64,000
LHR&D-P03	Legal, HR and Democratic Services	HR	The HR software system, I-Trent has a cloud based module for onboarding which would make it easier for applicants and succesful candidates to self serve. This would make the process easier for managers and would relieve some oressure in the HRA team that currently has to provide significant support to the process.	23,000
F&P-P01	Finance and Property	Property: Building Maintenance Revenue Budgets.	Increased construction material and labour costs impacting on building maintenance budgets. Costs have been increasing at unprecedented rates since Coved/Brexit.	228,000
HES-P01	Highways and Environmental Services	Highways	Increased demand has out-stripped available resources in highways	196,312
HES-P02	Highways and Environmental Services	Streetscene	Increased demand has out-stripped available resources for public realm and grounds maintenance functions	110,258
HES-P03	Highways and Environmental Services	Waste	Increased demand has out-stripped available resources in the Waste and Recycling Service	58,359
HES-P04	Highways and Environmental Services	School Catering and Cleaning	Increased revenue pressures and demands on the service realting to rollout of Universal Primary Free School Meals programme	288,000
PPP-P07	Planning and Public Protection	Food Safety - EHO Officer (NB Last Years Bid accepted in principle)	Previously EU grant funded post - funding running out in 23/24	48,500
PPP-P08	Planning and Public Protection	Bodelwyddan Country Park (NB Last Years Bid accepted in principle)	Revenue capacity to manage the Park - cash used in 22/23	52,537
				<b>1,281,549</b>

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1% EFFICIENCY SAVINGS						
REF	SERVICE	TITLE	Description	Category	SAVING 2023/24 £	
C&C-E01	Communications and Customers	Library New Income Stream	New SLA with Grwp Llandrillo Menai for use of Library Buildings for community teaching	Fees and Charges	18,000	35,000
C&C-E02	Communications and Customers	Library Income Target increase	Work to improve income from hosting external events in Libraries	Fees and Charges	3,000	
C&C-E03	Communications and Customers	Design Income	Increase in fee income from services using the corporate Design and Print Framework	Fees and Charges	1,000	
C&C-E04	Communications and Customers	Tourism Savings	Reduce number of face-to-face Tourism Forums to one per year.	Service Change	5,000	
C&C-E05	Communications and Customers	Major Events Budget Savings	Reserve now held corporately with no annual contribution required	Technical Budget Reduction	2,000	
C&C-E06	Communications and Customers	Youth Service Savings	Reduce programme costs budget across the County	Service Change	6,000	
ECS-E01	Education and Children's Service	Childrens: Family Resource Centre relocation	Property savings from transferring services from the Familt Resource Centre at Bedford Street Rhyl to vacant space within the Oaktree Centre which is a more child focussed environment that also has the added benefit of parking and a reception area (which Bedford Street does not have) and will mitigate lone working & health and safety issues for the staff members.	Service Change	25,604	122,896
ECS-E02	Education and Children's Service	Childrens: Childcare costs review	Increase of Childcare Fees at the Oaktree which have not been reviewed since September 213 despite rapidly increasing costs. The fees will still be the lowest in the county and still include a hot meal. 34% of children are fully grant funded, with a further 16% part funded.	Fees and Charges	20,000	
ECS-E03	Education and Children's Service	Childrens: Budget reduction Direct Payments.	The budget has underspent over the last few years. This reduction is based on current spending requirements so the budget is no longer required. If provision increases in future years the service will submit a service pressure to cover the costs.	Technical Budget Reduction	20,000	
ECS-E04	Education and Children's Service	Education: Review of Service underspends	Budgets have been reviewed and small areas of underspend identified. In previous years these have been used to offset overspends - however pressures have now been recognised in the budget proposals	Technical Budget Reduction	57,292	
HES-E01	Highways and Environmental Services	Catering and Cleaning	Increased income from school catering and public convenience services	Fees and Charges	25,500	206,700
HES-E02	Highways and Environmental Services	Highways	Increased income from streetworks charges along with straffing restructure	Fees and Charges	26,000	
HES-E03	Highways and Environmental Services	Waste	Increased income from garden waste, bulky waste and trade waste services. Review of HRC waste treatment cost.	Fees and Charges	102,200	
HES-E04	Highways and Environmental Services	Streetscene	Increased income from Cemeteries and roundabout sponsorships	Fees and Charges	18,000	
HES-E05	Highways and Environmental Services	Street Lighting	Increased income from external work along with savings from reduction in service fleet requirements	Fees and Charges	20,000	
HES-E06	Highways and Environmental Services	Fleet and Service Improvement	Increased income from external customers	Fees and Charges	15,000	
LHR&D-E01	Legal, HR and Democratic Services	Legal Services income	Review of fees and charges for externally funded legal work	Fees and Charges	5,000	25,000
LHR&D-E02	Legal, HR and Democratic Services	Registrars Fee income	Review of discretionary fees and charges for registrars' services such as weddings etc.	Fees and Charges	5,000	
LHR&D-E03	Legal, HR and Democratic Services	Service Wide	Budget alignment exercise	Technical Budget Reduction	15,000	
PPP-E01	Planning and Public Protection	Increased parking tariffs	Increased tariffs at Loggerheads, Moel Famau and Llantysilio	Fees and Charges	50,000	103,000
PPP-E02	Planning and Public Protection	Plas Newydd - Admissions	Increased admission price for adults at Plas Newydd to £7	Fees and Charges	1,500	
PPP-E03	Planning and Public Protection	Price increases Plas Newydd shop and tea rooms	10% increase in pricing	Fees and Charges	7,500	
PPP-E04	Planning and Public Protection	Management Budget Efficiency	Savings already achieved in year	Technical Budget Reduction	14,000	
PPP-E05	Planning and Public Protection	Increased Building Control Fees	Income has increased through an increase in fees and also take up of the service	Fees and Charges	30,000	

REF	SERVICE	TITLE	Description	Category	SAVING 2023/24 £	
F&P-E01	Finance and Property	Efficiencies within Property	A number of small efficiencies already achieved in year - budget now held in management codes	Technical Budget Reduction	13,500	59,000
F&P-E02	Finance and Property	Finance Budget Re-alignment	Re-alignment following bringing in of Civica and changes to staffing arrangements due to retirements	Technical Budget Reduction	45,500	
CSS-E02	Community Support Services	Right Sizing Care and Support	Review existing packages of care through 'right-sizing' e.g. reducing the number of double-handed care calls and increasing our use of Micro-Providers and volunteers.	Service Change	327,717	382,717
CSS-E03	Community Support Services	Review of Telecare Charging	The monthly fee for Telecare has remained static for a number of years, a review of the costs and monthly charges will be completed, a rise from £15 to £17 per month for example will generate additional income of £55K	Fees and Charges	55,000	
BIM-E01	Business Improvement and Modernisation	Increase in daily recharge rate for Project Management	The daily recharge rate for Corporate Project Management has not increased in quite a number of years. It is proposed to increase the rate from £250 to £284 per day. This daily rate will support the team of 7 PMs plus the Lead Project Manager.	Fees and Charges	18,000	27,000
BIM-E02	Business Improvement and Modernisation	Increase charges for Archives services and materials	Increase the charges for have not been reviewed or increased for many years doing so now will yield a relatively low sum.	Fees and Charges	1,800	
BIM-E03	Business Improvement and Modernisation	Shared Archives Service	Reduce budget in line with budget savings set by Flintshire for their contribution to the shared service. Likely to be achieved by reviewing current vacancies.	Service Change	7,200	
						<b>961,313</b>

### Council Tax Sensitivity Analysis

2023/24	Increase %	Increase in Band D £	Proposed Band D £	Total Funding £000	Inc/Dec in Funding £000	
	0.00%	0.00	1,436.76	58,734	0	
	0.50%	7.18	1,443.94	59,028	294	
	1.00%	14.37	1,451.13	59,322	588	
	1.50%	21.55	1,458.31	59,616	882	
	2.00%	28.74	1,465.49	59,910	1,176	
	2.50%	35.92	1,472.68	60,204	1,470	
	2.75%	39.51	1,476.27	60,351	1,617	
<b>2022/23 Increase</b>	<b>2.95%</b>	<b>42.38</b>	<b>1,479.14</b>	<b>60,468</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>-500</b>
	3.00%	43.10	1,479.86	60,498	1,764	
	3.25%	46.69	1,483.45	60,645	1,911	
<b>15 Year Average</b>	<b>3.31%</b>	<b>47.56</b>	<b>1,484.31</b>	<b>60,680</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>-288</b>
	3.50%	50.29	1,487.04	60,792	2,058	
<b>7 Year Average</b>	<b>3.77%</b>	<b>54.17</b>	<b>1,490.92</b>	<b>60,950</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>-18</b>
<b>Current Assumption</b>	<b>3.80%</b>	<b>54.60</b>	<b>1,491.35</b>	<b>60,968</b>	<b>2,234</b>	
	4.00%	57.47	1,494.23	61,086	2,352	
<b>2020/21 Increase</b>	<b>4.30%</b>	<b>61.78</b>	<b>1,498.54</b>	<b>61,262</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>294</b>
<b>4 Year Average</b>	<b>4.35%</b>	<b>62.50</b>	<b>1,499.26</b>	<b>61,291</b>	<b>2,558</b>	<b>323</b>
	4.50%	64.65	1,501.41	61,380	2,646	
	5.00%	71.84	1,508.60	61,674	2,940	
	5.50%	79.02	1,515.78	61,968	3,234	
	6.00%	86.21	1,522.96	62,261	3,528	
<b>2019/20 Increase</b>	<b>6.35%</b>	<b>91.23</b>	<b>1,527.99</b>	<b>62,467</b>	<b>3,733</b>	<b>1,499</b>
	6.50%	93.39	1,530.15	62,555	3,822	
	7.00%	100.57	1,537.33	62,849	4,116	

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## **Council Tax Level for 2023/24: 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:** 1139

**Brief description:** Proposal is to increase Council Tax by 3.8%

**Date Completed:** 11/01/2023 14:16:42 Version: 1

**Completed by:** Steve Gadd

**Responsible Service:** Finance and Property Services

**Localities affected by the proposal:** Whole County,

**Who will be affected by the proposal?** All residents who pay Council Tax

**Was this impact assessment completed as a group?** Yes

## **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 : 33 / 36.**

### **Summary for each Sustainable Development principle**

#### **Long term**

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 medium term budget process to manage resources.

#### **Prevention**

The proposals include significant investment in zero Carbon and Biodiversity project. There is also significant investment in Social Care and Children's Services and Schools. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme helps ensure that those in most need are protected from the increase to Council Tax.

#### **Integration**

The increase form part of a balanced set of budget proposals that includes investment that support Corporate Priorities.

#### **Collaboration**

Full consultation of the overall proposals have taken place with Cabinet, Council, Budget Board, Staff Council, Unions, School Budget Forum, Governance and Audit Committee, Corporate Executive Team and the Senior Leadership Team.

## Involvement

Full consultation has been undertaken this year with Cabinet, Council, SLT, Staff Council, Trade Unions, Group Leaders (and their Groups) 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. A Communication plan with the public was agreed with the Communications Team in the Autumn to ensure that full involvement and consultation will take place next year.

## Summary of impact

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
<a href="#">A prosperous Denbighshire</a>	Positive
<a href="#">A resilient Denbighshire</a>	Positive
<a href="#">A healthier Denbighshire</a>	Neutral
<a href="#">A more equal Denbighshire</a>	Neutral
<a href="#">A Denbighshire of cohesive communities</a>	Positive
<a href="#">A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</a>	Neutral
<a href="#">A globally responsible Denbighshire</a>	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 3.8% is below inflation and below the 4.35% average increase over the last 4 years. Clearly the

## Council Tax Level for 2023/24

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.

## **The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.**

### **A prosperous Denbighshire**

#### **Overall Impact**

Positive

#### **Justification for impact**

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 2023/24 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.

#### **Further actions required**

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:**

##### **A low carbon society**

The budget proposals continue to invest in the Council's Zero Carbon 2030 targets

##### **Quality communications, infrastructure and transport**

Proposals include large investment in Highways infrastructure and flooding schemes

##### **Economic development**

##### **Quality skills for the long term**

##### **Quality jobs for the long term**

The proposals include significant investment in pay for our staff

## **Childcare**

### **Negative impacts identified:**

#### **A low carbon society**

High impact schemes such as highways and flood defences obviously increase Emissions, especially during the construction phase

#### **Quality communications, infrastructure and transport**

#### **Economic development**

#### **Quality skills for the long term**

#### **Quality jobs for the long term**

## **Childcare**

## **A resilient Denbighshire**

### **Overall Impact**

Positive

### **Justification for impact**

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 2023/24 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.

## **Further actions required**

Negative impacts on services have been minimised this year. Services were asked for efficiencies of 1%. A thorough process led by the Budget Board scrutinised all proposals. All services have seen a net increase in their budgets, especially in the priority areas of social care, schools, and education.

## **Positive impacts identified:**

### **Biodiversity and the natural environment**

Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target

### **Biodiversity in the built environment**

Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target

### **Reducing waste, reusing and recycling**

Proposals include additional resources for the waste service to help continue the excellent work in this area

### **Reduced energy/fuel consumption**

Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target

### **People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity**

Proposals continue the investment in Carbon Zero 2030 and Biodiversity target

### **Flood risk management**

The budget continues to support large investment in flood defences

## **Negative impacts identified:**

**Biodiversity and the natural environment**

**Biodiversity in the built environment**

**Reducing waste, reusing and recycling**

**Reduced energy/fuel consumption**

High impact schemes such as Highways and flood defences obviously increase energy consumption, especially during the construction phase

**People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity**

**Flood risk management**

**A healthier Denbighshire**

**Overall Impact**

Neutral

**Justification for impact**

The Budget supports the key services to help deliver a healthier Denbighshire.

**Further actions required**

Negative impacts on services have been minimised this year. Services were asked for efficiencies of 1%. A thorough process led by the Budget Board scrutinised all proposals. All services have seen a net increase in their budgets, especially in the priority areas of social care, schools, and education.

**Positive impacts identified:**

**A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being**



Proposals include significant investment in social care.

**Access to good quality, healthy food**

**People's emotional and mental well-being**

**Access to healthcare**

**Participation in leisure opportunities**

Funding for DLL has been maintained at existing levels which will hopefully allow DLL to flourish.

**Negative impacts identified:**

**A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being**

**Access to good quality, healthy food**

**People's emotional and mental well-being**

**Access to healthcare**

**Participation in leisure opportunities**

**A more equal Denbighshire**

**Overall Impact**

Neutral

**Justification for impact**

Whilst the Council Tax rise will increase the amount paid, it also allows the Council to increase funding to provision in key areas such as social care, 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, schools and social care.

### **Further actions required**

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. The level of increase has been kept as low as practically possible while maintaining service levels to the public. Despite facing huge inflationary pressures the level of CT rise is much lower than inflation.

### **Positive impacts identified:**

**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**

### **People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage**

### **People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes**

Budget also includes provision to increase spending on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which helps protect vulnerable residents from Council Tax

### **Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage**

### **Negative impacts identified:**

**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**

### **People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage**

## **People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes**

Any Council Tax increase will impact on residents budgets, however the most vulnerable are protected

## **Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage**

### **A Denbighshire of cohesive communities**

#### **Overall Impact**

Positive

#### **Justification for impact**

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.

#### **Further actions required**

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:**

##### **Safe communities and individuals**

##### **Community participation and resilience**

##### **The attractiveness of the area**

The funding for biodiversity projects should help with attractiveness of the area.

### **Connected communities**

Continued large investment in Highways infrastructure will help ensure communities feel connected

### **Rural resilience**

Highways investment is particularly aimed to help the quality of the rural network

### **Negative impacts identified:**

#### **Safe communities and individuals**

Increase in Council Tax will impact individual's budgets. However there is help available for those who are eligible for Council Tax Reduction and help provided to those that may struggle to pay

#### **Community participation and resilience**

#### **The attractiveness of the area**

#### **Connected communities**

#### **Rural resilience**

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

#### **Overall Impact**

Neutral

#### **Justification for impact**

The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that helps to maintain services received by the public, including our Welsh Language services, commitments and ambitions.

#### **Further actions required**

No negative impacts identified. Further investment can be considered as part of the annual budget process going forward.

**Positive impacts identified:**

**People using Welsh**

The Council tax collection service and all correspondence is available through the medium of Welsh.

**Promoting the Welsh language**

**Culture and heritage**

**Negative impacts identified:**

**People using Welsh**

**Promoting the Welsh language**

**Culture and heritage**

**A globally responsible Denbighshire**

**Overall Impact**

Positive

**Justification for impact**

The proposal to raise Council Tax supports a budget that allows service levels to be broadly maintained in 2022/23 and so should not therefore adversely impact supply chains. Significant investment also included for reducing climate change and coping with its impact.

**Further actions required**

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:**

**Local, national, international supply chains**

The proposal allows for service levels to be broadly maintained during 2023/24.

**Human rights**

**Broader service provision in the local area or the region**

It also allows funding of a number of corporate priorities including Carbon Neutral targets, Schools, Social Care and Flood defences

**Reducing climate change**

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:**

**Local, national, international supply chains**

**Human rights**

**Broader service provision in the local area or the region**

**Reducing climate change**



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<b>Report to</b>	County Council
<b>Date of meeting</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Councillor Gwyneth Ellis, Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets / Steve Gadd, Head of Finance and Property
<b>Report author</b>	Leah Gray / 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 2023.

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and the new Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and amendments Regulations 2023 are required to be adopted by 31st January 2023.

## 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 2023 in respect of the 2023/24 financial year.

3.2. That members approve the discretionary elements of the scheme, shown in section 4.4, for 2023/24 financial year.

## **4. Report details**

### **4.1. The Proposed Scheme 2023/24**

In considering the development of a new scheme for 2023/24 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 2024-25 so that operational risks are managed and that support can continue to be provided.

### **4.2 Uprating for 2023/24**

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 2023/24. 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 (2022), which is 10.1%.
- 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 updated by different mechanisms. For example, the Pension Credit Standard Minimum Guarantee is updated by earnings, whereas the Additional Pension and increments are updated by prices.

- Non-dependant deductions The financial figures for the income bands and deductions made in relation to non-dependants have been updated. 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**

#### People from Ukraine

Regulation 3, 4 and 5 of the scheme is amended to support Ukraine nationals and as a consequence of the refugee crisis caused by the Russian-Ukrainian War. The proposed amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations make provision to ensure that any Ukrainian national who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the UK under or outside the immigration rules or who has a right of abode is not treated as not being habitually resident in Great Britain for the purpose of determining their eligibility for CTRS. The effect of these amendments is that people in 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.

#### Protection for hosts for the Homes for Ukraine scheme

This amendment is designed to ensure that no applicant living in Wales who is a host of a person from Ukraine is negatively impacted.

#### EEA Citizens

EEA citizens are now subject to immigration control. The amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations propose to remove the exception for EEA citizens who are now subject to immigration control.

### **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?**

£8.769m has been identified in the settlement for Denbighshire for Council Tax Support from the Welsh Government (£8.536m last year). However current expenditure is £10.502m and if the Net Council Tax increased by 3.8% (i.e the councils proposed increase) the forecast expenditure for 2023/24 is circa £10.901m. This gives a shortfall of around £2.132m for 2023/24 for which budgetary provision has been made since 2013 and further £350k additional provision has been proposed as part of the budget proposals for 2023/24.

## **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 2023/24.

## **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 2023.

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**Explanatory Memorandum to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes  
(Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment)  
Regulations 2023**

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by Local Government Finance Reform Division and is laid before the Senedd 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 2023. I am satisfied the benefits justify the likely costs.

**Rebecca Evans**  
**Minister for Finance and Local Government**  
**6 December 2022**

## **PART 1: DESCRIPTION**

### **1 Overview**

- 1.1 Council Tax Reduction Schemes (CTRS) are the mechanism by which local authorities in Wales 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 2023-24 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.

#### 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 2023-24

- 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 (2022), which is 10.1%.

- 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 amendments make provision for the treatment of two types of payments and ensure the 2013 Regulations remain up-to-date and fit for purpose.

### People from Ukraine

4.17 This amendment is designed to support Ukraine nationals and as a consequence of the refugee crisis caused by the Russo-Ukrainian War. Similar changes will be made by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for required components of local council tax support schemes in England.

4.18 The proposed amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations make provision to ensure that any Ukrainian national who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom under or outside the immigration rules or who has a right of abode is not treated as not being habitually resident in Great Britain for the purpose of determining their eligibility for a council tax reduction. The effect of these amendments is that people in 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.

### People from Ukraine: Protection for hosts for the Homes for Ukraine scheme

4.19 This amendment is designed to ensure that no applicant living in Wales hosting a person from Ukraine under the Homes for Ukraine scheme is negatively impacted.

4.20 The proposed amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations make provision that any Ukrainian national who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom or who has a right of abode is to be treated as dependent on the applicant host for the purpose of calculating entitlement to a council tax

discount. This has the effect of preserving the level of entitlement of the host applicant.

#### European Economic Area citizens

- 4.21 The 2013 CTRS Regulations currently provide an exception for European Economic Area (EEA) citizens. EEA citizens are now subject to immigration control (and therefore a class of persons who must not be included in an authority's scheme). This amendment will mirror the English regulations.
- 4.22 The proposed amendments to the 2013 CTRS Regulations to remove the exception for EEA citizens who are now subject to immigration control.

## **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 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.
- 4 If the amendment to exempt people from Ukraine from the Habitual Residency Test is not made Ukraine nationals would not be eligible to be included in a local authority's CTRS.

If the amendment that the non-dependant deduction will not be applied in respect of a person from Ukraine in a host's application is not made the applicants living in Wales hosting a person from Ukraine under the Homes for Ukraine scheme could be negatively impacted.

#### Option 2 – Make amending Regulations

- 5 This option would mean that amendments would be made to uprate the financial figures in the 2013 CTRS Regulations in line with Welsh Government policy, cost-of-living increases and changes to qualifying benefits.
- 6 The financial figures in relation to working age, disability or carer rates will continue to increase with the cost of living for 2023-24: this is 10.1%, 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).
- 7 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.

- 8 The necessary technical and consequential amendments would also be made.
- 9 This amendment would exempt Ukraine nationals from those counted as persons not being in Great Britain and ensure that they are not excluded on the basis of the habitual residency test. They will be included in a local authority's CTRS and will be entitled to a discount if they meet the eligibility requirements.
- 10 This consequential amendment will make it so the non-dependant deduction will not be applied in respect of a person from Ukraine in a host's application and ensure no applicant living in Wales hosting a person from Ukraine under the Homes for Ukraine scheme is negatively impacted.

## **Costs and Benefits**

### **Costs**

#### Option 1 – Do nothing

- 11 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.
- 12 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.
- 13 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**

- 14 Not uprating pensioner and working age allowance figures would help to limit any increases in total reductions under CTRS, meaning local authorities could raise more revenue for local services. 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**

- 15 Uprating the financial figures in respect of pensioner 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**

- 16 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 (10.1%).

- 17 Uprating the financial figures in respect of the personal allowance for pensioners means the allowance 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 who reach state pension age to meet their council tax liability: they might otherwise receive less housing benefit compared to a pensioner who has already reached pension age.
- 18 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.
- 19 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 additional administrative burden for local authorities or advice providers arising from managing different regimes.

## **Sectors**

- 20 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 2023-24.
- 21 This legislation will not affect the business sector.

## **Duties**

- 22 In drafting these Regulations, consideration has been given to the duty on Welsh Ministers to promote equality and eliminate discrimination.
- 23 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the introduction of the 2013 CTRS Regulations.
- 24 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.
- 25 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.
- 26 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**

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

### **Consultation**

- 28 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 the changes made benefit applicants. The regulations cannot be finalised until DWP has provided figures in relation to uprating. This typically occurs in the week before laying which means that there is no opportunity to consult. The regulations must 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**

- 29 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.

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*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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**2023 No. (W.)**

**COUNCIL TAX, WALES**

**The Council Tax Reduction  
Schemes (Prescribed Requirements  
and Default Scheme) (Wales)  
(Amendment) Regulations 2023**

**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 1992 Act”).

The Prescribed Requirements Regulations require each billing authority in Wales to make a scheme specifying the reductions that 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 in 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 the Prescribed Requirements Regulations and the Default Scheme Regulations.

Regulation 3 amends the definition of “non-dependant” in the Prescribed Requirements Regulations so that a person who has leave to enter or remain in, or a right of abode in, the United Kingdom,

who left Ukraine in connection with the Russian invasion and who resides with an applicant under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, must be treated as dependent on the applicant for the purpose of calculating entitlement to a council tax discount. The same amendment is made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulation 11.

Regulation 4 inserts a new category 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 category relates to persons to whom leave is granted under immigration rules, or who have a right of abode in the United Kingdom, where that person was residing in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022 and who left Ukraine in connection with the Russian invasion which took place on 24 February 2022. The effect of the amendment is to ensure those persons are not treated as not being habitually resident in Great Britain for the purpose of determining an applicant's eligibility for a council tax reduction. The same amendment is made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulation 12.

Regulation 5 amends regulation 29 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations which specifies that persons subject to immigration control are a class of person prescribed for the purposes of paragraph 3(1)(b) of Schedule 1B to the 1992 Act and must not be included in a billing authority's scheme. The amendment removes the exception that a person who is a national of a state which has ratified the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance or a state which has ratified the Council of Europe Social Charter and who is lawfully present in the United Kingdom is not treated as a person subject to immigration control. The same amendment is made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulation 13.

The amendments made to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations by regulations 6 to 9 uprate certain figures used to calculate whether a person is entitled to a reduction, and if so, the amount of that reduction. The uprated figures apply to non-dependant deductions (adjustments made to the maximum amount of a reduction that a person can receive taking into account adults living in the dwelling who are not the applicant's dependants) and the applicable amount (the amount against which an applicant's income is compared to determine the reduction, if any, which the applicant may be entitled to receive). A number of other figures are also uprated to reflect changes to various other entitlements. The same amendments are made to the Default Scheme Regulations by regulations 14 to 16. Regulation 15 also corrects a typographical error in the Welsh text of the Default Scheme Regulations.

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 and is published on [www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales).

*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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**2023 No. (W.)**

**COUNCIL TAX, WALES**

**The Council Tax Reduction  
Schemes (Prescribed Requirements  
and Default Scheme) (Wales)  
(Amendment) Regulations 2023**

*Made*

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*Coming into force*

*20 January 2023*

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(1).

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(2).

**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 2023.

(2) These Regulations come into force on 20 January 2023.

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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). Schedule 1B was inserted by section 10(2) of, and paragraph (1) of Schedule 4 to, that Act. See section 116(1) of the 1992 Act 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 paragraph 2(7)(c) of 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 2023.

(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 9.

3.—(1) Regulation 9 (non-dependants) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) After paragraph (2)(f) insert—

“(g) a person who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom under or outside the immigration rules made under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971(2) or has a right of abode in the United Kingdom, within the meaning of section 2(3) of that Act, where the person—

- (i) was residing in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022;
- (ii) left Ukraine in connection with the Russian invasion which took place on 24 February 2022; and

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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), S.I. 2021/34 (W. 9) and S.I. 2022/51 (W. 19).

(2) 1971 c. 77.

(3) Section 2 was substituted by section 39(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981 (c. 61) and amended by S.I. 2019/745.

(iii) is residing with the applicant in connection with the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme<sup>(1)</sup>.”

(3) in paragraph (3) for “2(a) to (c) and (f)” substitute “2(a) to (c), (f) and (g)”.

**4.**—(1) Regulation 28(5) (persons treated as not being in Great Britain) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) After sub-paragraph (m)(ii), omit “or”.

(3) At the end of sub-paragraph (n), for “.” substitute “; or”.

(4) After sub-paragraph (n) insert—

“(o) a person in Great Britain who was residing in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022, left Ukraine in connection with the Russian invasion which took place on 24 February 2022 and—

(i) has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom in accordance with immigration rules made under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971; or

(ii) has a right of abode in the United Kingdom within the meaning given in section 2 of that Act.”

**5.**—(1) Regulation 29 (persons subject to immigration control) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In paragraph (1) for “Subject to paragraph (2), the” substitute “The”.

(3) Omit paragraph (2).

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

(a) in sub-paragraph (1)(a), for “£15.95” substitute “£16.40”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (1)(b), for “£5.30” substitute “£5.45”;

(c) in sub-paragraph (2)(a), for “£224.00” substitute “£236.00”;

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(1) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-ukraine-scheme>. The Immigration Rules are laid under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (c. 77). The rules in relation to the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme are set out at UKR 11.1 to UKR 20.2 of the appendix. “Permission to enter” and “permission to stay” are defined in rule 6.2 of the Immigration Rules: Introduction (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-introduction#intro6>).



- (d) in sub-paragraph (2)(b), for “£224.00”, “£389.00” and “£10.60” substitute “£236.00”, “£410.00” and “£10.90” respectively;
- (e) in sub-paragraph (2)(c), for “£389.00”, “£484.00” and “£13.35” substitute “£410.00”, “£511.00” and “£13.70” respectively.

**7.** In Schedule 2 (applicable amounts: pensioners)—

- (a) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 1 (personal allowance)—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£197.10” substitute “£217.00”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£294.90” substitute “£324.70”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) for “£294.90” and “£97.80” substitute “£324.70” and “£107.70” respectively;
- (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 2(1) (child or young person amounts), for “£70.80”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£77.78”;
- (c) in paragraph 3 (family premium), for “£17.85” substitute “£18.53”;
- (d) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premium specified in Part 3), in the second column—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£69.40”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£76.40” and for “£138.80” substitute “£152.80”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£27.44” substitute “£30.17”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£68.04” substitute “£74.69”;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£38.85” substitute “£42.75”.

**8.** 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 “£15.95” substitute “£16.40”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (1)(b), for “£5.30” substitute “£5.45”;
- (c) in sub-paragraph (2)(a), for “£224.00” substitute “£236.00”;
- (d) in sub-paragraph (2)(b), for “£224.00”, “£389.00” and “£10.60” substitute “£236.00”, “£410.00” and “£10.90” respectively;
- (e) in sub-paragraph (2)(c), for “£389.00”, “£484.00” and “£13.35” substitute “£410.00”, “£511.00” and “£13.70” respectively.

9. 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 “£82.10”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£90.40” and for “£65.00” substitute “£71.55”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£82.10” substitute “£90.40”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£128.95” substitute “£141.95”;
- (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 3(1), for “£70.80”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£77.78”;
- (c) in paragraph 4(1)(b) (family premium), for “£17.85” substitute “£18.53”;
- (d) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premiums specified in Part 3), in the second column—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£36.20” and “£51.60” substitute “£39.85” and “£56.80” respectively;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£69.40”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£76.40” and for “£138.80” substitute “£152.80”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£68.04” substitute “£74.69”;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£38.85” substitute “£42.75”;
  - (v) in sub-paragraph (5), for “£27.44”, “£17.75” and “£25.35” substitute “£30.17”, “£19.55” and “£27.90” respectively;
- (e) in Part 6 (amount of components)—
  - (i) in paragraph 23, for “£30.60” substitute “£33.70”;
  - (ii) in paragraph 24, for “£40.60” substitute “£44.70”.

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

10. The scheme set out in the Schedule to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013<sup>(1)</sup> is amended in accordance with regulations 11 to 16.

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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), S.I. 2021/34 (W. 9) and S.I. 2022/51 (W. 19).

**11.**—(1) Paragraph 9 (non-dependants) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) After sub-paragraph (2)(f) insert—

“(g) any person who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom under or outside the immigration rules made under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 or has a right of abode in the United Kingdom, within the meaning of section 2 of that Act, where the person—

- (i) was residing in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022;
- (ii) left Ukraine in connection with the Russian invasion which took place on 24 February 2022; and
- (iii) is residing with the applicant in connection with the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.”

(3) in sub-paragraph (3) for “2(a) to (c) and (f)” substitute “2(a) to (c), (f) and (g)”.

**12.**—(1) Paragraph 19(5) (persons treated as not being in Great Britain) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) After paragraph (m)(ii), omit “or”.

(3) At the end of paragraph (n), for “.” substitute “; or”.

(4) After paragraph (n) insert—

“(o) a person in Great Britain who was residing in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022, left Ukraine in connection with the Russian invasion which took place on 24 February 2022 and—

- (i) has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom in accordance with immigration rules made under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 or
- (ii) has a right of abode in the United Kingdom within the meaning given in section 2 of that Act.”

**13.**—(1) Paragraph 20 (persons subject to immigration control) is amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) In sub-paragraph (1) for “Subject to paragraph (2), persons” substitute “Persons”.

(3) Omit sub-paragraph (2).

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

- (a) in sub-paragraph (1)(a), for “£15.95” substitute “£16.40”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (1)(b), for “£5.30” substitute “£5.45”;
- (c) in sub-paragraph (2)(a), for “£224.00” substitute “£236.00”;
- (d) in sub-paragraph (2)(b), for “£224.00”, “£389.00” and “£10.60” substitute “£236.00”, “£410.00” and “£10.90” respectively;
- (e) in sub-paragraph (2)(c), for “£389.00”, “£484.00” and “£13.35” substitute “£410.00”, “£511.00” and “£13.70” respectively.

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

- (a) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 1 (personal allowances)—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1) for “£197.10” substitute “£217.00”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2) for “£294.90” substitute “£324.70”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3) of the English text for “£294.90” and “£97.80” substitute “£324.70” and “£107.70” respectively;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (3) of the Welsh text for “£294.90” and “£97.90” substitute “£324.70” and “£107.70” respectively;
- (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 2(1) (child or young person amounts), for “£70.80”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£77.78”;
- (c) in paragraph 3 (family premium), for “£17.85” substitute “£18.53”;
- (d) in the Table in Part 4 (amounts of premium specified in Part 3), in the second column—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£69.40” in both places it occurs, substitute “£76.40” and for “£138.80” substitute “£152.80”;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£27.44” substitute “£30.17”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£68.04” substitute “£74.69”;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£38.85” substitute “£42.75”.

**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 “£82.10”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£90.40” and for “£65.00” substitute “£71.55”;
- (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£82.10” substitute “£90.40”;
- (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£128.95” substitute “£141.95”;
- (b) in column (2) of the Table in paragraph 3(1) (child or young person amounts), for “£70.80”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£77.78”;
- (c) in paragraph 4(1)(b) (family premium), for “£17.85” substitute “£18.53”;
- (d) in the Table in Part 4 (amount of premiums specified in Part 3), in the second column—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), for “£36.20” and “£51.60” substitute “£39.85” and “£56.80” respectively;
  - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2), for “£69.40”, in both places it occurs, substitute “£76.40” and for “£138.80” substitute “£152.80”;
  - (iii) in sub-paragraph (3), for “£68.04” substitute “£74.69”;
  - (iv) in sub-paragraph (4), for “£38.85” substitute “£42.75”;
  - (v) in sub-paragraph (5), for “£27.44”, “£17.75” and “£25.35” substitute “£30.17”, “£19.55” and “£27.90” respectively;
- (e) in Part 6 (amount of components)—
  - (i) in paragraph 23, for “£30.60” substitute “£33.70”;
  - (ii) in paragraph 24, for “£40.60” substitute “£44.70”.

*Name*

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

*Date*

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<b>Report to</b>	Council
<b>Date of meeting</b>	31 January 2023
<b>Lead Member</b>	Councillor Julie Matthews
<b>Head of Service</b>	Lisa Jones, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services
<b>Report author</b>	Steve Price, Democratic Services Manager
<b>Title</b>	Survey of Members on the Timing of Meetings

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

- 1.1 The report outlines statutory requirements under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure') in respect of surveying elected members on the timing of Council meetings. A survey of elected members was opened during December and January and the results are detailed in this report.

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

- 2.1. An aim of the Measure is to promote and support membership of local authorities. The times at which meetings take place can be a significant factor in enabling current members to attend meetings and could also affect whether potential candidates stand for election. Under the Measure local authorities should survey their elected members on their preferred times for meetings.

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

- 3.1. That Council considers the results of the survey and confirms the arrangements for the timing of Council, committee and other member meetings.

## **4. Report details**

### **Background to the Timing of Meetings**

- 4.1 Statutory guidance to the Measure indicates that a local authority's meetings should be held at times which are convenient to its members and, as far as is practicable, have regard to equality and diversity issues.
- 4.2 At present, the Council and principal committee meetings start in the morning. A number of internal member-level meetings start in the afternoon, and one internal forum (the Prestatyn and Meliden Member Area Group) starts its meetings in the evening. The current pattern was arrived at following surveys with members in 2013 and 2018 and from the recommendations of a member-level task and finish group in 2016.
- 4.3 The Democratic Services Committee confirmed the questions to be asked of members for the survey that was opened from December 2022 until mid-January 2023. The survey questions are attached as appendix 1.
- 4.4 At the time of writing this report 34 responses (72% of the membership) had been received. The results of the survey are attached as appendix 2 and further summarised below.
- The majority of members prefer morning meetings
  - The majority of members do not want to see the timing of meetings rotate
  - Members cited evenings as being the most difficult time for them to attend meetings

### **Location of Meetings**

- 4.5 The Council holds many of its meetings as hybrid meetings, where attendees can choose to attend virtually or in-person. Hybrid meetings developed from the virtual meetings introduced as a necessity during the COVID-19 pandemic and were subsequently made permanent for certain meetings under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- 4.6 The Council's policy for holding meetings was developed by a member working group and reviewed by the Democratic Services Committee prior to adoption by full



Council in December 2021. The new 'Timing of Meetings' survey included questions to identify preferred locations for in-person meeting venues and whether members were experiencing problems accessing virtual or in-person meetings. The results are shown in appendix 2 and further summarised below.

- When attending a meeting in-person, a slight majority of members had a preference for where the venue would be, with many citing more than 1 location. Members made 8 references to Ruthin; 7 to Rhyl; 6 to Denbigh and 3 to Prestatyn.
- The majority of members do not experience difficulties attending meetings remotely. Of those who did 'technical issues' were the most commonly cited difficulty.
- The majority of members do not experience problems attending meetings that are in-person only. Of those who do, being allowed sufficient time of work appeared to be the biggest problem.

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

5.1. There is no direct contribution to the corporate themes.

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

6.1 The Council utilises existing resources to conduct its meetings and these are likely to be flexible enough to accommodate changes to the timing of meeting arrangements.

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

7.1. An impact assessment is not required for this statutory survey of members on the timing of meetings.

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

8.1. The Democratic Services Committee was consulted on the issues being raised in this report. All members were invited to complete a survey on the timing of meetings.

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

9.1 As highlighted in section 6 any changes to the timing of meeting arrangements can be maintained within existing financial resources. The service works closely with the Finance Service and any future pressures can be brought through the annual review of service pressures if required.

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

10.1 The arrangements for meetings can be a significant factor in enabling current members to attend meetings and could also affect whether potential candidates stand for election.

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

11.1 Section 6 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

# Timing of Meetings Survey

An aim of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 is to promote and support membership of local authorities. The times at which meetings take place is seen to be of considerable significance as it can affect the extent to which individuals may contemplate standing for election. Under the Measure local authorities should survey their members on their preferred times for meetings and it would be appreciated if councillors could complete this survey by the 30 December 2022.

1. Would you prefer meetings in the:

- Morning
- Afternoon (starting between 2pm and 4pm)
- Evening meetings (starting after 5pm)

2. Please give any reasons for your preferred times (for example family, work, social commitments).

Enter your answer

3. Would you apply your timing preference to:

- All committees
- Only committees you are a member of
- Only certain committees

4. If you have answered 'only certain committees' please state which committees and why:

Enter your answer

5. Would you prefer to see the timing of meetings rotate?

- Yes
- No

6. If you have answered 'yes' please list which committee(s) and why you would want this.

Enter your answer

7. Are there any meeting times that you would find particularly difficult?

Yes

No

8. If yes, please state which times would be difficult for you and the reasons for the difficulties (for example family, work, social commitments).

Enter your answer

9. Do you have a preferred location(s) for in-person meeting venues?

Yes

No

10. If yes, please state your preferred location(s).

Enter your answer

11. Do you experience difficulties attending meetings remotely (for example, any technical difficulties or in getting time off work)?

Yes

No

12. If yes, please explain what these difficulties are and what support you think might help you?

Enter your answer

13. Do you experience difficulties attending meetings that are in person only (for example, any difficulties in transport or travel time or in getting time off work)?

Yes

No

14. If yes, please explain what these difficulties are and what support you think would help you?

Enter your answer

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## Timing of Meetings Survey

Responses

1. Would you prefer meetings in the:

- Morning 24
- Afternoon (starting between 2p... 5
- Evening meetings (starting after... 5



2. Please give any reasons for your preferred times (for example family, work, social commitments).

30  
Responses

[Update](#)

14 respondents (50%) answered **work** for this question.



3. Would you apply your timing preference to:

- All committees 22
- Only committees you are a me... 11
- Only certain committees 1



4. If you have answered 'only certain committees' please state which committees and why:

4  
Responses

5. Would you prefer to see the timing of meetings rotate?

● Yes 8  
● No 26



6. If you have answered 'yes' please list which committee(s) and why you would want this.

7 Responses

[Update](#)

3 respondents (43%) answered **work** for this question.



7. Are there any meeting times that you would find particularly difficult?

● Yes 22  
● No 11



8. If yes, please state which times would be difficult for you and the reasons for the difficulties (for example family, work, social commitments).

23 Responses

[Update](#)

8 respondents (38%) answered **meetings** for this question.





9. Do you have a preferred location(s) for in-person meeting venues?

● Yes 19  
● No 15



10. If yes, please state your preferred location(s).

18  
Responses

[Update](#)

6 respondents (38%) answered **Rhyl** for this question.



11. Do you experience difficulties attending meetings remotely (for example, any technical difficulties or in getting time off work)?

● Yes 7  
● No 25



12. If yes, please explain what these difficulties are and what support you think might help you?

8  
Responses

[Update](#)

3 respondents (50%) answered **time** for this question.



13. Do you experience difficulties attending meetings that are in person only (for example, any difficulties in transport or travel time or in getting time off work)?

● Yes 8  
● No 26



14. If yes, please explain what these difficulties are and what support you think would help you?

8  
Responses

[Update](#)

1 respondents (13%) answered **meeting time** for this question.

**difficulties** **required time day** **subsequent childcare school**  
**n't have enough time** **meeting time** **travel time** **pickup**  
**short notice** **work meetings** **face meetings** **diary**  
**commitments** **extreme weather** **onwards causes**

COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Meeting	Item (Description / Title)		Purpose of Report	Council Decision Required (yes/no)	Lead member and Contact Officer
<b>31 January 2023</b>	1	Results of Members Survey regarding timings of meetings 2023		Yes	Clr Julie Matthews / Steve Price
	2	Budget 2023/2024 Final Proposals		Yes	Clr Gwyneth Ellis / Steve Gadd
	3	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/2024		Yes	Clr Gwyneth Ellis / Steve Gadd
<b>28 February 2023</b>	1	Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2023 to 2028			Clr Jason McLellan Nicola Kneale / Iolo McGregor
	2	Council Tax 2023/2024 and Associated Matters		Yes	Clr Gwyneth Ellis / Steve Gadd
	3	Capital Plan 2023/2024 – 2024/2025 and recommendations of the Strategic Investment Group		Yes	Clr Gwyneth Ellis / Steve Gadd
	4	Treasury Management Strategic Statement (TMSS) 2023/2024 and Prudential Indicators 2023/2024 to 2024/2025		Yes	Clr Gwyneth Ellis / Steve Gadd
	5	Petition Scheme	To approve a Petition Scheme for the Council	Yes	Clr Julie Matthews / Gary Williams
<b>9 May 2023 (Annual Council)</b>	1	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of Denbighshire County Council	To elect the Council's Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2023/2024 municipal year	No	Clr Julie Matthews / Gary Williams / Steve Price
	2	Annual Report of Scrutiny	To review the Annual Report of Scrutiny	No	Clr Hugh Irving Rhian Evans / Steve Price
	3	Annual Review of Political Balance	To consider the current political balance arrangements, committee	Yes	Clr Julie Matthews Steve Price

COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

			vacancies and how Scrutiny Chairs are appointed		
	4	Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy Consultation	To approve the replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy	Yes	Lead Member – Cllr Win Mullen-James Head of Service – Emlyn Jones Report Author – Angela Loftus (Lara Griffiths)
<b>4 July 2023</b>	1	Council Performance Self Assessment	To present an update on the Council’s performance against its functions, including Corporate Plan and Strategic Equality objectives	Yes	Lead Member – Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer – Nicola Kneale Report Author – Emma Horan
<b>5 September 2023</b>					
<b>14 November 2023</b>					

**FUTURE ITEMS**

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COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

***Note for Officers – Full Council Report Deadlines***

<i>Meeting</i>	<b><i>Deadline</i></b>	<i>Meeting</i>	<b><i>Deadline</i></b>	<i>Meeting</i>	<b><i>Deadline</i></b>
		<i>31.01.2023</i>	<i>17.01.2023</i>	<i>28.02.2023</i>	<i>14.02.2023</i>
<i>09.05.2023</i>	<i>24.04.2023</i>	<i>04.07.2023</i>	<i>20.06.2023</i>	<i>05.09.2023</i>	<i>21.08.2023</i>
<i>14.11.2023</i>	<i>31.10.2023</i>				

Updated 18/01/2023 SLW

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## Council Workshops 2022/23

DATE OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP	TOPIC(S)	LEAD SLT / LEAD MEMBER
<b>2023 DATES</b> Tuesday 2pm		
<b>14 February</b>	Climate Change & Biodiversity (including Strategy & Action Plan)	Relevant Corporate Director, Helen Vaughan Evans/Jane Hodgson Councillor Barry Mellor
<b>14 March</b>	Comms/Marketing/Engagement and Behaviour Change (include Press Release protocol, Working with CRM etc)	Relevant CD/HoS Councillor Julie Matthews
<b>18 April</b>	Health & Social Care, including Residential Care for Older People (how its structured & funded)	Nicola Stubbins Councillor Elen Heaton
<b>16 May</b>	Waste Model pre roll out of the new model	Tony Ward Councillor Barry Mellor
<b>13 June</b>	Sustainable Communities for Education (i.e. 21 <sup>st</sup> century Schools)	Geraint Davies Councillor Gill German
<b>11 July</b>	Budget	Steve Gadd Councillor Gwyneth Ellis
<b>12 September</b>	Strategic Flooding approach (inc DCC Strategy)	Tony Ward & Emlyn Jones Councillor Barry Mellor
<b>10 October</b>	Promotion of Welsh Language (within the Council, Communities and Schools - Welsh Education Strategic Plan, New Language Categorisation).	Relevant CD Councillor Emrys Wynne
<b>7 November</b>	Supporting Mental Health and wellbeing of young people	Geraint Davies & Rhiain Morrllle Councillor Gill German
<b>5 December</b>	Highways Maintenance Update	Tony Ward Councillor Barry Mellor

### Reserve List for consideration post 2023;

1. ALN Reform, the New Curriculum for Wales and the support provided by The Regional School Improvement Service (GwE)

## Council Workshops 2022/23

2. Inclusion Service & Pupil Referral Unit
3. How we support Schools through Admissions, Transport, Governance and Resource Management.
4. Tackling Poverty/Deprivation
5. Tourism, including destination management and Tourism Strategy
6. Culture/Arts/Heritage
7. Young People in democracy
8. AONB & proposed National Park
9. CJC Update to include the Regional Strategic Planning, Transport Plan etc
10. NWEAB work, including Growth Deal
11. Sustainable Transport Plan & Active Travel
12. LDP
13. Approach to Homelessness
14. Town Centres
15. Flying Start, Family Support and Early Prevention
16. Safeguarding & Community Safety
17. Levelling up Funds and Shared Prosperity Fun
18. Regional Integration Fund (RIF) Projects & Funding
19. NWOW & Office Strategy
20. Corporate Plan
21. DLL & DCC
22. Workshop for each of the Corporate Plan themes.

**Revised 08/11/2022 - SLW**