

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Councillor Bob Wellington
Arweinydd Cymdeithas
Llywodraeth Leol
Cymru (CLILC)
Leader, WLGA



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-LA-0378-15

Leaders, County and County Borough Councils
Police and Crime Commissioners

26 October 2015

Dear all,

The Minister for Finance and Government Business recently set out the timing of the Welsh Government's Budget process for the 2016-17 financial year in light of the UK Government's Spending Review announcement, scheduled for 25 November 2015.

Our officials have met and considered the implications for the timing of the Local Government settlement and Local Authorities budget setting in light of the same. We are writing jointly to inform you of the outcome of the discussions.

An appropriate amount of time has to be built around the announcement of the UK Spending Review to allow for the National Assembly to scrutinise the Welsh Budget. Whilst we recognise that this creates difficulties for the timing of Local Government budget-setting, the proposed timetable, at Annex A, does not result in any legal or financial impediment to the process.

However, it is also recognised that the timetable does present challenges. Each Authority will therefore need to give consideration to the implications of the timetable for its own budget setting exercise.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

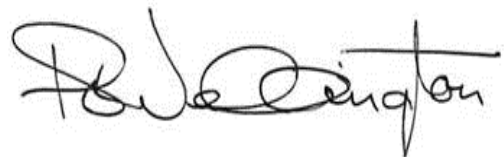
Particular considerations arising from the timetable which need to be taken into account include the following.

- ◆ The detailed allocations of Revenue Support Grant and redistributed Non-Domestic Rate Income published in the Provisional Settlement announcement, and subject to the statutory consultation process, will reflect all the information normally available by Final Settlement stage including updated tax-base information. This should provide a firmer basis for planning than is normally the case at the Provisional Settlement stage.
- ◆ The Provisional Settlement will include the available information on specific grants. The later budget will however have implications for decisions about individual specific grants. It is therefore to be expected that comprehensive data on all grants is unlikely to be available at the time of the Provisional Settlement. Work will continue after the provisional announcement to provide as comprehensive a picture of Welsh Government funding as early as practically possible.
- ◆ It may not be possible to publish some of the more detailed analysis underpinning the settlement allocations, such as the breakdown of SSAs and the indicator data at the same time as the settlement. The underpinning analysis will be published as soon as possible after 9 December.

Our officials will continue to liaise as the timetable develops.

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Minister for Public Services

Handwritten signature of Bob Wellington in black ink.

Councillor Bob Wellington
Leader of the WLGA
Arweinydd Cymdeithas
Llywodraeth Leol
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Proposed Budget Timetable for 2016-17

Date	Activity
25 November	UK Government Spending Review Announcement
8 December (last week of Autumn term)	Publish Welsh Government Draft Budget 2016-17
9 December	Publish Provisional Local Government Settlement Begin formal consultation on the Settlement
9 February	Debate on Draft Budget 2016-17
14 February	Indicative deadline for levying bodies (eg. National Parks Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities) to inform Principal Authorities of proposed levies
29 February	Indicative deadline for precepting bodies (ie. Police and Crime Commissioners and Community Councils) to inform Principal Authorities of precepts
1 March	Publish Welsh Government Final Budget 2016-17
2 March	Publish Final Local Government Settlement
8 March	Move Final Welsh Budget 2016-17 for Debate
9 March ^(a)	Move Final Settlement for Debate
10 March	Indicative deadline for Principal Authorities to set budgets and Council Tax for forthcoming year.

(a) Debate on Final Settlement can only take place after Final Budget has been approved.