

# Council Tax 2018/19

## Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

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

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

# IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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

## Score for the sustainability of the approach

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

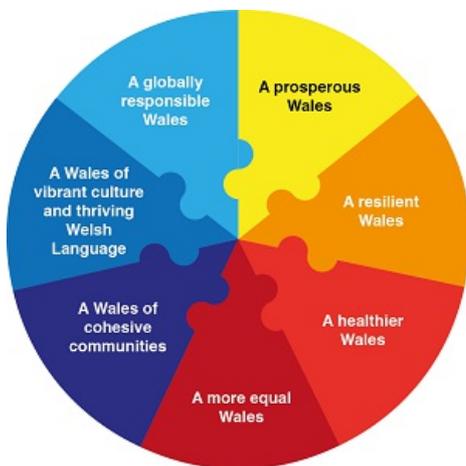


(3 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 20 / 24.

## Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



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

## Main conclusions

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

# THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

## **A prosperous Denbighshire**

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

### **Positive consequences identified:**

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

### **Unintended negative consequences identified:**

### **Mitigating actions:**

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

## **A resilient Denbighshire**

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

### **Positive consequences identified:**

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

### **Unintended negative consequences identified:**

### **Mitigating actions:**

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

## **A healthier Denbighshire**

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

### **Positive consequences identified:**

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

### **Unintended negative consequences identified:**

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

### **Mitigating actions:**

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

## **A more equal Denbighshire**

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

### **Positive consequences identified:**

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

### **Unintended negative consequences identified:**

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

### **Mitigating actions:**

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

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

## A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

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

### Positive consequences identified:

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

### Unintended negative consequences identified:

### Mitigating actions:

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

## A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

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

### Positive consequences identified:

### Unintended negative consequences identified:

### Mitigating actions:

## A globally responsible Denbighshire

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

### Positive consequences identified:

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

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

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