



## Item 22

### Council - 7 November 2023

#### Draft Budget & Precept Considerations 2024-2025

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Community Council must agree a budget and set the precept for the following financial year. The financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March. The billing authority collects the precept (charge) on behalf of Community and Town Councils under Section 41 of the above Act. In accordance with good governance a process of budget monitoring has been carried out by Council.
- 1.2 In setting a Budget, Council should consider its spending plans, and ambitions for the new financial year together with deciding whether to raise the Precept to deliver its ambitions.
- 1.3 The Community Council must agree a budget and set the precept for the following financial year no later than 31 January. Precept payment dates will be  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the Payment on last working day of April, August & December.

#### 2. Precept Considerations

- 2.1 Swansea Council informed the Community Council that the Council Tax Base for Llangyfelach has been calculated as **943** Band D equivalent properties. This figure has been calculated using the valuation lists provided by the Valuation Officer on 31 October 2022. The 2023 figure has not been received yet.
- 2.2 Whilst the precept is based upon Band D properties, residents pay both their Council Tax and the Community / Town Council precept on a pro rata basis depending upon the valuation Band of their property.
- 2.3 Council should consider its ambitions for 2024-2025 and beyond and set the Draft Budget & Precept accordingly. Based on the Council Tax Band, Band D equivalent (as of 31 October 2022), the table below for illustration only highlights the costs associated with any rise to the Precept:

Precept	New Precept Level	Band D per annum
£30,000	£30,000	£31.81
0.5% Increase	£30,150	£31.97
1% Increase	£30,300	£32.13
3.3333% Increase	£31,000	£32.87
5% Increase	£31,500	£33.40

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**3. Budget Setting**

3.1 As of date below, the Council holds the following Bank balances:

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance 31 Oct 2022</b>	<b>Balance 31 Oct 2023</b>
Current Account	£10,527.18	£14,876.08
Reserve Account	£12,024.73	£12,156.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>£22,551.91</b>	<b>£27,032,65</b>

3.2 The Council needs to consider its spending plans, and ambitions for the new financial year. Council also needs to consider whether it needs to raise more from the Precept to raise reserves to deliver its ambitions. These factors provide the relevant information for the Council to set a Budget.

3.3 Councillors should review the level of General Reserves held by Council when considering the draft budget.

3.4 The Community Council also pursues grant funding and sponsorship opportunities to fund some aspects of its work.

**4. Recommendation.** The views of Council are sought to enable the Clerk to prepare a Draft Budget 2024-2025.

**Huw Evans**  
**Clerk to Llangyfelach Community Council**