

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

6 March 2020

The Mayor: Councillor S.Jones

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor J.Warman

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, D.Cawsey, H.C.Clarke, C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, A.P.H.Davies, N.J.E.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, C.Edwards, J.Evans, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, J.Hurley, C.James, H.N.James, D.Jones, H.Jones, J.Jones, L.Jones, R.G.Jones, D.Keogh, S.A.Knoyle, E.V.Latham, D.Lewis, A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, J.Miller, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, S.Pursey, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards, P.D.Richards, M.Spooner, A.J.Taylor, R.L.Taylor, D.Whitelock, C.Williams, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, K.Jones, N.Pearce, H.Jenkins, A.Jarrett, C. Griffiths, C.Furlow-Harris, N.Headon and J.Woodman-Ralph

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. **Declarations of Interest**

The following members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor S.Freeguard	Re Revenue Budget 2020/2021 as she is a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.
Councillor A.Llewelyn	Re Revenue Budget 2020/2021 as he is a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.
Councillor A.N.Woolcock	Re Revenue Budget 2020/2021 as he is a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.
Councillor C.M.Crowley	Re Revenue Budget 2020/2021 as he is a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

2. **Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2020/2021 TO 2022/2023 and Revenue Budget 2020/2021**

The report was introduced by the relevant Cabinet Member wherein it was noted that the report had been commended to Council, by Cabinet on 5 March 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme for 2020/2021 to 2022/2023 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved, and that the Programme be kept under review and updated over the coming year.

3. **Revenue Budget 2020/21**

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the above report. It was highlighted that although the responses to the consultation were low, these had been included in the reports before Members today and asked Council to support the recommendations contained within the report.

Members thanked officers and the Cabinet for the work that had been undertaken in achieving the budget position and for lobbying the Welsh Government which resulted in an improved settlement figure.

This was welcomed however it was agreed that Wales continued to need further additional funding to be able to maintain and improve services.

In addition, Members were pleased that consultation responses received from the general public and relevant scrutiny committees in regard to Pontardawe Arts Centre, Celtic Leisure funding, schools funding formula and school cleaning deficits had been acted upon and recommendations changes as a result.

Concern was expressed by some Members that the proposed Council Tax increase of 3.7% would have a negative impact on families already on low incomes and would result in communities already identified as areas of high deprivation, falling further into deprivation. Neath Port Talbot still had the third highest council tax in Wales.

Discussion took place on the two proposals put forward that reserves be used to enable the Council Tax increase to be reduced by either 3.5% or 3% in order to mitigate the impact on families and communities within Neath Port Talbot.

The Leader of Council responded and stated that by using the council reserves, as suggested by some Members it would result in the Council being unable to fund urgent issues. In 2019/20 reserves provided emergency funding to support four landslides in Ystalyfera and flooding which damaged major roads and bridges. The Council had to ensure that reserves were available to continue to support unplanned emergencies. The impact of reducing Council tax to either 3% or 3.5% would not impact greatly on Council Tax payers but would impact on the Council's ability to respond to unplanned emergencies.

The first amendment was put to Council as follows:

That the 2020/21 Band D equivalent for Neath Port County Borough Council will be £1,603.30 and that there be a 3% increase in Council Tax as opposed to 3.79% increase as detailed in the report with the gap of 0.79% being funded from the general reserves (representing an additional sum of £592K to be taken for 2020/2021). Therefore, the total amount of general reserves to balance the budget is £2.242m i.e. £1.65m plus £0.592m.

The above amendment fell, there then followed the 2nd amendment put to Council which was as follows:

that the 2020/21 Band D equivalent for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council will be £1,611.07 and that there be a 3.5% increase in Council Tax as opposed to 3.79% increase as detailed in the report with the gap of 0.29% being funded from the general reserve (representing an additional sum of £217K be taken for 2020/2021). Therefore, the total amount of general reserves to balance the budget is £1.867m i.e. £1.65m plus £0.217m.

The above amendment fell, as a result the substantive recommendation contained within the circulated report was considered.

RESOLVED:	<p>That having due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, as contained in Appendix 7 to the circulated report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the following matters are delegated to the appropriate Corporate Director following consultation with the Council Leader, relevant Cabinet Member and Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee:-<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fees and charges applicable for the financial year 2020/21• Fees and Charges which are applicable in any subsequent financial year and which, in the opinion of the relevant Corporate Director, need to be set in advance of the financial year for operational reasons.2. the revised budget position and arrangements for 2019/20 be approved.3. Having taken into account the Integrated Impact Assessment and Crime and Disorder impacts, the net Revenue Budget requirement for 2020/21, and the service plans for the delivery of the budgets, be approved together with the budget/forward financial plan savings, as contained in Appendix 4 to the circulated report.4. that Corporate Directors be instructed to progress the savings and improvement programme for the Authority.
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	<p>5. Fees and charges for non-executive functions be delegated to the appropriate Corporate Director following consultation with the Council Leader, Deputy Leader and Chair of the relevant Non Executive committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fees and charges applicable in 2020/21• Fees and charges applicable in any subsequent financial year and which, in the opinion of the Corporate Director, need to be set in advance of that financial year for operational reasons. <p>6. That the 2020/21 Council Tax Band D equivalent for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council will be £1,615.59.</p>
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4. **Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, And Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2020/21**

RESOLVED	<p>That the following Strategies and Policies as set out in the circulated report, be approved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treasury Management Strategy• Annual Investment Strategy• Minimum Revenue Provision Policy• Prudential Indicators
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5. **Council Tax 2020/21**

RESOLVED	<p>1. That any expenses incurred by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in performing in part of its area, a function performed by a Community Council, elsewhere in its area, are treated as the Authority's general expenses.</p> <p>2. That the levy of the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority is treated as a general expense.</p>
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3. That following amounts are calculated in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

	Amount
Aggregate of the items estimated under Section 32 (2) - expenditure	£447,240,825
Aggregate of the items estimated under section 32 (3) - income	£140,892,410
Amount calculated in accordance with section 32(4) – budget requirement	£306,348,415
Aggregate payable in respect of redistributed NNDR and RSG, reduced in accordance with Section 33 (3B) of the Act.	£226,374,905
Basic amount of Council Tax in accordance with Section 34 (1) of the Act.	£1,662.72
Aggregate of all special items referred to in section 34 (1) of the Act.	£2,266,798
Basic Amount of Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act.	£1,615.59
Basic amounts of Council tax for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items bands relates, calculated in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act.	As per Appendix 1
Amounts to be taken into account in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation, calculated in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act.	As per Appendix 2

4. That the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in a precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act.

Band A	£181.81
Band B	£212.11
Band C	£242.41
Band D	£272.72
Band E	£333.32
Band F	£393.92
Band G	£454.53
Band H	£545.43
Band I	£636.34

The total precept payable is £13,117,062.

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Act hereby sets the amounts shown in Appendix 3 as the Council Tax for 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

CHAIRPERSON

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Basic Amount of Council Tax (Band D)

Appendix 1

Community Council Precept	Town or Community Council	Community Council Precept	Council Tax Base (band D)	Community Council Tax	NPTCBC Council Tax	Total
2019/20		2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
£36,530.00	Blaengwrach	£38,721.00	371.78	£104.15	£1,615.59	£1,719.74
£220,143.00	Blaenhonddan	£230,000.00	4,591.25	£50.10	£1,615.59	£1,665.69
£147,800.00	Briton Ferry	£152,400.00	1,877.11	£81.19	£1,615.59	£1,696.78
£99,000.00	Cilybebyll	£100,000.00	1,953.37	£51.19	£1,615.59	£1,666.78
£21,321.00	Clyne and Melincourt	£22,333.75	261.36	£85.45	£1,615.59	£1,701.04
£379,681.00	Coedffranc	£398,709.00	3,620.28	£110.13	£1,615.59	£1,725.72
£48,126.00	Crynant	£50,550.00	676.79	£74.69	£1,615.59	£1,690.28
£39,000.00	Cwmlllynfell	£40,000.00	387.41	£103.25	£1,615.59	£1,718.84
£48,913.00	Dyffryn Clydach	£49,891.00	1,101.14	£45.31	£1,615.59	£1,660.90
£148,223.29	Glynneath	£236,060.00	1,381.55	£170.87	£1,615.59	£1,786.46
£83,590.00	Gwauncaegurwen	£85,983.00	1,339.52	£64.19	£1,615.59	£1,679.78
£330,000.00	Neath	£400,000.00	6,515.01	£61.40	£1,615.59	£1,676.99
£22,746.00	Onllwyn	£23,883.00	374.93	£63.70	£1,615.59	£1,679.29
£38,765.00	Pelenna	£39,961.00	403.79	£98.96	£1,615.59	£1,714.55
£183,000.00	Pontardawe	£183,000.00	2,532.78	£72.25	£1,615.59	£1,687.84
£52,138.00	Resolven	£54,933.00	734.88	£74.75	£1,615.59	£1,690.34
£48,650.00	Seven Sisters	£49,623.00	634.91	£78.16	£1,615.59	£1,693.75
£29,000.00	Tonna	£38,000.00	955.85	£39.76	£1,615.59	£1,655.35
£67,750.00	Ystalyfera	£72,750.00	1,599.88	£45.47	£1,615.59	£1,661.06
£2,044,376.29	Total	£2,266,797.75	31,313.59			

Amount of Council Tax - NPT plus Community Council

Community	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
Blaengwrach	1,146.49	1,337.58	1,528.66	1,719.74	2,101.90	2,484.07	2,866.23	3,439.48	4,012.73
Blaenhonddan	1,110.46	1,295.54	1,480.61	1,665.69	2,035.84	2,406.00	2,776.15	3,331.38	3,886.61
Briton Ferry	1,131.19	1,319.72	1,508.25	1,696.78	2,073.84	2,450.90	2,827.97	3,393.56	3,959.15
Cilybebyll	1,111.19	1,296.38	1,481.58	1,666.78	2,037.18	2,407.57	2,777.97	3,333.56	3,889.15
Clyne and Melincourt	1,134.03	1,323.03	1,512.04	1,701.04	2,079.05	2,457.06	2,835.07	3,402.08	3,969.09
Coedffranc	1,150.48	1,342.23	1,533.97	1,725.72	2,109.21	2,492.71	2,876.20	3,451.44	4,026.68
Crynant	1,126.85	1,314.66	1,502.47	1,690.28	2,065.90	2,441.52	2,817.13	3,380.56	3,943.99
Cwmllynfell	1,145.89	1,336.88	1,527.86	1,718.84	2,100.80	2,482.77	2,864.73	3,437.68	4,010.63
Dyffryn Clydach	1,107.27	1,291.81	1,476.36	1,660.90	2,029.99	2,399.08	2,768.17	3,321.80	3,875.43
Glynneath	1,190.97	1,389.47	1,587.96	1,786.46	2,183.45	2,580.44	2,977.43	3,572.92	4,168.41
Gwauncaegurwen	1,119.85	1,306.50	1,493.14	1,679.78	2,053.06	2,426.35	2,799.63	3,359.56	3,919.49
Neath	1,117.99	1,304.33	1,490.66	1,676.99	2,049.65	2,422.32	2,794.98	3,353.98	3,912.98
Onllwyn	1,117.99	1,304.33	1,490.66	1,676.99	2,049.65	2,422.32	2,794.98	3,353.98	3,912.98
Pelenna	1,119.53	1,306.11	1,492.70	1,679.29	2,052.47	2,425.64	2,798.82	3,358.58	3,918.34
Pontardawe	1,143.03	1,333.54	1,524.04	1,714.55	2,095.56	2,476.57	2,857.58	3,429.10	4,000.62
Resolven	1,125.23	1,312.76	1,500.30	1,687.84	2,062.92	2,437.99	2,813.07	3,375.68	3,938.29
Seven Sisters	1,126.89	1,314.71	1,502.52	1,690.34	2,065.97	2,441.60	2,817.23	3,380.68	3,944.13
Tonna	1,129.17	1,317.36	1,505.56	1,693.75	2,070.14	2,446.53	2,822.92	3,387.50	3,952.08
Ystalyfera	1,103.57	1,287.49	1,471.42	1,655.35	2,023.21	2,391.06	2,758.92	3,310.70	3,862.48
Blaengwrach	1,107.37	1,291.94	1,476.50	1,661.06	2,030.18	2,399.31	2,768.43	3,322.12	3,875.81
All Other	1,077.06	1,256.57	1,436.08	1,615.59	1,974.61	2,333.63	2,692.65	3,231.18	3,769.71