

APPENDIX A

Service Data

1. Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)

Funding from Welsh Government was allocated to fill the 10% shortfall in Council Tax Reduction for 2014/15.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme expenditure and budget are as follows:

- 2013/14 CTRS Budget £9,437,000 Expenditure £9,117,454
- 2014/15 CTRS Budget £9,742,000 Expenditure £9,025,074
- 2015/16 CTRS Budget £9,770,000 Expenditure £9,117,658
- 2016/17 CTRS Budget £9,850,000 Expenditure £9,337,597
- 2017/18 CTRS Budget £9,940,000 Expenditure £9,340,821
- 2018/19 CTRS Budget £9,940,000 Expenditure £9,681,332
- 2019/20 CTRS Budget £9,940,000 Expenditure £10,030,144 (July 2019)

Council Tax collection in-year has been maintained

- 2013/14 97.5%
- 2014/15 97.9%
- 2015/16 97.9%
- 2016/17 97.8%
- 2017/18 97.7%
- 2018/19 97.7%

Since 2013/14 the Council has resolved each year to adopt the Council Tax Reduction Schemes in accordance with the prevailing statutory instruments. (Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations (the Prescribed Requirements Regulations) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations]

The annual resolution reconfirmed that the national scheme be adopted with the following discretions:

- That the Council continues to allow Extended Payments up to a maximum of 4 weeks.
- That the Council continues to disregard War Widow and War Disablement pensions in assessing income for Council Tax Reduction.
- That the Council continues to allow Backdated Reductions for a period up to 26 weeks.

2. Social Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)

The social size criteria affects working age claimants where they are under-occupying their home and only affects Housing Association and Council tenants. There will be a reduction in Housing Benefit of 14% for under-occupation of one spare bedroom and 25% for under-occupation of two or more spare bedrooms.

Number of people who have had Housing Benefit reduced:

June 2014	Sept 2015	June 2016	May 2017	June 2018	June 2019
944	847	809	770	737	639

Since its introduction in April 2013 there has been a reduction of **365** in the number of people affected.

Housing Benefit Reduction

	June 2014	Sept 2015	June 2016	May 2017	June 2018	June 2019
14% reduction	795	716	675	629	613	527
25% reduction	149	131	134	141	124	112
Total affected	944	847	809	770	737	639

Bedroom Tax broken down into landlord types

LANDLORD	14% Reduction	25% Reduction	TOTAL
Council	289	74	363
Newydd	135	22	157
Hafod	42	10	52
United Welsh	25	5	30
Wales & West	33	1	34
Cando	1	0	1
Gwalia	2	0	2
TOTAL	527	112	639

3. Benefit Cap

If a household's benefit entitlement is larger than the Benefit Cap the level of Housing Benefit payments will be reduced by the amount that is larger than the capped level. This will only affect working age claimants where the amount of benefit will be capped at £500 per week (£26,000 p.a.) for a couple or lone parent with children. From 2016/17 the amount of benefit has been capped at £384.62 per week (£20,000 p.a.).

July 2013	June 2014	Sept 2015	June 2016	May 2017	July 2018	July 2019
54	41	41	34	114	112	84

4. Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

The DHP allocation from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for 2018/19 was £277,158 and the Authority itself has allocated a further £223,500, this gives an overall limit of £500,658. For 2019/20 the allocation from the DWP is £239,742 and the allocation from the Council has been reduced to £23,500, giving an overall limit of £263,242

Applications	Received	Granted	Refused	Waiting Further Information	Waiting To Be Processed
2018/19	1095	696	399	N/A	N/A
July 2019	540	324	175	15	26

DHP Fund	DWP Allocation £	Paid £	Committed £	Remaining £	Council DHP Contribution £
2018/19	277,158	303,535	N/A	N/A	223,000
July 2019	239,742	107,459	57,134	75,149	23,500

The DHP awards were granted for the following reasons:

Reason	Number of awards 2018/19	Amount Paid £ 2018/19	Number of awards July 2019	Amount Paid £ July 2019
Social Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)	164	61,821.84	81	19,046.34
Benefit Cap	44	25,331.58	20	8,548.36
Local Housing Allowance restriction	134	57,683.63	61	20,096.06
Combination of reforms	27	12,372.55	16	6,224.20

Other	327	146,325.78	146	53,543.55
TOTAL	696	303,535.38	324	107,458.51

Purpose of DHP Reasons why payments have been made:	Number of awards	Number of awards
	2018/19	July 2019
To help secure and move to alternative accommodation i.e. rent deposit	256	110
To help with short-term rent costs to secure moves	40	23
To help with short-term rent costs while the claimants seeks employment	131	63
To help with ongoing rental costs for Foster Carers	1	0
To help with on-going rental costs for disabled people	48	10
To help with on-going rent costs	220	118
Total	696	324

5. Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is a flat rate allowance based on the size of household and the area in which a person lives for tenants in privately rented accommodation which came into effect from April 2008.			
2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Shared Accommodation £52.30 One bedroom £92.05 Two bedroom £115.07 Three bedroom £128.27 Four bedroom £159.95	Shared Accommodation £52.30 One bedroom £97.81 Two bedroom £115.07 Three bedroom £128.27 Four bedroom £160.00	Shared Accommodation £55.49 One bedroom £97.81 Two bedroom £115.07 Three bedroom £128.27 Four bedroom £160.00	Shared Accommodation £57.15 One bedroom £97.81 Two bedroom £115.07 Three bedroom £128.27 Four bedroom £160.00

6. Universal Credit Uptake (UC) from February 2016 UC launch

Universal Credit (UC) Uptake	Feb 2016	Jan 2017	Apr 2017	Dec 2017	Jun 2018	June 2019
Claimants	15	628	672	693	535	3040