

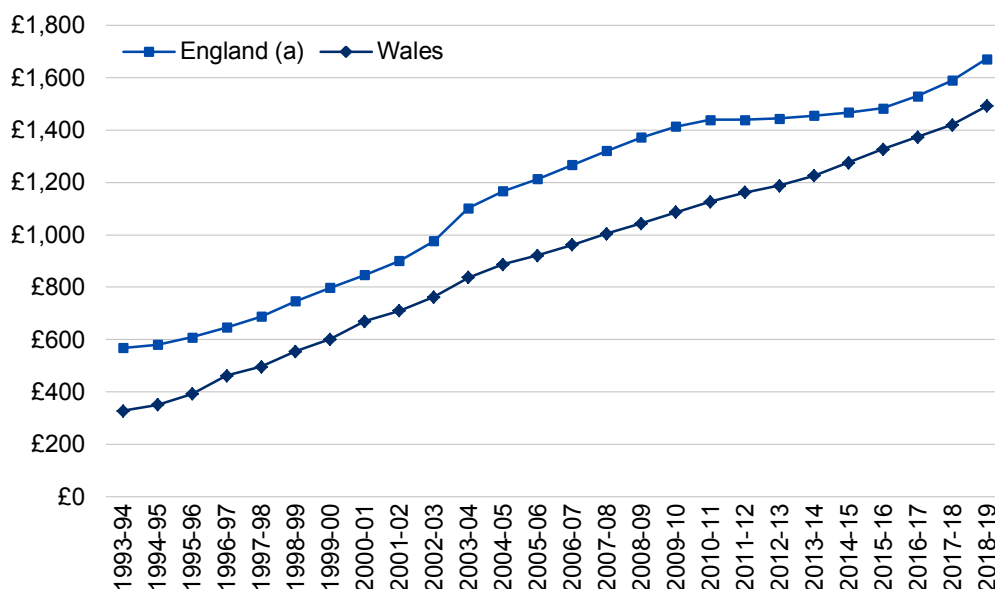


Council Tax Levels in Wales: 2018-19

22 March 2018
SFR 20/2018

- Average band D council tax for Wales for 2018-19 is £1,492. This includes £1,219 for county councils, £239 for police and £34 for community councils. Band D figures for billing authorities, including police elements, vary from £1,252 in Pembrokeshire to £1,828 in Blaenau Gwent (table 1).
- County council increases in band D council tax for 2018-19 average £60 or 5.0% over the previous year. Police increases average £12 or 5.3%. These increases combine to produce an average band D rise of £72 or 5.1% (table 2).
- Pembrokeshire has the largest overall band D percentage increase of 11.0%. Rhondda Cynon Taf has the smallest overall band D percentage increase of 3.8% (table 2).
- South Wales Police have the largest band D increase of 7.0%. North Wales Police have the smallest band D increase of 3.6% (table 2).
- In England, the estimated Band D percentage increase is 5.1% (chart 5).
- Welsh average band D council tax is 89% of the latest estimated figure of £1,672 for England (chart 1).

Chart 1: Average band D council tax



(a) England figures based on estimates for 2018-19 from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Additional information is available on [StatsWales](https://stats.wales.gov.uk/).

About this release

Council tax is a tax on domestic property set by local authorities in order to collect sufficient revenue to meet their demand. It is calculated based on the council tax band assigned to each dwelling in each local authority which are each assigned to one of nine valuation bands: A to I. This release provides details of the levels of average band D council tax in Welsh local authorities for the financial year 2018-19 and changes over 2017-18.

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Council tax can be measured in 'band D' or in 'per dwelling' terms. Band D has historically been used as the standard for comparing council tax levels between and across local authorities. This measure is not affected by the varying distribution of properties in bands that can be found across authorities. The 'per dwelling' calculation uses chargeable dwelling figures which gives an indication of the average amount of council tax that is actually paid per household.

Table 1 shows the average band D and the average per dwelling figures for council tax levels across all billing authorities. The table also shows county, community council and police elements. The average council tax per dwelling ranges from £1,017 in Caerphilly to £1,732 in Monmouthshire.

Table 1: Breakdown of band D council tax in Wales, 2018-19

	£				
	Of which:				
	Average	County	Community	Police	Average
	band D	council	council	authority	per
		element	element (a)	element	dwelling
Isle of Anglesey	1,441	1,140	42	258	1,313
Gwynedd	1,601	1,301	42	258	1,441
Conwy	1,469	1,168	43	258	1,331
Denbighshire	1,555	1,248	49	258	1,409
Flintshire	1,480	1,178	45	258	1,417
Wrexham	1,398	1,093	47	258	1,277
Powys	1,471	1,189	57	225	1,455
Ceredigion	1,484	1,226	33	225	1,433
Pembrokeshire	1,252	994	34	225	1,183
Carmarthenshire	1,500	1,197	79	225	1,276
Swansea	1,518	1,269	16	234	1,290
Neath Port Talbot	1,772	1,497	42	234	1,312
Bridgend	1,676	1,396	47	234	1,420
Vale of Glamorgan	1,466	1,187	45	234	1,516
Cardiff	1,391	1,155	3	234	1,389
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,666	1,406	26	234	1,209
Merthyr Tydfil	1,735	1,500	1	234	1,188
Caerphilly	1,309	1,058	12	239	1,017
Blaenau Gwent	1,828	1,571	18	239	1,162
Torfaen	1,526	1,242	46	239	1,250
Monmouthshire	1,539	1,242	58	239	1,732
Newport	1,301	1,057	5	239	1,152
Wales average	1,492	1,219	34	239	1,319

(a) The average community council element across the county.

Chart 2 shows the differences in average council tax per dwelling by billing authority compared with the Wales average in 2018-19. Caerphilly's average council tax per dwelling is £302 less than the Welsh average and Monmouthshire is £413 more.

Chart 2: Difference in average council tax per dwelling compared with the Welsh average, by billing authority, 2018-19

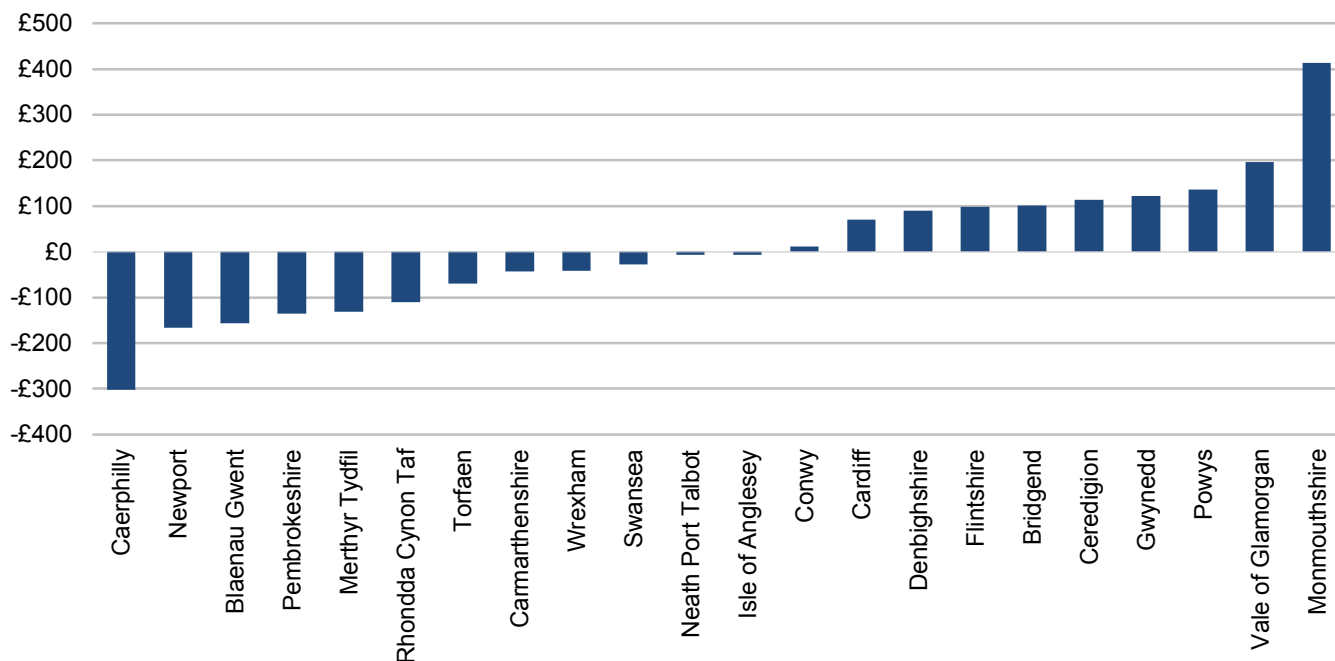


Chart 3 shows the average band D council tax by billing authority. Blaenau Gwent has the largest average band D council tax whilst Pembrokeshire has the smallest average band D council tax.

Chart 3: Average band D council tax, 2018-19

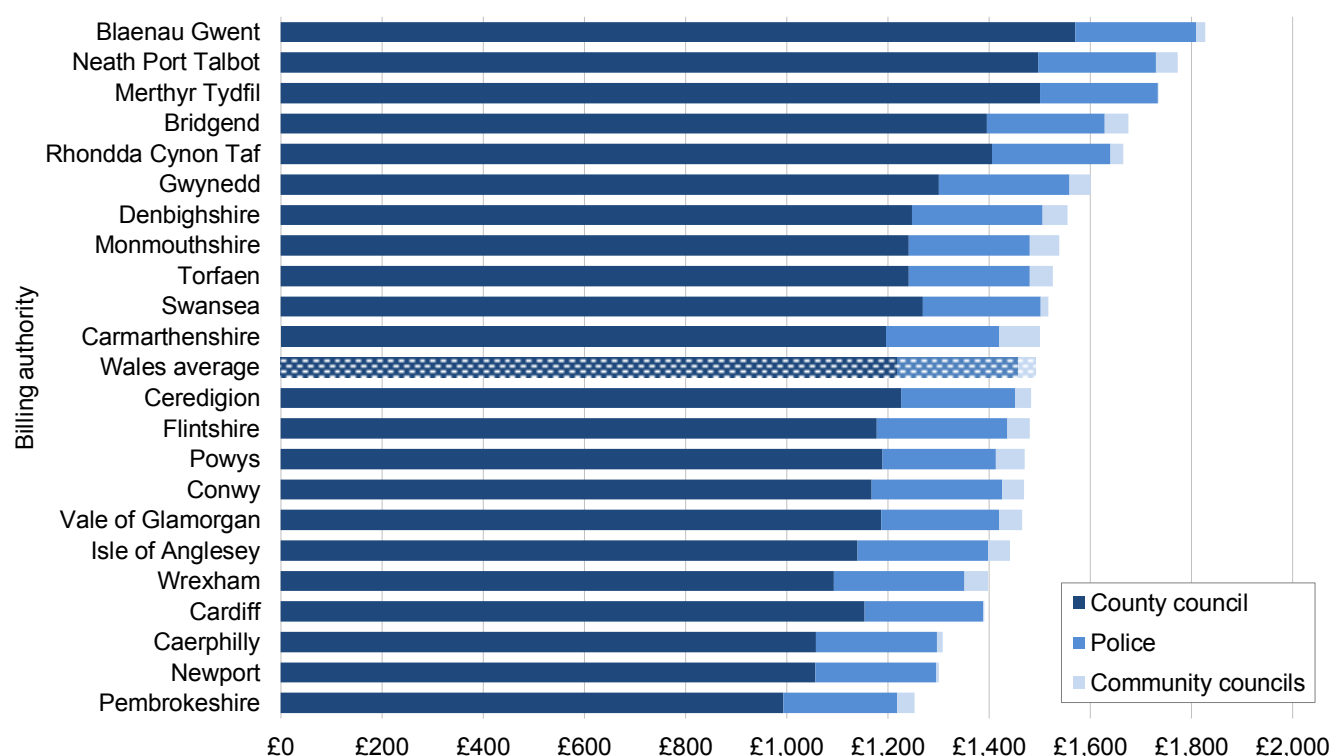


Table 2 compares the increases in average band D council tax in relation to the previous year for counties (including community councils) and police. Pembrokeshire has the largest percentage increase of 11.0%. All other authorities have increased by at least 3.8%. The Wales county average increase is 5.0%. South Wales Police have the largest band D increase of 7.0%. The overall Wales average Band D increase, including police elements, is 5.1%.

Table 2: Changes to average band D council tax

	2017-18	2018-19	Overall increase	Of which: (a)		Overall increase	Due to: (a)		Police authority area
				County	Police		County	Police	
	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%	
Isle of Anglesey	1,377	1,441	64	55	9	4.6	4.9	3.6	North Wales
Gwynedd	1,530	1,601	71	62	9	4.7	4.9	3.6	
Conwy	1,401	1,469	68	59	9	4.8	5.1	3.6	
Denbighshire	1,487	1,555	68	59	9	4.6	4.8	3.6	
Flintshire	1,395	1,480	85	76	9	6.1	6.6	3.6	
Wrexham	1,346	1,398	52	43	9	3.9	4.0	3.6	
Powys	1,397	1,471	74	63	11	5.3	5.4	5.0	Dyfed Powys
Ceredigion	1,413	1,484	71	60	11	5.0	5.0	5.0	
Pembrokeshire	1,128	1,252	125	114	11	11.0	12.5	5.0	
Carmarthenshire	1,435	1,500	65	55	11	4.6	4.5	5.0	
Swansea	1,437	1,518	80	65	15	5.6	5.3	7.0	South Wales
Neath Port Talbot	1,703	1,772	69	54	15	4.1	3.6	7.0	
Bridgend	1,593	1,676	83	68	15	5.2	4.9	7.0	
Vale of Glamorgan	1,404	1,466	62	47	15	4.4	3.9	7.0	
Cardiff	1,320	1,391	71	55	15	5.4	5.0	7.0	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,604	1,666	62	46	15	3.8	3.4	7.0	
Merthyr Tydfil	1,660	1,735	75	60	15	4.5	4.2	7.0	
Caerphilly	1,252	1,309	56	46	10	4.5	4.5	4.4	Gwent
Blaenau Gwent	1,754	1,828	74	64	10	4.2	4.2	4.4	
Torfaen	1,456	1,526	70	60	10	4.8	4.9	4.4	
Monmouthshire	1,466	1,539	72	62	10	4.9	5.0	4.4	
Newport	1,242	1,301	59	49	10	4.7	4.8	4.4	
Wales average	1,420	1,492	72	60	12	5.1	5.0	5.3	

(a) Including community council precepts.

Chart 4 shows the average changes in council tax compared to the previous year. The average increase for Wales is £72, made up of £60 for county councils and £12 for police.

Chart 4: Change in average band D council tax, 2018-19

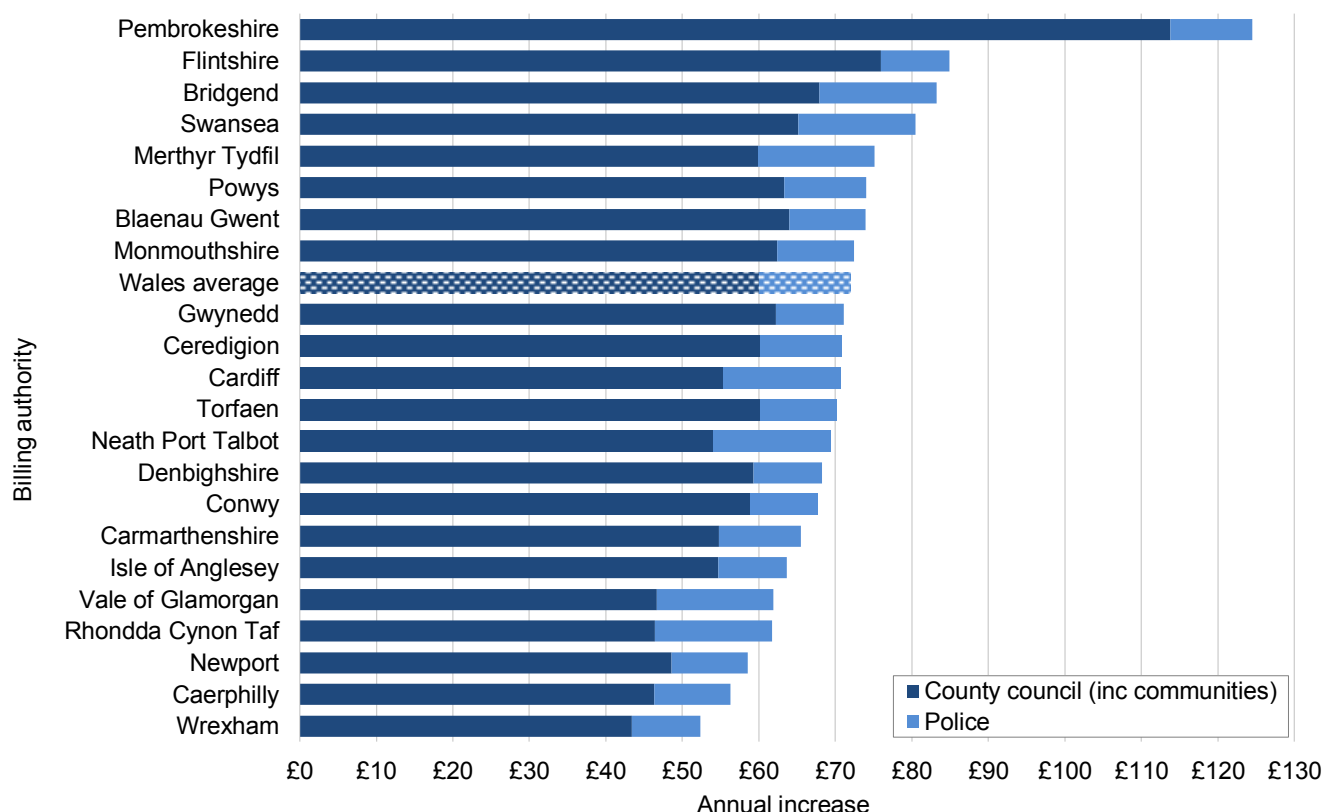
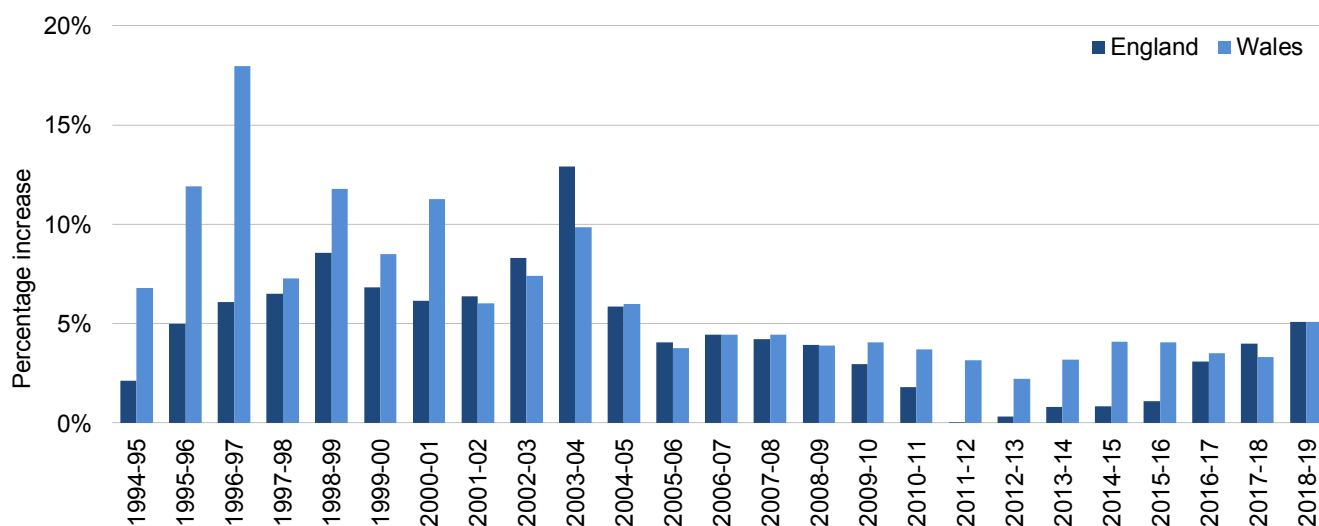


Chart 5 compares band D council tax increases between Wales and England. From 2009-10 to 2016-17 figures show a higher increase in Wales. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16, central government funded a council tax freeze for many English authorities. In 2017-18, Wales had a lower band D average increase than England and in 2018-19 the increases are 5.1% in both countries. The Wales average band D in 2018-19 is £180 less than in England.

Chart 5: Year-on-year increase in band D council tax (a)



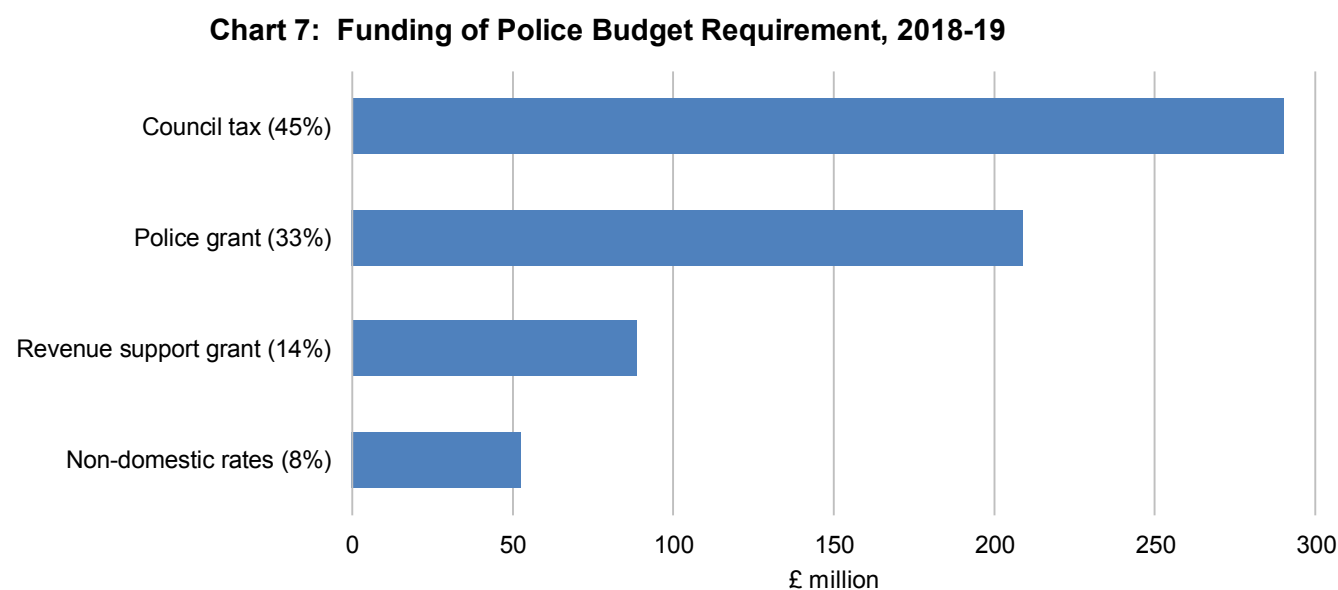
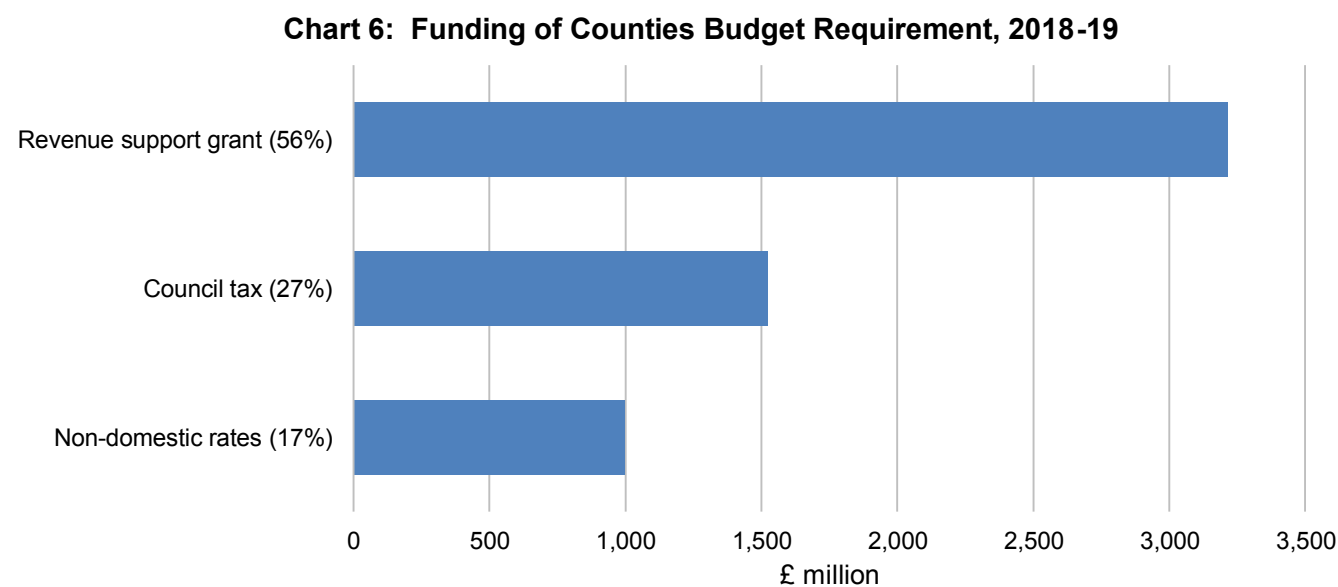
(a) Band D council tax levels in England did not increase in 2011-12.

Table 3 shows that budget requirement (see notes) has increased on average by 3.3% for counties and increased by 2.6% for police. The proportion of budget met from council tax for police varies from 42% for South Wales Police to 51% for North Wales Police. This same proportion varies by county from 19% for Caerphilly to 39% for Monmouthshire.

Table 3: Budget requirement and council tax income

	Budget requirement				Council tax income income	CT income as % of budget
	Change					
	2017-18 (£m)	2018-19 (£m)	(£m)	%		
Counties:						
Isle of Anglesey	127.4	132.2	4.8	3.8	36.4	28
Gwynedd	233.3	245.1	11.8	5.0	69.9	29
Conwy	208.1	214.2	6.1	3.0	60.6	28
Denbighshire	189.1	194.4	5.3	2.8	51.3	26
Flintshire	257.9	267.2	9.3	3.6	78.0	29
Wrexham	227.7	235.4	7.7	3.4	60.8	26
Powys	243.1	251.0	7.9	3.3	77.0	31
Ceredigion	136.2	141.1	5.0	3.6	39.9	28
Pembrokeshire	207.9	219.4	11.6	5.6	57.7	26
Carmarthenshire	339.6	351.5	11.9	3.5	92.1	26
Swansea	419.8	434.6	14.9	3.5	115.5	27
Neath Port Talbot	276.8	285.1	8.2	3.0	72.7	26
Bridgend	260.1	268.5	8.3	3.2	76.9	29
Vale of Glamorgan	218.2	224.7	6.5	3.0	72.2	32
Cardiff	585.8	606.9	21.1	3.6	166.0	27
Rhondda Cynon Taf	459.3	472.5	13.2	2.9	108.4	23
Merthyr Tydfil	114.8	117.5	2.7	2.3	27.2	23
Caerphilly	324.7	331.4	6.6	2.0	64.1	19
Blaenau Gwent	139.7	142.4	2.7	2.0	32.1	23
Torfaen	169.7	174.5	4.8	2.9	43.0	25
Monmouthshire	148.2	152.9	4.8	3.2	59.7	39
Newport	266.6	274.9	8.2	3.1	62.1	23
Total counties	5,554.0	5,737.5	183.5	3.3	1,523.4	27
Dyfed Powys Police	96.6	99.1	2.5	2.6	49.8	50
Gwent Police	120.9	123.5	2.6	2.1	52.0	42
North Wales Police	143.2	146.5	3.3	2.3	74.7	51
South Wales Police	262.8	271.0	8.2	3.1	113.6	42
Total police	623.6	640.1	16.5	2.6	290.1	45
Total Wales	6,177.5	6,377.6	200.0	3.2	1,813.6	28

Charts 6 and 7 show the funding of budget requirement separately for counties and police.



Glossary

Data sources

The main sources of information on council tax levels in Wales are the budget requirement (BR) returns. Wales collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two county councils and four police and crime commissioners. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) supplies figures for England. These are estimates based on data available at time of publication.

Background

County and county borough councils are known as billing authorities, i.e. they collect council tax on behalf of the other charging authorities, namely police authorities and local community councils.

Budget requirement is gross revenue expenditure less that funded by all non-police specific government grants and that expenditure funded from local authority reserves. It is the amount of expenditure which is supported by the council tax and general support from central government, i.e. revenue support grant, police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates.

Prior to 2013-14, council tax benefit grants were provided by the Department of Work and Pensions but reforms have meant that authorities in Wales are now funded from the Welsh Government through additional revenue support grant (and also council tax reduction scheme grant in 2013-14). As a result, budget requirement for 2013-14 and beyond will be higher by these amounts and not consistent with previous years.

Key quality information

Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political reference.

This section provides a summary of information on this output against six dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, Coherence, and Comparability.

Relevance

The statistics are important and have a number of uses, for example: advice to Ministers; local government finance revenue settlement calculations; unitary authority comparisons and benchmarking; expenditure in Wales compared to other countries; informing the debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond; assisting in research in public expenditure issues; economic analysis.

Accuracy

The main source of information on local authority council tax levels is the Budget Requirement (BR) return. The latest returns relate to the 2018-19 financial year.

We collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two county councils and four police and crime commissioners. The collection is a 100% survey and as such no estimation of the figures is calculated, and hence there is no sampling error.

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

Once we receive the data, it goes through further validation and verification checks, for example:

- spend per head by local authority;
- arithmetic consistency checks;
- cross checks with other relevant data collections;
- thorough tolerance checks;
- outturn comparison with budgets;
- cross checks with data from other government departments;
- verification that data outside of tolerances are correct.

The data that is collected adhere to recognised professional standards. Specifically, the finance data is required under legislation and also must adhere to CIPFA accounting procedures. However, further guidelines are also available on the interpretation of these standards to ensure consistency.

Timeliness and punctuality

The data collection is carried out in February and March. The data is published in March, this allows time to collect, collate and validate the data.

All outputs adhere to the Code of Practice by pre-announcing the data of publication through the [upcoming calendar](#) web pages.

Accessibility and clarity

The Welsh local government finance statistics are published in an accessible, orderly, pre-announced manner on the Welsh Government website at 9:30am on the day of publication. Simultaneously the releases are also published on the National Statistics Publication Hub. All releases are available to download for free.

More detailed data are also available at the same time on the StatsWales website and this can be manipulated online or downloaded into spreadsheets for use offline.

We aim to use Plain English in our outputs and all outputs adhere to the Welsh Government accessibility policy. Furthermore, all our headlines are published in Welsh and English.

We regularly peer review our outputs.

Comparability and coherence

Adhering to the professional code (CIPFA's SeRCOP) has meant that changes over time have been minimal. Where there have been time series which are not comparable from the start of the time series to the end this will be shown clearly in the outputs. Where advance warning is known of future changes these will be pre-announced in accordance with Welsh Government arrangements.

The existence of a professional code and our adherence to it provides assurance that the data are consistent across domains, such as local authorities.

Statistics on council tax levels are also published in both [England](#) and [Scotland](#). The council tax system does not apply to Northern Ireland.

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/council-tax-levels/>

Further data is available on our StatsWales website:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Council-Tax/Levels>

Next update

March 2019 - Statistical first release and StatsWales update for 2019-20.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.finance@gov.wales.

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