

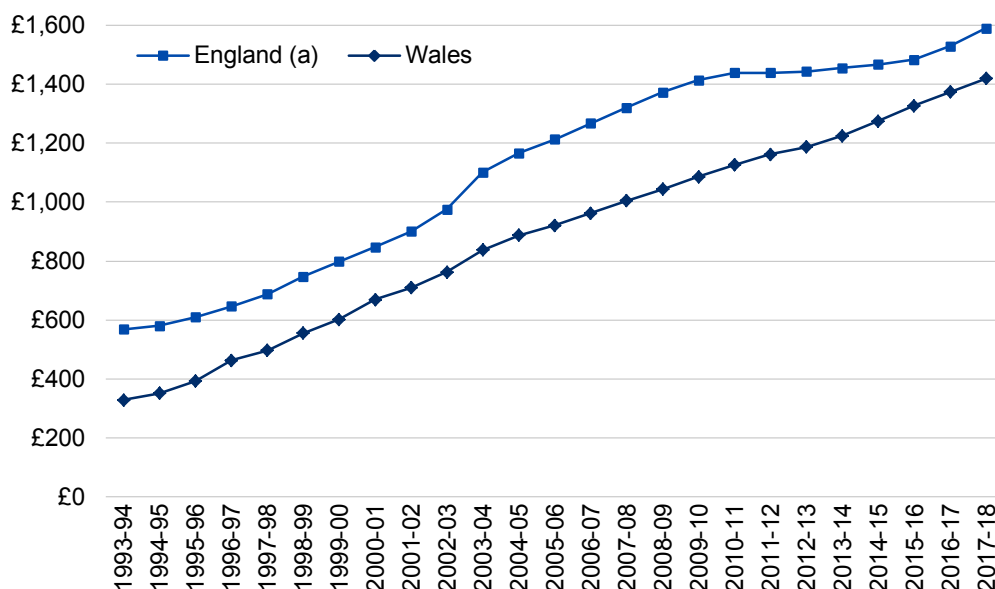


## Council Tax Levels in Wales: 2017-18

23 March 2017  
SFR 29/2017

- Average band D council tax for Wales for 2017-18 is £1,420. This includes £1,162 for county councils, £227 for police and £32 for community councils. Band D figures for billing authorities, including police elements, vary from £1,128 in Pembrokeshire to £1,754 in Blaenau Gwent ([table 1](#)).
- County council increases in band D council tax for 2017-18 average £35 or 3.1% over the previous year. Police increases average £10 or 4.8%. These increases combine to produce an average band D rise of £46 or 3.3% ([table 2](#)).
- Dyfed Powys Police have the largest band D increase of 6.9%. North Wales Police have the smallest band D increase of 3.8% ([table 2](#)).
- Pembrokeshire has the largest overall band D percentage increase of 5.3%. Caerphilly has the smallest overall band D percentage increase of 1.5% ([table 2](#)).
- In England, the estimated Band D percentage increase is 4.0% ([chart 5](#)).
- Welsh average band D council tax is 89% of the latest estimated figure of £1,591 for England (chart 1).

**Chart 1: Average band D council tax**



(a) England figures based on estimates for 2017-18 from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Additional information is available on [StatsWales](#).

### 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 2017-18 and changes over 2016-17.

### In this release

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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 £973 in Caerphilly to £1,649 in Monmouthshire.

**Table 1: Breakdown of band D council tax in Wales, 2017-18**

	£				
	Of which:				
	Average	County	Community	Police	Average
	band D	council	council	authority	per
		element	element (a)	element	dwelling
Isle of Anglesey	1,377	1,088	40	249	1,254
Gwynedd	1,530	1,241	40	249	1,330
Conwy	1,401	1,113	39	249	1,267
Denbighshire	1,487	1,191	47	249	1,344
Flintshire	1,395	1,104	43	249	1,334
Wrexham	1,346	1,052	45	249	1,232
Powys	1,397	1,133	50	214	1,384
Ceredigion	1,413	1,169	30	214	1,357
Pembrokeshire	1,128	883	31	214	1,058
Carmarthenshire	1,435	1,146	75	214	1,219
Swansea	1,437	1,208	11	218	1,216
Neath Port Talbot	1,703	1,443	42	218	1,247
Bridgend	1,593	1,335	39	218	1,348
Vale of Glamorgan	1,404	1,142	43	218	1,450
Cardiff	1,320	1,100	2	218	1,320
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,604	1,361	24	218	1,161
Merthyr Tydfil	1,660	1,441	1	218	1,135
Caerphilly	1,252	1,012	12	229	973
Blaenau Gwent	1,754	1,507	18	229	1,115
Torfaen	1,456	1,183	44	229	1,191
Monmouthshire	1,466	1,183	54	229	1,649
Newport	1,242	1,009	5	229	1,095
Wales average	1,420	1,162	32	227	1,251

(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 2017-18. Caerphilly's average council tax per dwelling is £278 less than the Welsh average and Monmouthshire is £398 more.

**Chart 2: Difference in average council tax per dwelling compared with the Welsh average, by billing authority, 2017-18**

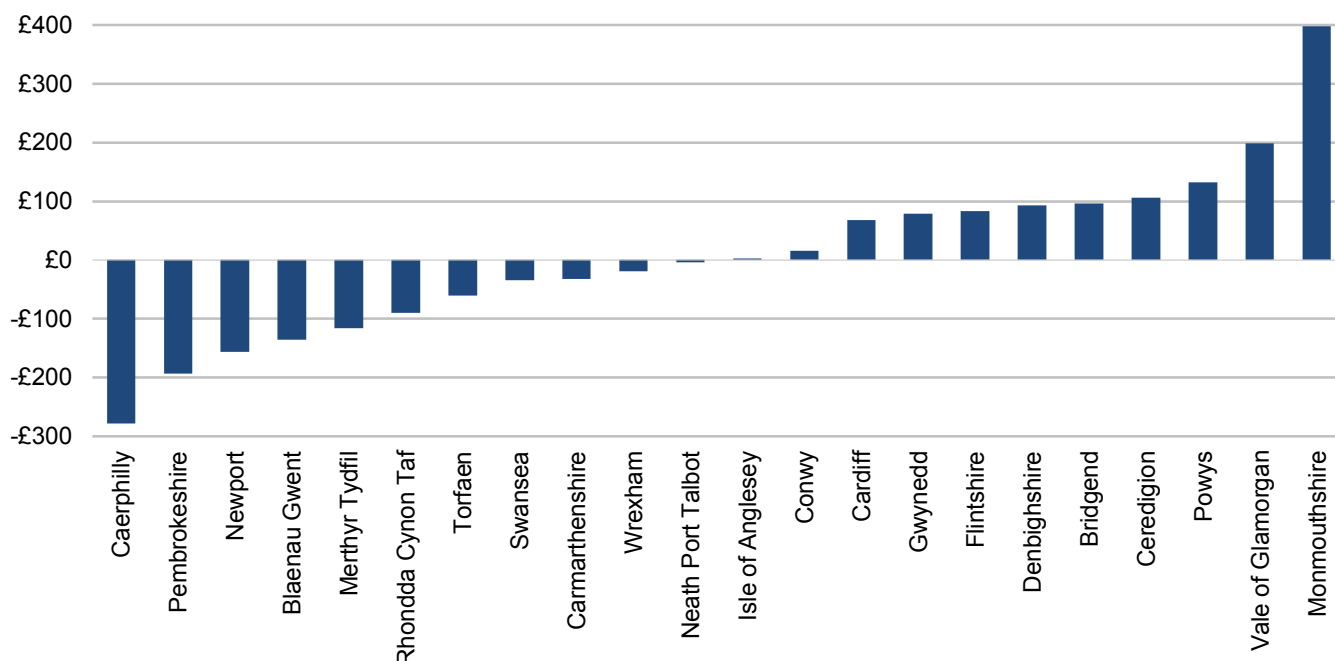


Chart 3 shows the average band D council tax by billing authority. Blaenau Gwent has the largest average band D council tax whilst Pembrokeshire has the smallest average band D council tax.

**Chart 3: Average band D council tax, 2017-18**

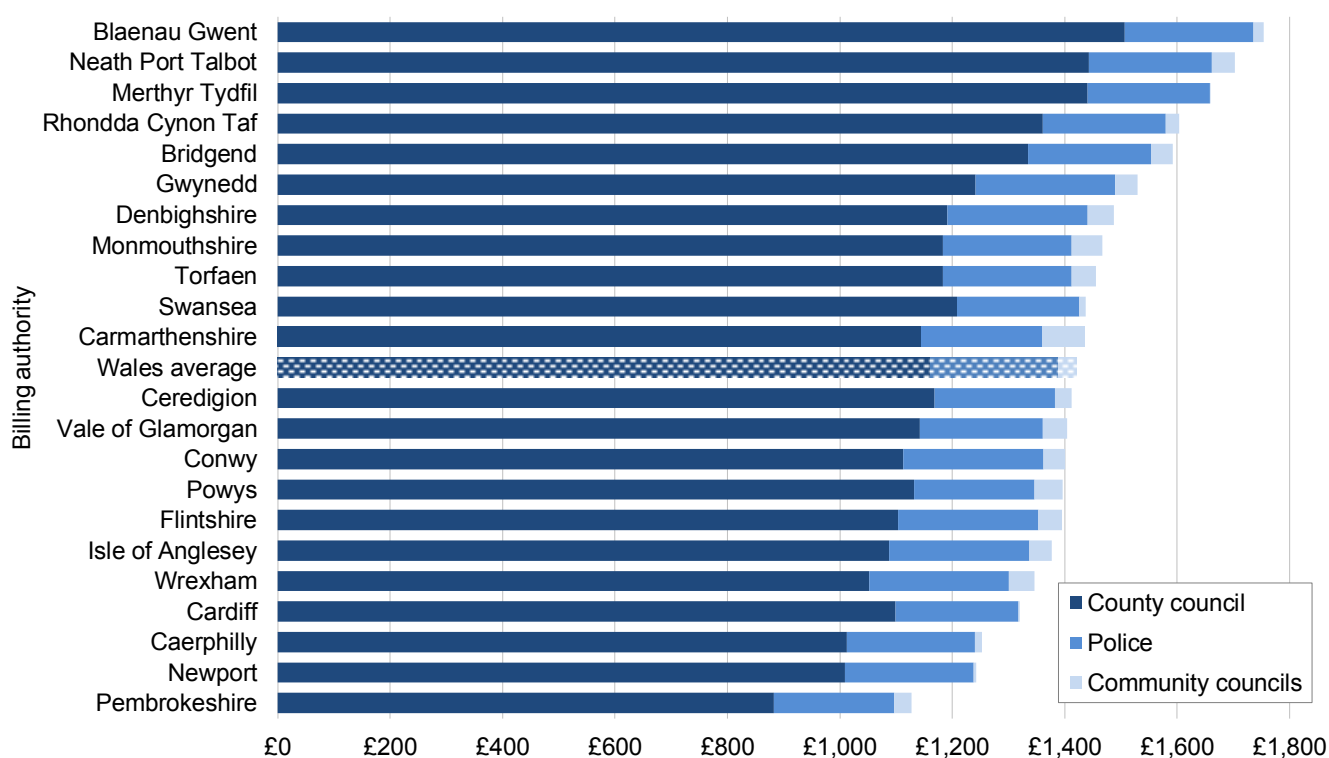


Table 2 compares the increases in average band D council tax in relation to the previous year for counties (including community councils) and police. Pembrokeshire has the largest percentage increase of 5.3%. All other authorities have increased by at least 1.5%. The Wales county average increase is 3.1%. Dyfed Powys Police have the largest band D increase of 6.9%. The overall Wales average Band D increase, including police elements, is 3.3%.

**Table 2: Changes to average band D council tax**

	2016-17 £	2017-18 £	Overall increase £	Of which: (a)		Overall increase %	Due to: (a)		Police authority area
				County £	Police £		County %	Police %	
Isle of Anglesey	1,341	1,377	37	27	9	2.7	2.5	3.8	North Wales
Gwynedd	1,484	1,530	46	37	9	3.1	3.0	3.8	
Conwy	1,342	1,401	59	50	9	4.4	4.5	3.8	
Denbighshire	1,445	1,487	42	33	9	2.9	2.8	3.8	
Flintshire	1,353	1,395	43	34	9	3.1	3.0	3.8	
Wrexham	1,310	1,346	36	27	9	2.8	2.5	3.8	
Powys	1,335	1,397	62	48	14	4.7	4.3	6.9	Dyfed Powys
Ceredigion	1,354	1,413	59	45	14	4.4	3.9	6.9	
Pembrokeshire	1,071	1,128	56	43	14	5.3	4.9	6.9	
Carmarthenshire	1,392	1,435	43	29	14	3.1	2.4	6.9	
Swansea	1,395	1,437	43	32	10	3.1	2.7	5.0	South Wales
Neath Port Talbot	1,657	1,703	46	36	10	2.8	2.5	5.0	
Bridgend	1,542	1,593	50	40	10	3.3	3.0	5.0	
Vale of Glamorgan	1,362	1,404	42	31	10	3.1	2.7	5.0	
Cardiff	1,270	1,320	50	39	10	3.9	3.7	5.0	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,563	1,604	41	30	10	2.6	2.3	5.0	
Merthyr Tydfil	1,609	1,660	51	41	10	3.2	2.9	5.0	Gwent
Caerphilly	1,233	1,252	19	10	9	1.5	1.0	4.0	
Blaenau Gwent	1,695	1,754	59	51	9	3.5	3.4	4.0	
Torfaen	1,405	1,456	51	42	9	3.6	3.6	4.0	
Monmouthshire	1,406	1,466	61	52	9	4.3	4.4	4.0	
Newport	1,199	1,242	43	34	9	3.6	3.5	4.0	
Wales average	1,374	1,420	46	35	10	3.3	3.1	4.8	

(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 £46, made up of £35 for county councils and £10 for police.

**Chart 4: Change in average band D council tax, 2017-18**

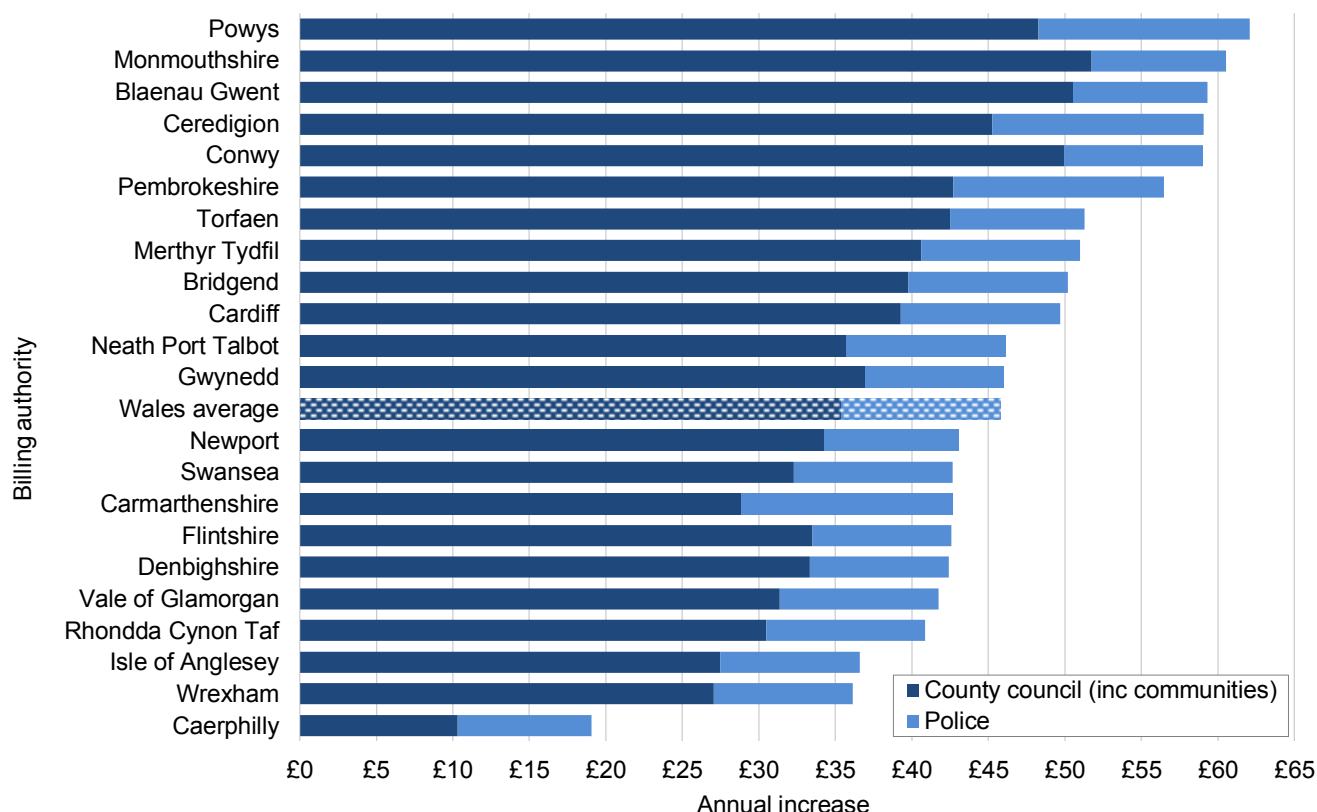
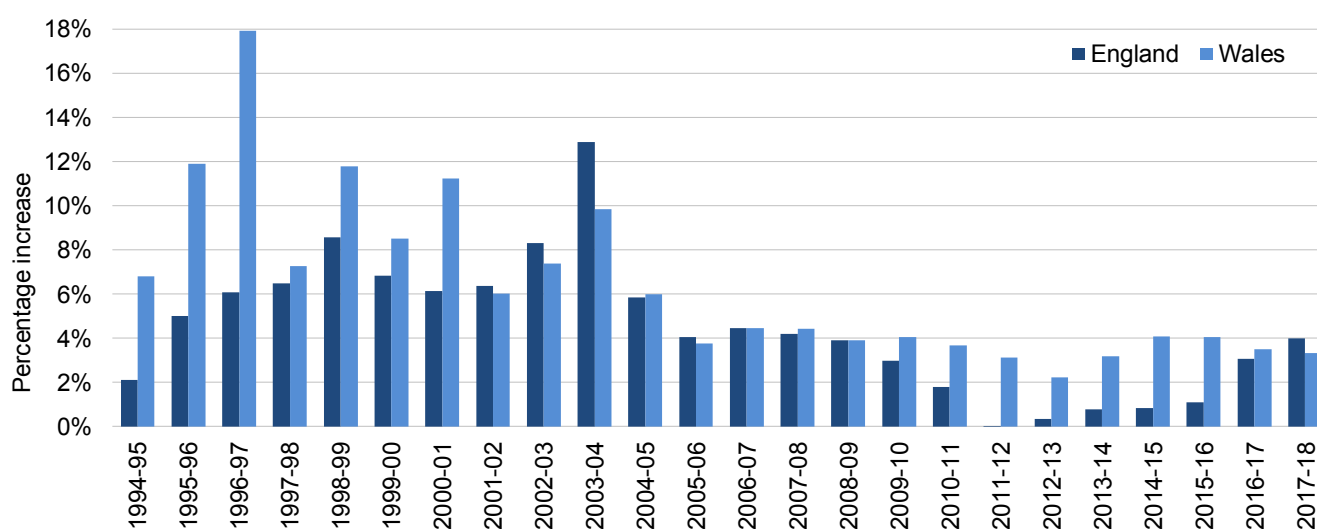


Chart 5 compares band D council tax increases between Wales and England. Council tax rose faster in Wales up to 2000-01, albeit from a lower base. From 2001-02 to 2003-04 England had higher increases. From 2004-05 to 2008-09 the increases were similar. From 2009-10 to 2016-17 figures show a higher increase in Wales. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16, central government funded a council tax freeze for many English authorities. In 2017-18, Wales has a lower band D average increase than England for the first time since 2008-09 and the Wales average band D is £171 less than 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.

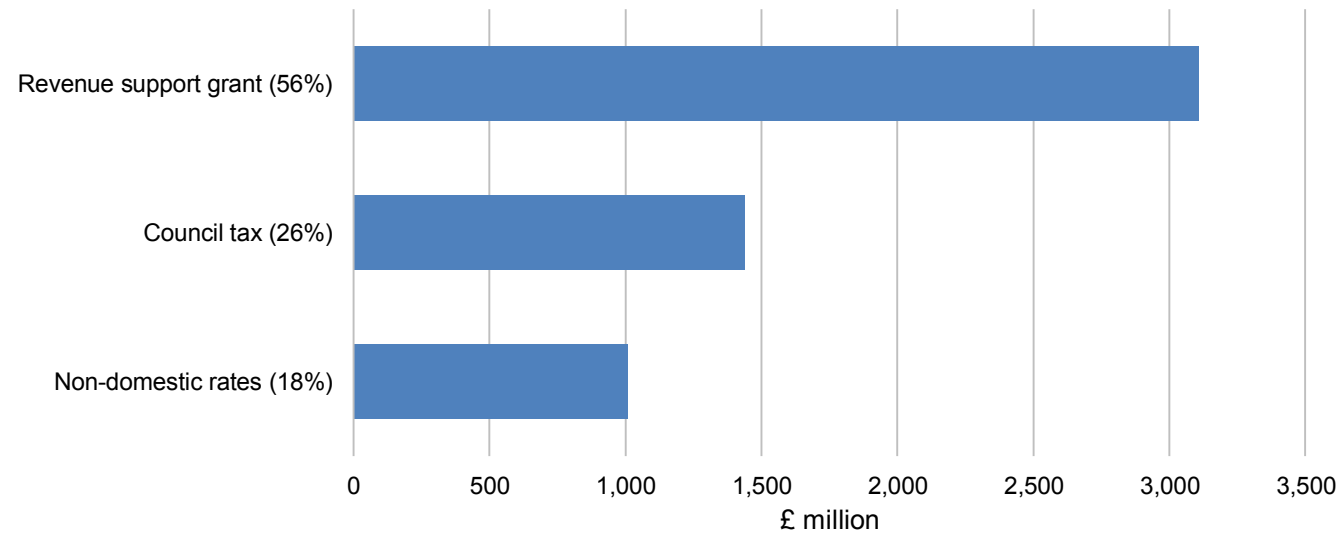
Table 3 shows that budget requirement (see notes) has increased on average by 1.3% for counties and increased by 1.7% for police. The proportion of budget met from council tax for police varies from 40% for South Wales Police to 50% for North Wales Police. This same proportion varies by county from 19% for Caerphilly to 38% for Monmouthshire.

**Table 3: Budget requirement and council tax income**

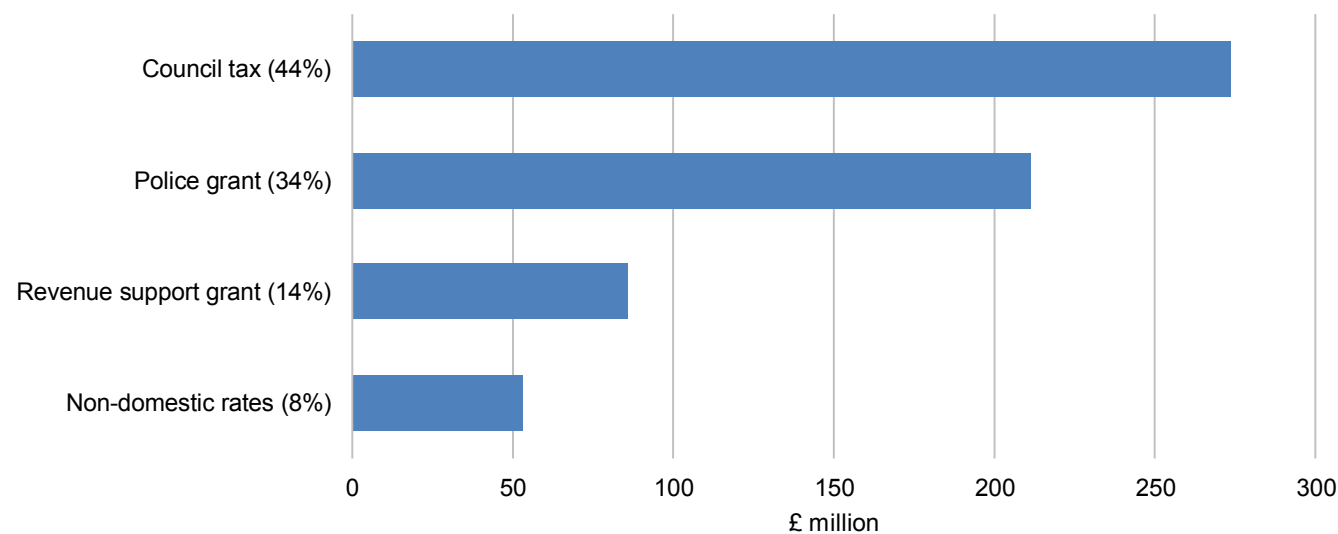
	Budget requirement				Council tax income income (£m)	CT income as % of budget
	Change					
	2016-17 (£m)	2017-18 (£m)	(£m)	%		
Counties:						
Isle of Anglesey	125.2	127.4	2.2	1.7	34.7	27
Gwynedd	229.1	233.3	4.2	1.9	64.3	28
Conwy	204.3	208.1	3.8	1.9	57.5	28
Denbighshire	186.5	189.1	2.6	1.4	48.6	26
Flintshire	254.6	257.9	3.3	1.3	72.8	28
Wrexham	226.4	227.7	1.3	0.6	58.3	26
Powys	239.8	243.1	3.2	1.4	73.0	30
Ceredigion	132.4	136.2	3.8	2.9	38.2	28
Pembrokeshire	203.8	207.9	4.1	2.0	51.1	25
Carmarthenshire	336.2	339.6	3.4	1.0	87.4	26
Swansea	413.6	419.8	6.2	1.5	109.1	26
Neath Port Talbot	273.0	276.8	3.8	1.4	69.3	25
Bridgend	256.8	260.1	3.3	1.3	72.5	28
Vale of Glamorgan	215.7	218.2	2.5	1.2	68.7	31
Cardiff	576.4	585.8	9.4	1.6	157.6	27
Rhondda Cynon Taf	454.5	459.3	4.9	1.1	103.9	23
Merthyr Tydfil	114.3	114.8	0.6	0.5	26.1	23
Caerphilly	323.7	324.7	1.1	0.3	61.1	19
Blaenau Gwent	138.8	139.7	0.9	0.6	30.7	22
Torfaen	168.3	169.7	1.4	0.8	40.7	24
Monmouthshire	145.0	148.2	3.1	2.2	56.4	38
Newport	264.1	266.6	2.5	1.0	58.4	22
Total counties	5,482.3	5,554.0	71.6	1.3	1,440.3	26
Dyfed Powys Police	93.3	96.6	3.3	3.5	47.3	49
Gwent Police	119.5	120.9	1.4	1.2	49.5	41
North Wales Police	141.1	143.2	2.1	1.5	71.5	50
South Wales Police	258.9	262.8	3.9	1.5	105.4	40
Total police	612.9	623.6	10.7	1.7	273.6	44
Total Wales	6,095.2	6,177.5	82.3	1.4	1,714.0	28

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

**Chart 6: Funding of Counties Budget Requirement, 2017-18**



**Chart 7: Funding of Police Budget Requirement, 2017-18**



## **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 2017-18 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 indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

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](#).

## Next update

March 2018 - Statistical first release and StatsWales update for 2018-19.

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.finance@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.finance@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

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