



## Council Tax Levels in Wales: 2021-22

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- Average band D council tax for Wales for 2021-22 is £1,731. This includes £1,403 for county councils, £290 for police and £39 for community councils. Band D figures for billing authorities, including police and community councils, vary from £1,504 in Pembrokeshire to £2,078 in Blaenau Gwent.
- County council increases in band D council tax for 2021-22 average £49 or 3.5% over the previous year. Police increases average £15 or 5.5%. These increases combine to produce an average band D rise of £64 or 3.8%.
- Wrexham has the largest overall band D percentage increase of 6.4%. Rhondda Cynon Taf has the smallest overall band D percentage increase of 3.0%.
- Dyfed Powys Police have the largest band D increase of 5.8%. North Wales Police have the smallest band D increase of 5.1%.
- In England, the estimated Band D percentage increase is 4.2%.
- Welsh average band D council tax is 91% of the latest estimated figure of £1,895 for England.

### About this release

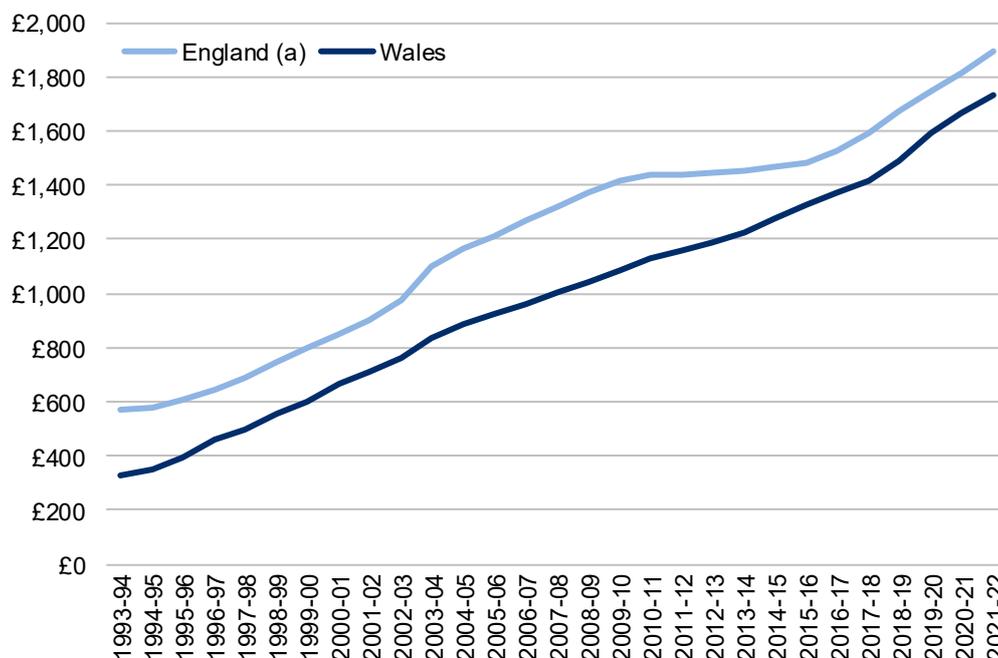
Council tax is a tax on domestic property set by local authorities in order to collect sufficient revenue to meet their demand. It is calculated based on the council tax band assigned to each dwelling in each local authority which are each assigned to one of nine valuation bands: A to I. This release provides details of the levels of average band D and average per dwelling council tax in Welsh local authorities for the financial year 2021-22 and changes when compared to 2020-21.

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

### In this release

<a href="#">Breakdown of council tax</a>	2
<a href="#">Changes to average Band D council tax</a>	4
<a href="#">Budget requirement</a>	6

Chart 1: Average band D council tax



(a) England's 2021-22 figure based on estimates from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

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 £1,196 in Caerphilly to £2,000 in Monmouthshire.

**Table 1: Breakdown of band D and average per dwelling council tax in Wales, 2021-22**

	£				
	Of which:				
	Average band D	County council element (a)	Community council element (b)	Police authority element	Average per dwelling
Isle of Anglesey	1,697	1,341	51	306	1,574
Gwynedd	1,838	1,483	49	306	1,745
Conwy	1,737	1,383	48	306	1,590
Denbighshire	1,798	1,437	55	306	1,643
Flintshire	1,748	1,394	48	306	1,668
Wrexham	1,676	1,319	52	306	1,522
Powys	1,747	1,404	67	276	1,731
Ceredigion	1,725	1,413	37	276	1,647
Pembrokeshire	1,504	1,190	39	276	1,429
Carmarthenshire	1,730	1,362	92	276	1,496
Swansea	1,754	1,448	17	288	1,535
Neath Port Talbot	1,996	1,660	48	288	1,493
Bridgend	1,937	1,597	53	288	1,649
Vale of Glamorgan	1,696	1,357	52	288	1,767
Cardiff	1,601	1,310	3	288	1,602
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,853	1,538	27	288	1,354
Merthyr Tydfil	2,018	1,729	1	288	1,396
Caerphilly	1,533	1,231	15	288	1,196
Blaenau Gwent	2,078	1,768	22	288	1,348
Torfaen	1,759	1,421	49	288	1,430
Monmouthshire	1,786	1,434	63	288	2,000
Newport	1,537	1,242	7	288	1,372
Wales average	1,731	1,403	39	290	1,544

(a) Gwynedd have used an updated taxbase figure when calculating their county council element compared to their police and community council elements due to a late change in council tax premium policy.

(b) 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 2021-22. Caerphilly's average council tax per dwelling is £348 less than the Welsh average and Monmouthshire is £456 more.

**Chart 2: Difference in average council tax per dwelling compared with the Welsh average, by billing authority, 2021-22**

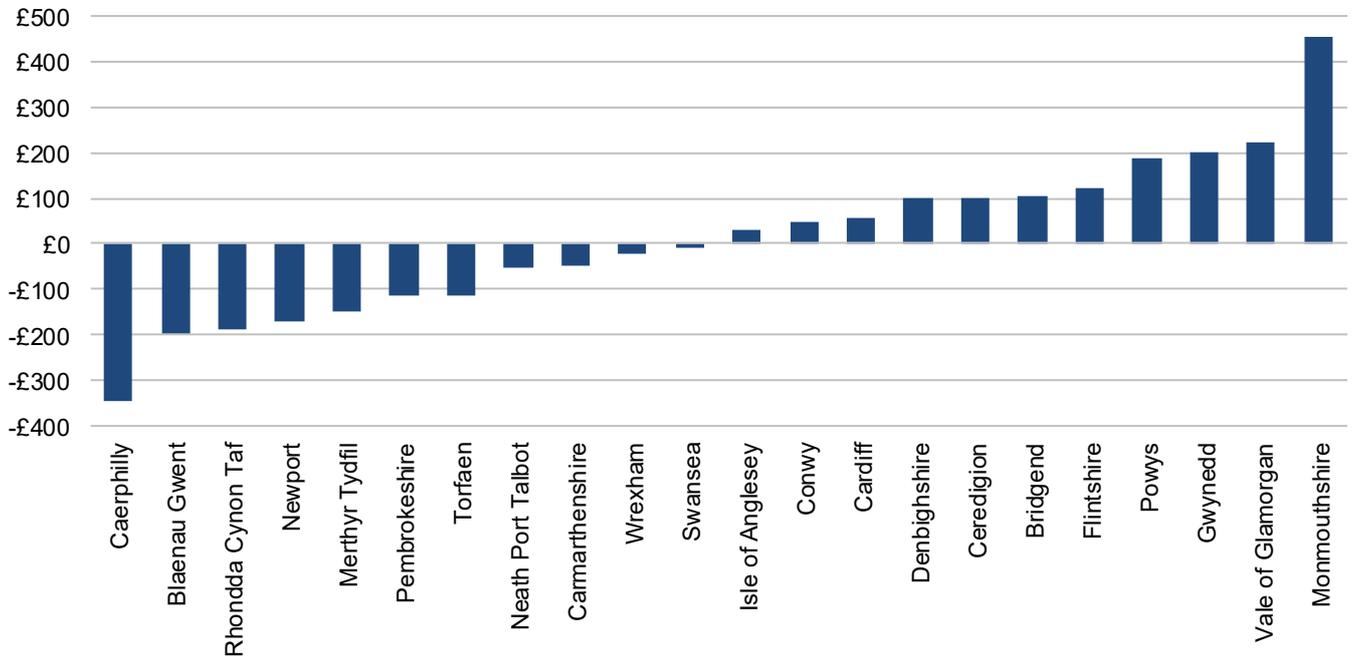


Chart 3 shows the average band D council tax by billing authority. Blaenau Gwent has the largest average band D council tax whilst Pembrokeshire has the smallest average band D council tax.

**Chart 3: Average band D council tax, 2021-22**

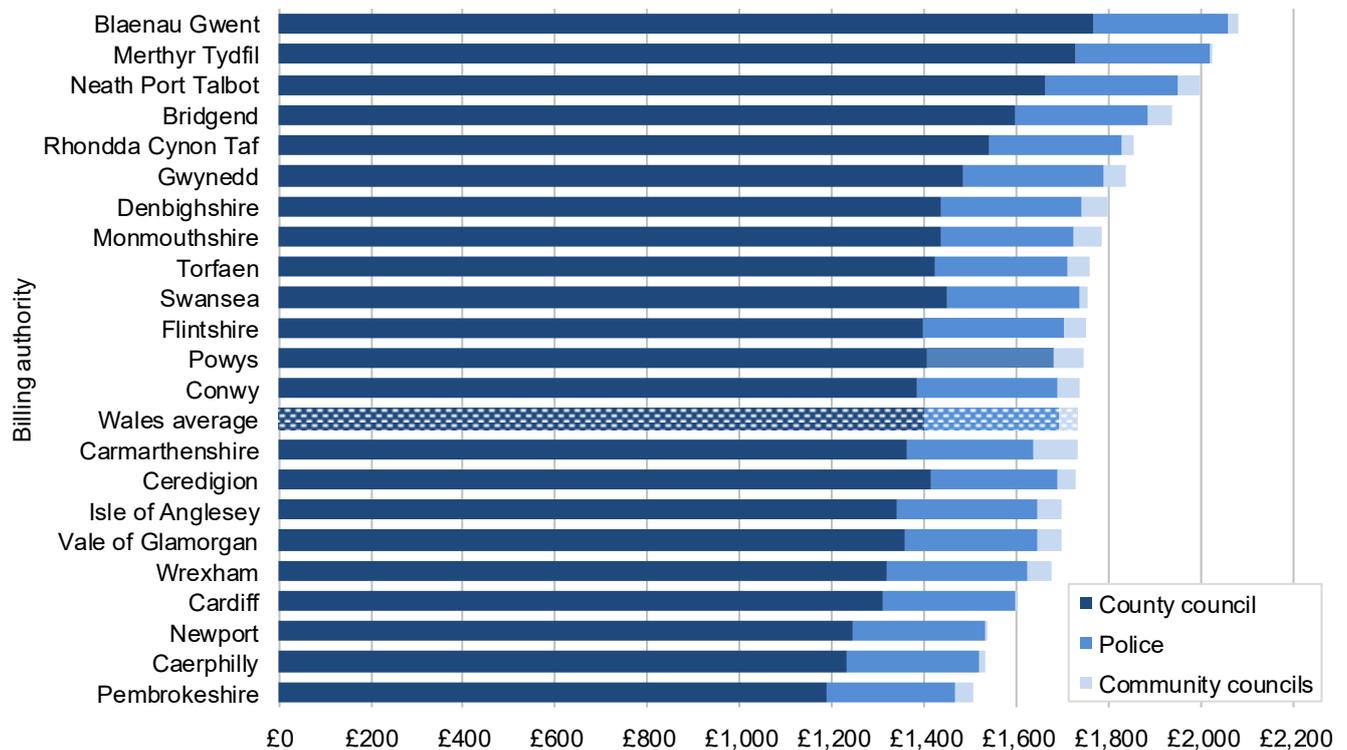


Table 2 compares the increases in average band D council tax in relation to the previous year for billing authorities, counties (including community councils) and police. Wrexham has the largest overall percentage increase of 6.4%. All other authorities have increased by at least 3.0%. The overall Wales average Band D increase, including police elements, is 3.8%. The Wales county average increase is 3.5%. Dyfed Powys Police have the largest band D increase of 5.8%.

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

	2020-21	2021-22	Of which:			Due to:			Police authority area
			Overall increase	(a)		Overall increase	(a)		
				County	Police		County	Police	
	£	£	£	£	£	%	%	%	
Isle of Anglesey	1,642	1,697	55	40	15	3.3	3.0	5.1	
Gwynedd	1,769	1,838	69	54	15	3.9	3.6	5.1	
Conwy	1,682	1,737	55	40	15	3.3	2.9	5.1	North Wales
Denbighshire	1,729	1,798	69	54	15	4.0	3.7	5.1	
Flintshire	1,679	1,748	69	54	15	4.1	3.9	5.1	
Wrexham	1,575	1,676	101	86	15	6.4	6.7	5.1	
Powys	1,692	1,747	55	40	15	3.2	2.8	5.8	Dyfed Powys
Ceredigion	1,661	1,725	64	49	15	3.9	3.5	5.8	
Pembrokeshire	1,445	1,504	59	44	15	4.1	3.7	5.8	
Carmarthenshire	1,667	1,730	63	48	15	3.8	3.4	5.8	
Swansea	1,696	1,754	57	42	15	3.4	3.0	5.5	South Wales
Neath Port Talbot	1,935	1,996	61	46	15	3.1	2.7	5.5	
Bridgend	1,862	1,937	75	60	15	4.0	3.8	5.5	
Vale of Glamorgan	1,629	1,696	67	52	15	4.1	3.9	5.5	
Cardiff	1,541	1,601	59	44	15	3.9	3.5	5.5	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,799	1,853	54	39	15	3.0	2.6	5.5	
Merthyr Tydfil	1,944	2,018	74	59	15	3.8	3.5	5.5	
Caerphilly	1,471	1,533	62	47	15	4.2	3.9	5.5	Gwent
Blaenau Gwent	2,009	2,078	69	54	15	3.4	3.1	5.5	
Torfaen	1,690	1,759	69	54	15	4.1	3.8	5.5	
Monmouthshire	1,717	1,786	68	53	15	4.0	3.7	5.5	
Newport	1,478	1,537	60	45	15	4.0	3.7	5.5	
Wales average	1,667	1,731	64	49	15	3.8	3.5	5.5	

(a) Gwynedd have used an updated taxbase figure when calculating their county council element compared to their police and community council elements due to a late change in council tax premium policy. The county figures also include community council precepts.

Chart 4 shows the average changes in council tax compared to the previous year. The average increase for Wales is £64, made up of £49 for county councils and £15 for police.

**Chart 4: Change in average band D council tax, 2021-22**

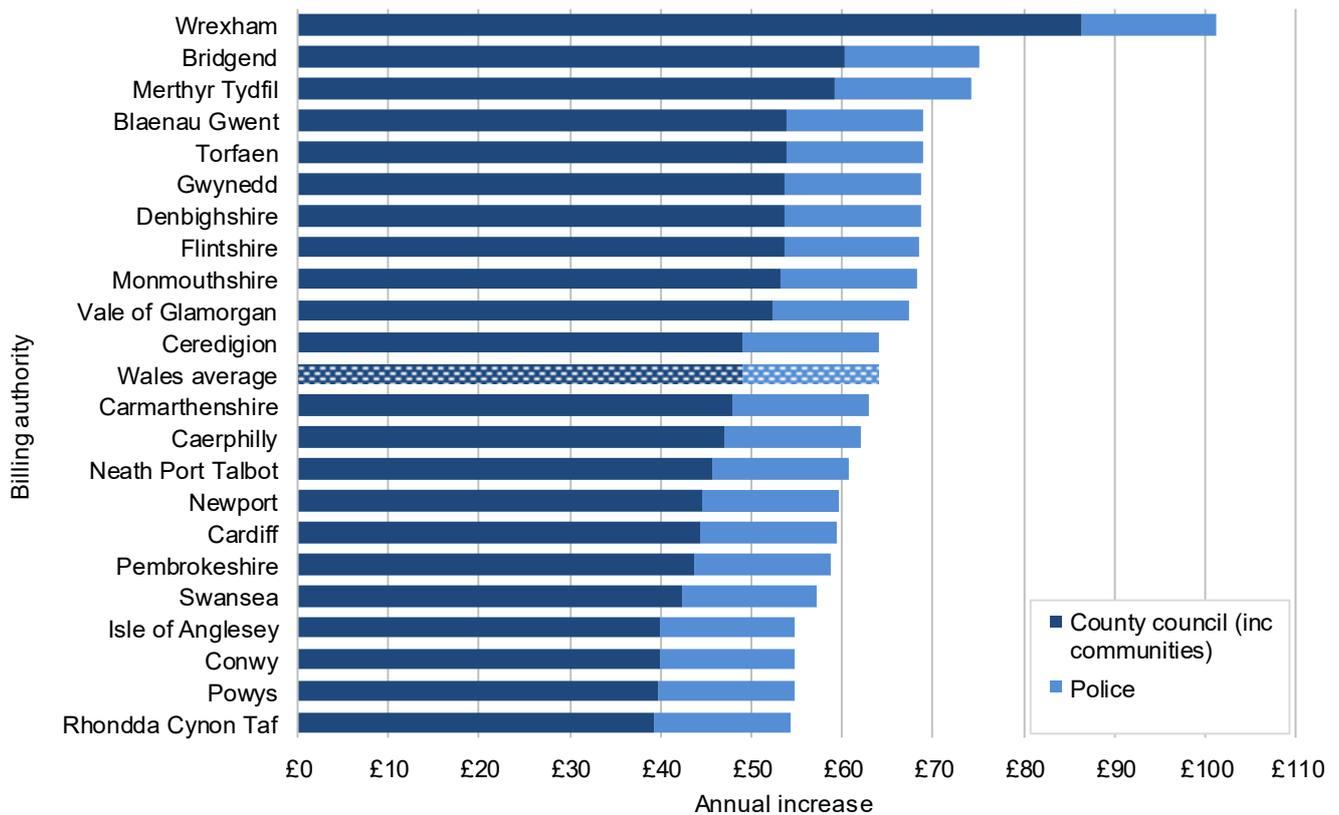
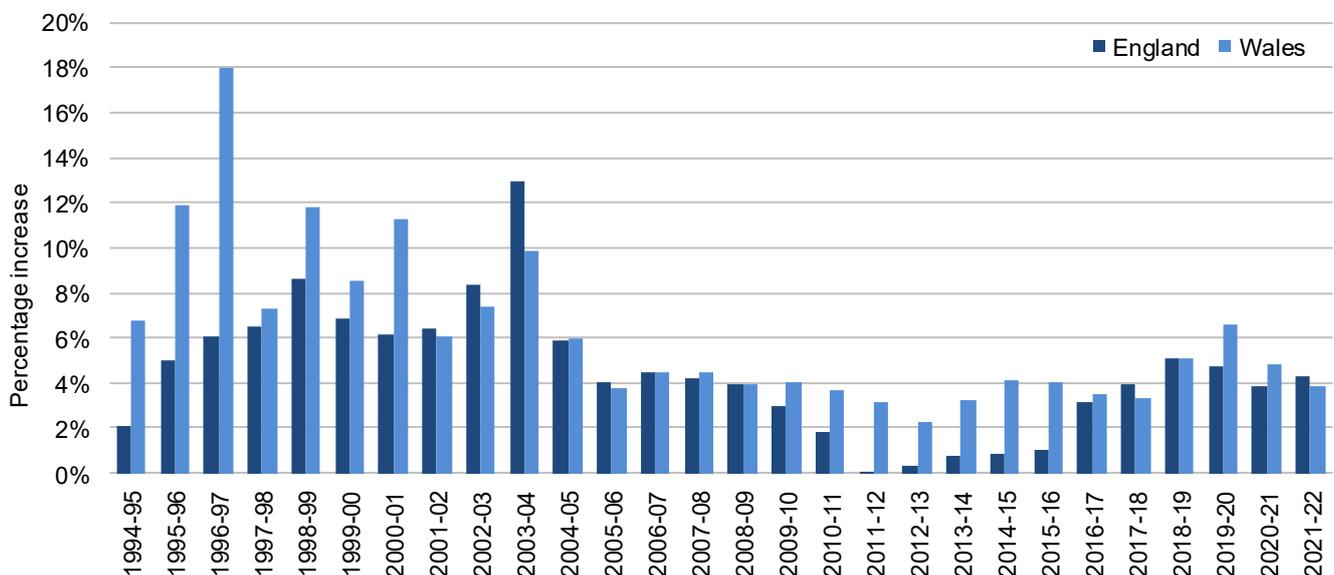


Chart 5 compares band D council tax increases between Wales and England. From 2009-10 to 2016-17 figures show a higher increase in Wales. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16, central government funded a council tax freeze for many English authorities. In 2021-22 the increase in Wales is 0.4 percentage points lower than in England. The Wales average band D in 2021-22 is £164 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.

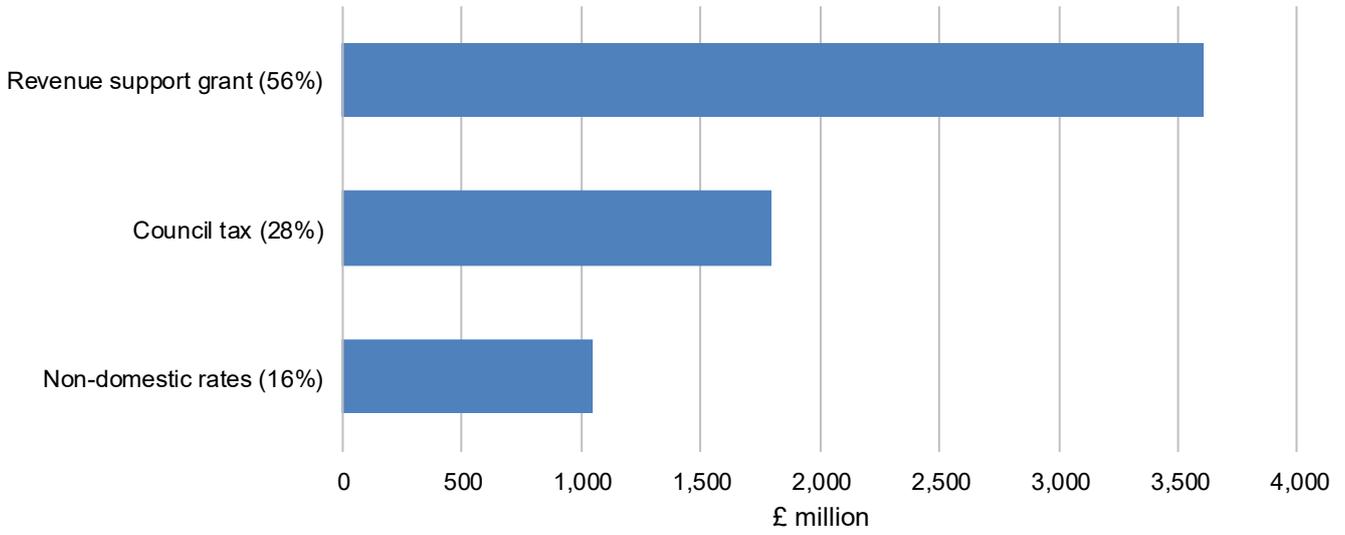
Table 3 shows that budget requirement (see notes) has increased on average by 4.0% for counties and increased by 6.1% for police. The proportion of budget met from council tax for police varies from 43.5% for Gwent Police to 52.0% for Dyfed Powys Police. This same proportion varies by county from 20.6% for Caerphilly to 40.8% for Monmouthshire.

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

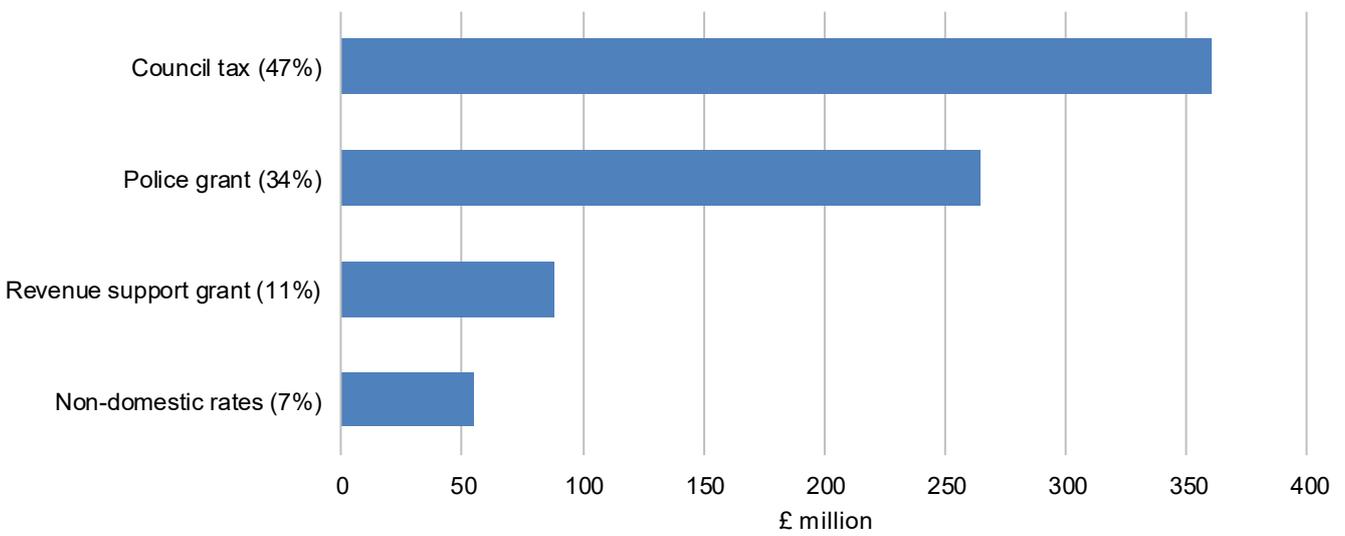
	Budget requirement				Council tax income (£m)	CT income as % of budget
	2020-21 (£m)	2021-22 (£m)	Change			
			(£m)	%		
Counties:						
Isle of Anglesey	143.6	148.7	5.1	3.6	43.9	30
Gwynedd	264.3	278.2	13.9	5.2	83.4	30
Conwy	231.9	239.9	7.9	3.4	73.0	30
Denbighshire	209.9	219.1	9.3	4.4	60.5	28
Flintshire	289.0	300.6	11.5	4.0	93.8	31
Wrexham	253.0	262.3	9.3	3.7	73.4	28
Powys	273.6	284.0	10.4	3.8	92.1	32
Ceredigion	152.4	155.9	3.5	2.3	46.3	30
Pembrokeshire	240.1	249.6	9.6	4.0	70.3	28
Carmarthenshire	378.2	393.0	14.8	3.9	108.2	28
Swansea	470.2	490.5	20.3	4.3	137.9	28
Neath Port Talbot	306.7	319.0	12.2	4.0	82.3	26
Bridgend	289.7	301.8	12.1	4.2	89.6	30
Vale of Glamorgan	243.5	254.8	11.3	4.7	86.5	34
Cardiff	655.9	682.0	26.1	4.0	194.0	28
Rhondda Cynon Taf	506.7	525.2	18.5	3.7	120.8	23
Merthyr Tydfil	127.6	133.4	5.8	4.6	31.9	24
Caerphilly	355.9	368.1	12.2	3.4	75.7	21
Blaenau Gwent	151.9	157.6	5.6	3.7	37.2	24
Torfaen	188.6	196.4	7.8	4.1	50.0	25
Monmouthshire	164.7	171.4	6.8	4.1	70.0	41
Newport	300.7	316.4	15.7	5.2	75.6	24
Total counties	6,198.3	6,447.8	249.6	4.0	1,796.3	28
Dyfed Powys Police	112.9	119.8	6.9	6.1	62.3	52
Gwent Police	139.0	147.6	8.6	6.2	64.2	43
North Wales Police	163.7	173.4	9.7	5.9	89.7	52
South Wales Police	308.6	327.9	19.2	6.2	144.3	44
Total police	724.2	768.6	44.4	6.1	360.4	47
Total Wales	6,922.5	7,216.5	294.0	4.2	2,156.7	30

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

**Chart 6: Funding of Counties Budget Requirement, 2021-22**



**Chart 7: Funding of Police Budget Requirement, 2021-22**



## **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 and include the precept to fund adult social care in England.

### **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 Senedd Cymru 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 2021-22 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. 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 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 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. The designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in February 2011 following a full assessment against the Code of Practice.

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 Senedd Cymru. 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: <https://gov.wales/council-tax-levels>.

Further data is available on our [StatsWales website](#):

## Next update

March 2022 - Statistical first release and StatsWales update for 2022-23.

## 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](mailto:stats.finance@gov.wales).

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