

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 (Aug 2018)

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%

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
944	847	809	770	737

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
14% reduction	795	716	675	629	613
25% reduction	149	131	134	141	124
Total affected	944	847	809	770	737

Bedroom Tax broken down into landlord types

LANDLORD	14% Reduction	25% Reduction	TOTAL
Council	345	92	437
Newydd	152	25	177
Hafod	56	3	59
United Welsh	25	3	28
Wales & West	31	1	32
Cando	1	0	1
Gwalia	3	0	3
TOTAL	613	124	737

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
54	41	41	34	114	112

4. Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

The DHP allocation from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for 2017/18 was £330,286 and the Authority itself has allocated a further £223,000, this gives an overall limit of £553,286. For 2018/2019 the allocation from the DWP is £277,158 and the allocation from the Council remains at £223,500, giving an overall limit of £500,658

Applications	Received	Granted	Refused	Waiting Further Information	Waiting To Be Processed
2017/2018	1012	654	358	N/A	N/A
July 2017	436	207	183	19	27

DHP Fund	DWP Allocation £	Paid £	Committed £	Remaining £	Council DHP Contribution £
2017/2018	330,286	332,535	N/A	N/A	223,000
July 2018	277,158	68,051	39,540	147,100	223,500

The DHP awards were granted for the following reasons:

Reason	Number of awards	Amount Paid £	Number of awards	Amount Paid £
	2017/08	2017/18	July 2017	July 2017
Social Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)	180	58,509.35	42	10,840.68
Benefit Cap	71	67,663.18	15	6,508.85
Local Housing Allowance restriction	166	73,692.46	57	166,631.75
Combination of reforms	17	14,287.53	6	1,767.57

Other	220	118,382.48	84	32,302.13
TOTAL	654	332,535.00	207	68,051.00

Purpose of DHP Reasons why payments have been made:	Number of awards 2017/18	Number of awards July 2018
To help secure and move to alternative accommodation i.e. rent deposit	219	74
To help with short-term rent costs to secure moves	58	16
To help with short-term rent costs while the claimants seeks employment	148	33
To help with ongoing rental costs for Foster Carers	3	1
To help with on-going rental costs for disabled people	58	23
To help with on-going rent costs	168	60
Total	654	207

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.			
2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Shared Accommodation £52.30 One bedroom £97.81 Two bedroom £115.07 Three bedroom £128.27 Four bedroom £160.00	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

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

Universal Credit (UC) Uptake	Feb 2016	Jan 2017	Apr 2017	Dec 2017	Mar 2018	June 2018
Claimants	15	628	672	693	642	535

To date due to Universal Credit a total of 65 Housing Benefit claims in the Vale of Glamorgan have been stopped and the housing costs are now covered by Universal Credit.

7. Universal Support - Delivered Locally (USDL)

USDL	May 2017	Aug 2017	Dec 2017	Mar 2018	June 2018
Referrals Received	33	12	22	37	45
PBS given	15	11	17	27	31