

Meeting of:	Council
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 10 March 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Consultation with Non-Domestic Ratepayers
Purpose of Report:	To consider any representations from non-domestic ratepayers
Report Owner:	Executive Leader
Responsible Officer:	Rob Thomas, Chief Executive
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	None as a consequence of this report
Policy Framework:	To comply with the procedure laid down in the Council's Constitution for the making of the budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To comply with the Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations 1992 (Statutory Instrument No. 3171). • An advertisement inviting non-domestic ratepayers to inspect the Council's expenditure proposals and to submit representations on the same was placed in the Western Mail on 27th February 2025. • Copies of the Council's expenditure proposals have been forwarded to local non-domestic ratepayers, who have been invited to submit any comments by 12.00 noon on 10th March, 2025. Any comments received will be reported to the meeting. 	

Recommendation

1. T H A T the Council take into account any representations received from non-domestic ratepayers before fixing the Council Tax.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To comply with the Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations 1992 (Statutory Instrument No. 3171).

1. Background

- 1.1 An advertisement inviting non-domestic ratepayers to inspect the Council's expenditure proposals and to submit representations on the same was placed in the Western Mail on 27th February, 2025.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a duty on the Council to consult with representatives of local non-domestic ratepayers regarding the current and preceding years' expenditure proposals.
- 2.2 Copies of the Council's expenditure proposals have been forwarded to local non-domestic ratepayers, who have been invited to submit any comments by 12.00 noon on 10th March, 2025. Any comments received will be reported to the meeting.
- 2.3 Consultees have been informed that the Council has no control over the level on non-domestic rates, which are set by the Welsh Assembly Government.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 In setting the revenue budget, the Council needs to consider its corporate priorities as set out in the current Corporate Plan through the well-being objectives.
- 3.2 These objectives demonstrate the Council's commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations Act which aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and ensures that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to

meet their own need. Even with reductions in funding, where practical, the Council will strive to maintain services which contribute to this agenda.

- 3.3** In developing the Corporate Plan, the Council has reflected on the way it works and has stated five principles it will follow. These budget proposals reflect this approach to working.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** None as a consequence of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** None as a consequence of this report. However, specific considerations relating to the Council's final proposals for the Revenue Budget 2025/26 were contained in the related report to Cabinet on 6th March, 2024.

Employment

- 5.2** None as a consequence of this report. However, specific considerations relating to the Council's final proposals for the Revenue Budget 2025/26 were contained in the related report to Cabinet on 6th March, 2025.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** The Council is required under statute to fix its Council Tax for 2025/26 by 10th March, 2025 and in order to do so will have to agree a balanced revenue budget by the same date.

6. Background Papers

The Non-Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations 1992 (Statutory Instrument No. 3171)