

Our Flintshire, Our Future

Setting the Budget for 2024/25

Every year all councils across the UK have to set a budget that balances what they plan to spend with the money they receive to deliver services. It's the law!

Flintshire is a high performing yet low funded Council. Per head of population it's ranked 20 out of 22 councils in Wales for the money it receives to deliver services.

For well over a decade the funding given to councils by government has reduced and every year it gets harder and harder to make more savings.

Since 2008 Flintshire County Council has cut back on its spending by £110M through doing things like:



Operating fewer Council buildings



Employing fewer people



Cutting service budgets



Working with partners to keep costs down



Protecting services by doing things differently



Annually reviewing fees and charges

There is little left to cut and this makes the prospect of further government spending cuts even more challenging. Without more funding difficult decisions will be needed to deliver a lawful balanced budget.

£32m
- £18m
£14m

How big is the gap ?

- £32m - the starting gap in our budget
- £18m - potential solutions identified to bridge the gap including a 3.1% forecasted funding increase from Welsh Government
- £14m - the remaining gap forecast in September 2023

Will the gap get bigger?

The Council continues to face a number of risks which have the potential to increase the gap.

National pay awards



Inflation increases



Increasing service pressures



- Homelessness
- Social care
- Nationally set waste and recycling targets

Increasing cost from external partners



- North Wales Fire and Rescue
- North Wales Coroners Service
- Social care providers

Bridging the budget gap

It is too early to say with certainty what decisions will need to be taken to bridge the budget gap.

Much depends on Welsh Government's budget announcement.

Over the summer suggested options to reduce spending and increase income were put forward and on 19 September 2023 they were referred by the Councils Cabinet to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for review.

It is recognised that Welsh Government is facing its own challenging budget situation, yet Flintshire alongside all Welsh councils and the Welsh Local Government Association is continuing to make a case for a better budget settlement.

What happens next?

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| Oct/Nov 2023 | Elected members to scrutinise and consider service budget reduction options |
| 20 Dec 2023 | Welsh Government announces its provisional budget settlement (grant) |
| 16 Jan 2024 | Flintshire County Council's Cabinet meet to discuss proposals to bridge the budget gap |
| 11 Jan 2024 | Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| 20 Feb 2024 | Meeting of Full Council to formally agree the budget and set Council Tax for 2024/25 |
| 1 March 2024 | Final budget settlement announced by Welsh Government |



Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg – gweler y dudalen Gymraeg ar ein gwefan.
This document is also available in Welsh – see Welsh page on our website.