

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) ACT 1994 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PRECEPTS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 1995 – Proposed Payment Schedule

MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member – Councillor B. Callard

DATE: 20th December 2023

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1. To seek Member approval of the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2024/25 financial year as required by statute.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1. That the following schedule of payments be proposed pending consultation:
- (i) The Police Authority precept is paid from the Council Fund by twelve monthly equal instalments on the third Tuesday in each month.
 - (ii) The Community Council precepts are paid by three equal instalments on the last working day in April, August and December in each year.
- 2.2. That the Community Councils are consulted prior to the determination and that the response of the consultation is considered when making the final determination.
- 2.3. That a further report be produced on the results of consultation enabling a determination to be made by 31st January in accordance with statute.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1. The Council as a billing authority is required to determine the schedule of instalments for payment of Precepts from the Council Fund for each year.
- 3.2. The Regulations provide that on or before the 31st December each year a billing authority must inform each precepting authority of its proposals for a schedule of instalments to satisfy all of the precepts. This proposal should be followed by a determination on or before the 31st January, with at least 21 days elapsing between decision on the proposals and the making of a determination.
- 3.3. In each schedule the billing authority must specify the number of instalments, the proportion of each precept which is to be paid in each instalment and the dates in the year on which instalments are to be paid. The payment to the Police Authority must be made on the same day

and should not be less than twelve instalments in any one financial year. In the case of Town and Community Councils the agreement can be one of the following:

(i) Payment by three instalments in April, August and December, or;

(ii) Payment by one instalment on the last working day in April.

3.4. For the existing financial year Monmouthshire County Council operate the arrangement identified in (i) above for Town and Community Councils and pay the Police Authority precept on the third Tuesday of each month.

4. REASONS:

4.1. To approve the proposals for consultation purposes regarding payments to precepting authorities during the 2024/25 financial year as required by statute.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1. Options are laid out by Statute and no further assessment is required.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1. Not applicable.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Negligible cash flow advantages would be achieved should a decision be made to pay the Police Authority precept on the last working day of each month.

7.2. Similarly, any decision to move Town and Community Council precept payment to one instalment at end of April is unlikely to introduce a material cashflow disadvantage, but would reduce our payment administration by two thirds and may also assist the financial management within town & community councils.

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

8.1. There are no implications directly arising from the recommendations and decisions highlighted in this report.

9. CONSULTEES

Strategic Leadership Team
Cabinet Members

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1. None

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