



Y GYLLIDEB BUDGET



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

Gyda'n gilydd, ar gyfer ein dyfodol
Together, for our future

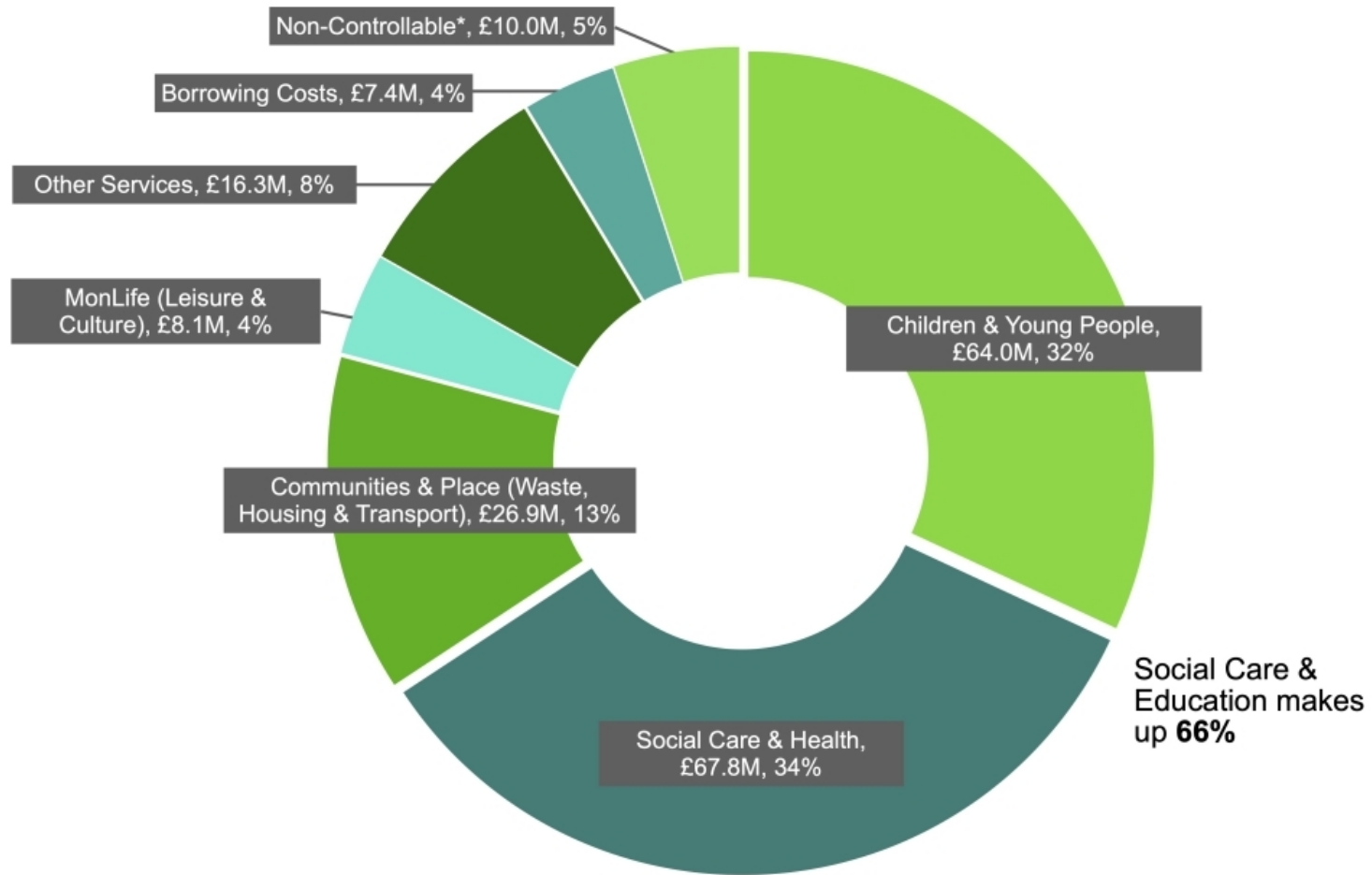
- Local government funding has not kept pace with increased service demand and inflationary pressures. 2024/25 will be no different
- Councils have been underfunded for over a decade – and the future prognosis is challenging
- Brexit, Pandemic, Economic stagnation, War, Challenging Job Market

A challenging financial backdrop and outlook

- The Council is facing significant cost pressures of £21.9m in 2024/25
- Cost pressures consist of:
 - New demand and inflation £5.5m
 - Recurrent demand and inflation £6.2m
 - Pay inflation £6.4m
 - Unwinding one-off reserve usage £2.7m
 - Increased precepts £1.2m

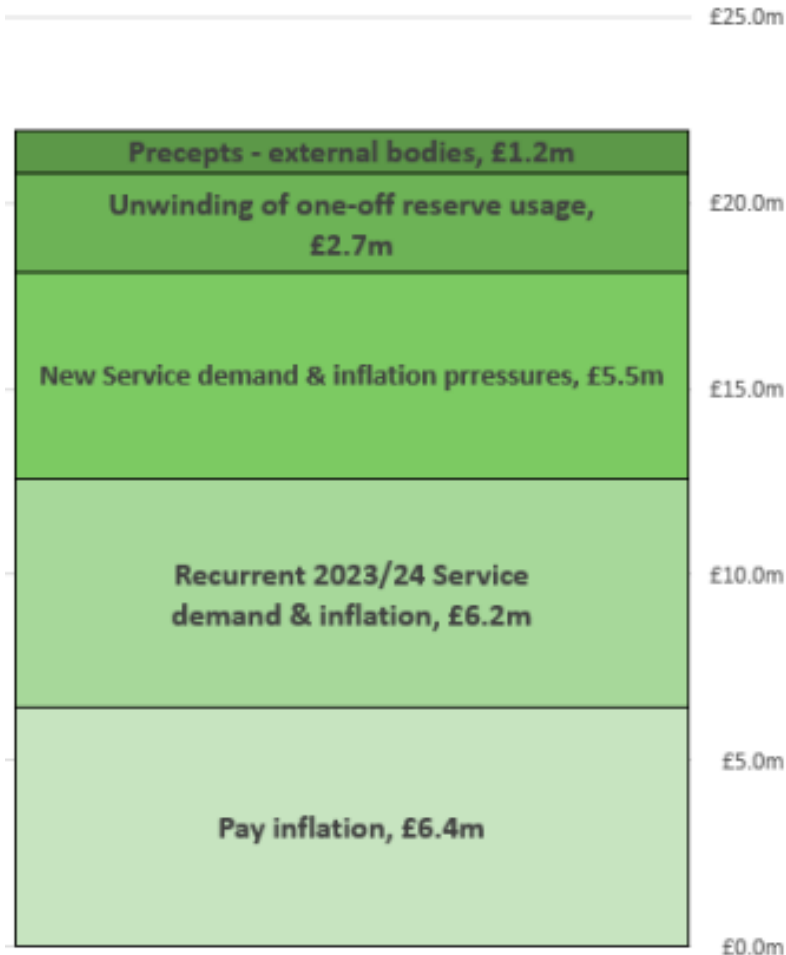
What it costs to deliver services

How the Council will spend £198m to deliver services to residents

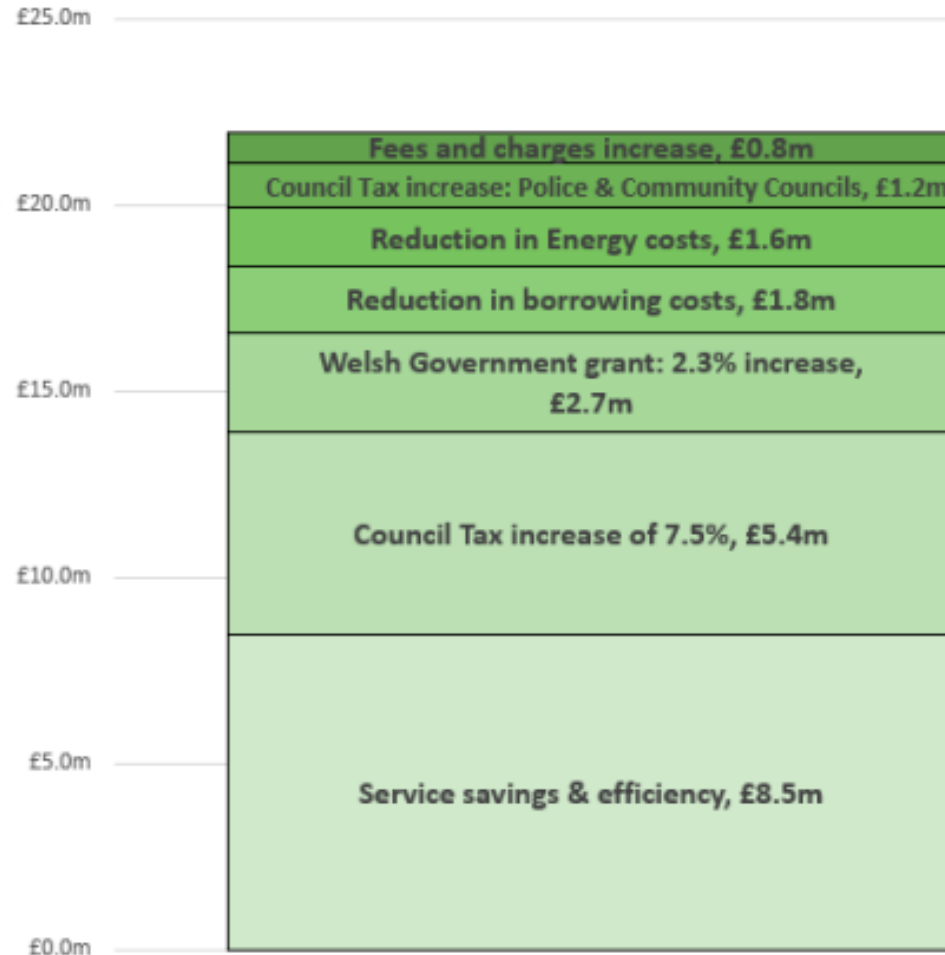


What it costs to deliver services

Expenditure pressures for 2024/25 (£21.9m)



How the pressures will be met



£11.8m of key service pressures

- Children's social care (£0.4m)
- Adult social care (£4.1m)
- Real living wage impact - social care (£2.7m)
- Children with additional learning needs (£0.5m)
- School transport (£0.7m)
- King Henry 3-19 (£0.3m)
- Recycling and waste (£1m)
- Transport and fleet (£0.3m)
- MonLife income shortfalls (£0.2m)
- Insurance costs and levies (£0.6m)

The balance therefore to be struck...

- The cost of delivering our existing services increases next year by £21.9m
- Income increases of £10.1m (Government Grants, Council Tax – MCC and Police, and Charges)
- Borrowing costs will reduce by £1.8m
- Energy costs will reduce by £1.6m
- Revenue reserves not available to support budget
- The balance is met by savings brought about by service changes of £8.4m





**Gyda'n gilydd, ar gyfer ein dyfodol
Together, for our future**

Overall increase in our Children & Young People budget by 2.5% next year, but with savings identified as follows:

- **Schools funding (835k)** - funding will increase by 2.5% for 2024/25. But this will not fully fund schools for all inflationary related pressures - requirement for schools to make efficiency savings
- **Additional learning provision (£534k)** - reduction in the cost of out-of-county and independent specialist placements
- **Gwent Music Service (£39k)** – A reduction in subsidy with support for pupils from low-income families to remain.
- **Before school clubs (£70k)** - Breakfasts remain free for all and an increase in charge of £1 for childcare
- **EAS contribution (£35k)** - A reduction in the core contribution to the Education Achievement Service of 10%

Overall increase in our Social Care budget by 5.8% next year, but with savings identified as follows:

- **Adults social care staffing review (£1.5m)** - consolidating existing vacancies within direct care, ceasing the in-house residential respite provision for adults with learning disabilities, reorganising the My Day, My Life and Individual Support Service, and replacing some social workers with social care assessors
- **Adults social care practice change (£1.1m)** - Applying consistent eligibility criteria, reviewing current care packages, pursuing health contributions, re-commissioning services, expanding reablement and direct payments, and aligning with community and housing support
- **Children's services practice change (£1.3m)** - reviewing children's care plans in high-cost placements and developing appropriate services and placements to support their long-term needs
- **Fees and charges (0.4m)** – An increase in a range of fees and charges that are subject to an individual financial assessment.

Overall increase in our Communities & Place budget by 6.3% next year, but with savings identified as follows:

- **Garden Waste collection (£75k)** – Increased cost by 10% in line with the Cabinet decision taken in January 2023 to ensure the service undertakes full cost recovery
- **Food waste bag provision (£50k)** - Stop the free provision of food waste bags. Available for purchase at cost price at outlets in Council buildings & some local independent stores
- **Council car (£8k)** – Cessation of lease
- **Home to school transport (£96k)** – In house delivery of 8 seat or fewer contracts. Increase cost of discretionary seats by 10%
- **Planning (£98k)** - Increase statutory planning application fees by 25%
- **Car parking (£66k)** - To increase car parking charges and charges for permits by 10%
- **Trade waste (£30k)** - Increase in Trade waste fees, sale of bags & bins
- **Homelessness (£400k)** - To reduce the number of people in unsuitable and costly temporary accommodation

Overall decrease in our MonLife budget by 3.2% next year, but with savings identified as follows:

- **Museums (£40k)** - Realign the museums services by closing two museums for an additional day per week and reviewing business support
- **Attractions (£10k)** - Close Old Station Tintern for one day a week on Mondays from 1st April 2024, except for four bank holidays
- **Countryside & Culture (£10k)** - Withdraw the MCC contribution to Abergavenny Tourist Information Centre.
- **Outdoor adventure (£70k)** - Move to a more sustainable model for the outdoor adventure service, which is part of the MonLife directorate based at Gilwern
- **Leisure centres (£140k)** - Leisure centres - Change closing times: Weekday closure 21:30, Weekend closure 16:30
- **MonLife (£120k)** - Introduce a phased area management structure

£8.4m of savings proposals – a summary

Overall increase in our Resource budget by 6.3% next year, but with savings identified as follows:

- **Commercial investments (208k), Investment properties (£100k)** Reflection of the forecast improvement in rental income across the portfolio as a result of revised tenancies agreed

A planned increase in Council Tax of 7.5%

- Striking the balance between council tax rises and the reduction of services that support the most vulnerable is not easy
- Provides £5.4m of much needed funds to sustain service delivery
- Vigorous help and support for low income households

Bands	Current 2023/24	7.5% increase	Proposed 2024/25 Charge	Increase per month	Increase per week
A	£1,043.11	£78.23	£1,121.34	£6.52	£1.50
B	£1,216.96	£91.27	£1,308.23	£7.61	£1.76
C	£1,390.81	£104.31	£1,495.12	£8.69	£2.01
D	£1,564.66	£117.35	£1,682.01	£9.78	£2.26
E	£1,912.36	£143.43	£2,055.79	£11.95	£2.76
F	£2,260.06	£169.50	£2,429.56	£14.13	£3.26
G	£2,607.77	£195.58	£2,803.35	£16.30	£3.76
H	£3,129.32	£234.70	£3,364.02	£19.56	£4.51
I	£3,650.87	£273.82	£3,924.69	£22.82	£5.27

All Local Authority budgets carry risks every year

- This year's budget has again overheated as budgetary risks have materialised. Budget recovery action has had to be taken
- Use of revenue reserves to cover risks no longer available

Capital programme oversees maintenance and enhancement of our roads, schools, leisure centres, farms and much more.

We propose:

- Continued support for Council priorities in line with the community and corporate plan
- Tackling the longer-term challenges communities are facing
- Significant investment in the new Abergavenny 3-19 school and a new care home at Crick Road this year

4 weeks of public consultations:

- Face to face and virtual engagement events –
Countywide and targeted
 - Special Budget page on Council website
 - Online survey and social media campaign
-
- **Council Scrutiny meetings** – Jan-Feb 2024
 - **Final Budget Cabinet** – 28th February 2024
 - **Council tax setting and budget** – 29th February 2024



ANY QUESTIONS?