



AGENDA

For a meeting of the Executive of the Association
to be held on Friday 18th March 2022 at 10.30am
by Zoom

1. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

To consider and approve the minutes of the last Executive meeting held in December 2021.

3. Actions taken from the last meeting

To note the actions from the last meeting as set out below:

No	Item	Status
1	Minutes to be prepared and circulated	Completed
2	Minutes to be published on web site	Completed
3	Quarterly agenda to be published and circulated	Completed
4	Revised Council Tax Paper to be added to agenda for next quarterly meeting	Councils all asked for Council Tax responses
5	Membership fees from Councils who have not renewed to be sent out after the Christmas break	Completed

4. Financial and governance

To note the bank balances as £6,090.74p.
Annual meeting and elections.

5. Agenda for the April quarterly meeting

To consider the agenda for the next quarterly meeting 22nd April 2022).
To consider if there is a wish for a speaker at this meeting. (Fields in Trust has offered before).

6. Any other business

To consider any other business.

7. Date of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting being Friday 17th June 2022 at 10.30am.



AGENDA

for the quarterly meeting of the **Association** to be held on
Friday 22nd April 2022 at 10.30am
to be held at the Beaufort Park Hotel

1. Welcome

To receive a welcome from the Chair to the meeting.

2. Record of attendance

To record a record of attendance and to receive any apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the last Full Association Meeting

To approve the minutes of the last full Association meeting held in January 2022.

4. Actions from and since last meeting

To consider the actions taken since the last full Association meeting:

No	Item	Status
1	Prepare minutes and post on website	Completed
2	Accounts for 2020-2021 audit	Under way
3	Holywell transport issues to be raised at the transport liaison meeting	On agenda for this meeting
4	Meeting with Welsh Government over a minister for North Wales to be progressed.	On-going
5	Invite Betsi Cadwallader Health Board to the January meeting.	Not attending.
6	Respond to the Homeless Consultation	Completed
7	Raise the subject of electric cars with the Executive at its next meeting (Holywell request)	On agenda for this meeting

5. Financial Report

To receive a financial report from the Secretary.

6. To receive a report on Homeless in North and Mid Wales

To consider an update on the above.

7. North Wales Coast Transport

To consider the announcement that the A55 improvements are not going forward.

8. Holyhead Port

To receive an update on communications with Westminster and Cardiff.



9. Council Tax

To consider progress with the Welsh Government review of Council Tax.

See appendix A (paper issued at the last meeting).

Following the last meeting Member Councils were asked to consider their stance on Council Tax.

10. Any other matters of business

To consider any other items of business raised by Members.

11. Date for next meeting

To note the dates for future meeting.

Quarterly Meetings

Friday 22nd July 2022 – Annual Meeting

Meeting at Connah’s Quay Civic Halls

Executive Meetings

Friday 10th June 2022

All meetings start at 10.30am and will be by Zoom until restrictions allow.



COUNCIL TAX

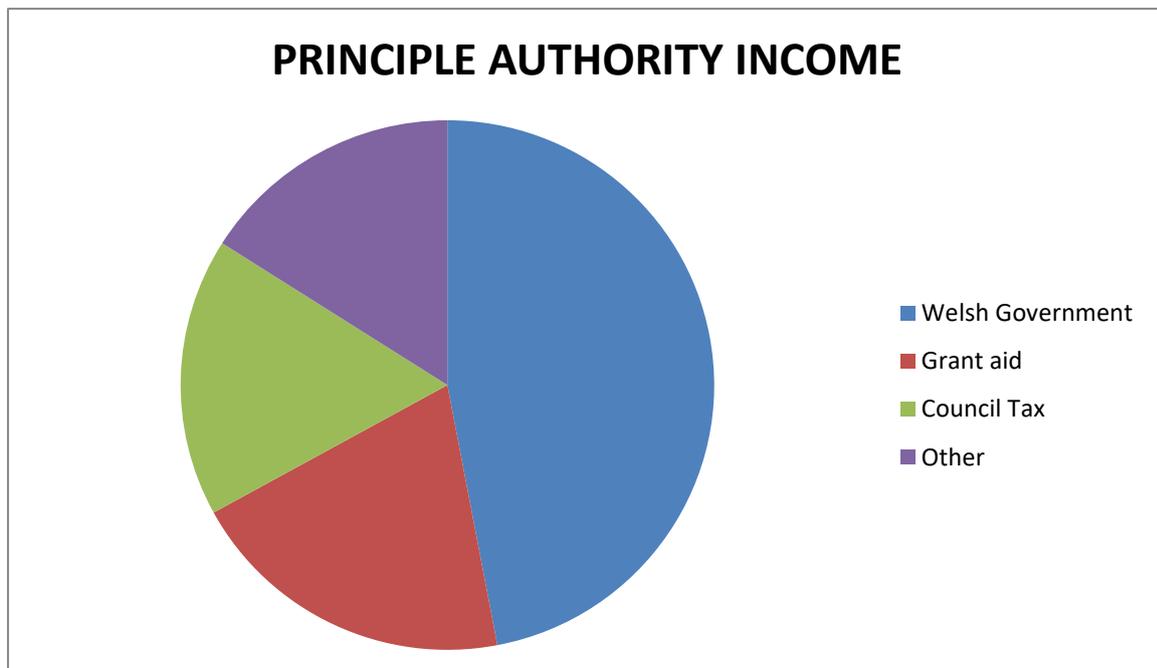
1. Introduction

There has been a number of calls for Government to find a more fair and equitable method of funding local services through Council Tax. This paper gives some ideas as to what the Association might wish to consider.

A government think tank recently posted ‘Is there an alternative? There has to be. As courts continue to be brought to a standstill by council tax debt cases and bailiffs make more visits to desperate families, Westminster needs to wrestle with the issue as some governments before have tried to do, to find a way of updating council tax for the post-property boom age, and make the wealthy pay their fair share compared to those on low incomes.’

2. What does the Council Tax pay for

The Council Tax collected is retained by the principle authority to pay for local services. The proportion of Council Tax to the total income of a principle authority is shown in the chart below:





The Welsh Government allocation includes business rates.

The above is that published in Denbighshire but all Principle Councils are similar.

3. The issues

The main issues include:

- i) With more people being employed on the minimum or living wage the proportion of take home pay spent on Council Tax is disproportionate.
- ii) It is one of the very few taxes which are not progressive and based upon ability to pay.
- iii) It is a property tax in the way it is assessed.

4. History

There has for decades been a form of 'rates or tax' on residential occupation.

The schemes which have been in place (or nearly put in place) in recent times are:

- i) Rates: An amount paid in the pound against a rateable value. The rateable value was based upon the rentability of the property.
- ii) Community Charge: An amount paid by each person over the age of 18. (i.e. if there is one person in a home they pay one share, if there are five people in one home they pay five shares)
- iii) Council Tax: A charge based upon property sale values within set bands.

5. The alternatives

Possible alternatives to the current Council Tax taking into account 'ability to pay' could be:

- i) **Council tax with revised bandings**
Create more upper tax bands lowering the amount paid by those in smaller and less valuable properties. However this does not address the 'ability to pay' aspect but will go a long way towards it.
- ii) **Local Income Tax**
To apply a local income tax. This is complicated, difficult to administer and very difficult to collect.



iii) Rates

To return to the 'old rates system' whereby a property has a rateable value (based upon rentability of the property) against which a rate in the pound would be applied. More complicated than Council Tax but easier to administer than local income tax.

iv) Community Charge

To make an annual charge based upon the number of persons per household over voting age. This charge to be reduced for those in full time education and for senior citizens.

6. What can we do

The Association could, if it so wished, campaign to see a change in the Council Tax System as agreed with the Membership at a full quarterly meeting from a recommendation by the Executive. The Executive supports (iv).

R A Robinson MBE FRICS FSLCC

March 2022



APPENDIX B

The Town Council Climate Change Action Plan

LIST OF POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES
Drive less - Walk, bike, car-pool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive! Use vehicles less.
Executive Meetings – Host Executive Meetings by Zoom to reduce travel.
Recycle more - Reduce paper copies to only those needed to function.
Avoid products with a lot of packaging – when purchasing goods for the Association to consider who is used to reduce packaging.
Plant a tree - Plant a tree in the area of the Chairs Council each year.
Turn off electronic devices – All Association equipment to be turned off at the end of each day.
Efficient equipment - When equipment is renewed to replace with energy efficient products.
Renewable Energy - Support renewable energy schemes where they are environmentally friendly.
Publicity - Make the public aware of the Association's actions and consider how to promote the global warming issues.
Monitoring - Ensure monitoring of the policy so that progress is made.