

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	THE EXECUTIVE
DATE:	1 DECEMBER 2014
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015/16
PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):	COUNCILLOR HYWEL EIFION JONES (PORTFOLIO HOLDER - FINANCE)
HEAD OF SERVICE:	RICHARD MICKLEWRIGHT (HEAD OF FUNCTION - RESOURCES)
REPORT AUTHOR:	GERAINT H. JONES (REVENUES AND BENEFITS SERVICE MANAGER)
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LOCAL MEMBERS:	NOT APPLICABLE

A - Recommendation/s and reason/s

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Executive recommends to the Isle of Anglesey County Council (full Council) in its meeting on 4 December 2014 that its current local Council Tax Reduction Scheme should not be revised or replaced with another scheme.
- The Executive recommends to the full Council in its meeting on 4 December 2014 to formally adopt the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the financial year 2015/16.
- The Executive recommends to the full Council in its meeting on 4 December 2014 that it provides authority to the Head of Function – Resources to make administrative arrangements so that all annual changes for uprating of financial figures or technical revisions in any amending regulation or regulations are reflected in the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme and for each subsequent year.

REASONS AND BACKGROUND

See attached report - **Appendix A**

B - What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

See attached report – **Appendix A**

C - Why is this a decision for the Executive?

Regulations state that this is a decision of the full Council. The Executive is asked to endorse a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for approval by the full Council.

CH - Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 which the Executive is asked to endorse is consistent with the scheme approved by full Council with regard to the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme that applies for the financial year 2014/15.

D - Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?		
<p>In the Welsh Government's Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlement 2015/16 a Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant of £5,228,000 has been awarded to the Council to meet the cost of its local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16.</p> <p>Current expenditure (end of Quarter 2 2014/15 is £5,238,447). Two factors for 2015/16 will affect the expenditure on the scheme:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible continued reduction in caseload of between 2% - 3% during 2015/16; • Planned increase in Council Tax of 5% for 2015 - 2016. <p>At best the estimated expenditure on the scheme will be £5,335,358 (assuming a 3% reduction in caseload with a 5% increase in Council Tax) and at worst estimated expenditure at £5,500,369 (assuming no caseload reduction with a 5% increase in Council Tax).</p> <p>There is therefore an estimated expected shortfall of between £107k and £272k in grant funding which will have to be met by the Council. This is based on the full Council readopting the current scheme unchanged.</p>		
DD - Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Author of report
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	No Comments
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Scrutiny	
8	Local Members	
9	Any external bodies / other/s	
E - Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	The main risk to the Council is additional costs of its Council Tax Reduction Scheme above the Welsh Government's Grant for 2015/16. The Council has no control on fluctuations in caseload and should caseload increase the costs borne by the Council will consequently increase. A 1% increase in caseload will be an additional burden on the Authority of between £50,000 and £55,000.
F - Appendices:		
Appendix A: Report to full Council to consider 4 December 2014		
FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):		
The Wales Council Tax Reduction Scheme: Comparisons within Wales of Protected Characteristics and incidence of Vulnerability March 2013 – Simon Horsington and Associates Ltd, 2013		

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
REPORT TO:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	4 DECEMBER 2014
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME
LEAD OFFICER(S)	RICHARD MICKLEWRIGHT HEAD OF FUNCTION (RESOURCES)
CONTACT OFFICER	GERAINT JONES REVENUES AND BENEFITS MANAGER (EXT. 2651)
ACTION :	TO ADOPT THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME FOR 2015/16

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1** The report explains the requirement to adopt a scheme by 31 January 2015 with regard to 2015/16.

2. Background Information

- 2.1** The full Council on 27 January 2014 adopted its Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the financial year 2014/15. The full Council is required to consider under Part 2, Regulation 18 of "The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 No. 3029 (W.301) (the Regulations) for each financial year whether to revise its scheme or replace it with another Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The full Council must make any revision to its scheme, or any replacement scheme, no later than 31 January in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement comes into effect.
- 2.2** The full Council under the current scheme formally adopted the Regulations as its scheme and using discretionary powers decided to use local discretion to adopt a Local War Disablement Pension and War Widow's or Widower's Pension Discretionary Scheme in accordance with the Regulations. The elements disregarded as income are detailed in the current scheme for the purpose of this local discretion. This provides additional Council Tax support to that statutorily required to pay under the Regulations. This is the only local discretion awarded by the full Council under its current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 2.3** The full Council must also have regard to Regulation 17 of the Regulations when revising or replacing a scheme. If the full Council decides to revise or replace its scheme it must publish a draft revised scheme in such a manner it think fits and must consult with any persons it considers likely to have an interest in the operation of its Council Tax Reduction Scheme. There is however no expressed requirement to consult annually, it is only if a scheme is revised or replaced when consultation has to take place.
- 2.4** For 2015/16 the Welsh Government is not revising or changing the Regulations, but as for 2014/15 the Welsh Government will be making amending regulations to uprate the financial figures used in the Regulations and to reflect any other technical amendments required as a result of changes to underlying benefits. Again, as for 2014/15 the timing of these amending regulations is dependent on the Chancellor of Exchequer's Autumn Statement (3 December 2014) and the subsequent uprating schedule published by the Department for Work and Pensions a few days after the Autumn Statement. The earliest date the Welsh Government will be able to lay the new draft Regulations reflecting the uprate to financial figures or any other technical amendment before the National Assembly for Wales is the 8th or 9th December 2014. These regulations must be laid in

draft for 20 working days with recess dates not being counted and a plenary debate held before they come into effect. For 2014/15 these amending regulations did not come into effect until 15 January 2014 and it is expected a similar timetable will apply for 2015/16.

- 2.5 As the full Council is meeting on 4 December 2014 to determine its local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 it is proposed that the Head of Function (Resources) is given the authority to make administrative arrangements so that all annual changes for uprating of financial figures or technical revisions are reflected in the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme and for each subsequent year.

3. Impact of the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- 3.1 In **Appendix B** the full Council is provided with information, statistics and values concerning the impact of its Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2014/15. This information will be useful in future to the full Council in its consideration whether to revise or replace its current scheme, in that –

- It can use this data to measure trends (currently accurate at September 2014) against the effective baseline (accurate at December 2012) when the Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken of protected characteristics and incidence of vulnerability;
- To begin to understand the impact of the scheme upon the inhabitants of the Island with reference to age, disabled people, gender and race;
- For the future, to potentially inform the full Council's understanding of the potential costs of different potential schemes and of the potential costs of full or partial protection of particular client groups and vulnerable people. At present up to 100% reduction must be provided under the Regulations but the Welsh Government has stated that this is not sustainable in the longer term with those in receipt of a partial Council Tax Reduction probably having to pay more or for those currently receiving 100% reduction having for the first time contribute towards their Council Tax costs after April 2017.

- 3.2 Since the baseline data established in December 2012 the following trends can be identified for the Island with regard to its Council Tax Reduction Scheme:-

- **Caseload:** since December 2012 to September 2014 there has been an overall reduction in the caseload of 6.3% (6,960 down to 6,525). This reverses a trend over recent years where caseload had increased locally and nationally year on year;
- **Age:** the analysis at December 2012 suggested a slightly higher incidence of Working Age over Pensioner Age claims by number (51.5%/48.5% split). By September 2014 this had increased very slightly (51.7%/48.3% split);
- **Age:** the analysis of households with children claiming a Council Tax Reduction in December 2012 was 21.9% of caseload. By September 2014 this has increased to 24.2%;
- **Disability:** the analysis of households who receive a Council Tax Reduction where specified disability payments were received (these being - Care Component of a Disability Living Allowance (Low, Middle or High), Attendance Allowance, Support Component of Employment Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Personal Independence Payments) in December 2012 this was 39.3% of caseload. By September 2014 this had decreased to 34.8%.

- **Gender:** the incidence of female single parents as at December 2012 was 92.5% (13.3% of caseload). By September 2014 this was 92.3% (14.3%);
- **Race:** The Office of National Statistics in December 2012 published its March 2011 Census relating to diversity for the Isle of Anglesey. All claimants completing a Council Tax Reduction application form are asked to complete a voluntary ethnic survey. (See Table 6 in Appendix B for a breakdown based on the voluntary survey which is compared to the March 2011 Census figures).

3.3 The full Council is further asked to note that during the first half of 2014/15 the number of people claiming Job Seeker Allowance on the Island has seen a significant fall at individual Job Centre Plus offices on the Island, ranging from 25% to 30%. The reduction in those claiming its Council Tax Reduction in the same period is much less (3.5%). Working age claimants are still eligible for partial Council Tax Reduction due to low incomes. More standard claimants are being processed which involves additional work to process these claims in verifying income – as against those on passported benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Income Support, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) and Pension Credit Guarantee where the Department for Work and Pensions have already verified income.

3.4 For the first 6 months of 2014/15, 864 new Council Tax Reduction Scheme claimants have been processed with 7,989 changes in circumstances processed. The average time taken to process new claims and changes in circumstances is 7.3 days in this period.

4. Review of the current scheme

4.1 As the Welsh Government is not proposing to amend the Regulations, apart from financial upratings and technical amendments that are used in the Regulations, the only considerations available to the full Council to review and decide, is in the area of local discretions allowed by the Regulations. Under the Regulations, the full Council has local discretion in these areas only:-

- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving a council tax reduction that is to end as a result of their return to work i.e **“Extended Payment Period”**;

Estimated increased costs for 2015/16 associated with extending the statutory extended period ranges between £7,000 for two weeks up to £21,000 for 6 weeks beyond the standard 4 weeks. Under the previous Council Tax Benefits rules no special provision existed to allow this and the full Council did not apply this when Council Tax Reduction was introduced. It is recommended therefore not to revise the scheme and extend the payment period for 2015/16.

- Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant i.e. **“War Widows/Widowers”**;

The full Council already has a local scheme allowing additional disregards in this area. It is recommended that this should continue. The cost to the Council is estimated to be £24,000 in 2015/16. It is recommended therefore, that the additional disregards applied under the current local scheme will continue unrevised for 2015/16.

- The ability to backdate the application of Council Tax Reduction with regard to late claims prior to the standard period of three months before the claim i.e. **“Backdating of Claims”**.

The full Council has always held the view that 3 months is an adequate time period to allow backdating of Council Tax Reduction for both pensioner and working age claims. The full Council is of the view that there are sufficient support networks available to advise claimants. There is a great deal of uncertainty about the likely cost if such a local scheme was applied and it is recommended therefore not to revise the scheme by extending the back-dating period beyond 3 months during 2015/16.

- 4.2 It should be noted that there is no additional money available from the Welsh Government to fund these discretionary elements.
- 4.3 Under Appendix 1 of its Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2014/15, the full Council details the procedure by which a new claimant can apply for a reduction under the scheme. Below is provided an analysis of the method of application used by new claimants for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014.

Method of application	Number	Percentage (%)
A. Electronic based application		
i. By appointment at Revenues & Benefits Office, Llangefni	155	18.0%
ii. By appointment over the telephone to Revenues & Benefits Office, Llangefni	93	10.8%
iii. By appointment at J E O'Toole Centre, Holyhead	50	5.8%
iv. On-line application via web site	288	33.3%
v. Department for Work and Pension input documents	223	25.8%
vi. With "trusted" 3rd parties e.g. Housing Services, CAB	7	0.8%
B. Paper based application	6	0.6%
C. Method of application not known as not properly recorded	42	4.9%
TOTAL	864	100.0%

It is also recommended that these procedures remain the same and are not revised for 2015/16.

5. Financial and Risk Implications

- 5.1 In the Welsh Government's Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlement 2015/16 a Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant of £5,228,000 has been awarded to the Council to meet the cost of its local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16.
- 5.2 Current expenditure (end of Quarter 2 2014/15 is £5,238,447). Two factors for 2015/16 will affect the expenditure on the scheme:-
- Possible continued reduction in caseload of between 2% - 3% during 2015/16;
 - Planned increase in Council Tax of 5% for 2015/16.
- 5.3 At best the estimated expenditure on the scheme will be £5,335,358 (assuming a 3% reduction in caseload with a 5% increase in Council Tax) and at worst estimated expenditure at £5,500,369 (assuming no caseload reduction with a 5% increase in Council Tax).
- 5.4 There is therefore an estimated expected shortfall of between £107k and £272k in grant funding which will have to be met by the Council. This is based on the full Council readopting the current scheme unchanged.

5.5 The main risk to this projection is that the caseload during 2015/16 will increase due to a reduced economic growth. For every 1% increase in caseload there will be an additional cost to the Authority of between £50,000 and £55,000.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Council is obliged to make a Council Tax Reduction Scheme under the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. Although the legislation provides for a default scheme to apply in the absence of the Council making a scheme, the Council is, nevertheless, under a statutory duty to adopt its own scheme, even if it chooses not to apply any of the discretionary elements.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1 The Welsh Government has compiled an equalities impact assessment following its consultation for the original 2012 Regulations. A local equalities impact assessment has been carried out on behalf of the Council in joint arrangements across Wales also with regard to the 2012 Regulations (December 2012, published March 2013) and this has been updated as at September 2014 as detailed in **Appendix B**.

8. Background Documents

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 No. 3029 (W.301)

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Schemes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 No ???? (W???)

The Wales Council Tax Reduction Scheme: Comparisons within Wales of Protected Characteristics and incidence of Vulnerability March 2013 – Simon Horsington and Associates Ltd, 2013

9. Recommendation

- That the full Council does not revise or replace its current Council Tax Reduction Scheme with another scheme;
- That the full Council formally adopts the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the financial year 2015/16. **(see Appendix A)**
- That the full Council in its meeting provides authority to the Head of Function – Resources to make administrative arrangements so that all annual changes for uprating of financial figures or technical revisions in any amending regulation or regulations are reflected in the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme and for each subsequent year.



Isle of Anglesey County Council

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2015/16

Prescribed Scheme for Pensioner and Non Pensioner Claimants

Introduction

Since 1 April 2013, Council Tax Benefit as a method of supporting low income households with their Council Tax was abolished. It was replaced by a Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

On 19 December 2012 the Welsh Government made regulations to introduce a national scheme for Wales, "The Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2012 No. 3144 (W.316)" (**Prescribed Regulations**) and "The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2012 No. 3145 (W.317)" (**Default Regulations**). Further amending regulations were passed by the Welsh Government on 22 January 2013 "The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme)(Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2013 (**Amending Regulations**).

The Prescribed Regulations contained a sunset clause. As a result of this clause, the above mentioned regulations only applied to the 2013/14 financial year. This clause required the regulations to be reviewed and a new set brought forward by 1 January 2014 by Welsh Ministers. If new regulations were not brought forward by this date, there would be no provision for Council Tax Reduction Schemes to be implemented in Wales after 31 March 2014.

On 26 November 2013, the Welsh Assembly approved two new sets of regulations: "The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Schemes)(Wales) Regulations 2013 (**the Default Scheme Regulations**)" and "The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 (**the Prescribed Requirements Regulations**)" – these can be accessed:

Default Scheme Regulations

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3035/contents/made>

Prescribed Requirements Regulations

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3029/contents/made>

Amending Regulations

On ?? January 2015 a further set of amending regulations to mainly update the financial figures in line with the cost of living increases and address a number of minor technical points were approved by the National Assembly for Wales - the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Schemes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (**Amending Regulations**). These can be accessed:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/??/contents/made>

These regulations therefore prescribe the main features of the scheme to be adopted by all Councils in Wales. An obligation, therefore, remains upon the Isle of Anglesey County Council to adopt a scheme. The Isle of Anglesey County Council is required to adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by 31 January 2015 for 2015/16 onwards.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be based on the Welsh Government's Prescribed Requirements Regulations (as amended). These Prescribed Requirements Regulations also permit the Isle of Anglesey County Council to adopt a scheme which incorporates a limited range of discretionary elements to provide further support for Council Tax. Where the Isle of Anglesey County Council has adopted additional discretionary elements, these discretionary elements are set out within this document.

If the Isle of Anglesey County Council fails to make a scheme by 31 January 2015, then the default scheme shall apply under the provisions of the Default Scheme Regulations. The Isle of Anglesey County Council can, however, only apply discretion if it adopts its own scheme under the Prescribed Requirements Regulations.

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Requirements

The full Council of the Isle of Anglesey County Council approved its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme on 1 December 2014 relating to the year beginning 1 April 2015. It specifies, in accordance with the Prescribed Requirements Regulations:–

- Classes of persons who are entitled or not entitled to a reduction
- The reductions which persons in each class are to be entitled
- Scheme procedural requirements:-
 1. the procedure by which a person may apply for a reduction under the scheme.
 2. the procedure by which a person may appeal against a decision of an authority with respect to a person's entitlement to a reduction under the scheme or the amount of any reduction to which the person is entitled.
 3. the procedure by which a person may apply to an authority for a reduction under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Isle of Anglesey County Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Isle of Anglesey County Council formally adopted its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme based on requirements as detailed in the Welsh Government's "The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 No.3029 (W.301) (Prescribed Requirements Regulations) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Schemes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 No.?? (W.?6) (Amending Regulations). The Prescribed Requirements Regulations and amending regulation can be accessed at:-

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3029/contents/made>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/??/contents/made>

In summary:-

Part 1 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations:

Contain introductory provisions and definitions of key words and phrases used in this scheme.

Part 2 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations: scheme requirements in relation to billing authorities in Wales (as amended by Amending Regulations)

What the scheme adopted by the Isle of Anglesey County Council must include – classes of persons, reductions and scheme procedural requirements.

Part 3 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations: Classes of persons entitled to a reduction under this scheme (as amended by Amending Regulations)

Pensioners who fall within Classes A to B.

Non-pensioners who fall within Classes C to D.

Part 4 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations: Classes of persons who must not be included under this scheme (as amended by Amending Regulations)

Classes of persons prescribed to be excluded from this scheme, including persons treated as not being in Great Britain and persons subject to immigration control.

Persons whose capital exceeds £16,000.

Persons who are absent for a period from a dwelling.

Persons who are students.

Part 5 and Schedules 1 to 5 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations: matters that must be included in this scheme in relation to pensioners (as amended by Amending Regulations)

Schedules 1 to 5 set out the rules relevant to determine the eligibility of pensioners for a reduction and the amount of reduction under this scheme and the amount of maximum Council Tax Reduction under this scheme. They also set out how income and capital for pensioners is treated in calculating eligibility for a reduction under this scheme.

Part 5 and Schedules 6 to 10 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations: matters that must be included in this scheme in relation to non-pensioners (as amended by Amending Regulations)

Schedules 6 to 10 set out the rules relevant to determine the eligibility of non-pensioners for a reduction and the amount of reduction under this scheme and the amount of maximum Council Tax Reduction under this scheme. They also set out how income and capital for non-pensioners is treated in calculating eligibility for a reduction under this scheme, including in cases where a non-pensioner or partner has been awarded universal credit.

Schedule 11 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations (as amended by Amending Regulations)

This provides for the application of this scheme to students.

Part 5 and Schedules 12 to 14 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations: matters that must be included in this scheme in respect of all applicants i.e. pensioner and non-pensioner (as amended by Amending Regulations)

Schedule 12 concerns procedural matters that must be included in this scheme. It describes the procedure by which a person can apply for a reduction in Council Tax under this scheme. Appendix 1 of this scheme provides details of how a person can apply to the Isle of Anglesey County Council for a reduction in Council Tax.

Schedule 12 also describes how a person may make an appeal against certain decisions of the Isle of Anglesey County Council under this scheme.

As the Isle of Anglesey County Council uses electronic communication in connection with making an application and award of a reduction, Schedule 12 details matters that must be included under this scheme.

Schedules 13 and 14 describes who may make an application under this scheme, the date on which an application is made, backdating of applications for pensioners and non-pensioners, amendment and withdrawal of applications and evidence and information required with the application. Schedules 13 and 14 also provide the requirements under this scheme for the information required to be provided by the Isle of Anglesey County Council when notifying the applicant of the decision and what must be included in the decision notice.

Part 6 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations (as amended by Amending Regulations)

Set out the transitional provisions that will apply to persons who are in receipt of, or who have made an application for, a reduction under existing reduction schemes, when the new schemes come into operation.

Discretionary elements agreed by the Isle of Anglesey County Council to provide Council Tax support in addition to the statutory requirements detailed in the Prescribed Requirements Regulations adopted by the Council

The Isle of Anglesey County Council has decided to adopt a Local War Disablement Pension and War Widow's or Widower's Pension Discretionary Scheme. This is detailed in Appendix 2 which provides the elements of such pensions that will be disregarded as income. This is additional Council Tax support to that statutorily required in the Prescribed Regulations. This Local War Disablement Pension and War Widow's or Widower's Pension Discretionary Scheme is identical to the scheme that applied under Council Tax Benefit.

This will be the only local discretion applied by the Isle of Anglesey under its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

DRAFT

Details the following procedure by which a person can apply for a reduction under the scheme

All persons must apply for a Council Tax Reduction, unless further Welsh Government regulations state otherwise. This will be an electronic or a paper Council Tax Reduction Application Form delivered to the following designated offices.

A. An electronic application can be made by the following methods:–

- i.** By appointment to attend to complete the form at the Revenues and Benefits Section Offices, Resources Function, County Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW (Telephone 01248 752658/752226) or for vulnerable clients to attend at their home to complete the application form;
- ii.** By appointment to complete the form over the telephone to the Revenues and Benefits Section Offices, Resources Function, County Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW (Telephone 01248 752658/752226);
- iii.** By appointment to complete the form at the J E O’Toole Centre, Trearddur Square, Holyhead, LL65 1NB (Telephone 01407 760208);
- iv.** Electronically via the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s web site
- v.** Department of Work and Pension Local Authority Input Document (LAID) and Local Authority Customer Information (LACI) where they declare an intention to claim a Council Tax Reduction
- vi.** Electronically in some other format as the Isle of Anglesey County Council may decide in the future.

B. A paper application can be made by the following methods:-

By approved application form received by the Isle of Anglesey Resources Function, Revenues and Benefits Section at its designated offices at Council Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW or the Benefits Office, Room 3, 2nd Floor, Town Hall, Newry Street, Holyhead, LL65 1HU.

LOCAL SCHEME – WAR PENSION DISREGARDS
Schedule 4, Regulation 30 – Pensioners
Schedule 9, Regulation 31 – Non Pensioners

INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS	INCOME DISREGARDED
War Disablement Pension	Yes (£10 statutory, 100% Local)
War Widows or War Widower's Pension	Yes (£10 statutory, 100% Local)
War Widow Pension (Pre 1973 – SPAL)	Yes (2015/16) 100% statutory, £???.?? subject to annual uprating*)
Unemployability Supplement	No
Additional Allowance for Wife (paid with Unemployability Supplement)	No
Constant Attendance Allowance	Yes (statutory)
Invalidity Allowance	No
Comforts Allowance	No
Age Allowance	No
Allowance for Lower Standard of Occupation	No
War Pensioners Mobility Supplement	Yes (statutory)
Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance	Yes (statutory)
Severe Disablement Occupational Allowance	Yes (statutory)
Child Allowance	No

*this is set by the Naval, Military and Air forces etc. "Disablement and Death" Service Pension Order 2006. Uprating for 2015 /16 has not yet been received.

Table 1: Caseload 30 September 2014

Description	Number	Percentage	Value	Percentage
Total Council Tax Reduction awarded	6,525	100%	£5,238,447	100%
Percentage Awarded				
Council Tax Reduction full awards i.e. 100%	4,884	74.9%	£4,254,960	81.2%
Council Tax Reduction partial awards i.e. less than 100%	1,641	25.1%	£983,487	18.8%
Claim Type				
Passported* claims	4,657	71.4%	£3,970,648	75.8%
Non passported claims i.e. Standard Claims	1,868	28.6%	£1,267,799	24.2%
Council Tax Bands				
Band A (Disabled reduction)	11	0.2%	£5,924	0.1%
Band A	2,002	30.7%	£1,303,773	24.9%
Band B	2,071	31.7%	£1,572,994	30.0%
Band C	1,196	18.3%	£1,017,037	19.4%
Band D	751	11.5%	£726,169	13.9%
Band E	357	5.5%	£414,842	7.9%
Band F	110	1.7%	£155,282	3.0%
Band G	23	0.4%	£36,243	0.7%
Band H	3	0.0%	£4,317	0.1%
Band I	1	0.0%	£1,866	0.0%
Local precepting areas				
Holyhead	1,758	26.8%	£1,252,230	23.9%
Llangefni	566	8.6%	£431,065	8.2%
Amlwch	476	7.3%	£386,100	7.4%
Menai Bridge	229	3.5%	£190,353	3.6%
Llanfair Mathafran Eithaf	228	3.5%	£214,027	4.1%
Rhosyr	220	3.4%	£186,513	3.6%
Beaumaris	193	3.0%	£163,774	3.1%
Valley	185	2.8%	£146,567	2.8%
Llanfairpwll	158	2.4%	£132,997	2.5%
Llanfaelog	157	2.4%	£131,701	2.5%
Llanerchymedd	147	2.3%	£117,742	2.3%
Llanbadrig	141	2.2%	£117,346	2.3%
Llanfair yn Neubwll	132	2.0%	£108,348	2.1%
Bodedern	113	1.7%	£91,558	1.8%
Llanfihangel Esceifiog	112	1.7%	£94,029	1.8%
Llangoed	106	1.6%	£88,203	1.7%
Trewalchmai	104	1.6%	£85,778	1.6%
Pentraeth	102	1.6%	£84,407	1.6%
Llaneilian	100	1.5%	£93,305	1.8%
Bodorgan	98	1.5%	£80,627	1.5%
Mechell	96	1.5%	£85,928	1.6%
Llanidan	95	1.5%	£73,108	1.4%
Moelfre	91	1.4%	£73,725	1.4%
Rhosybol	83	1.3%	£73,833	1.4%
Cwm Cadnant	83	1.3%	£73,187	1.4%
Bodffordd	81	1.2%	£68,186	1.3%
Aberffraw	80	1.2%	£57,816	1.1%
Bryngwran	78	1.2%	£59,818	1.1%
Llangristiolus and Cherrigceinwen	69	1.1%	£69,135	1.3%
Trearddur	64	1.0%	£64,210	1.2%

Description	Number	Percentage	Value	Percentage
Local precepting areas (continued)				
Cylch y Garn	54	0.8%	£47,745	0.9%
Llanddaniel	50	0.8%	£40,606	0.8%
Llanddyfnan	49	0.8%	£48,503	0.9%
Llanfaethlu	48	0.7%	£42,824	0.8%
Llanddona	47	0.7%	£41,171	0.8%
Llanfachraeth	44	0.7%	£34,859	0.7%
Tref Alaw	44	0.7%	£45,893	0.9%
Rhoscolyn	20	0.3%	£18,851	0.4%
Penmynydd	17	0.3%	£14,539	0.3%
Llaneugrad	8	0.1%	£7,839	0.2%

* Passported claims are Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Income Support, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) and Pension Credit Guarantee where the Department for Work and Pensions have already verified income.

Table 2: Age - Working and Pension Claims 30 September 2014

Description	Number	Percentage	Value	Percentage
Total Council Tax Reduction awarded	6,525	100%	£5,238,447	100%
Age Group				
Working Age	3,373	51.7%	£2,614,664	49.9%
Pensioner Age	3,152	48.3%	£2,623,783	50.1%
Passported claims* by Age Group				
Working Age	2,477	38.0%	£2,022,768	38.6%
Pensioner Age	2,180	33.4%	£1,947,880	37.2%
Non Passported i.e. standard claims by Age Group				
Working Age	890	13.6%	£591,896	11.3%
Pensioner Age	978	15.0%	£675,903	12.9%
Household Composition by Age Group - Couple				
Working Age	856	13.1%	£800,361	15.3%
Pensioner Age	879	13.5%	£861,477	16.4%
Household Composition by Age Group - Single				
Working Age	2,508	38.4%	£1,811,362	34.6%
Pensioner Age	2,282	35.0%	£1,765,247	33.7%

* Passported claims are Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Income Support, Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) and Pension Credit Guarantee where the Department for Work and Pensions have already verified income.

Table 3: Age – Households with responsibility for Children

Description	Number	Percentage	Value	Percentage
Total Council Tax Reduction awarded	6,525	100%	£5,238,447	100%
Household Composition - status				
Couple	1,735	26.6%	£1,661,839	31.7%
Single	4,790	73.4%	£3,576,608	68.3%
Household Composition - children				
No children	4,953	75.8%	£3,989,654	76.1%
1 child	705	10.8%	£524,678	10.0%
2 children	463	7.1%	£370,843	7.1%
3 children	267	4.1%	£230,441	4.4%
4 children	92	1.4%	£82,303	1.6%
5 children	36	0.6%	£29,867	0.6%
6 children	3	0.1%	£3,670	0.1%
7 children	1	0.0%	£727	0.0%
8 children	2	0.0%	£2,284	0.0%
9 children	3	0.1%	£3,980	0.1%
Couples with children - age				
Working Age	539	8.3%	£493,408	9.4%
Pensioner Age	21	0.3%	£22,840	0.4%
Single with children - age				
Working Age	988	15.2%	£710,818	13.7%
Pensioner Age	24	0.4%	£21,727	0.4%
Couples with children under 5 years old				
Working Age	247	3.8%	£219,194	4.2%
Pensioner Age	0	0.0%	£0	0.0%
Single with children under 5 years old				
Working Age	424	6.5%	£309,996	5.9%
Pensioner Age	3	0.1%	£3,390	0.1%

Table 4: Households in which specified disability payments* received

Description	Number	Percentage	Value	Percentage
Total Council Tax Reduction awarded	6,525	100%	£5,238,447	100%
Household Composition by age group				
Working Age	941	14.4%	£812,092	15.5%
Pensioner Age	1,323	20.4%	£1,157,364	22.1%

* Care Component of a Disability Living Allowance (Low, Middle or High), Attendance Allowance, Support Component of Employment Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Personal Independence Payments

Table 5: Analysis of protected characteristics: Gender, Single Parents

Description	Number	Percentage	Value	Percentage
Total Council Tax Reduction awarded	6,525	100%	£5,238,447	100%
Single Parents Household - Female				
Working Age	916	14.0%	£655,842	12.5%
Pensioner Age	17	0.3%	£15,472	0.3%
Single Parents Household - Male				
Working Age	71	1.1%	£54,976	1.1%
Pensioner Age	7	0.1%	£6,255	0.1%

Table 6: Ethnic Background Isle of Anglesey

Ethnic Origin	March 2011 Census	Council Tax Reduction Scheme September 2014
White British	96.6%	835 (86.0%)
White other	1.7%	126 (12.0%)
Mixed heritage	0.8%	7 (0.7%)
Asian (All)	0.7%	1 (0.1%)
Black (All)	0.1%	2 (0.2%)
Other (All)	0.3%	0 (0.0%)
TOTAL		971*

* At 30 September 2014 there was 971 live claimants who had voluntarily completed the ethnic survey.

Table 7: Additional Council Tax Reduction Awarded under local discretionary scheme

Description	Number	Percentage	Value	Percentage
Total Council Tax Reduction awarded	6,525	100%	£5,238,447	100%
War Widows Pension (Post 73)	1	0.0%	£964	0.0%
War Disablement Pension	25	0.4%	£19,935	0.4%