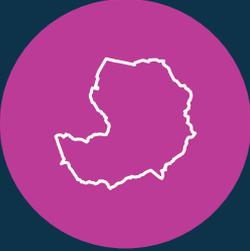


2024-25 Budget Book



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Section 1

**Revenue and capital
budgets 2024-25**

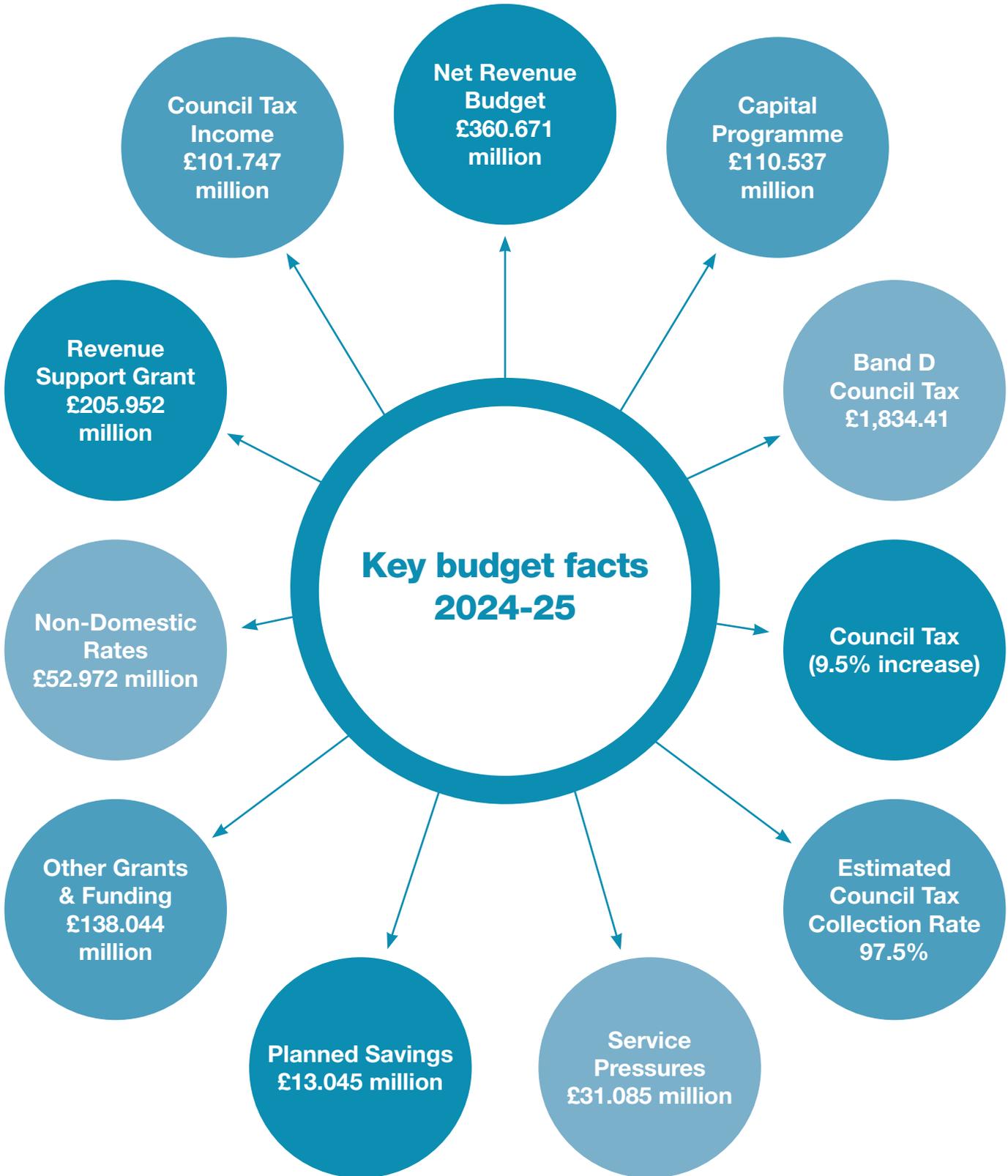
Section 1: Revenue and capital budgets 2024-25

1.1 Introduction

1. This document sets out Bridgend County Borough Council's Revenue and Capital budgets for 2024-25 in a summarised format, together with other financial information. It reflects a small change in the total budget* as a result of the publication of the Welsh Government Final Local Government Settlement on 27 February 2024, not included when Council approved the budget on 28 February 2024. An updated report was presented to Council on the 13 March 2024. It contains a summary of the budget and other information regarding the funding of the overall budget, including the way in which the Council Tax is set. The Council Tax has not changed as a result of the Final Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlement. It also contains the Capital Programme which runs up until 2033-2034. The information contained within this document is to help assist the public, Elected Members, Chief Officers, and their staff in understanding the current financial position and in preparing for future budgets.
2. Any enquiries about the content of this booklet should be made to the Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change, and Section 151 Officer, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or email talktous@bridgend.gov.uk.

* The Final Local Government Settlement included an increase in the Revenue Support Grant of £946,263 for Bridgend for 2024-25, compared to the figure included in the Budget approved by Council on 28 February 2024.

1.2 Key budget facts 2024-25



1.3 Financial overview

- 1.3.1 Since austerity began the Council has made almost £75.3 million of budget reductions. While the Council's net revenue budget is planned at £360.671 million for 2024-25, its overall expenditure far exceeds this. Taking into account expenditure and services which are funded by specific grants or fees and charges, the Council's gross budget for 2024-25 (excluding the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and town and community council precepts) is £499 million. When these are included it will be around £522 million for 2024-25.
- 1.3.2 The Council's annual revenue budget covers the day-to-day running costs of the Council (including staff salaries, contracted services, utilities, building maintenance, operational costs etc.). £217 million of the gross budget is spent on the Council's own staff including teachers and school support staff. Much of the cost of the services provided by external organisations is also wage related – these include, for example, waste collection operatives, domiciliary care workers, leisure staff and foster carers. The Council gets the majority of its revenue funding from Welsh Government through the Revenue Support Grant and a share of Non-Domestic Rates. It supplements this through council tax collection, other grants and fees and charges. Council tax is a charge that local authorities charge to help to pay for their services. The proportion of council tax required to balance the Council's budget has steadily increased over recent years and it currently funds 28% of the net budget.
- 1.3.3 As well as having less real income to fund services, there are other pressures that squeeze resources. Amongst these are:
- Legislative changes e.g. the Environmental (Wales) Act 2016, the Welsh Government's commitment to eradicate homelessness, local authorities' responsibilities in respect of responding to climate change and meeting net zero carbon targets, the implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and legislative changes in social care including new adult protection safeguarding requirements and changes to the Public Law Outline for children.
 - Demographic changes – the population is increasing, and people are living longer, which is obviously good news but that also can bring increased dependency through people living with more complex or multiple conditions which require social care and support. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic as there have been delays in access to NHS treatment and an impact on physical and mental health from extended lockdown periods. In addition, the complexities and challenges for children and families are very evident.
 - An increase in the number of pupils at our schools, which places increased pressure on school budgets, along with an increase in free school meals entitlement which brings additional funding pressures.
 - More recently, a reduction in the amount of council tax being collected, due to the difficult economic circumstances that people find themselves in. This is coupled with an increase in council tax support as more people find themselves on low incomes, claiming benefits or dealing with the cost of living pressure.
- 1.3.4 Budget Planning for the financial year 2024-25 is more uncertain than usual due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the impacts of inflation, constraints on funding and growth in demand, especially for social services. Whilst, on the whole, the UK and Welsh Governments had been supportive of the additional costs and burdens that emerged as a result of Covid, and covered most of the directly incurred costs, this level of funding is not going to be available going forward into 2024-25. In particular it is anticipated that some of the impact on levels of income in leisure, car parking and rental income, for example, may be a medium-term problem. In addition it is likely that there will be an additional call on the council tax reduction scheme in view of the inevitable economic impact of high inflation, and the level of council tax collection is estimated to be lower than previous years.

Furthermore, ongoing expenditure on matters relating to addressing homelessness more robustly, and supporting social care which is experiencing increased costs and need and demand for services, are likely to be significant. In these circumstances setting a balanced budget for 2024-25 has been even more challenging than usual, particularly on the back of multiple years of significant budget savings during the austerity years.

- 1.3.5 The Council has adopted a Corporate Plan that sets out the approaches that it will take to manage these pressures whilst continuing to ensure that, as far as possible, services can be provided that meet the needs of the citizens and communities in Bridgend. These approaches are:
- Though a large and complex organisation, the Council will make every effort to work as one single organisation. That means avoiding duplication and double handling of data through sharing of systems and processes. This is not always as easy as it sounds because often different rules or opportunities apply to different services. Nevertheless, acting as ‘One Council working together to improve lives’ is enshrined in the Council’s vision.
 - Wherever possible the Council will support communities and people to become more resilient by creating their own solutions and reducing dependency on the Council. This is because it is not sustainable for the Council to continue to aspire to meet all and every need that arises and because there is capacity, talent, and ideas in other parts of the community that can be encouraged to play an active and effective role in sustaining and often enhancing local services. The Council has a role in encouraging, enabling, and leading this approach and has adopted this as one of its underlying principles.
 - The Council has agreed a principle of focusing diminishing resources on communities and individuals with the greatest need. Parts of our community have long standing problems of poverty and disadvantage. The solutions to this are not all in the direct control of the Council (for example the effects of changes to the welfare system) but where possible the Council has agreed that it wants to both alleviate problems in these areas and develop longer term sustainable solutions. The socio-economic duty on public bodies, which came into force on 31 March 2021, reflects these aims.

1.4 Funding of the Council's services

1.4.1 Council services

The Council delivers or enables many hundreds of services across all the diverse communities within the county borough and is responsible for providing services such as education, social care, highways, parks and open spaces, public transport, rights of way, road safety, refuse collection, street cleaning, revenues and benefits, public protection, registrars and leisure services, arts and libraries through our partners HALO and Awen. The Council incurs two types of expenditure – revenue expenditure and capital expenditure.

1.4.2 Revenue expenditure

Revenue expenditure covers spending on day-to-day costs of services including staff salaries, maintenance of buildings and general supplies, commissioning, and equipment. This expenditure is paid for from the income received from council taxpayers, business ratepayers, the fees and charges levied for certain services and from grants received from Welsh Government.

1.4.3 Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure covers spending on assets such as roads, new schools, redevelopment schemes and the major renovation of buildings. These assets will provide benefits to the community for several years and the expenditure is mainly financed from borrowing, capital grants and the sale of unwanted land and buildings.

1.4.4 Sources of funding

The main sources of income that the Council receives are fees and charges, grants, business rates and council tax. A definition of these is provided below:

- **Fees and charges**

Sources of income from fees and charges vary from charges for parking to residential accommodation for the elderly, school meal charges, planning fees, charges for bulky waste collection, hire of facilities and income from commercial lets such as industrial units.

- **Government grants**

The Welsh Government provides funding for local authorities through a number of sources, including the largest single grant known as the Revenue Support Grant, which can be used for any purpose they choose in delivering the services for which they are responsible. Other funding provided to Councils by Welsh Government includes grants for specific purposes. In addition to the funding authorities receive from the Welsh Government, they receive some ring-fenced grants from other government bodies (these grants can only be used for the specific purposes for which they are provided).

- **Business rates**

Local authorities also receive income via Welsh Government from nationally set non-domestic (business) rates.

- **Council tax**

After taking account of income from fees and charges, government grants and non-domestic rates, revenue expenditure is financed by a council tax, levied on each property within the council's area, subject to certain discounts and exemptions. The council tax is the only tax-based element of the council's funding which is not determined by the Welsh Government. In 2024-25, council tax income represents 28% of the council's net revenue expenditure.

- **Capital financing**

Local authorities receive grants from Welsh Government for capital spending, and they can determine how much they can afford to borrow based on a prudent assessment of their finances using professional codes of practice (Prudential Code). Money borrowed under the code is referred to as Prudential Borrowing.



Section 2

**Summary of charges
to be levied**

Section 2: Summary of charges to be levied

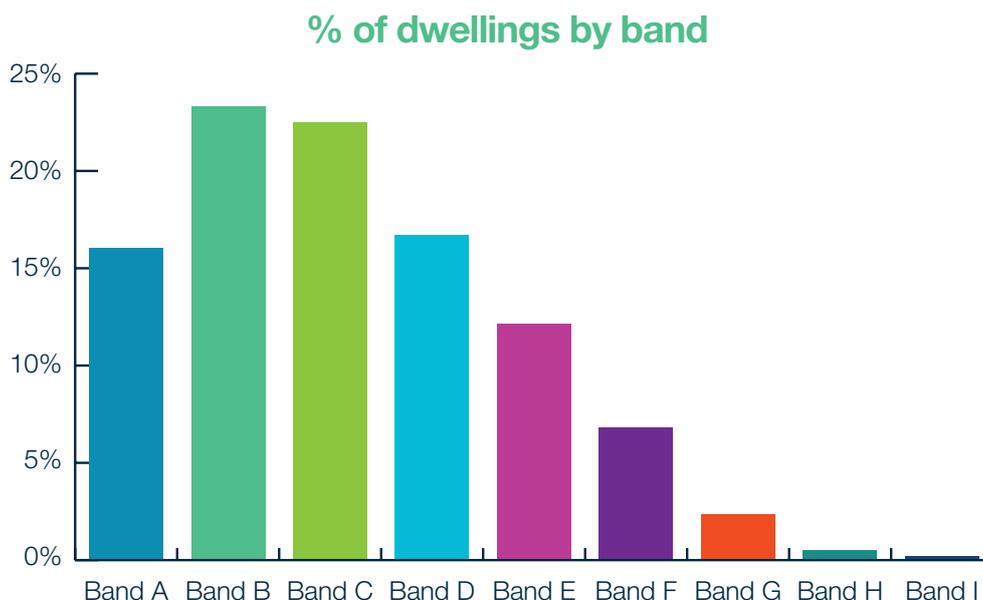
2.1 Council tax and band ranges values

2.1.1 The amount of council tax a resident pays depends on which band their property/dwelling is in. Each dwelling is allocated to one of nine bands by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an independent agency which is not part of the Council. Since 2005, council tax has been calculated using nine valuation bands (bands A to I) that were established in 2005 using 2003 house values. However, the VOA also assesses properties when asked to do so, such as during a council tax appeal or band review.

2.1.2 The table below provides details of the percentage of council dwellings by council tax band.

Band	Range of Dwelling Value (Property Value as at 1 st April 2003)	Ratio	Number of Dwellings	% of dwelling in band
A	Up to £44,000	6/9	10,547	15.98
B	£44,001 to £65,000	7/9	15,351	23.26
C	£65,001 to £91,000	8/9	14,794	22.41
D	£91,001 to £123,000	9/9	10,982	16.64
E	£123,001 to £162,000	11/9	7,972	12.08
F	£162,001 to £223,000	13/9	4,459	6.75
G	£223,001 to £324,000	15/9	1,505	2.28
H	£324,001 to £424,000	18/9	290	0.44
I	£424,001 and over	21/9	111	0.16
Total			66,011	100

The chart below shows the percentage of council tax dwellings in each banding.



61.65% of properties in Bridgend County Borough pay less than the 'Band D' equivalent which is the band used to compare levels of Council Tax across Local Authorities.

2.1.3 The table below shows the level of council tax for Bridgend County Borough Council's residents by valuation band. For Band D properties, which account for 16.64% of properties in Bridgend County Borough, the council's element of Council tax is £1,834.41.

Council Tax 2024-25 Band Range Values – Bridgend County Borough Council

Band	Range of Dwelling Value (Property Value as at 1 st April 2003)	Council Tax 2023-24 £	Council Tax 2024-25 £
A	Up to £44,000	1,116.84	1,222.94
B	£44,001 to £65,000	1,302.98	1,426.76
C	£65,001 to £91,000	1,489.12	1,630.59
D	£91,001 to £123,000	1,675.26	1,834.41
E	£123,001 to £162,000	2,047.54	2,242.06
F	£162,001 to £223,000	2,419.82	2,649.70
G	£223,001 to £324,000	2,792.10	3,057.35
H	£324,001 to £424,000	3,350.52	3,668.82
I	£424,001 and over	3,908.94	4,280.29

2.1.4 The council tax bill for the 2024-25 financial year (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025) is made up of charges from Bridgend County Borough Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and Community and Town Councils. The Council collects the charges for the other two bodies via the council tax mechanism. The monies collected are then paid over to the relevant bodies in line with the amount they have included in their budget to be charged to households in the county borough of Bridgend.

2.2 Council tax requirement 2024-25

2.2.1 To finalise its budget the Council must set a council tax requirement – the amount of money to be raised by council tax. This is after funding all pressures and assessing the levels of income from the government and elsewhere. Council tax currently accounts for 28% of the money that the Council receives. The level of the increase seeks to strike an appropriate balance between the needs of the Council and its citizens. The Gross Council Tax base for Bridgend for 2024-25 is 56,887.89 Band D equivalent properties and the estimated collection rate is 97.5%. The Net Council tax base is, therefore, 55,465.69, which gives a Band D council tax of £1,834.41, as detailed in the table below:

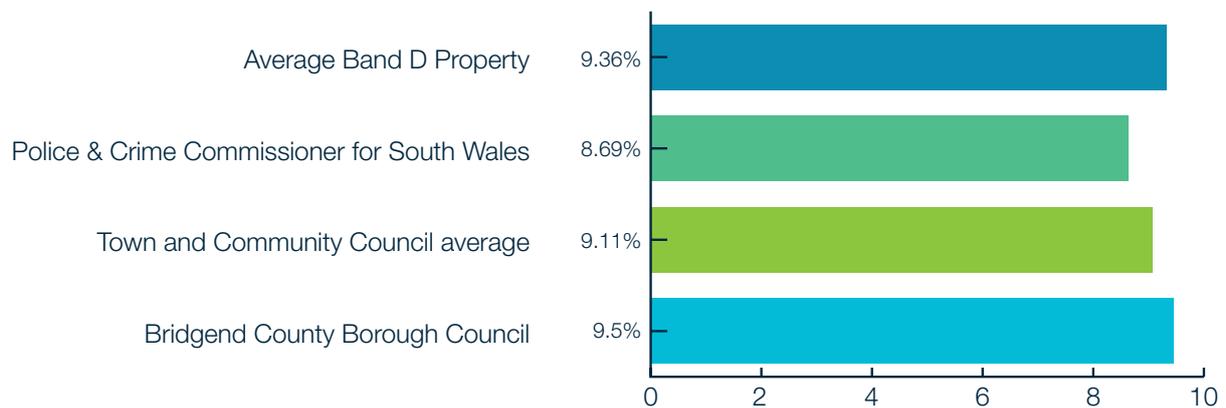
The average Bridgend County Borough Council Tax is calculated below:

Bridgend County Borough Council	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Expenditure charged to Revenue Account	481,891,123	498,715,877
Income credited to Revenue Account	(139,556,790)	(138,044,460)
Net Expenditure Budget	342,334,333	360,671,417
Partly Funded by:		
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(202,556,406)	(205,952,692)
NDR (Business Rates) Distribution	(47,625,526)	(52,971,909)
Amount to be funded by BCBC	92,152,401	101,746,816
Council Tax Requirement	92,152,401	101,746,816
Net Council Tax Base (Band D Equivalent)	55,007.82	55,465.69
Band D Council Tax Requirement	£1,675.26	£1,834.41
Percentage Change over previous year	4.9%	9.5%

2.3 Band D council tax % increase 2024-25

2.3.1 The amount to be met from council tax this year amounts to £101.747 million. This includes a 9.5% increase to the average Band D charge for the county borough council element. This is due to the pressures the council is facing. The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales precept for a Band D property has increased by 8.69%, and the average Band D Town and Community council precept has increased by 9.11%. The total average overall increase in council tax for a Band D property is 9.36%.

Band D Council Tax % change 2024-25



2.4 Band D council tax charges by town and community council area 2024-25

2.4.1 The previous table showed the council tax for Bridgend County Borough Council's residents by property band. Town and Community Council precepts vary across the County Borough, producing variations in the total payable by a householder in the same council tax band in different areas of the County Borough, and the table below shows a breakdown of the total council tax charge, including the total payable by Town and Community Council area for 2024-25 for a Band D property:

Town and Community Council	Bridgend CBC £	Community and Town Council £	Police £	Total £
Brackla Community Council	1,834.41	45.21	352.67	2,232.29
Bridgend Town Council	1,834.41	118.82	352.67	2,305.90
Cefn Cribbwr Community Council	1,834.41	75.04	352.67	2,262.12
Coity Higher Community Council	1,834.41	28.83	352.67	2,215.91
Cornelly Community Council	1,834.41	58.39	352.67	2,245.47
Coychurch Higher Community Council	1,834.41	31.09	352.67	2,218.17
Coychurch Lower Community Council	1,834.41	70.42	352.67	2,257.50
Garw Valley Community Council	1,834.41	52.65	352.67	2,239.73
Laleston Community Council	1,834.41	55.98	352.67	2,243.06
Llangynwyd Lower Community Council	1,834.41	54.97	352.67	2,242.05
Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	1,834.41	69.01	352.67	2,256.09
Maesteg Town Council	1,834.41	62.95	352.67	2,250.03
Merthyr Mawr Community Council	1,834.41	33.14	352.67	2,220.22
Newcastle Higher Community Council	1,834.41	28.80	352.67	2,215.88
Ogmore Valley Community Council	1,834.41	35.47	352.67	2,222.55
Pencoed Town Council	1,834.41	50.48	352.67	2,237.56
Porthcawl Town Council	1,834.41	59.16	352.67	2,246.24
Pyle Community Council	1,834.41	53.06	352.67	2,240.14
St Brides Minor Community Council	1,834.41	29.10	352.67	2,216.18
Ynysawdre Community Council	1,834.41	31.78	352.67	2,218.86

2.5 Non-domestic (business) rates (NDR)

- 2.5.1 NDR are the means by which businesses and other owners of non-domestic property contribute towards the costs of local authority services. Business rates are an annual, national tax. Ratepayers and owners of all non-domestic and business properties pay business rates, and examples of liable properties include shops, offices, pubs, warehouses and factories.
- 2.5.2 The National Business Rate multiplier is set by Welsh Government each year in accordance with paragraph 3B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The calculation is based on a formula which takes account of the annual change in Consumer Price Index (CPI), and for the financial year 2024-25 the multiplier has increased to £0.562. Welsh Government said “We have taken the decision to cap the increase to the non-domestic rates multiplier for 2024-25 to 5%, at a recurring annual cost to the Welsh budget of £18m. This is lower than the 6.7% increase that would otherwise apply from the default inflation of the multiplier in line with CPI and will benefit all ratepayers who do not already receive full relief”.

Non-Domestic (Business) Rates	2023-24	2024-25
National Business Rate Multiplier (set by Welsh Government)	53.5p per £	56.2p per £

- 2.5.3 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) are calculated by taking the Rateable Value (RV) of a property and multiplying it by the NDR ‘multiplier’ for the year in question.
- 2.5.4 Bridgend County Borough Council collects business rates on behalf of Welsh Government. A share of the sum collected is then redistributed to Welsh local authorities, based on each authority’s adult population, as part of the local government settlement, to pay for services.
- 2.5.5 Information on properties that are exempt from paying business rates, or pay a reduced rate is available at the following website address: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/topics-and-guidance/business-tax-rates-and-premises/business-rates-wales>



Section 3

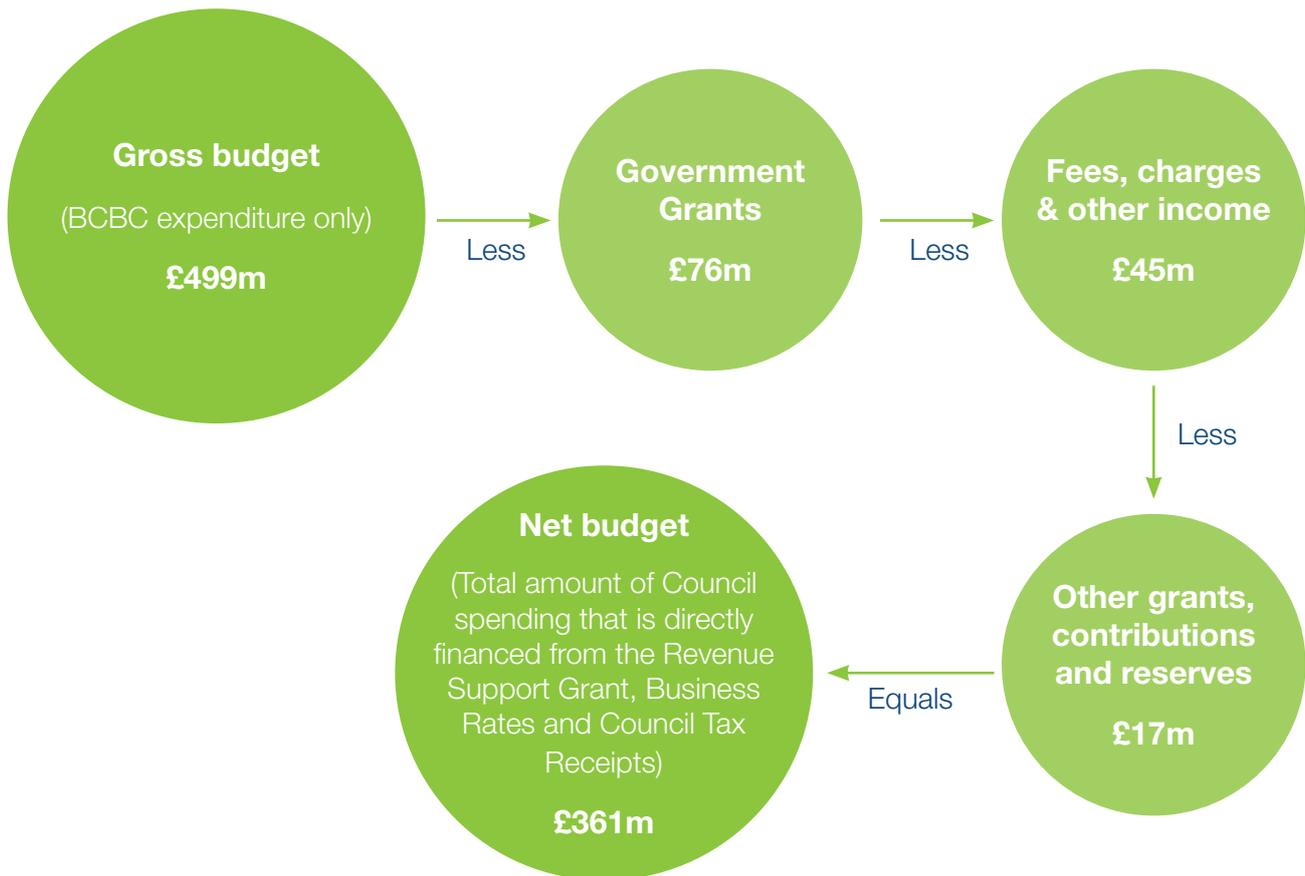
**Revenue budget
2024-25**

Section 3: Revenue budget 2024-25

3.1 Gross budget to net budget

3.1.1 As part of the budget and the council tax setting process, the Council is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 32) to produce a calculation of estimated net expenditure known as the budget requirement.

The diagram below explains the difference between gross and net budget:



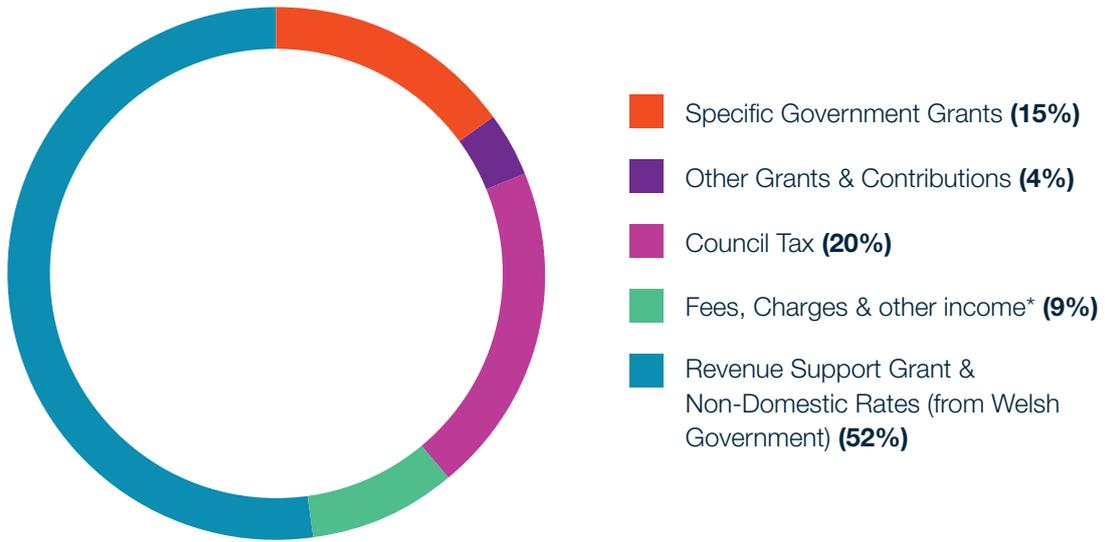
3.1.2 Revenue Budget

This is the account from which day to day spending on a local authority's services is met. It is the most scrutinised and publicised expenditure as it covers all of the Council's services and it is funded in part, although not solely, from council tax income.

3.2 Gross revenue budget

The charts below outline our gross income and spending plans for 2024-25. The gross cost of revenue services provided by the Council in 2024-25 is £499 million; this includes expenditure financed by other income streams including other government grants, other grants and contributions, customer and client receipts and interest on investments.

Where the money comes from 2024-25 Gross Revenue Income (£498.715m)



* Fees, Charges and Other Income includes transfers of funding from earmarked reserves (£4.466m), inter-directorate recharges (£8.110m), internal Income including contract related income (£9.464m) and income from customers and clients (£26.139m).

Where each £1 spent by the Council comes from

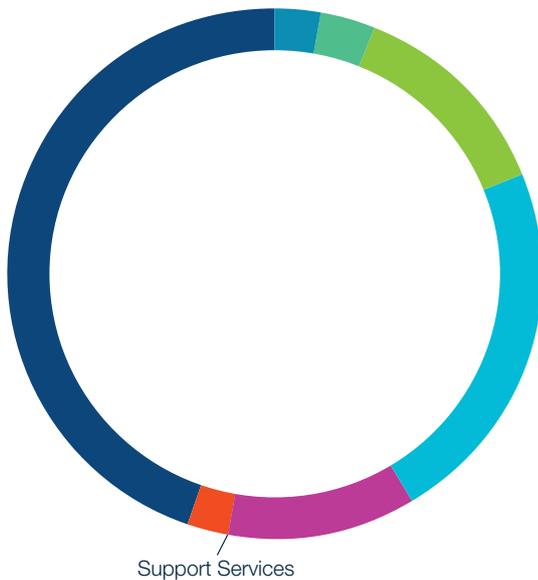


- 52p** Welsh Government Revenue Support Grant and Non-Domestic Rates
- 20p** Council Tax
- 15p** Specific Government Grants
- 9p** Fees, Charges and Other Income
- 4p** Other Grants and Contributions

A breakdown of the gross revenue expenditure by category of spend is provided in the table below:

Where the money is spent - by category of spend

Gross expenditure by type of spend 2024-25 (£498.715m)

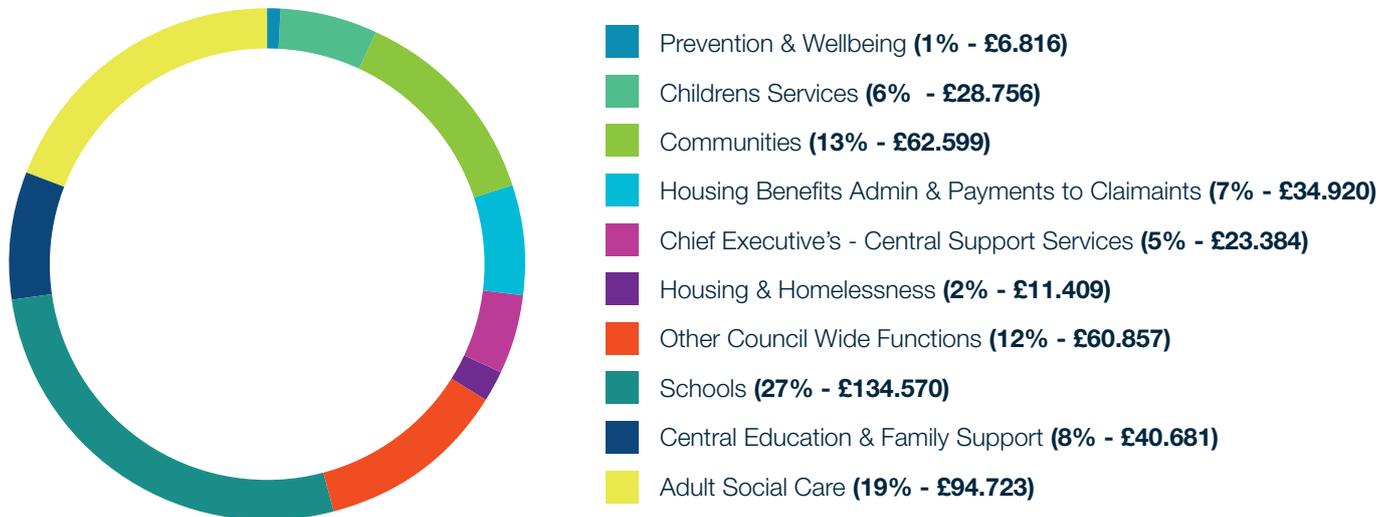


- Premises Related Costs (2.82% - £14.072m)**
- Transport Related Expenditure (3.51% - £17.482m)**
- Supplies & Services (12.81% - £63.867m)**
- Third Party Payments (22.57% - £112.549m)**
- Transfer Payments (11.38% - £56.732m)**
- Support Services (0.01% - £0.026m)**
- Capital Financing Costs (2.26% - £11.295m)**
- Employee Costs (44.64% - £222.692m)**

A breakdown of the gross revenue expenditure by service area is provided in the table below:

Where the money is spent – by service area

Where the money is spent Gross revenue expenditure 2024-25 (£498.715m)



Note: Other Council Wide Functions includes Capital Financing Costs, Levies, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and corporate provision for pay and prices.

Chief Executive's - Central Support Services - includes: Finance, Audit, HR, ICT, Legal & Democratic & Regulatory Services, Housing & Homelessness, Business Support, and Elections & Partnerships.

Communities - includes Facilities & Asset Management, Planning & Development Services, Strategic Regeneration, Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability, Cleaner Streets & Waste Management, Corporate Landlord and Highways & Green Spaces.

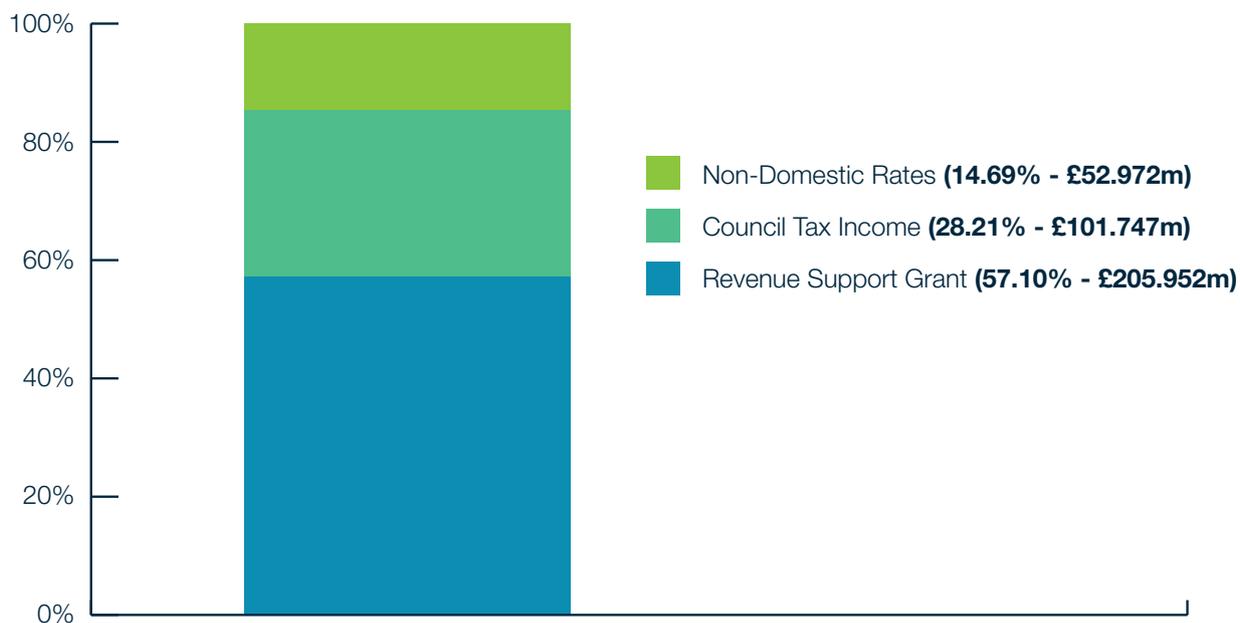
3.3 Net revenue budget

The charts below outline our net income and spending plans for 2024-25. The net cost of revenue services provided by the Council in 2024-25 is £360.671 million; this only includes expenditure financed by the revenue support grant, share of non domestic rates and council tax.

Funding of net revenue budget

The following chart analyses the principal sources of funding of net expenditure for 2024-25:

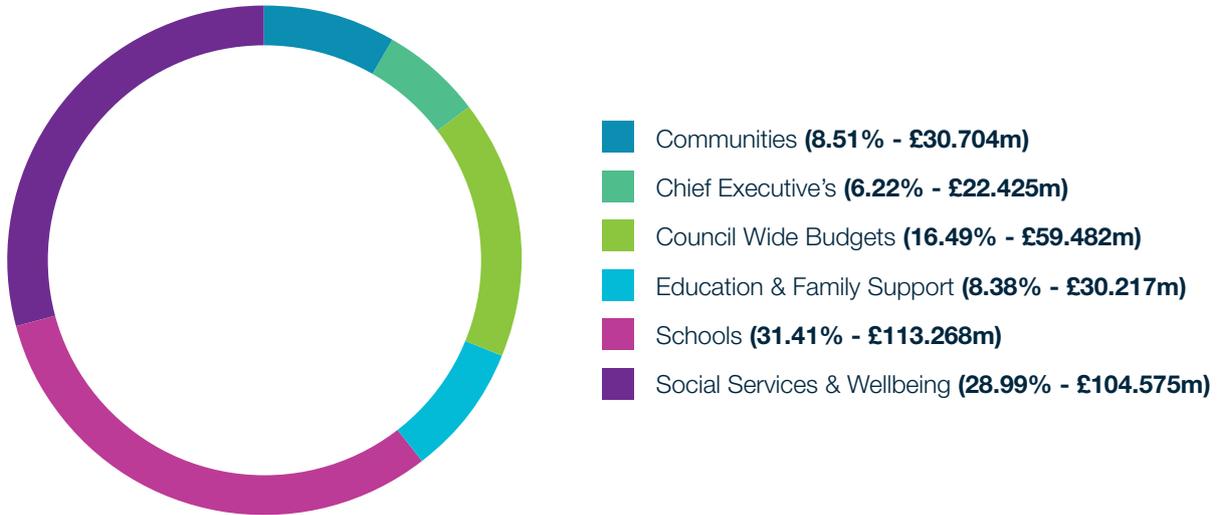
Funding of net revenue expenditure 2024-25 (Total £360.671m)



Net revenue budget by service

The chart below shows the net revenue budget of £360.671 million by service area:

Net service expenditure 2024-25 (£360.671m)



Net revenue budget by category of spend

The table below provides details of the net revenue expenditure by category of spend:

Bridgend County Borough Council	Budget £ million	%
Employee Costs	222.692	44.65
Premises Related costs	14.072	2.82
Transport Related Expenditure	17.482	3.51
Supplies And Services	63.867	12.80
Third Party Payments	112.549	22.57
Transfer Payments	56.732	11.38
Support Services	0.026	0.01
Capital Financing Costs	11.295	2.26
Gross Budget	498.715	100
Grants and Other Income		
Specific Government grants	(76.373)	
Other Grants And Contributions	(16.581)	
Fees, Charges And Other Income	(45.090)	
Net Budget	360.671	

Notional breakdown of Band D council tax by service

A notional breakdown of the 2024-25 net revenue budget based on a Band D equivalent of £1,834.41 (9.5% increase), as an example, is provided in the table below:

Service Expenditure	Net Budget £m	Notional Band D Equivalent
Central Education And Family Support	30.217	£153.69
Schools	113.268	£576.09
Social Services And Wellbeing	104.575	£531.88
Communities	30.704	£156.16
Chief Executive's	22.425	£114.06
Council Wide Budgets		
Capital Financing	7.052	£35.87
Levies	9.635	£49.00
Repairs And Maintenance	0.670	£3.41
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16.054	£81.65
Apprenticeship Levy	0.750	£3.81
Pension Related Costs	0.430	£2.19
Insurance Premiums	1.363	£6.93
Other Council Wide Budgets	23.528	£119.67
Net Expenditure to be funded	360.671	£1,834.41

3.4 Net revenue expenditure by directorate

3.4.1 Education and Family Support overview

The Council is proposing to spend £143 million on services delivered by the Education and Family Support Directorate in 2024-2025, prior to the allocation of additional funding for pay and price increases.

The majority of this money will be spent by the 59 schools across the County Borough.

Schools are the biggest single area of spend of the Council.

In addition to the £113 million proposed budget to be delegated to schools in 2024-2025, the Council has already spent £21.6 million in building and refurbishing schools as part of our 21st Century School Modernisation Band A Programme and has provisionally committed to a further £19 million as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

These sums comprise one-off capital expenditure across several years, including funding for land and infrastructure works, with significant match funding from Welsh Government.

The concepts proposed are based around forecast demand for primary school places, our support to promote the growth in Welsh-medium education and our desire to create additional capacity to meet the needs of children with additional learning needs in Heronsbridge School. It is likely that this will represent the biggest area of capital expenditure for the Council in future years. The Council has a longer-term goal to make the overall schools' system more efficient (for example, through making sure we have the right number of school places available in the right parts of the county (including ensuring enough capacity for anticipated future increases in school age population)).

The Council's well-being objectives prioritise supporting vulnerable people and helping them to be more self-sufficient. Early intervention is an important part of this – taking steps wherever possible to prevent people becoming reliant on Council services. As well as being of great social value to individuals and communities, this approach is more cost effective in the longer term. Successful intervention at an early age and at an early stage can prevent needs from escalating and requiring more costly and complex help later on.

3.4.1.1 Education and family support revenue: services provided

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Learning	
6,598,760	Additional Learning Needs	6,830,460
60,160	Adult Community Learning	-
6,658,920	Sub-Total	6,830,460
	Strategic Partnership and Commissioning	
803,590	Youth Service	1,296,230
2,379,260	Family Support	2,536,940
3,182,850	Sub-Total	3,833,170
	Business Support	
10,385,120	Business Support	12,240,720
400,730	Health and Safety	363,080
10,785,850	Sub-Total	12,603,800
	Schools Support	
610,970	School Improvement	574,780
67,650	School Music Service	(14,210)
678,620	Sub-Total	560,570
	Schools Modernisation	
3,772,770	Schools Modernisation	3,874,280
3,772,770	Sub-Total	3,874,280
	Vulnerable Group Support	
792,210	Vulnerable Group Support	762,840
792,210	Sub-Total	762,840
	Strategic Management	
1,828,780	Strategic Management	1,751,880
1,828,780	Sub-Total	1,751,880
	Delegated School Budgets	
109,788,000	Individual School Budgets	113,268,000
109,788,000	Sub-Total	113,268,000
137,488,000	Total: Education and Family Support	143,485,000

3.4.1.2 Education and family support revenue: type of spend

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	CENTRAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Employees	
3,163,930	Teachers	2,909,470
272,050	Chief Officers	283,940
13,713,380	Officers	13,357,780
306,010	Youth Leaders	320,850
443,390	Soulbury Officers	442,800
25,000	Agency Staff	25,000
960,270	Staff Training and Historic Pension Costs	943,460
	Premises Related Expenditure	
175,500	Repairs and Maintenance	21,500
15,000	Maintenance of Grounds	-
20,770	Energy Costs	20,770
96,850	Rents	62,050
10,840	Business Rates / Council Tax	10,840
1,440	Water Services	1,440
2,100	Cleaning and Domestic Supplies	2,100
26,450	Shared Building Related Costs	14,000
2,800	Premises Insurance	2,800
23,170	Other Premises Related Costs	22,620
	Transport Related Costs	
10,700	Direct Transport Costs	10,700
29,170	Fleet Services Hire	34,070
7,845,930	Contact Hire and Operating Leases	9,647,000
6,330	Public Transport	5,700
140,160	Car Allowances	106,430

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	CENTRAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT (continued)	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Supplies and Services	
461,430	Equipment, Materials and Furniture	443,650
1,825,860	Catering	1,819,150
11,760	Clothing, Uniforms, Laundry	11,760
71,750	Printing, Stationery, Etc.	60,870
4,720	Advertising	4,240
738,240	Grants and Subscriptions	718,560
189,840	Other Hired and Professional Services	172,890
60,190	Communications / Computing	58,530
6,110	Staff Expenses	3,900
1,253,190	Early Years Grants and ALN Provision	1,786,740
50	Insurances	50
2,643,330	Maesteg PFI Revenue Costs	2,750,430
	Third Party Payments	
1,699,170	Other Local Authorities and Joint Committees	1,622,490
1,526,250	Voluntary Organisations	2,026,250
54,230	External Contractors	54,230
	Support Services	
600	Departmental Administration	600
	Capital Financing Costs	
907,960	Prudential Borrowing Repayments	900,960
38,745,920	Total Expenditure	40,680,620
	Income	
(4,821,700)	Grants	(4,269,550)
(1,234,100)	Other Reimbursements and Contributions	(1,229,190)
(3,819,830)	Customer / Client Receipts	(3,843,330)
(1,170,290)	Recharges to other revenue accounts	(1,121,550)
(11,045,920)	Total Income	(10,463,620)
27,700,000	Total: Central Education and Family Support	30,217,000

3.4.1.3 Schools' revenue budget: type of spend

School Type	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
Primary	54,965,050
Secondary	47,382,470
Special	10,920,480
Total	113,268,000

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	DELEGATED SCHOOLS BUDGETS	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Employees	
79,005,050	Teachers	82,176,510
28,645,050	Officers	28,767,090
80,300	Youth Leaders	80,300
1,751,020	Agency Staff	1,751,020
108,200	Indirect Employee Expenses	108,200
	Premises Related Expenditure	
1,226,500	Repairs and Maintenance	1,226,500
186,520	Maintenance Of Grounds	186,520
2,358,690	Energy Costs	2,358,690
79,000	Rents	79,000
2,079,880	Business Rates / Council Tax	2,245,880
333,930	Water Services	333,930
138,400	Fixtures and Fittings	138,400
797,700	Cleaning and Domestic Supplies	797,700
34,300	Premises Insurance	34,300
88,000	Other Premises Related Costs	88,000
	Transport Related Costs	
30,950	Direct Transport Costs	30,950
500	Fleet Services Hire	500
187,500	Contact Hire and Operating Leases	187,500
4,680	Public Transport	4,680
15,700	Transport Insurances	15,700
29,600	Car Allowances	29,600

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	DELEGATED SCHOOLS BUDGETS (continued)	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Supplies and Services	
3,336,900	Equipment, Materials and Furniture	3,336,900
4,689,160	Catering	4,709,660
2,700	Clothing, Uniforms, Laundry	2,700
329,100	Printing, Stationery, Etc.	329,100
7,000	Advertising	7,000
28,800	Grants and Subscriptions	28,800
153,700	Other Hired and Professional Services	153,700
1,081,500	Communications / Computing	1,081,500
2,705,560	Service Level Agreements	2,705,560
8,900	Conference Fees	8,900
79,100	Insurances	79,100
	Third Party Payments	
20,000	Other Local Authorities and Joint Committees	20,000
1,382,100	External Contractors	1,382,100
200	Highways - Safety and Aids	200
	Transfer Payments	
83,800	Clothing Grants	83,800
131,089,990	Total Expenditure	134,569,990
	Income	
(15,939,320)	Grants	(16,039,320)
(1,491,060)	Other Reimbursements and Contributions	(1,425,760)
(3,738,470)	Customer / Client Receipts	(3,704,270)
(8,300)	Interest	(8,300)
(90,500)	Recharges To Other Directorates (Internal)	(90,000)
(34,340)	Earmarked Reserve Related Transfers	(34,340)
(21,301,990)	Total Income	(21,301,990)
109,788,000	Total: Delegated Schools Budgets	113,268,000

3.4.2 Social Services and Wellbeing overview

After Education, the largest area of Council spend is on social care. Social care includes social work and social care for children and for adults with care and support needs. Well-being and prevention includes the partnerships with Halo and Awen for leisure and culture services in the county borough. Within the Directorate there is a focus on supporting the most vulnerable, safeguarding and protecting people from harm, supporting their well-being and connection, and high quality social work practice. The Directorate works with partners to ensure people's needs are met preventatively where possible which, when this works well, means statutory social care services are focussed on those with the highest level of needs. The Directorate continues to work with others to develop the most effective service delivery options, and this includes better support and outcomes for prevention, early intervention, and wellbeing. This approach supports the well-being objective of 'helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient' and is also part of the Council's transformation plan. Financial strategy and service strategy need to be aligned in an area where the budget is needs led and can be volatile, particularly as need for support increases with demographic changes, the long-term impact of pandemic lockdowns and the cost of living crisis. Our strategic plans are focused on embedding strength-based models of practice and supporting adults, children and families and carers to live their best lives, safeguarding where necessary and working with others for them to realign their services to impact and prevent escalation of need.

Social services is largely a needs led service and thus the long-term workforce, service and financial strategies need to align to enable people and families to live well and inter-dependently, connected to the people that matter to them and their communities. Demographics show that people are living longer, often with more complex conditions than ever before. This means that there are more people living in the community who would previously have remained in hospital or entered a care home. Children's social care is also needs led and the financial pressure to meet need can fluctuate very rapidly. Needs are met and personal outcomes achieved within available budgets. In total, the Council is proposing to spend £104.6 million on social care and wellbeing services in 2024-25.

3.4.2.1 Social Services and Wellbeing: services provided

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Adult Social Care	
26,065,158	Older People	29,543,450
5,574,350	Adult Physical Disability / Sensory Impairment	5,944,300
21,033,631	Adults Learning Disabilities	25,082,500
4,839,844	Adults Mental Health Needs	5,399,000
239,350	Substance Misuse and Mental Health Voluntary Adult Services	815,290
5,211,840	Wellbeing Management, Central Admin & Training	4,327,950
62,964,173	Sub-Total	71,112,490
	Prevention and Wellbeing	
5,696,460	Recreation and Sport	5,819,460
5,696,460	Sub-Total	5,819,460
	Childrens Services	
24,130,367	Childrens Services	27,643,050
24,130,367	Sub-Total	27,643,050
92,791,000	Total: Social Services And Wellbeing	104,575,000

3.4.2.2 Social Services and Wellbeing budget: type of spend

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Employees	
482,800	Chief Officers	590,310
42,903,660	Officers	48,645,370
348,360	Indirect Employee Expenses	294,360
46,250	Off Payroll Working (IR35)	43,780
	Premises Related Expenditure	
386,890	Repairs and Maintenance	386,890
25,000	Maintenance	17,000
43,190	Energy Costs	43,190
251,650	Rents	253,250
5,970	Business Rates / Council Tax	15,970
16,950	Water Services	16,950
1,000	Fixtures and Fittings	1,000
17,450	Cleaning and Domestic Supplies	21,150
53,930	Shared Building Related Costs	53,930
166,850	Other Premises Related Costs	167,250
	Transport Related Costs	
62,540	Direct Transport Costs	58,540
222,200	Fleet Services Hire	204,110
168,760	Hire and Leasing Of Vehicles	168,760
20,770	Travel Expenses	20,420
618,320	Car Allowances	461,060

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING (continued)	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Supplies and Services	
647,400	Equipment, Materials and Furniture	651,260
512,460	Catering	556,460
26,300	Clothing, Uniforms, Laundry	24,650
86,330	Printing, Stationery, Etc.	80,500
30,000	Advertising	30,000
945,280	Other Hired and Professional Services including sports leisure management	638,010
913,300	Other Hired and Professional Services	955,770
194,680	Communications / Computing	194,510
90,520	Miscellaneous Supplies and Services	80,260
	Third Party Payments	
3,309,870	Other Local Authorities and Joint Committees	3,051,640
5,040,230	Voluntary Organisations	5,120,860
47,956,770	Purchase Of Care Packages (External) / Management Fees for Leisure and Culture	54,767,000
5,174,120	Fostering, Adoption, Special Guardianship Orders	5,306,140
219,040	Looked After Children, Care and Sundry Support Payments	219,040
5,977,370	Direct Payments	7,011,330
	Capital Financing Costs	
145,000	Prudential Borrowing Repayments	145,000
117,111,210	Total Expenditure	130,295,720
	Income	
(4,593,730)	Income	(4,815,650)
(7,407,180)	Grants	(7,950,130)
(11,134,690)	Other Reimbursements and Contributions	(12,215,120)
(136,810)	Customer / Client Receipts	(136,810)
(1,047,800)	Recharges to other Directorates (Internal)	(603,010)
(24,320,210)	Total Income	(25,720,720)
92,791,000	Total: Social Services And Wellbeing	104,575,000

3.4.3 Communities overview

3.4.3.1 Regeneration

Whilst this is a Council priority, services such as regeneration and economic development as a discretionary service have nevertheless made significant reductions to their budgets over recent years. The Council has delivered this by employing fewer but more highly skilled staff, and focussing activity more narrowly on priority areas to maximise impact. Going forward, we will increasingly collaborate on a regional basis with the other Councils that will make up the newly formed Corporate Joint Committee. This will have a strategic function for planning, transport and economic development. The City Deal work will continue into the Corporate Joint Committee.

This long-term investment will continue to target raising economic prosperity, increasing job prospects and improving digital and transport connectivity. To have an effective relationship with the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) the Council will maintain as far as possible existing investment in its transport planning, spatial planning and regeneration teams to reflect this direction of travel.

The Council will be spending in the region of £2.8 million a year running these services. These teams will ensure successful delivery of high profile regeneration projects, including the numerous regeneration projects in Porthcawl and the implementation of the Placemaking Strategy. Other schemes include the redevelopment of Ewenny Road in Maesteg for both housing and employment uses, where the remediation of the site is being funded by a £3.5 million Housing Viability Grant from the Cardiff Capital Region. In addition, through its Metro programme, and together with Welsh Government, the Cardiff Capital Region provides the principal funding mechanism for large strategic transport projects within the region. Current projects include £3.8 million for the Porthcawl Metrolink bus facility, which will open in April 2024.

The Communities Directorate will continue to operate a number of grant funded programmes of work to support our most vulnerable groups and those furthest away from employment, including training and skills and work support programmes under the Employability Bridgend programme. The Council has been awarded over £20 million from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to undertake various programmes with partners across the county over the next two years, including training and new business start-up grants. In addition, a bid to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF), for the complete refurbishment of the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl was successfully made and an award of £18 million confirmed. A planning application has been submitted and it anticipated that the main construction work on the Grand Pavilion could commence in the autumn of 2024 with the building completed by April 2026.

3.4.3.2 Public realm (street scene)

The Communities Directorate work on the public realm has a direct and visible impact on everybody. This includes our work to maintain highways, parks and open spaces, clean our streets, and collect and dispose of our waste.

Bridgend is consistently in the top 2 of best performing waste recycling authorities in Wales, however the Council has continued to see higher overall domestic waste due to the impact of people continuing to work from home. We expect to spend in the region of £11 million on the collection and disposal of waste in 2024-25 and a new interim waste contract let to a new provider "Plan B" up to March 2026 will be using the same vehicles and collection methodology as the previous service provider, Kier.

A major challenge for the Council is how to continue to meet public expectations for many highly visible and tangible services when the reduced available overall Council budget inevitably means the Council will be less able to deliver these services to the same level and frequency. Specific identified cost savings that will challenge public expectations for the 2024-25 year include, closure of Community Recycling Centres for one day per week, that commenced in February 2024 and the proposed implementation of charging in car parks for Blue Badge holders from Summer 2024.

We will continue to also develop alternative ways of delivering and sustaining services including greater and more effective collaboration and encouraging others to work with us or assume direct responsibility for services and in some cases through a flexible approach to community asset transfer (CAT), ensuring that appropriate advice and both capital investment (from the CAT fund in the capital programme) and revenue support (from the sports club support fund) are made available.

3.4.3.3 Communities: services provided

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	COMMUNITIES	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Corporate Landlord	
81,660	Corporate Landlord Management	87,190
724,290	Total Facilities Management	696,573
1,907,820	Strategic Asset Management	1,806,327
94,470	Capital Design and Delivery	48,790
118,390	Community Asset Transfer	109,000
2,926,630	Sub-Total	2,747,880
	Strategic Management	
275,970	Strategic Management	279,440
275,970	Sub-Total	279,440
	Planning and Development Services	
(204,170)	Development Control	(82,830)
1,074,190	Development Planning	907,310
76,800	Building Control	81,840
(272,400)	Highways Policy and Development	(274,590)
674,420	Sub-Total	631,730
	Strategic Regeneration	
92,210	Conservation and Design	115,740
1,455,480	Regeneration Projects and Approaches	680,750
134,610	Regeneration Funding and Engagement	136,200
1,682,300	Sub-Total	932,690
	Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	
599,800	Climate Change Response	581,050
240,330	Countryside Management	226,000
557,940	Economic Resilience and Growth	456,640
167,900	Employability and Enterprise	77,090
94,550	Marine and Coastal Services	71,730
1,660,520	Sub-Total	1,412,510

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	COMMUNITIES (continued)	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	
33,740	Public Conveniences	0
440,740	Enforcement	447,430
1,657,910	Other Cleaning	1,779,490
3,789,040	Waste Disposal	3,873,860
5,940,670	Waste Collection	6,830,620
11,862,100	Sub-total	12,931,400
	Highways and Green Spaces	
8,015,820	Highways	8,282,770
134,540	Fleet Services	156,440
753,060	Traffic and Transport	810,230
101,150	Engineering Services	125,290
2,458,490	Parks, Playing Fields and Bereavement Services	2,393,343
11,463,060	Sub-total	11,768,073
30,545,000	Total: Communities	30,703,723

3.4.3.4 Communities budget: type of spend

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	COMMUNITIES	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Employees	
273,430	Chief Officers*	659,020
18,100,730	Officers**	21,092,353
496,860	Agency Staff	503,530
10,220	Indirect Employee Expenses	12,720
	Premises Related Expenditure	
1,817,450	Repairs and Maintenance	1,892,860
190,260	Maintenance Of Grounds	170,220
551,310	Energy Costs	630,830
524,210	Rents	500,110
877,990	Business Rates / Council Tax	797,480
109,710	Water Services	109,590
8,550	Fixtures and Fittings	7,150
320,130	Cleaning and Domestic Supplies	322,950
2,500	Shared Building Related Costs	2,500
14,050	Premises Insurance	14,050
59,570	Other Premises Related Costs	74,117
	Transport Related Costs	
1,012,820	Direct Transport Costs	1,025,780
184,810	Fleet Services Hire	176,870
4,625,860	Concessionary Fares and Transport Grants	4,628,520
4,700	Public Transport	4,700
550,450	Car Allowances	455,360
	Supplies and Services	
2,086,120	Equipment, Materials and Furniture	2,088,690
20,510	Catering	7,400
24,630	Clothing, Uniforms, Laundry	17,250
97,080	Printing, Stationery, Etc.	82,860
160,320	Advertising	101,490
666,960	Grants and Subscriptions	620,683
2,524,380	Other Hired and Professional Services	3,809,650
252,450	Communications / Computing	263,850
7,800	Staff Expenses e.g. conference fees	2,500
276,010	Miscellaneous Supplies and Services	417,760

* Reflects realignment of Chief Officers budget

* Increase due to additional grant funded posts

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	COMMUNITIES (continued)	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Third Party Payments	
150,930	Direct Service Organisations (DSO)	153,400
159,960	Other Local Authorities and Joint Committees	175,720
101,220	Voluntary Organisations	101,320
16,373,800	Contractors	17,675,860
1,028,490	Highways - Structural	787,930
170,350	Highways - Cyclical	75,700
161,580	Highways - Safety and Aids	161,580
229,910	Highways - Winter Maintenance	289,910
801,260	Highways - Street Lighting	801,260
25,220	Highways - Technical Surveys	30,220
	Support Services	
25,000	Departmental Administration	25,000
	Capital Financing Costs	
2,485,650	Debt Management Expenses	1,828,540
250	Finance Leases	
57,565,490	Total Expenditure	62,599,283
	Income	
(5,191,600)	Grants	(8,903,410)
(104,160)	Other Reimbursements and Contributions	(182,120)
(14,452,340)	Customer / Client Receipts	(14,537,430)
(150)	Interest	0
(4,453,580)	Internal Recharges	(5,054,130)
(2,818,660)	Earmarked Reserves	(3,218,470)
(27,020,490)	Total Income	(31,895,560)
30,545,000	Total: Communities	30,703,723

3.4.4 Chief Executive's overview

3.4.4.1 The service area plays a key role as a provider of both front line services (e.g. Council Tax, Benefits and Housing) and internal support services across the Council. There are a number of proposed budget cuts for 2024-25 all of which will compromise the ability to support front line services and potentially reduce response times, necessitating a greater focus on priorities.

The following functions are undertaken within the service area:

- **Finance**

The Council has a central team that manages all of the financial management of the Council. The service fulfils certain legal requirements that ensures transparency and accountability in the way that public money is used. The finance section will be looking to further improve and enhance business processes to improve efficiency and also meet legislative changes.

- **Internal audit**

Our Regional Internal Audit Shared Service is provided by a joint service that we share with the Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Council. The service carries out routine checks and investigations to ensure that the Council maintains good governance – especially as it relates to the proper accountability of money and other resources. The service will also undertake specialist one-off pieces of work if required. The level of service to be provided by the joint service in 2024-25 has been reviewed.

- **Human Resources (HR) and Organisational Development (OD)**

With over 6,000 employees including schools, the Council needs a dedicated human resources service. The primary role of the service is to provide professional advice, guidance and support to managers and staff on a wide range of HR and OD issues as well as provide HR services for the payment of salaries, pension, contracts and absence administration. Other services include training and development, recruitment and retention, developing employee skills and 'growing our own' through our Graduate and Apprenticeship schemes.

Working closely with our recognised trade unions, we maintain positive and transparent employee relations arrangements.

Overall, the significant workforce issues the Council is facing, have led to a considerable increase in demand for these services; this is likely to continue into the new financial year as teams are restructured and new ways of working are considered.

- **ICT**

We are continuing to invest in the automation and digitisation of services in line with our approved Digital Strategy and work is ongoing to identify priority areas through the Digital Transformation Programme. This will help achieve savings in future years, through the development and digitising of information-intensive processes, freeing up capacity and making efficiencies.

The ICT service is assisting the Digital Transformation Programme, supporting changes across a range of services that in turn allow savings or improvements through more flexible working or new ways to access services. The Council spends around £5 million on its ICT services provision to support main Council activities and schools. The ICT service has focused on developing staff through the apprenticeship programme in conjunction with HR, developing skills and enabling in-house career progression.

- **Housing and community regeneration**

The service has responded to the challenges of Covid-19 and new guidance introduced by Welsh Government in relation to homelessness presentations and has already recognised these as budget pressures for the Council, with the aim of providing temporary accommodation to people in need, in order to reduce the number of street homeless people. The service has seen an exponential growth in demand for homelessness services and a significant increase in the number of people in temporary accommodation, with 232 households and 436 individuals being supported in November 2022 to 299 households and 559 individuals in November 2023.

The Council does not have any housing stock of its own but retains a number of statutory functions relating to addressing housing need and combatting homelessness.

The service is responsible for the administration of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants, which aims to keep people to live as independently as possible in their own homes.

The service also administers the Housing Support Grant from Welsh Government (£7.8 million) The support activities funded include services for people suffering domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse issues, learning disabilities, accommodation for young people, people with mental health support needs and other housing related support for people who need help to access or maintain accommodation successfully.

Housing will continue to adopt a strategic approach to homelessness prevention and provision by working with Welsh Government and partner organisations. Work with Registered Social Landlords is on-going to support new housing developments and housing will continue to use the Social Housing Grant effectively to increase the supply of social housing.

- **Legal services**

The Council needs to maintain effective legal support for all of its services. At a time when the Council is trying to transform services it is important to bring about these changes lawfully. The service also directly supports front line services such as Education and Social Services, and is provided by a mix of permanent internal staff and external expertise when necessary. Almost half of our in-house legal team is specifically focussed on child protection cases. These cases have increased in number and complexity over recent years.

- **Democratic services**

The Council is a democratic organisation with 51 elected members (Councillors) who make decisions, set policy direction and oversee the general performance of the Council. The number of elected members in each authority is set independently. Their remuneration is also determined by an independent panel. The Democratic Services team support all Members and ensure the appropriate arrangements are in place to comply with legislative requirements.

- **Procurement**

The Council has a central team that provides procurement support across the range of services that we provide. Effective procurement is essential to ensuring good value for money across the Council. The central team work with services to implement corporate wide efficiencies where appropriate. The Council has adopted a Corporate Procurement Strategy which supports a number of corporate priorities. There continues to be a sustained increase in the costs of goods and services due to inflationary pressures, rise in fuel costs and shortages in the supply chain. Many tenders are being returned over the approved budget leading to additional work to rerun the process.

- **Regulatory services**

This is a combined service with the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff City Councils, for which Bridgend will contribute around £1.9 million towards a group of services that includes Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Animal Health and Licensing (Alcohol, Gambling, Safety at Sports Grounds, Taxis etc.). These services all ensure, in different ways, that the public is protected.

- **Registrars**

The Council operates a Registrar service that deals primarily with the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. The service also undertakes Civil Partnership and Citizenship ceremonies and provides a replacement certificate facility.

- **Council tax and benefits**

In 2024-25 the taxation service will aim to collect £124 million in council tax from over 66,000 households across the county borough on behalf of the Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and our Town and Community Councils. Our collection rates have been impacted in recent years, firstly by the Covid-19 pandemic, then by the cost of living crisis. We are determined to regain the pre-2020 high level of collection, but we are seizing the opportunity to reduce the cost of operating the service, by offering online services.

In line with many other Welsh Local Authorities, the Council has reviewed its position with regards to Council tax premiums. A Council Tax premium on empty properties has been introduced and took effect on 1 April 2023 whilst a Council Tax premium on second homes is being implemented from 1 April 2024.

Benefits are funded by the central UK government. Both Housing Benefits and Council Tax Reduction Scheme (council funded) fall to the council to administer. The Benefits Service also administers applications for Disabled Facilities Grants, Free School Meals and Distinctive School Uniform Grants.

3.4.4.2 Chief Executive's: Services provided

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Chief Executive Unit	
481,370	Chief Executive Unit	488,590
481,370	Sub-Total	488,590
	Finance	
270,670	Internal Audit	243,670
3,618,320	Finance	3,538,740
44,010	Performance	0
3,933,000	Sub-Total	3,782,410
	Human Resources / Organisational Development	
2,103,540	Human Resources and Organisational Development	1,869,280
2,103,540	Sub-Total	1,869,280
	Partnerships	
425,950	Transformation	439,730
1,814,370	Customer Services and Engagement	1,663,500
2,240,320	Sub-Total	2,103,230

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S (continued)	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Legal, Democratic and Regulatory	
2,057,540	Legal Services	2,154,130
1,828,050	Democratic Services	1,807,420
307,950	Procurement	264,950
1,405,270	Regulatory Services	1,478,910
5,598,810	Sub-Total	5,705,410
	ICT	
4,000,860	ICT	3,766,370
4,000,860	Sub-Total	3,766,370
	Elections	
132,060	Elections	175,860
132,060	Sub-Total	175,860
	Housing and Homelessness	
4,121,710	Housing and Community Regeneration	3,487,830
4,121,710	Sub-Total	3,487,830
	Business Support	
1,391,330	Business Unit	1,046,020
1,391,330	Sub-Total	1,046,020
24,003,000	Total: Chief Executive's	22,425,000

3.4.4.3 Chief Executive's budget: by type of spend

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Employees	
194,570	Chief Executive	201,390
387,740	Chief Officers	401,270
18,393,360	Officers	17,294,200
1,297,110	Members	1,348,250
6,000	Agency Staff	6,000
3,060	Staff Training	3,060
	Premises Related Expenditure	
20,500	Repairs and Maintenance	20,500
12,010	Energy Costs	12,010
5,400	Rents	5,400
2,290	Business Rates / Council Tax	2,290
100	Water Services	100
1,070	Fixtures and Fittings	1,070
4,080	Shared Building Related Costs	4,080
15,710	Other Premises Related Costs	15,710
	Transport Related Costs	
59,330	Direct Vehicle Running Costs Including Repairs and Mileage	59,330
22,500	Hire and Leasing of vehicles	22,500
7,160	Travel Expenses	7,160
40,950	Car Allowances	19,500
	Supplies And Services	
204,640	Equipment, Materials and Furniture	208,640
910	Catering	910
770	Clothing, Uniforms, Laundry	770
206,560	Printing, Stationery, Etc.	221,560
43,170	Advertising	43,170
160,350	Grants and Subscriptions	171,200
1,640,230	Other Hired and Professional Services	1,945,360
3,101,240	Communications / Computing	2,909,790
1,100	Staff Expenses e.g. conference fees	1,100
3,328,410	Housing Solutions, Software, and Development	2,781,410
5,000	Mayoral - Hospitality Fund	5,000

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S (continued)	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Third Party Payments	
2,141,070	Other Local Authorities and Joint Committees	2,254,710
195,790	Voluntary Organisations	194,280
6,196,070	Supporting People and External Contractors	6,187,070
41,199,230	Housing Benefits	33,364,230
78,897,480	Total Expenditure	69,713,020
	Income	
(50,193,530)	Grants	(42,345,070)
(1,290,470)	Other Reimbursements and Contributions	(1,328,470)
(1,126,740)	Customer / Client Receipts	(1,302,740)
(1,673,700)	Recharge To Other Revenue A/C Head	(1,701,700)
(610,040)	Transfers	(610,040)
(54,894,480)	Total Income	(47,288,020)
24,003,000	Total: Chief Executive's	22,425,000

3.4.5 Council wide budgets

3.4.5.1 Council wide budgets represent those elements of expenditure which are Council wide and which cannot be directly attributed to any specific service.

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	COUNCIL WIDE	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Council wide budgets	
7,203,000	Capital Financing	7,052,110
9,557,000	Levies	10,384,860
23,043,227	Other Corporate Functions	24,628,724
16,054,000	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054,000
1,363,000	Insurance Premiums	1,363,000
57,220,227	Total: Council Wide	59,482,694

3.4.5.3 Council wide budget: type of spend

Net Budget 2023/2024 £	COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget 2024/2025 £
	Employees	
430,000	Former Mid Glamorgan County Council Pension Costs	430,000
	Premises Related Expenditure	
420,000	Building Maintenance	420,000
465,000	Property Insurance	445,000
	Transport Related Costs	
123,000	Transport Insurances	97,000
	Supplies and Services	
47,000	Advertising	47,154
280,000	Building Maintenance Internal Fees and Insurance Claims Management Fees	285,000
21,924,927	Centrally held provisions for pay and price increases and other unavoidable costs	23,690,270
304,000	NDR Discretionary Relief	204,000
650,000	Apprenticeship Levy	750,000
443,000	Insurance Premiums	379,000
	Third Party Payments	
8,907,000	Levies (Including Fire Service)	9,634,860
	Transfer Payments	
16,054,000	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054,000
	Capital Financing Costs	
5,227,940	Interest Payments	5,167,050
2,918,060	Minimum Revenue Provision	3,253,910
58,193,927	Total Expenditure	60,857,244
	Income	
(25,000)	Customer / Client Receipts	-
(943,000)	Interest	(1,368,850)
(5,700)	Recharges to Other Directorates (Internal)	(5,700)
(973,700)	Total Income	(1,374,550)
57,220,227	Total: Council Wide Services	59,482,694



Section 4

**Capital budget
2024-25**

Section 4: Capital budget 2024-25

4.1 Capital budget 2024-25

4.1.1 In addition to spending money on providing services on a day-to-day basis, the Council also spends money on providing new facilities, improving assets and the infrastructure, or providing capital grants to individuals and outside bodies. The capital budget includes expenditure on a number of significant strategic investment projects within the county borough.



The main areas of planned capital project expenditure for 2024-25 include:

- Sustainable Communities for Learning (Band B)
- Porthcawl Grand Pavilion
- Disabled Facilities Grants and other housing adaptation schemes
- Shared Prosperity Fund to support local investment.
- Playgrounds Refurbishments
- Highways Refurbishments

4.2 Funding of capital programme

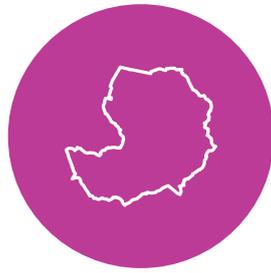
4.2.1 The funding of the Capital Programme for 2024-25 is £110.537 million as detailed in the table below:

Funding	2024-25 £'M	%
General Capital Funding - Supported Borrowing	3.937	3.56
General Capital Funding - General Capital Grant	4.043	3.66
External Grants And Contributions	58.552	52.97
Prudential Borrowing (unsupported)	7.716	6.98
Capital Receipts	13.826	12.51
Earmarked Reserves	22.353	20.22
Revenue Contribution	0.110	0.10
Total Funding	110.537	100

4.3 Allocation of the capital budget

4.3.1 The Capital Budget of £110.537 million has been allocated as follows:

Service Areas	2024-25 £'M	%
Education & Family Support (Including schools)	58.564	52.98
Social Services and Well-being - Adult Social Care	0.395	0.36
Social Services and Well-being - Culture	0.108	0.10
Communities - Street Scene	9.496	8.59
Communities - Regeneration & Development	29.642	26.82
Communities - Corporate Landlord	9.000	8.14
Chief Executive's - ICT & Corporate Capital Fund	0.400	0.36
Chief Executive's - Housing / Homelessness	2.481	2.24
Council Wide Capital Budgets	0.451	0.41
Total	110.537	100



Section 5

**Bridgend County
Borough Council
– key statistics**

Section 5: Bridgend County Borough Council – key statistics

5.1 Bridgend County Borough Council

5.1.1. This section provides details of the key statistics for Bridgend County Borough Council.

Bridgend County Borough Council	
Size	96.83 square miles
Population (est.2022)	146,136
Households (no of Dwellings)	66,011
Average House Price	£209,123 (Bridgend) £213,477 (Wales) (UK HPI Wales : June 2023)
Active Businesses	4,545
Percentage of Population Economically Active *	70.5% (September 2023)



In Bridgend, the population size has increased by 4.5%, from around 139,200 in 2011 to 145,500 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for Wales (1.4%).

As of 2021, Bridgend was the seventh most densely populated of Wales 22 local authority areas, with the equivalent of around four people living on each football sized area of land.

A growth in population places greater demand on Council services including housing, education, environmental services and social care. The level of unemployment is also instrumental in determining the demand for Council funded benefits such as council tax reduction or concessions when paying for Council services.

A Snapshot of Bridgend	
The Electorate	
Total Electors on Roll (1 February 2024)	113,047
Representation	
Wards	28
Councillors	51
Constituency Members of Senedd	2
Regional Members of Senedd	4 (South Wales - West)
Members of Parliament	2

5.2 Service statistics

5.2.1 The following tables provides details of service statistics for Education & Family Support Services:

Education and Family Support

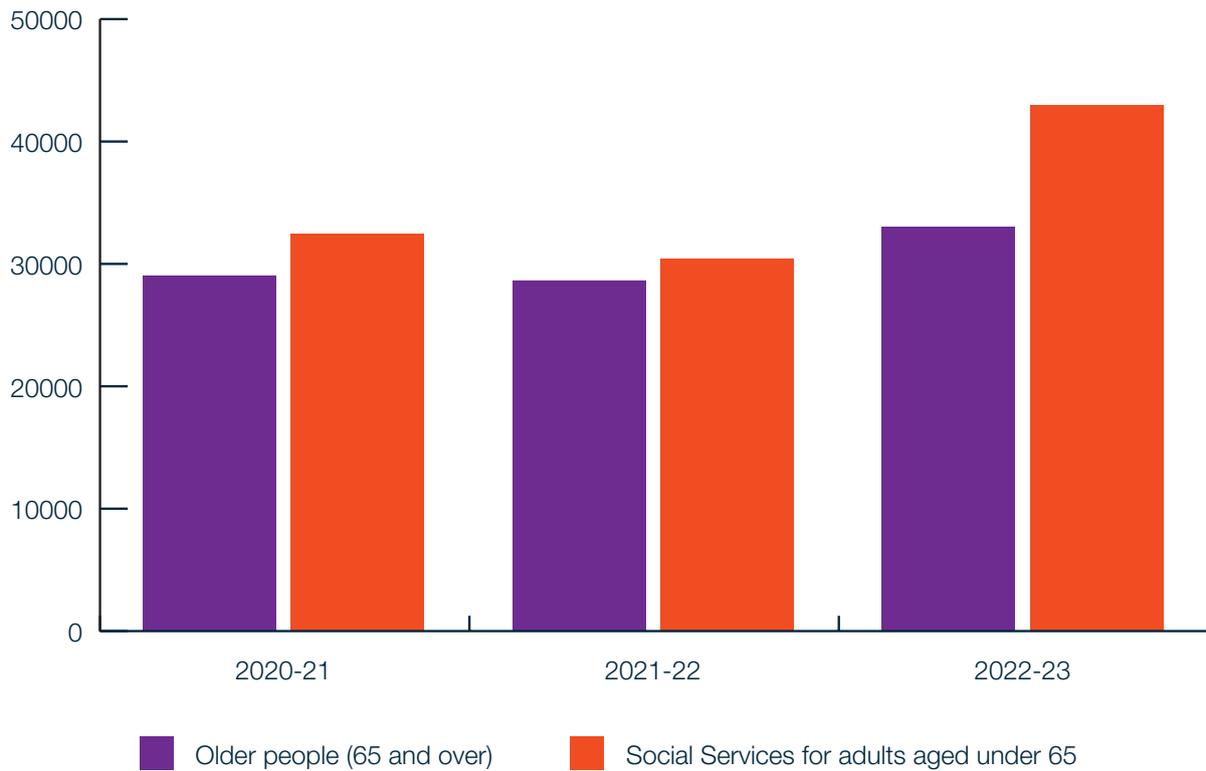
Projected resident population at 30 June 2023	Statistical Data
Population aged 3	1,638
Population aged 3 to 11	15,240
Population aged 3 to 16	23,904
Population aged 11 to 15	8,799
Population aged 11 to 20	16,239
Population 16 and over	121,687
Population aged 16 to 18	5,020
Population aged 0 to 17	30,301

The Council has a total of 59 schools made up of infant, junior, secondary and special (including Welsh medium and faith schools) and one pupil referral unit, with around 23,085 pupils in total.

Type of educational establishment	Number	Number on roll (Jan 2023)
Primary schools	48	12,866
Secondary schools	9	9,752
Faith schools (inc in above)	6	1,921
Welsh-medium schools (inc in above)	5	1,725
Special schools	2	428
Pupil referral unit	1	39

5.2.2 The following tables provides details of service statistics for the Social Services & Wellbeing services.

Net Revenue Expenditure on Adults Receiving Social Care Services by Age Group £'000



Children's Services Provided	Number of Children** 31 March 2022	Number of Children** 31 March 2023
Total Children Looked After by placement type:	375	400
Foster placements	260	280
Placed for adoption	15	5
Residential Homes	25	35
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	70	75
Independent Living	*	*
Other	*	*

** All figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Where there are less than five children in any group, the actual number has been suppressed, and replaced by the symbol *. Data Source Stats Wales.

5.2.3 The following tables provides details of service statistics for Communities services:

Services for Communities

The latest available data for communities is provided in the table below:

Service	Statistical Data
Street scene	
Number of planning applications received in 2022-23	763
Total street lighting units	19,666
Kilograms of residual waste generated per person 2022-23 (2021-22 target 135KG)	120
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted (anticipated 2023-24)	72%
Percentage of street cleansing waste prepared for recycling (anticipated 2023-24)	41%
Transport & Engineering	
A county road length (km)	104
Built-up A County road length (km)	52
B and C road length (km)	139
Built-up B and C road length (km)	83
Minor surfaced road length (km)	546
Built-up minor surfaced road length (km)	444

5.2.4 The following tables provide details of service statistics for Chief Executive's services:

Chief Executive's

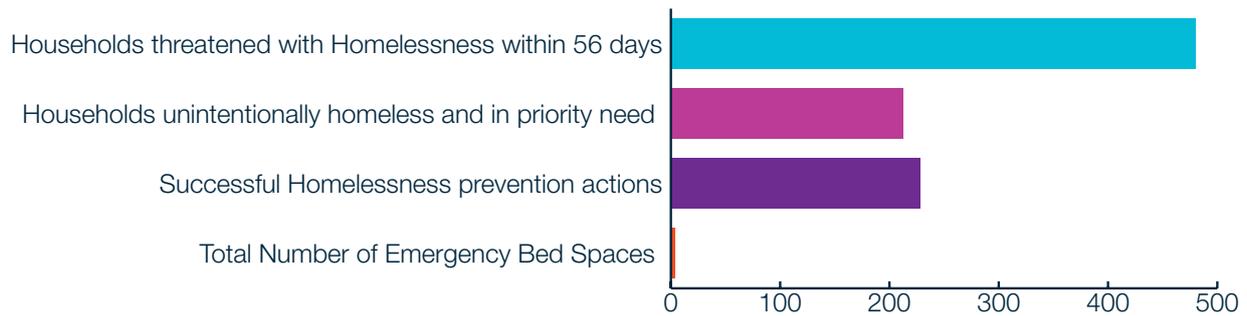
Service	Statistical Data
Regulatory Services	
Number of Trading Premises at March 2023	5,110
Number of Food Premises at March 2023	1800
Customer Services	
Number of customers contacting the Customer Contact Centre via telephone 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	83,857
Number of customers contacting the Customer Contact Centre via email 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	15,373
Number of transactions carried out online by customers 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	73,588
Legal & Democratic Services	
Registered number of marriages 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	492
Number of new wedding premises licensed	0
Number of new Premises Licences issued 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	91
Number of new Personal licences to sell alcohol issued 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	19
Human Resources	
Corporate workforce FTE as at 31.12.2023	2,352.72
Schools workforce FTE as at 31.12.2023	2,231.39

The Council does not have any housing stock of its own but retains a number of statutory functions relating to addressing housing need and combatting homelessness. The Council continues to adopt a strategic approach to homelessness prevention and provision by working with Welsh Government and partner organisations and working with Registered Social Landlords to support new housing developments.

At 31 March 2023, there were 5,481 households placed in temporary accommodation across Wales. This is an increase of 23% on 31 March 2022, and is the highest figure recorded since the introduction of the current legislation in April 2015. This equated to 39.8 per 10,000 households. The corresponding figure for Bridgend was 252 households, a rate of 40.1 per 10,000 households.

The chart below provides further information regarding Housing & Homelessness support:

Housing & Homelessness 2022-23



The number of Rough Sleepers calculated at November 2023 in Bridgend was 6.

Homelessness can have a major impact on a person's and / or their family's life. It can be detrimental to a person's health, employment or education and training opportunities. Being 'threatened with homelessness' means you will not have a home within the next 56 days.

In 2022-23, 480 households within the borough were assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and therefore owed a prevention duty, and of these 228 (47.5%) successful homelessness prevention actions were completed.

In April 2020 four pods designed to help keep rough sleepers safe during the coronavirus outbreak were set up in temporary locations in Bridgend county borough. These are still currently in use.

5.2.5 The following tables provides details of service statistics for corporate services:

Corporate

Service	Statistical Data
Council Tax - Approximate number of chargeable dwellings as at 31/1/2024	66,043
Council Tax - Net collectable Charge 2024-25 (Council element only)	£101,746,816
Non-Domestic Rates - Number of commercial properties as at 31/1/2024	5,433
Non-Domestic Rates - Collectable Charge as at 31/1/2024	£37,274,669
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Expenditure 2023-24 as at 31/1/2024	£15,616,157
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Caseload as at 12/2/24	12,447
The total number of households with single person discount as of 31/1/2024	21,956
Number of Housing Benefit Claimants as at 31/1/2024	5,361



Section 6

Glossary of terms

Section 6: Glossary of terms

6.1 Glossary of terms

Aggregate external finance (AEF)

The total external support for local authorities' revenue expenditure which is not funded from the council tax. It comprises revenue support grant and payments from the redistributed yield of non-domestic rates.

Budget

The statement defining the Council's financial plans over a specified period, usually a year.

Band D

The Council Tax that is supposed to cover the average home. It covers properties worth up to £123,000 (valuation as based on 2003 property values). Newer properties are assessed on what the valuation would have been in 2003.

Band D equivalent

The number of band D properties in an area which would raise the same council tax as the actual number of properties on all bands. Properties are converted to an equivalent base to that of a band D. For example, one band H is equivalent to two band D properties, because a taxpayer in a band H property pays twice as much council tax.

Capital expenditure

The definition for capital purposes is set out in section 16 of the 2003 Local Government Act, which states that expenditure must be capitalised in accordance with proper practices.

Expenditure that can be capitalised will include:

1. The acquisition, reclamation, enhancement, or the laying of land;
2. The acquisition, construction, preparation, enhancement or replacement of roads, buildings and other structures;
3. The acquisition, installation, or replacement of moveable or immovable plant, machinery and vehicles;
4. The acquisition of share capital or loan capital in any body corporate
5. Works intended to increase substantially the thermal insulation of a building
6. Acquisition or preparation of a computer programme.

Community councils

Community Councils are the most local official representative bodies in Wales, of which members are chosen every four years to represent the entire community council area.

Corporate plan

The Corporate Plan gives strategic direction to the work of the Authority to achieve its vision and sets out the Council's key improvement objectives for the forthcoming years. It reflects the on-going commitment to work in partnership with others to deliver services to our communities. It also outlines how our priorities will be taken forward.

Council tax

This is the source of local taxation to the authority. Council tax is levied on households within its area by the billing authority and includes council tax for Police authorities and Community Councils as well as the authority's own council tax levy. The proceeds are used for distribution to precepting authorities, and for use by its own general fund.

Council tax base

The council tax base is the measure of the relative taxable capacity of different areas within the County Borough and is calculated in accordance with prescribed rules. Every domestic property in the County Borough has been valued by the Valuation Office. Once valued, properties are allocated one of the nine valuation bands (Bands A to I). Each band is multiplied by a given factor to bring it to the Band D equivalent. The Tax Base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in the area expressed as Band D equivalents, taking into account the total number of exemptions, discounts, and disabled band reductions, with the net Tax Base calculated by taking account of the Council's estimated collection rate. Council tax is measured in 'Band D' equivalents as the standard for comparing council tax levels between and across local authorities

CTR scheme

The Council Tax Benefit Scheme was replaced by the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme in April 2013. The CTR Scheme in Wales is set by Regulations made under Schedule 1B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as inserted by the Local Government Finance Act 2012).

Earmarked reserves

These are reserves set aside for a specific purpose.

Electorate

Those entitled to vote at an election.

Estimates

These are the amounts, which are expected to be spent or received as income, during an accounting period.

IFRS (International financial reporting standards)

This is a set of accounting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The goal of IFRS is to provide a global framework for how public sector and private companies prepare and disclose their financial statements. Having an international standard is especially important for large organisations. Adopting a single set of world-wide standards will simplify accounting procedures by allowing a company to use one reporting language throughout. A single standard will also provide customers and auditors with a cohesive view of finances. IFRS should not be confused with IAS (International Accounting Standards), which are older standards that IFRS has now replaced.

Fees & charges

Some fee levels are fixed by the government – such as planning and licensing fees – whilst councils have control over others, such as parking charges, premises hire etc. There are a small number of services for which Councils are not allowed to charge – for instance, school education and elections.

Levy

The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 allow a levying body to issue to a relevant authority (e.g., a County Borough Council) in accordance with these Regulations a levy in respect of any financial year to meet the expenditure of the levying body in respect of which a relevant precepting power would have been exercisable. A "relevant precepting power is defined as "in relation to a levying body, means any power under any enactment which that body would have, apart from section 117 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, in respect of the financial year beginning in 1990 to issue a precept to, make a levy on, or have its expenses paid by a county council or a charging authority". Unlike a precept, a levy is not collected from council taxpayers.

Government grants

Assistance by government and inter-government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national, or international, in form of cash or transfers of assets to a Council in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Council.

Net expenditure

Gross expenditure less income.

MTFS (medium term financial strategy)

A plan expressing how the Council will endeavour to use its resources to support the achievement of its corporate priorities and statutory duties, including the management of financial pressures and risks over a 4-year period.

Non-domestic rate (NDR)

A means by which local businesses contribute to the cost of local authority services. NDR is collected by billing authorities on behalf of WG and is then redistributed among all local authorities and police authorities on the basis of Standard Spending Assessment and population. They are also known as 'Business Rates'.

Precept

A precept made by precepting authorities on billing authorities, requiring the latter to collect income from council taxpayers on their behalf.

Prudential code borrowing

Borrowing over and above that supported by the Welsh Government which the authority determines that it can afford to repay either from savings generated from the investment or from Council Tax.