**Report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to**

**Llanllawddog Community Council of 6 January 2025**

**Budget and Precept 2025-26**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 A Community Council must calculate its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and issue a precept to the billing authority. The billing authority collects the precept (charge) on behalf of Town and Community Councils under Section 41 of the above Act.

1.2 In setting a Budget, Council should consider its spending plans, and ambitions for the new financial year together with deciding whether to raise the Precept to deliver its ambitions.

1.3 The Community Council must agree a budget and set the precept for the following financial year no later than 31 January each year.

**2. Council Tax Base 2025-26**

2.1 Carmarthenshire County Councilhas informed the Community Council that the Council Tax Base for Llanllawddog has been calculated as 375.13 for Band D equivalent properties**.** This figure has been calculated using valuation lists provided by the Valuation Officer. The figure calculated by Carmarthenshire County Council for this Council’s Council Tax Base is not a whole figure as it has estimated that the Council Tax collection rate to be 97.5%.

2.2 Whilst the precept is based upon Band D properties, residents pay both their Council Tax and the Community / Town Council precept on a pro rata basis depending upon the valuation Band of their property.

2.3 The precept will be paid to the Community Council by Carmarthenshire County Council in three equal instalments on the 30 April, 29 August and 30 December 2025.

**3. Budget 2025-26**

3.1 As of 31 December 2024, the Council holds the following bank balances:

**Account Balances**

Current Account £7,392.89

Savings Account £40,239.27

Total £47,632,16

3.2 The Council at its meeting on 8 January 2024 set a precept of £8,147 for 2024-25. In considering the precept for 2025-26, the Council should have regard to the ongoing advice of Audit Wales to all Community Councils that it should consider the level of its reserves in determining its budget and precept.

3.3 The Council Tax Base for Band D properties has increased from 369.74 to 375.13 properties which equates to £21.71 per Band D property in 2025-26 as opposed to £22.03 in 2024-25. This represents a decrease of £0.32 per Band D property, should the Council wish to maintain the precept at the current year’s level of £8,147.

3.4 To enable budget preparation to take place, the Council at its meeting on 11 November 2024 considered not to increase its precept of £8,147 for 2025-26.

**4. Recommendations.**

4.1 It is recommended that:

4.1.1 The Council consider the Precept for 2025-26 be set at £8,147 signifying a 0% increase.

4.1.2 The Budget for 2025-26 as outlined in Appendix B of the report be approved and adopted.

4.1.3 The Chairperson and Clerk be authorised to sign the precept billing form for submission to Carmarthenshire County Council.

**Appendices:**

Appendix B Budget 2025-26

**Andrew Rees**

**Clerk to Llanllawddog Community Council**