

**Cyngor Tref Caerfyrddin
Carmarthen Town Council**



**CYNGOR TREF CAERFYRDDIN – DATGANIAD I'R WASG
CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE**

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL PRECEPT

PRAESEPT BLYNYDDOL CYNGOR TREF CAERFYRDDIN

Carmarthen Town Council is increasing its council tax precept for only the second time in 10 years.

Carmarthen Town Councillors have agreed to increase this year's council tax by the level of inflation which is 3%. This will mean an actual increase of £3.78 per year per Band D household – or 31.5 pence per month – from £126.50 per year to £130.28.

The Town Council precept has remained largely unchanged for many years and this is the first increase since 2013/14.

The Mayor of Carmarthen Councillor Alun Lenny said:

'Despite almost a decade of austerity and severe pressures on public spending Carmarthen Town Council has managed to avoid raising the council precept on all but one previous occasion. But this year, inflation and the pressures of continued austerity makes a very small increase unavoidable if we are to continue to provide the wide range of services and community events that Carmarthen Town Council presently provides for our residents.

Although some savings and efficiencies have been identified, these will not impact upon our services.

One element in the council's decision making was the need to provide its dedicated and loyal staff with the Living Wage as advocated by the Living Wage Foundation, which is over a pound per hour more than that recommended by the UK Government's so called living wage. We also face an additional revenue expenditure of nearly £33,000 next year and we are also determined to work to improve our community facilities at Carmarthen Park and other places across the town'.

Carmarthen Town Council is responsible for a range of public services and events in the town including:

- Carmarthen Park, including the rugby ground and the tea room and shop
- Carmarthen Velodrome
- Maintenance of all recreational facilities at the town's other public parks and play areas (Penllwyn Park, Johnstown Park, Parc Hinds, Russell Terrace)
- The summer events programme at Carmarthen Park and other events throughout the year
- The Christmas lights and annual Reindeer Parade and other community events held in the town including the River Festival, St David's Week activities, Annual Sporting Awards, the annual Mayor's Races held on the May Day bank holiday
- All civic responsibilities of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Town Sheriff
- Footway lighting across the town
- St Peter's Civic Hall
- The hanging baskets and other floral displays in Carmarthen
- Providing local organisations and other good causes with financial support
- Carmarthen Town Cemetery
- Fairtrade and Environmental Working Group
- Financial, administrative and secretarial support in respect of all services delivered by the Town Council.

Alun J Harries

Clerk, Carmarthen Town Council

1st February 2018

