HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED PENARLAG

PROFORMA FOR COUNCILLORS TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Name of Councillor(s)	Councillor Sam Swash
Title of Report	Council Tax Reduction
Purpose of Report	(i) As part of the budget planning for next year, to consider cutting the Council Tax precept for a Band D property by 1% with the reduction funded entirely from Hawarden Community Council reserves. The current Band D charge is £44.53.
Background to this request	Hawarden Community Council has raised the Council Tax precept by 4.99% last year and by 5% the year before. This winter, residents across the Hawarden Community are facing rising fuel prices, planned hikes to National Insurance, energy prices rising by up to 50%, cuts to the uplift in Universal Credit, potential further pandemic restrictions and a general cost of living crisis. In these circumstances, it is unconscionable to raise Council Tax further, especially when the Council is sitting on such large reserves.
Financial Implications	The proposed cut to Council Tax will be funded from reserves, which will remain at a healthy level. There will be no cuts required to any frontline Council services whilst residents across our community will see a saving in their Council Tax bills at a time of economic privation for many of the poorest families and workers. The band D charge for 2021-22 was £44.53. A reduction of 1% would mean a band D charge of £44.08 for 2022-23 resulting in a total precept income to the council of £279,399. Other Councils operate with far smaller reserves than Hawarden Community Council. For example, Penyffordd plans for reserves of £25,000 at year end.
Environmental Implications	No environmental implications envisaged

Decision sought by Council	(i) To agree to amend the Budget to include a 1% cut to the Council Tax Band D household figure, funded from Council reserves
Advantages of this proposal	- Residents across all four wards will benefit from a cut to their Council Tax bills whilst retaining all Council services at their current level
Disadvantages of this proposal	- The cut will necessitate a reduction in Council reserves, though they will remain at a healthy level
Equality implications	No equality implications envisaged