

Mawr CC Full Council March 2026

Appendix 1

The announcement of the closure of M&S

M&S reached out to the Council for an urgent meeting late yesterday

At the meeting they informed the Council that they intend to start a consultation on closure of the Swansea centre M&S store

As you know council successfully managed to escape the last round of closures but now they are moving to close further historic 'high street' locations and Swansea is being confirmed

They were clear they are still looking for an alternative location in Swansea - you will know they have already rejected some options for future store location we presented to them including the old Debenhams store

To date M&S have closed around 90 locations in town and city centres across the UK, more stores closures in other areas will be announced next week and the week after

They acknowledged the efforts the council had made and the significant regen and positive impacts that Y Storfa and 71-72 and others would make, but they are clear the current building and location will not suit their long term future model

They want to pursue an out of town style store with significant parking directly outside

So while this is extremely disappointing news we will continue to work with M&S to find a new location in Swansea

This is extremely disappointing news from M&S for staff and shoppers. M&S recognises the significant Swansea regeneration which is under way in Swansea and have stated they remain committed to exploring options for an alternative store location in the city.

"The current building and store location is no longer suitable for the Marks and Spencer business model which has already seen 90 historic locations close and investment in alternative new store locations

Council have been in active discussions with M&S over the past two years and have worked closely with them to try and find suitable alternative locations so the M&S brand is not lost to Swansea. We will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months.

At our council meeting on the 5th of March the Budget for 2026-27 was discussed and setting the council tax for the forthcoming year.

Total need for the revenue budget was £680,064M which equates to a council tax increase of 3.9%, third lowest increase of all 22 authorities.

Some examples:- Total Directorate spend 615,773M which include Corporate Services, Finance (including Council Tax Reduction Scheme) Education (not schools) & Place. highest spend being, Education-Delegated to schools, 225,893M and Social Services (including Poverty & Prevention) 208,128M

Others:- Swansea Bay Port Health authority 73K
Corporate Joint Committee 232K
Mid & West Wales Combined Fire Authority 20,544M
Capital Financing Charges 34. Revenue Support Grant 894M
4,438M were earmarked reserves. Discretionary Rate relief 418K.
Community Council Precepts 2,482M
Total Requirement 680,064M

Financing of Total Requirement.
Revenue Support Grant 415,568M.
National Non-Domestic Rates 87,229M.
Council Tax- City and County of Swansea 174,775M.
Council Tax- Community Councils 2,492M.
Total Financing 680,064M

Band 'D' for Mawr is Band 'D' £1,959.76. Added to this will be Police & Crime Commissioner at £405.14 for Band 'D' which is now Band 'D' = £2364.90.

These are some of the highlights
Record investment in schools, care and communities
£12 million more for road repairs, and resurfacing
70 million for more homes in Swansea.
More free bus rides, and £1 tickets for under 21's
The third lowest council tax rise in Wales. 3.9%
Your council tax will be nearly £300 cheaper than neighbouring Neath Port Talbot
Carmarthen Council are consulting on a 6.5% Increase, this may lower

In January's council meeting a Notice of Motion was put forward by the Labour group as follows: After the debate a named vote was called for and was passed unanimously.

This Council is extremely concerned about the WRU's plan to cut regional rugby from four teams to three. It will have a significant impact on sport and wellbeing in the Swansea Bay region and will negatively impact the economy of Swansea and South Wales. We are especially concerned about the impacts the WRU plan has on the Ospreys' future as a regional team, following the WRU's confirmation that Y11 is negotiating to buy Cardiff rugby from the WRU. The Council is concerned that recent developments have deviated

significantly from the WRU's own approach and is neither fair nor transparent. The WRU have claimed there is not enough money or talent in Wales to continue with 4 regions.

They have never provided detailed evidence to support this statement. We believe there is sufficient resources within the WRU to fund 4 successful regions going forward. The WRU received more than £20 million more than the Irish Rugby Football Union, who have retained 4 regions and is achieving significant success at regional and national/ international level. Given the significance of safeguarding the future of Welsh rugby acknowledging the impact on Swansea residents, future generations, wellbeing and the considerable concerns expressed by fans, players, clubs, and the wider public regarding the WRU's current proposals, we urge the WRU to immediately reconsider its approach, withdraw its proposal to reduce the number of professional regional rugby teams in Wales from 4 to three.

This Council resolves that we: Fully endorse and support the statements made by the Leader and the Council following the meeting with the WRU and Ospreys Chief Executives. We fully support the Council in taking any reasonable actions to ensure the future of the Ospreys as a regional professional side continue playing in Swansea. This includes any appropriate legal action to prevent the WRU from ending regional rugby in Swansea. We support any efforts the Council may wish to take to explore opportunities to encourage, promote and develop Women's rugby to be played in Swansea, but this must be in addition to the retention of the Ospreys as a regional rugby team based in Swansea.

We support the council in its commitment to redevelop St Helens to support the creation of an enhanced modern rugby venue to meet the aspirations of the Ospreys region to return to St Helens. This does not preclude the Ospreys negotiating use of the Swansea.com stadium for individual games should then need to do so.

We request the Leader or the relevant officers write to the WRU, The Ospreys, Y11, World Rugby or any other relevant party to outline the Council's position and request assistance in taking whatever actions are necessary to protect regional rugby in Swansea, and the future success of rugby at all levels in Wales.

Latest Update

Local rugby clubs have submitted the necessary papers to formally call an Emergency General Meeting of the Welsh Rugby Union.

Swansea Leader understand the main business will be the removal of the chair of the WRU.

For weeks supporters, players and communities have been asking the WRU to put a stop to their chaotic plans. The WRU have arrogantly continued, ignoring pleas to change course.

Swansea council last week moved to seek an injunction to prevent the WRU agreeing a deal with Y11. The council also asked the competition and markets authority (CMA) to intervene.

While an injunction will prevent a deal being signed, an EGM gives the clubs the chance to make real and immediate change in the leadership and direction of the WRU.

The clubs can stop the WRU in their tracks, elect new leaders, and come together to form a new plan for a brighter more ambitious future for Welsh Rugby

They have the leader's 100% support for this action.

He also urges all clubs to attend the EGM, vote for a change of leadership and direction, and work together for brighter more ambitious future for Welsh Rugby