

**Explanatory Memorandum to the Local Government Finance (Wales) Act 2024  
(Commencement No. 1) Order 2026**

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Council Tax Policy and Reform Division of the Welsh Government for laying before Senedd Cymru alongside the Local Government Finance (Wales) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2026.

**Cabinet Secretary's Declaration**

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of the Local Government Finance (Wales) Act 2024 (Commencement No.1) Order 2026.

**Mark Drakeford MS**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language**  
**23 January 2026**

## **1. Purpose and overview**

1.1. This commencement order brings into force the following provisions of the Local Government Finance (Wales) Act 2024 (“the Act”) on 1 April 2026:

- a. *Section 18 (discounts) of the Local Government Finance (Wales) Act 2024, in so far as the section is not already in force*

1.2. This is the first commencement order made to commence provisions within the Act, following its Royal Assent.

## **2. Matters of special interest to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

2.1. None.

## **3. Legislative background**

3.1. This commencement order is made under section 23(5) of the Act. Although this commencement order does not follow a Senedd procedure, it is still required to be laid before Senedd Cymru under section 37F of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019.

## **4. Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)**

4.1. An RIA has not been completed for this commencement order. This is in line with the exemption in section 3.2 of the Welsh Ministers’ code of practice for carrying out regulatory impact assessments for subordinate legislation.