



WYCOMBE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUMMARY

Report For:	High Wycombe Town Committee
Meeting Date:	21 January 2020
Part:	Part 1 - Open
If Part 2, reason:	Choose a reason

Title of Report:	Special Expenses Budget 2020/21
Officer Contact: Direct Dial: Email:	David Skinner 01494 4211322 David.skinner@wycombe.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	High Wycombe Unparished Ward
Reason for the Decision:	<p>Under section 35(2) (d) of the Local Government Act 1992 any expenses incurred by the Authority in performing a part of the District functions performed elsewhere in the District by a Parish Council are Special Expenses unless a contrary resolution is in force. The Council passed a resolution on 4 January 1993 making all such expenses a general expense, with the exception of certain items detailed in the resolution, which are treated as Special Expenses.</p> <p>The Council has a statutory requirement to set a Special Expense precept for 2020/21. The High Wycombe Town Committee (HWTC) is an advisory body and therefore its decisions for setting precept is a recommendation to the Shadow Executive who will recommend to the Shadow Authority for the final decision.</p>
Proposed Decision/Recommendation:	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The Committee notes that the Council Tax Base for Band D equivalent for 2020/21 has increased by 397.59 to 23606.05 properties for HWTC.(ii) The Committee notes and recommends option 3 to the Shadow Executive for setting 2020/21 precept for the unparished area of High Wycombe Town.(iii) The Committee notes and recommends 3% increase in Fees & Charges.

Sustainable CommStrategy/Council Priorities - Implications	<p>Risk: The key financial risks relating to setting the precept for 2020/21 are set out in the options below.</p> <p>Equalities: N/A</p> <p>Health & Safety: N/A</p>
Monitoring Officer/ S.151 Officer Comments	<p>Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>The legal requirements pursuant to Section 35(2) (d) of the Local Government are set out above.</p> <p>S.151 Officer: The financial implications are set out within the report</p>
Consultees:	None
Options:	<p>Option 1: Band D tax above £12.06 for HWTC will have an impact on the ability for the Buckinghamshire Council to implement the full 1.99% increase permissible. This option is NOT recommended.</p> <p>Option 2: Any reduction or a Nil increase to Band D tax for HWTC will have an adverse impact on HWTC reserves in the future and will negatively impact the Band D Average Notional Amount for the Buckinghamshire Council in perpetuity. This option is NOT recommended.</p> <p>Option 3: A 24p increase to the Band D Council tax to £12.06 for HWTC would not have any adverse impact on working balances and the ability for the Buckinghamshire Council to implement the full 1.99% increase permissible. This Option is recommended</p>
Next Steps:	The Shadow Executive will consider the recommendations from this report on 18th February 2020 and recommend the proposals to the Shadow Authority for the final decision.
Background Papers:	n/a
Abbreviations:	HWTC – High Wycombe Town Committee

Appendices to this report are as follows:

Appendix A – High Wycombe Town Committee 2020/21 Budgets

Appendix B – High Wycombe Town Committee 2020/21 Fees & Charges

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. A separate fund is maintained for Special Expenses for High Wycombe Town Committee. Income is raised by a precept on the town's inhabitants and interest is credited on the fund balance.
- 1.2. This report sets out the proposed budget for 2020/21 for Special Expenses and the impact on the precept. Details of the estimates for 2020/21 are attached at Appendix A.

2. Detailed Report

2.1. The 2020/21 budget is summarised below.

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN AREA					
Budgets for the year ending 31st March 2021					
SUMMARY					
2019/20 Approved Budget £	2019/20 Net Forecast £		2020/21 Gross Expenditure £	2020/21 Gross Income	2020/21 Net Expenditure £
SPECIAL EXPENSES					
163,500	148,293	Recreational Grounds (Local)	141,860	0	141,860
19,040	19,556	Allotments	18,310	(60)	18,250
138,700	231,661	High Wycombe Cemetery	326,020	(175,000)	151,020
28,000	13,000	Financial Assistance to Vol Groups	13,000	0	13,000
3,000	3,000	Town Twinning	3,000	0	3,000
26,800	25,236	Community Grants/Financial Assistance	25,340	0	25,340
3,000	0	War Memorial	3,000	0	3,000
2,700	1,800	Footway Lighting and Bus Shelter	1,800	0	1,800
384,740	442,546	Total Special Expenses	532,330	(175,060)	357,270
(11,700)	(11,700)	Capital charges credit			0
(8,200)	(8,200)	Interest on balances			(8,200)
364,840	422,646	Total including Interest and Capital Charges	532,330	(175,060)	349,070
404,000	0	Queensway Cemetery Phase 1			404,000
	0	Queensway Cemetery Phase 2			143,000
768,840	422,646	Net spending for year			896,070
(1,015,629)	(1,095,791)	Balance b/f			(947,465)
850,890	422,646	Net Spending for the year			896,070
(274,320)	(274,320)	Collection Fund precept			(284,690)
(439,059)	(947,465)	Balance c/f			(336,085)

2.2. For 2020/21 the estimated Net Cost of Services is £357k. After adjusting for the interest on working balance the annual net spend is estimated at £349k.

2.3. The net estimated spend has decreased by £15k from £364k to £349k compared to the 2019/20 approved budget. The movements are summarised in the table on the next page:

Description	Amount £k
Increase in Cemetery Income due to increase in activity	21
Reduction in grant to community centre	15
Reduction in Management costs	4
Increase in cemetery grounds maintenance for new cemetery (6 months)	(25)
Total Movement	15

- 2.4. After adjusting for the proposed one-off contribution to fund the expenditure at Queensway cemetery £547k, and working balance interest there is an annual spend of £896k. This will be funded from the precept raised for the year and the reserves.
- 2.5. The estimated working balance as at March 2021 is £336k which is higher than the recommended minimum level of £150k. This is set aside as an earmarked reserve and therefore ring-fenced for HWTC.
- 2.6. The proposed Band D equivalent charge of £12.06 is marginally higher than prior year Band D equivalent of £11.82. This will generate a precept of £284,690 which will fund most of the expenditure with the remaining £64,380 to be funded from Reserves.

3 Queensway Cemetery

- 3.1 A contribution of £404k from the Special Expense reserves was approved by the March 2017 Cabinet to fund the phase 1 of the new Cemetery at Queensway. A further £143k is to be requested at February 2020 Cabinet. There has been delays in the project which has resulted in re-profiling of expenditure to 2020/21, therefore the funds from the Special Expenses reserve [£547k] will be released during 2020/21.

4 Fees & Charges 2020/21

- 4.1 Details of the fees & charges for 2020/21 are attached at Appendix B. The proposed fees and charges are to be increased by 3%, with the gross amount rounded to the nearest £1. This will generate an additional income of £5k.