



High Wycombe Town Committee

Special Expenses Budget 2021/22

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed budget for 2021/22 for Special Expenses and the impact on the precept. A summary of the budget is outlined in Table 1 with the details attached at Appendix A.

2 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The Committee notes that the Council Tax Base for Band D equivalent for 2021/22 has decreased by 600.6 to 23,005.45 properties for HWTC.
- (ii) The Committee notes and recommends Option 3 to Cabinet for setting 2021/22 precept for the unparished area of High Wycombe Town at £12.13 (Band D equivalent).
- (iii) The Committee notes and recommends 3% increase in Fees & Charges.

3 Options

- 3.1 Option 1: Any reduction or a Nil increase to Band D tax for HWTC will have further adverse impact on HWTC reserves in the future. This option is not recommended.
- 3.2 Option 2: – A £4.33 increase to the Band D Council Tax to £16.15 will ensue that there is no drawdown from HWTC reserves. This will have an impact on the ability for the Buckinghamshire Council to implement the full 1.99% increase permissible. This option is not recommended
- 3.3 Option 3: A 31p increase to the Band D Council tax to £12.13 for HWTC would provide the same amount of precept as in 2020/21. This Option is recommended

4 Detailed Report

- 4.1 The 2021/22 budget is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 – 2021/22 Budget

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE					
Budgets for the year ending 31st March 2022					
SUMMARY					
2020/21 Approved Budget £	2020/21 Estimated Forecast £		2021/22 Gross Expenditure £	2021/22 Gross Income £	2021/22 Net Expenditure £
SPECIAL EXPENSES					
141,860	121,100	Recreational Grounds (Local)	142,095	0	142,095
18,250	19,940	Allotments	18,446	(60)	18,386
151,020	173,148	High Wycombe Cemetery	353,238	(180,250)	172,988
13,000	13,000	Community Centres	13,000	0	13,000
3,000	3,000	Town Twinning	3,000	0	3,000
25,340	25,340	Financial Assistance to Voluntary Groups	25,447	0	25,447
3,000	3,000	War Memorial	3,000	0	3,000
1,800	1,904	Footway Lighting and Bus Shelter	1,800	0	1,800
357,270	360,432	Total Special Expenses	560,027	(180,310)	379,717
0	0	Capital charges credit			0
(8,200)	(8,200)	Interest on balances			(8,200)
349,070	352,232	Total including Interest and Capital Charges	560,027	(180,310)	371,517
547,000	547,000	Queensway Cemetery			0
896,070	899,232	Net spending for year			371,517
(988,705)	(988,705)	Balance b/f			(368,497)
284,690	899,232	Net Spend			371,517
(279,024)	(279,024)	Collection Fund precept			(279,024)
(983,039)	(368,497)	Balance c/f			(276,004)

- 4.2 For 2021/22 the estimated Net Cost of Services is £379,717. After adjusting for the interest on working balance the annual net spend is estimated at £371,517.
- 4.3 The net estimated spend has increased by £24,447 compared to the 2020/21 approved budget, mainly due to an increase in the cost related to grounds maintenance for the new cemetery.
- 4.4 The estimated working balance as at the end of March 2022 is just over £276,000. This is set aside as an earmarked reserve and therefore ring-fenced for HWTC.
- 4.5 The proposed Band D equivalent charge of £12.13 is marginally higher than prior year Band D equivalent of £11.82. This will generate a precept of £279,024 with the balance of £92,493 required to be funded from Reserves.

5 Queensway Cemetery

- 5.1 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 was approved at February 2020 Cabinet to be

funded from reserves. The total sum of £547,000 has been allowed for in Table 1.

6 Fees & Charges 2020/21

- 6.1 Details of the fees & charges for 2021/22 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 should generate an estimated additional income of over £5k.

7 Legal Requirements

- 7.1 Under section 35(2) (d) of the Local Government Act 1992 any expenses incurred by the Authority in performing a part of the Council functions performed elsewhere in the Council by a Parish Council are Special Expenses unless a contrary resolution is in force.
- 7.2 The Council has a statutory requirement to set a Special Expense precept for 2021/22. The High Wycombe Town Committee (HWTC) is an advisory body and therefore its decisions for setting precept is a recommendation to the Cabinet who will recommend to the Council for the final decision.

Appendices

Appendix A – Budget for year ending 31 March 2022

Appendix B – 2021/22 Fees and Charges