

Agenda Item 6

Budget 2019-20

A meeting of the Finance Working Group was held Wednesday 19th December 2018 and the Precept requirement for 2019-20 was discussed at length.

On the income side the precept base for 2019-20 has seen a small increase rising from 2117.7 to 2133.9 for 2019-20. This modest increase equates to an increase of £1179.52 on the 2018-19 precept level.

On the expenditure side several cost centres will have to increase significantly to meet the Councils commitments, whilst others can be reduced to help moderate the level of Precept increase required.

	Budget Centre	Increase	Decrease
1	Administration	1,000.00	
2	Wages, Pension Contributions	4,225.00	
3	Donations & Events	925.00	
4	Works	10,112.50	
5	Allotments	300.00	
6	Holmefield House		-5,600.00
7	Projects	0.00	
8	Contingency	0.00	

The figures represented for cost centres 1-8 reflect the total increase/decrease of the budget heading over the previous year. The main increases/decreases are shown below on a cost centre figure. (*Reductions in italics*)

1. Administration:

- £500.00 for insurance which with the carried forward total should meet the additional insurance costs of the park.
- £300.00 for audit costs as the council will have exceeded the £200,000 spending and will move into a higher charging band for the 2018-19 audit.
- £200.00 in administrative costs to cover additional stationary/printer costs through devolved services.
- £400.00 Staff training courses.
- *£200.00 reduction on the newsletter budget through reduced printing cost of A5 newsletters.*
- *£200.00 reduction on Neighbourhood Plan.*

2. Wages, Pension Contributions:

- £3,575.00 wage increases as stage 2 of the 2018-20 Local Government settlement.
- £450.00 increase in employers contributions to NI
- £700.00 increase in pension contributions
- *£500.00 reduction in cleaning costs*

3. Donations & Events

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- £1,250.00 contingency for marshalling costs for the Remembrance Sunday Parade³.
- *£100.00 reduction in Grants to outside bodies*
- *£250.00 reduction in defibrillator costs.*

4. Works

- £10,062.50 increase in parks maintenance contributions
- £500.00 business rates for the Fleece Toilets
- £200.00 tools and materials
- £1000.00 Christmas decorations
- £200.00 plants and bulbs
- £1000.00 legal fees park
- *£500.00 reduction in general maintenance (this is a new budget heading and incorporates all the maintenance costs of devolved services and land.)*
- *£100.00 reduction in travelling expenses.*
- *£2000.00 reduction in new equipment*
- *£250.00 reduction finger post renovation*

5. Allotments

- £300.00 increase in water charges

6. Holmefield House

- £150.00 public utilities
- *£250.00 reduction in cleaning/sundries*
- *£5,500.00 reduction in carpark/repairs*

7. Projects: No Change

8. Contingency: No Change

Overview:

The larger increases in park maintenance and staffing costs have been marginally offset by the increase in the precept base and the reduction in other cost centres, the proposed increase in the precept of £10,300 covers the cost of additional park maintenance costs with most of the additional costs highlighted being met by reductions in budget spending in comparison to 2018-19. The proposed budget allows around £3,000 to be added to reserves which is in line with the Councils previous resolutions to increase the reserves slowly to meet the additional needs of devolved services and land and meets the budgetary requirements for 2019-20.

Recommendation to the Council:

1. The Finance Working Group recommends that the Council sets a precept requirement of £164,500.00 for 2019-20.
2. That the Council approves the budget as set out for the year 2019-20.

The budget equates to a £4.27 increase on a Band D property which equates to £2.85 on a Band A the lowest and £8.55 on a Band H property the highest band. The increase will raise the precept by approximately 5.87%.