

**Malmesbury Town Council**  
**Policy and Resource Committee meeting 2.10.19**  
**Report No.3**

**Annual Budget 2020/21 Preliminary Consideration**

- i. In readiness for the precept setting in December the Committee are asked to consider the annual budget for the year 2020-21, considering the existing and possible new budget allocations needed.<sup>i</sup>
- ii. When considering the budget, the Committee will need to allow for;
  - Inflation at 2.5 % (2018/19 24%) as an on cost to existing Council goods and services.
  - Local Government Pay increases, to be agreed, but assumed to be up to 3% (maximum).
  - Staff incremental rises.<sup>ii</sup>
- iii. In addition to maintaining existing services, the Committee will need to consider new or aspirational projects or areas of service delivery, notably but not definitively;
  - Works to St Aldhelms Mead Bridge.<sup>iii</sup>
  - The refurbishment of Cross Hayes Toilets.<sup>iv</sup>
  - The possible installation of a buffer arrangement to protect the Market Cross.<sup>v</sup>
  - A need to ensure staff training in relation to health and safety.<sup>vi</sup>
  - The installation of new signs at all Council Parks and Open Spaces.<sup>vii</sup>
  - A possible annual cost of £150 as a contribution towards the defibrillator service.<sup>viii</sup>
  - Reviewed waste management services; the existing contractual arrangements are not sufficient to meet the need and do not incorporate any form of recycling practices.<sup>ix</sup>
  - Upgrade of ICT infrastructure and software, and Wifi service.<sup>x</sup>
  - The impact of the possibility of devolution from Wiltshire Council, and the impact of any preparatory work that this may require. E.g. professional fees, research etc.<sup>xi</sup>
  - Partnership working.
- iv. The Council has a reserve of £614320 (1.4.19), currently accounted for as a set of Ear Marked Reserves (EMRs) in line with the Asset Management policy.
- v. Some of these EMRs, as agreed, could be offset against the costs of some of the projects identified where they are already a feature in the Councils existing services and activities.
- vi. The EMR's currently do not allow for any costs that may be associated with implementing or sustaining new developments, or additional or extend services, not identified and agreed by the Council to date.
- vii. Where there are developments, or additional or extend services not yet identified and agreed by the Council will need to consider associated costs, strategies for either realising these aspirations, and if relevant sustaining these aspirations.

- viii. The Council has a CIL fund of £43050 which needs to be utilised this financial year, and could be used to alleviate any anticipated pressure on the 2020/21 budget assuming it can be used appropriately.
- ix. The Councils precept increase for 1919/20 was agreed at 3% on a Band D equivalent which equated to £205.49 per household. The total income received from the 2019/20 Precept raised £451,264
- x. This decision was based on an anticipated expenditure of £531,919.00, and income of £80,075. The remaining balance to be met via reserves.
- xi. Based on last year's Precept figure of £451,264 the following increases would be;
  - 1% rise would equate to £4512
  - 2% rise would equate to £9025
  - 3% rise would equate to £13537
- xii. A 3% rise on £205.49 would equate £6.16 per household.
- xiii. An anticipated additional income of £14600 would be needed based on current budget allocations and service delivery.
- xiv. It should be noted there is an anticipated that a saving of £24822 on the staffing costs this year (based on year to date expenditure), which for 2020/21 could mean a staffing allocation of £222,000 with on costs and pay increases, based on the current staffing establishment.

Richard Spencer- Williams – Town Clerk 1.7.19

## Legal Power

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<sup>i</sup> Local Government Finance Act 1992 s41

<sup>ii</sup> Local Government Act 1972 s112

<sup>iii</sup> Public Health Act 1875 s164. Highways Act 1980 ss145, 50

<sup>iv</sup> Public Health Act 1936 s87

<sup>v</sup> Local Government Act 1972 s133

<sup>vi</sup> Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

<sup>vii</sup> Public Health Act 1875 s164

<sup>viii</sup> Public Health Act 1936 s234

<sup>ix</sup> Litter Act 1983 ss5-6

<sup>x</sup> Local Government Act 1972 s111

<sup>xi</sup> Localism Act 2011 ss 81-86/87-108