

To Hythe Town Council
Date 12 October 2019
Status **Non Exempt**
Responsible officer Responsible Financial Officer

Subject **BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21 REPORT
F&GP/12/19**

SUMMARY: This report sets out a draft proposed budget including both expenditure and savings for 2020.21

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:-

- a) The Council is committed to control and manage its financial affairs in accordance with The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note the report F&GP/12/19
2. To recommend changes if required.
3. To adopt the Budget for 2020/21 including growth items set out within the report based on a 3% increase resulting in an overall spend of £485,277 and a precept demand of £357,849.

INTRODUCTION

Priority this year has been given to ensuring that the financial information was being recorded and reported correctly.

The new budget shows impact on top level figures if Hythe Town Council were to proceed with no increase in projects (Option A), (Option B) with increase in projects over and above £17,500 (which was last year's budget figure).

INCOME

Income levels were over anticipated for some cost centres in 2019.20 and have amended to reflect a truer level for 2020.21

A good well supported season for Tennis and Bowls 2019.20 especially the grass courts which may be due to the fact that the Court fees were held at the same prices as the previous year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hire Rates

In view of last year's increases it is recommended that there is NO increase to hire rates for 2020/21 but a small reduction on the hire of wood by £2.00 from £4.00 to £2.00.

Deposits

- Hire of the Green – Charity event per day by £50 from £100 to £150
- Allotments - by £20 from £80 to £100

With a recommendation to set up a separate reserve for deposits not refunded to cover costs such as skip hire.

EXPENDITURE

The budget for 2019.20 was understated on a number of cost centres this has now been rectified for the new budget calculations.

Known spend is based on six months to 30 Sept 2019, where the expense is known to be complete the budget to date has been amended accordingly.

Inflation for 2020.21 is assumed to be 3%.

PROJECTS

Projects have been costed, those highlighted in red have been built into the expenditure at this stage, pending discussion (Option B).

The figure for projects 2019.20 was agreed at £17,200 (Option A) to include those highlighted would raise the project figure by £2,110 to £19,310.

CHARITIES

The proposal to merge the three small charities Eaton Lands, Horn Street and Burmarsh Rd still has no clear path. Pending a legal solution the Charities require funding so that they may become self-sufficient.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Charities

- Possible grant funding is applied for so that the Charities can become self-sufficient so that they can pay for their own services ie grass cutting, tree maintenance, safety inspections.
or
- A small grant is awarded to each charity from Hythe Town Council to cover the above costs

FUNDING

Applications have been submitted to FHDC for a number of High Street projects.

RECOMMENDATION

An amount of £25,000 is reserved to match fund these projects should they be accepted.

CONTACT OFFICER

If you have any queries about this report please contact The Responsible Financial Officer of the Council

Tel: 01303 266152 or email RFO@hythe-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting.

