

West Rainton Parish Council - 16 January 2020

Agenda Item 12: Precept for 2020/21

Report of the Parish Clerk

To comply with the deadline of 25 January 2020 set by Durham County Council (the Council Tax administering Authority), the Parish Council is required to agree, set and request the precept for the financial year 2020-21.

Tax Base 2020/21

The County Council has updated its tax base modelling taking into account the updated position in terms of new build and incidence of other discounts and exemptions impacting on the tax base calculation.

The table below shows the position for West Rainton Parish Council

Current Tax Base (2019/20) (A)	688.2
Tax Base for 2020/21 (B)	691.8
Tax Base Increase from 2019/20 (C) = (B-A)	3.6
Current Band D Council Tax (2019/20) (D)	£50.78
Increase in Council Tax Yield (E) (C X (D))	£182.81
Removal of the 2019/20 LRTRS Grant (F)	(£2575)
LCTRS Grant Applicable in 2020/21 (G)	£2759
*Net Position (E) – (F) + (G)	£366.81

*This is the amount the Parish Council could decrease its precept by to give a standstill position in terms of resource availability.

To assist Parish Council consider the setting of the 2020/21 precept please refer to the attached Appendix.

This summarises:

- Actual expenditure and income in 2018/19
- Forecast expenditure and income for 2019/20
- Draft budget for 2020/21 based on a standstill position i.e. no change to precept.

Draft Budget 2020/21

In drawing up the proposed budget for 2020/21, careful consideration has been given to anticipated spending based upon experience gained over the last 2 years. Your attention is drawn to key provisions in the draft budget:

- Forecast brought forward general reserves balance of £13,287 from 2019/20
- Maintenance of the earmarked reserve for cemetery improvements of £9,833
- Transfer of £2,000 from the forecast general reserve balance at 31/3/2020 to the Election Reserve to increase the reserve to £4,000 to cover the estimated cost of the May 2021 election.
- The potential to support Durham Area Youth's funding request for £5,000 in 2020/21. (To be considered under a separate agenda item at this meeting)
- Maintenance of the current level of staff resource (equivalent to 20 hours per week at Parish Clerk's hourly rate) ,even though the post of project officer was deleted from the establishment 30/9/19, to allow provision for any unforeseen staff resource requirements and /or specialist skills to be procured
- Continuation of provision of £3,000 per annum to fund agreed actions in the Parish Plan
- The potential to fund all grant applications from community groups totalling £814 (To be considered under a separate agenda item at this meeting)
- An increase for inflation where considered necessary
- Provision of £1500 for further cemetery maintenance improvements (To be considered as part of the agenda item relating to the Cemetery Maintenance Contract at this meeting)
- The continuation of existing maintenance contracts at 2019/20 prices
- Provision of £3,000 within the General Maintenance Budget of £11,000 for ad hoc responsive maintenance in the Cemetery, Village Greens and the Heritage Garden.

Conclusion

The draft budget forecasts a balanced budget with a small surplus of £833. This will increase the general reserve forecast balance at 31 March 2021 to £12,117. Consequently, no increase in precept is considered necessary.

Parish Council is asked to consider this report and Appendix in order to agree the precept requirement for 2020/21 and agree a draft provisional budget for 2020/21.

M Ramshaw – Parish Clerk
10 Jan 2020