

RESOLVED: the Committee recommend the draft Community Services budget as presented with no amendments or further recommendations, to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

3.2 The Grounds and Environmental Services Committee resolved the following recommendations for the Finance and General Purposes Committee concerning the 2021/22 budget:

RESOLVED: the Committee recommend the draft Grounds and Environmental Services budget as presented with no amendments or further recommendations, to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

4. FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES BUDGET

4.1 The following summarises movements in the proposed budget for the Finance and Support Services Department for 2021/22.

Including additional corporate staffing costs, the overall Finance and Support Services budget has increased by £28,803. This is explained as follows:

Savings	Growth
Corporate Costs	
Additional income from tax base increase - £12,678 <i>(tax base has increased from 13,082 to 13,152 = 70 x £181.11 = £12,678)</i>	Overall increase in staffing costs - £28,543 <i>(made up of 2% Living Wage Foundation pay increase, increments, and additional pension contribution costs) £10,500 Salary contingency</i>
SUB-TOTAL - £12,678	SUB-TOTAL - £39,43
SUB-TOTAL - £26,365	
Finance and Support Services	
Grove House / Caretaking – 11,719	Central Services / Subscriptions and publications – 1,100
Grove House / Waste disposal - 400	Central Services / Misc. recharges - 150
Grove House / Repairs and Maintenance – 2,000	Grove House / Building Maintenance Contracts – 1,500
Corporate Management / Health and Safety – 2,000	Grove House / Rents and rates - 10,312
Corporate Management / Beds FA recharge - 322	Grove House / Telephones - 300
Grove House loan repayments – 1,083	Corporate Management / Pension Costs – 1,400
	Corporate Management / Telephones – 1,000
	Corporate Management / Insurance – 4,200
SUB-TOTAL - £17,524	SUB-TOTAL - £19,962
SUB-TOTAL - £2,438	
TOTAL - £28,803	

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

- 5.1 The provisional year-end balances on the Allocated Reserve for 2020/21 are based on the figures detailed in the financial monitoring report included elsewhere on this agenda.
- 5.2 The Council's Financial Regulations authorise the Town Clerk and Chief Executive and Heads of Service to incur expenditure of up to £10,000 against the agreed capital programme (Allocated Reserve) following consultation with the appropriate Committee Chairman.

6. TOTAL DEBT AND ASSOCIATED REPAYMENTS

- 6.1 Members will be aware that the Council currently has a number of debts, serviced through the revenue budget. Listed below is a schedule of debts and associated repayments:

AREA	TOTAL LOAN OUTSTANDING AT 31.03.20	ANNUAL PAYMENT 2020/21	TERM
Luton Road Pavilion	£6,906	£1,684	Nov 2026
Grove House Gardens Performance Area/1st Cemetery Extension	£26,258	£7,403	Nov 2024
Priory House loans 1&2	£275,723	£34,217	Nov 2033 May 2034
Grove House loans 1&2	£338,266	£38,832	Nov 2034 May 2035
2nd Cemetery extension	£270,000	£27,727	Nov 2038
TOTAL	£917,153	£109,863	

7. COUNCIL ASSETS

- 7.1 In contrast to the schedule of debt shown above, the Council does of course own land, buildings, and physical assets such as vehicles. However, it is very difficult to put a value on most of the Council's assets as most have restricted use, such as public open space, therefore undermining their value. The Council's two most valuable assets are Grove House and Priory House. The most recent valuation of both buildings value them at £900,000 and £785,000 respectively for non-specialist existing use. In addition, the Council will potentially be in a position to dispose of two areas of land that may yield significant capital receipts in the medium term.

8. INCOME LIABILITIES ON REVENUE BUDGET

- 8.1 The draft budget for 2021/22 relies on non-council tax income generation of **£917,199**, which is an increase of £43,493 on last year's income target of **£873,706**. This income is targeted to come from various sources and in terms of budget risk, this is the highest risk area. Appendix 1 shows a schedule of all income targets.

9. THE DUNSTABLE TAX BASE

- 9.1 The tax base used to calculate the precept demanded from Central Bedfordshire Council has increased from 13,082 for 2020/21 to 13,152 for 2021/22. This is an increase of 70, which is considerably lower than last year's increase.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 If members approve the revenue budget and fees and charges submitted in the enclosed documents to this report, the following resolution is proposed:

RECOMMENDED: i) that the proposed budget for 2021/22 be presented to Council for approval (as enclosed)

ii) that the Town Clerk and Chief Executive be authorised to incur the various items of expenditure detailed in the budget, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

iii) that the revised scale of fees and charges, set out in the report, be approved with effect from 1st April 2021 or the start of the 2021/22 winter playing season, as appropriate

iv) that, in consequence of the foregoing recommendations, the Town Council issue a precept upon Central Bedfordshire Council in the sum of £2,393,969, resulting in a Dunstable Town Council Tax (Band D) at the rate of £182.02.

11. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The draft budget accounts for an increase to the national Living Wage Foundation living wage and a minimum £250 wage increase for all staff earning £24,000 and below.

12. POLICY AND CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Council has set itself a number of challenges and aspirations as contained in the draft Corporate Plan 2020-23. These budget proposals accord with the aspirations contained within the Corporate Plan.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The draft general health and safety budget for 2021/22 has been reduced slightly but should still be sufficient for current needs.
- 13.2 The draft budget and recommended initial savings will still ensure that the Council continues to operate its services safely.

14. EQUALITIES AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 Appendix 1 – Schedule of income targets 2021/22

16. SEPARATE ENCLOSURE (previously circulated)

16.1 Enclosure 1 - Draft budget and pricing schedules for 2021/22

NB - Members are reminded that the enclosures have previously been circulated and are to be retained for each Committee meeting.

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 Meeting of full Council, 7 December 2020 - *Draft Budget 2021/22*

18. AUTHOR

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