

Meeting	Policy & Finance Committee
Date	19 th January 2021
Report Title	2021-22 Precept
Agenda Reference	10
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Budget & Precept Working Party Recommendation to Committee

To set a precept at of £859,382 which represents £95.42 per annum for a Band D household. This is an increase of 4.5% compared to last year or £4.19 per annum.

Background

This report should be read in conjunction with the accompany appendices:

- A) Precept Calculation
- B) Precept Explanation
- C) Percentage Breakdown

Appendix A: Precept Calculation

This spreadsheet is a breakdown of income and expenditure for the main cost centre activity for the Parish Council ie Administration, Office, Play Areas, Parks & Open Spaces etc. The projected income and expenditure are considered alongside our Reserves. Columns P and Q will be discussed further at the meeting to explain how we arrive at our precept calculation.

Appendix B: Precept Explanation

This table explains the precept calculation. The precept required for next year's planned activities is approximately £859k which represents an increase of 4.5% which is the equivalent of £95.42 per annum. That is an additional £4.19 per annum on current precept.

Appendix C: Precept Percentage Breakdown

This spreadsheet shows the last four years of precepts. The table on the right and highlighted column shows the proposed precept and the cost broken down to yearly, monthly, weekly and daily. When communicating with our residents we will equate those figures to household items to help with realising the value.

For example:

- £95.42 per year of precept = weekly shop for average family of four
- £7.95 per month of precept = 16 rolls of toilet paper
- £1.74 per week of precept = 4 rolls of toilet paper
- £0.25 per day of precept = ½ pint of milk

Haydon Wick's Precept compared with comparable-size Parishes

<i>January 2019 electors</i>	<i>2020/21 Precept/Band D</i>
Haydon Wick (17,309)	£91.23
West Swindon (19,274)	£97.84
Central North Swindon (23,595)	£128.96
Stratton St Margaret (15,818)	£197.98

Notes

1. Budget setting process began in October 2020 and a working party of councillors and officers have met twice to work on a suitable draft budget and precept for next year's budget.
2. The working party is recommending to the P&F committee a 4.5% increase in the precept for the 2021/22 financial year.
3. The tax base confirmed by Swindon Borough Council in December 2020 has been calculated at 9005.9 and represents a change of -0.1% - this is a minor reduction which does not impact our calculations. The reduction is due to impact of changes in growth assumptions and the number of households receiving single persons discount and/or other discounts and exemptions.
4. The Council Tax Support grant is unchanged at £16,598.
5. At the end of the financial year our income and expenditure will mean we have a surplus of c£75k.
6. The pandemic meant many planned activities were either greatly reduced or never happened at all, and any loss of income caused by COVID was negated by the receipt of a Government Discretionary Grant. Eg.
 - Tadpole
 - Councillor Devices
 - Progressing Open Spaces Feasibilities
 - Elections
 - Various live community events
 - Training & Conferences
 - Giving Community Grants
7. These unspent funds mean that we will have c£148k to go back into the bottom line for re-allocation.
8. We also continue to re-negotiate on our contracts which result in money savings. Eg.
 - Insurance
 - Telecommunications
 - Office equipment and supplier