

Meeting	Full Council
Date	26 th January 2021
Report Title	Accompanying Report 2020-21 Budget, Reserves & Precept
Agenda Reference	Agenda 7
Author	Georgina Morgan-Denn, Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO

Policy & Finance Committee Recommendations to Full Council

To agree an operational budget of **£851,158.71** which equates to a 3.5% increase in the precept compared to last year. This represents a precept of **£94.51** per annum for a Band D household which is an increase of **£3.28** per annum compared to last year. To note the changes to the governance arrangements when submitting the precept demand to Swindon Borough Council.

Background

This report should be read with the accompany appendices:

- A) Draft Budget
- B) Precept Calculation
- C) Percentage Breakdown

Appendix A: Draft Budget

A revised draft budget following P&F Committee meeting on 19th January 2021. Highlights in yellow show where adjustments have been made to enable the proposed precept increase at 3.5%.

Appendix B: Precept Calculation

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 C: Precept Percentage Breakdown

This table with the 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: £94.51 per year of precept is the equivalent to a weekly shop for average family of four. £7.88 per month of precept equal to 16 rolls of toilet paper and so on.

How our precept compares with other 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

Changes to the governance arrangements when submitting our precept demand to SBC



In view of the ongoing pandemic and current lockdown arrangements the Clerk is amending Swindon Borough Council's Precept Demand Form. The revised form will replace a wet signature for the Clerk's electronic signature and include a minute reference of the Full Council where the precept was agreed. There is no legislative requirement for wet signatures and other local authorities do not require them. We have confirmation from the Borough Council's Finance department that it is acceptable for Parishes to make their own governance arrangements.