

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
21 JANUARY 2020**

RW/2020

14 JANUARY 2020

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 10 – SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR FY 2020/21

AIM

1. To set Bridgnorth Town Council's level of precept for the financial year 2020/21.

BACKGROUND

2. Local Government Finance Act 1992 S41 requires the Town Council to prepare an annual budget which results in the Council setting the precept for the year.
3. Shropshire Council requires the precept request to be submitted by 31 January 2020.
4. The Town Council set a 'final draft' budget at its meeting on 3 December 2019 (minute 0335/1920 refers).
5. In the intervening time the RFO has refined estimates for expected income and expenditure in the current year and amended the budget figures for 2020/21.

DISCUSSION/ COMMENT

6. Budget for nominal code 4202-250 (Tree Management) has been increased from £8,000 to £10,000. This is due to the current situation with regard to an ash dieback fungus that is spreading throughout the UK so extended tree works could need to be carried out.
7. The budget has been increased for the following cost centres to take into account the pensions deficit figure and employer rate including the McCloud judgement: 101 (Central Costs) 210 Town Hall and 250 (Grounds).
8. An increase from £19,000 to £22,000 has been applied to 4130-101 (Insurance).
9. The following reductions have been applied to the predicted figures for income in FY 2019/20:
 - Cemetery (230) reduced from £66,500 to £50,000
 - Severn Park- Car Park fees (260) reduced from £52,000 to £48,500

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bearing in mind Councils desire to increase the General Reserve:

10. It is recommended that the Town Council RESOLVES:
 - i. To approve the summary budget (Flag 1 of the attached report) for FY 2020/21.

(Precept of £632,066 General Reserve at £160,000 and Band D equivalent of £138.05, percentage increase of 2.50%.)

- ii. That a precept be issued, requiring Shropshire Council to pay Bridgnorth Town Council £632,066 (Six Hundred and Thirty-two Thousand and Sixty-six Pounds) to meet its expenditure for the financial year 2020/21

Ros Williams
Responsible Financial Officer