

1 Introduction

The Finance Committee considered a draft budget for 2021/22 at its meeting on 28th October and resolved to recommend the principles behind the budget shown as option 1 to the Parish Council for consideration and approval as the basis for the budget planning. The Finance Committee is now tasked with making a recommendation to the Council for the meeting on 14th December 2020 for the budget for 2021/22 and the resulting Precept request.

2 Tax base and Precept Request

Wiltshire Council have now issued the draft tax base figures for 2021/22 and although not confirmed it is unlikely that the figure for Calne Without will change significantly however if it does the Council will need to reconsider the Precept request in the light of the change, but this will be available before the meeting on 14th December 2020.

The precept request must be received by Wiltshire Council by 18th January 2020.

3 Options presented

The Options presented are in the circulated excel spreadsheet.

In order for this Committee and the Council to make a fully informed decision on its budget and precept request the Clerk has provided 2 additional options for consideration to provide context and comparison to the preferred budget Option 1.

- Option 1

This is the budget prepared on the principles agreed by the Council in November and was the preferred option of this Committee.

- Option 2

This is the budget reduced to a bare minimum. To accept this budget Councillors would have to be satisfied that the Council would be meeting the requirements of its Risk Schedule.

- Option 3

This is a hybrid of options 1 and 2. This seeks to cover the Council's required costs but reduces the discretionary costs. Councillors would need to be satisfied that it meets the requirements of the Risk schedule and the stated aims of the Council in responding to the community's requirements and the duty to spend the funds held in the Community Infrastructure Levy and Sun Edison Reserves.

4 Conclusion

This Committee is requested to consider the options presented and to make a recommendation of either one of the options presented or an alternative to present to Council for consideration and approval. It is suggested that this paper with the Finance Committees comments on the budget options be circulated as a background paper to Councillors for the Council meeting on 14th December to provide context and background.

Recommendation

That the Finance Committee consider and approve a draft budget and precept request to be recommended to the Parish Council on 14th December 2020.