**Agenda Item 6b**

**Notes to accompany 2020-21 draft budget**

**Introduction**

The Amenities and Services Committee met to consider its budget codes on 10.12.19 (Appendix B contains a copy of the Amenities and Services Committee meeting minutes) and the Finance and Corporate Governance committee met on 14.1.20 (Appendix A contains a copy of the committee minutes and confidential papers)

Outlined below are the recommendations from the committee for the Full Council to consider in relation to the budget headings accompanying the draft budget.

In order to draw up a provisional budget as a starting point for discussions I have included figures in the following budget headings based on 2019-20 budget figures

* Contributions
* Wem Town Hall
* Town Transformation

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| **Item** | **2019-2020 Budget notes** |
| **EXPENDITURE** |  |
| **Public Lighting**  **Committee Recommendation** | Reduction loan charges to reflect decreasing loan payments.  Reduction in lighting upgrade budget as considerable work carried out to upgrade lighting.  **Recommendation that the Public Lighting Budget be set at £26,000 reduction of £2522 on 2019-20** |
| **Burial Ground**  **Committee Recommendation** | Minor increase to cover rates increase.  **Recommendation that the Burial Ground Budget be set at £7590 an Increase of £10 on 2019-20** |
| **Allotments**  **Committee Recommendation** | Slight increase in provision to allow increases in water and maintenance.  **Recommendation that the Allotments Budget be set at £1000 an Increase of £90 on 2019-20** |
| **Administration**  **Committee Recommendation** | Considered on 14.1.20 by Finance and Corporate Governance Committee copy of draft minutes can be found in appendix A  **Recommendation that the Administration Budget is maintained at £24480.** |
| **Contributions**  **Small Grants**  **Town Promotion**  **Wem Economic Forum**  **Climate Change**  ***Clerks notes*** | **Youth Club** Current allocation £2000**,** Wem Youth Club has explained that if financial support from Shropshire Council (currently £6000) is withdrawn they will need to find £6000 from another source. Currently it is unclear what specific plans Shropshire Council has regarding funding of youth provision in the town (contribution request included with papers).  **Christmas Lights and Festival Group** have submitted request for £3000 (£3000 in 2019/20)  **Millennium Green** £1700 request same as 2019/20  11 Applications received 2020-21 previous allocation £5000  2018/19 allocation of £500 retained in current budget.  2018/19 allocation £1000 this amount has been retained in the 2020/21 budget.  A suggested allocation of £1000 to cover small climate change initiatives in the town that could be suggested through the Wem Area Forum or identified direct by the Town Council.  ***No recommendation made on contributions budget. However for draft budget purposes the figure has been set at £20,400 an increase of £1,100. However requests from groups wanting larger contributions is considered under agenda item 6a*** |
| **Recreation**  **WSSA**  **Play Equipment**  **Repairs and Maintenance**  **Tree Works**  **Inspections**  **Bin emptying**  **Skate Area**  **Committee Recommendation** | Funding request received from WSSA is that funding is increased to £19,000, £500 to go towards the equipment fund and £500 for general running costs.  Maintain at same level as 2019/20  **Total Budget £3600**  Maintain at same level as 2019/20  **Total Budget £5000**  Maintain at same level as 2019/20  **Total Budget £1500**  Maintain at same level as 2019/20  **Total Budget £600**  Slight increase to cover increase costs  **Total Budget £900, Increase of £50 on 2019/20**  The skate area would benefit from upgrading in the future as the areas is very heavily used. This will be a significant expenditure for the Town Council and will most likely require grant funding. However it is important to start budgeting for the replacement as match funding will be required**.**  **Total Budget £2000**  **Recommendation that the Recreation Budget increases by £3,050 to £32,600** |
| **Swimming Pool**  ***Clerks note*** | Contribution request of £55,000 received a decrease of £3000 on 2019/20 contribution.  ***Contribution Request to be considered under agenda item 6a. for indicative purposes the swimming pool budget has been reduced to £64300 to reflect the reduced amount requested.*** |
| **Salaries**  **Committee Recommendation** | Following staff appraisals, the Finance and Corporate Governance committee considered staff salaries at its meeting on 14.1.20. Salary budgets have been adjusted to show estimated overtime payments and as a national agreement on local government pay scales has not been reached a 3% increase (instead of the 10% currently being requested) of salaries of staff on NJC contracts along with any incremental increase has been included.    Budget also includes provision to employ a new member of staff for up to 10 hours a week.  **Recommendation that Staffing budget is increased by £8,048 to £108,404** |
| **Cllr Expenses**  **Training**  **Travel Expenses**  **Committee Recommendation** | No change from 2019/20 budget of £1000  No change from 2019/20 budget of £75  **Recommendation that Cllr Expenses budget is retained at £1075** |
| **Toilets**  **Old Toilet Block**  **Committee Recommendation** | New 3 year toilet cleaning contract started 1.5.19  Slight increase in budget to allow for surveys into rainwater harvesting options  No recommendation made to be discussed under agenda item 5.  **Recommendation that Public Toilets budget is increased by £500 to £15,000** |
| **Bus Shelters**  **Committee Recommendation** | Minor Increase, Total Budget £1200, increase of £180 on 2019/20 to allow for roof cleaning and more minor maintenance works.  **Recommendation that Bus Shelters budget is increased to £1200** |
| **Misc**  **Floral Planters**  **CCTV**  **Committee Recommendation**  **Wem Town Hall**  **Town Transformation**  **Clerks notes**  **Youth Provision**  **Clerks notes** | Increase as using a mix of normal and peat free composts, also previously the planters were planted up voluntarily and this work will be now undertaken by a contractor  **Increase of £1250 on 2019/20 budget**  No change on 2019/20 budget, will enable upgrade of 1 camera  **Total budget to £5000.**  **Recommendation that the Town Council approve increase in Floral Planters budgets to £5000**  Year 2 of service level agreement which started 1.4.19  **Allocation maintained at £22,000**  This budget code was created to provide funds for specialist works associated with the development of new services / facilities in the town – e.g. reopening Morgan Library.  **Allocation maintained at £10,000**  Considering possible changes to the funding of youth services in the town during 2020-21 it would be prudent to allocate funds to enable the provision of services for young people in the town.  **Recommend that £6000 is allocated in the budget to secure the provision of services to young people.** |
| **Expenditure Budget** | **Expenditure budget £344,049 an increase of £12,106 on 2019-20** |
| **Income** |  |
| **Interest** | Amount increased to £1500 to reflect better interest rates. |
| **Allotments**  **Committee Recommendation** | Increased to £1500 to reflect rent increases  Allotment rental income is increased |
| **Burials** | Maintained at £10000 |
| **Toilet income** | Reduced to £2000 |
| **Story of Wem** | Book sales poor following launch of Victorian County History Society book |
| **Income Budget not including precept** | **£15,000 an increase of £905 on 2019/20** |
| **Precept** | It should be noted that due to an increase in the tax base of £1.48 (see Shropshire Council letter (Appendix c) in order to show a 0% increase in the precept a precept of £321,038 would be required**.**  **This means that the Town Council can raise the precept by £4576 increase and show a 0% increase on the 2019/20 precept.**  Every increase of £1000 in the precept will equate to an increase in the Council Tax on a band D property of 50 pence per annum.  Every increase of £100 in the precept will equate to an increase in the Council Tax on a band D property of 5 pence per annum. |