

Introduction

The Finance and Corporate Governance Committee considered a draft budget for the year 2018/19 at its meeting held on 4.1.18. Outlined below are the recommendations from the committee for the full council to consider in relation to the budget headings accompanying the draft budget.

Item	2018-19 Draft allocation notes
EXPENDITURE	
Public Lighting Committee Recommendation	Slight Reduction as new lights fitted resulting in reduction in power costs and maintenance. Savings from power costs to be used to replace reserves allocated for LED conversion. Recommendation that the Public Lighting Budget be set at £32666 a reduction of £2149 on 2017-18
Burial Ground Committee Recommendation	Increase in figures to allow for wall to be completed A provisional figure has been allocated of £1700 for the Whitchurch Road Cemetery to match the contribution given to Millennium Green Recommendation that the Burial Ground Budget be set at £5770 an Increase of £1400 on 2017-18
Allotments Committee Recommendation	Increase in provision to allow for paths to be reset. Recommendation that the Allotments Budget be set at £850 an Increase of £350 on 2017-18
Administration Postage, telephone and stationery Membership/ Subscription Audit	£100 increase on stationery due to increase in cost of stamps/ supplies etc. Total Figure £1600, Increase of £100 on 2017-18 Increased to include cost of following memberships Shropshire Council Health and Safety consultancy provision. SALC - £1600 SLCC - £210 ICMC - £90 Shropshire Council H & S Services £920 Local Council Review subscription £34 ICO - £35 Crewe Rail Users £10 Total Budget £3100, Same as 2017-18 Actual cost of external audit unknown at time of printing budget report. Total Budget £1500, Same as 2017-18

Copier	Slight increase to account for additional toner copier costs Total Figure £800, Increase of £50 on 2017-18
Chain of Office	Increase to cover cost of updating chain Total Figure £150, Increase of £100 on 2017-18
Mayors Allowance	See separate report. 2017/18 budget £1500
Hospitality Allowance	Total Budget £500, Same as 2017-18
Insurance	Increased insurance premium expected due to potential ongoing claim Total Figure £3000, Decrease of £800 on 2017-18 as change of broker resulted in reduction of premium.
Honours Board	Increase to allow for more names if more than one Honorary Townsman is awarded Total Budget £100, Increase of £50 on 2017-18
Election Expenses	Election Bill for May 2017 elections of £2576 to be paid April 2018 this is to be paid partially £2000 from earmarked reserves and £576 from the 2018-19 budget with the remaining budget allocation to be earmarked for future elections. It should be noted that this amount would not be sufficient if a bye election is called in 2018-19 Total Budget £1000. Same as 2017-18
Legal fees	Anticipated that there may be additional fees associated with WSSA transfer. Total Budget £1000, Same as 2017-18
Bank Charges	Increased to reflect new banking fees implemented and cost of transfers between Barclays Account and the Unity accounts Total Budget £250, Increase of £50 on 2017-18
Computer	Increase to £750 to cover cost of encryption of emails as part of GDPR as well as possible replacement of computer Total Budget £750, Increase of £150 on 2017-18
Townsman Certification	Increase to cover purchase of 2 certificates and possible redesign Total Budget £80, Increase of £25 on 2017-18
Office Hire	Total Budget £6500, Same as 2017-18
Finance Package	Allocation includes cover cost of RBS carrying out year end close down of accounts Support fee £245 (2017-18 figure) Year end closedown £525 Total Budget £820, Same as 2017-18
Communication	Websites annual support costs £200. Annual report printing £200. Coffee mornings £200 Total Budget £600, Increase of £100 on 2017-18

Flags	Purchase of new Armed Forces Day Flag £100 Total Budget £100, Reduction of £400 on 2017-18
Events	Key event for 2018 commemoration of end of WW1 Total Budget £300, Increase of £50 on 2017-18
Data Protection	Allocation to cover purchase of the services of a data protection officer or staff training as part of GDPR changes New budget item £1500
Other items for budget consideration	Past Mayors Badges
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that the Administration Budget is set at £25150 an increase of £915 on 2017-18. This figure is based on the assumption that the Mayor's allowance remains at £1500 however the final amount will be subject to council decision on the Mayor's allowance.
Contributions Support to service providers.	
Small Grants	
Town Promotion	Allocation of £500 (increase of £200 on 2017-18 to provide partial funding for replacement welcome banners.
Wem Economic Forum	Allocation of £1000 towards Wem Economic Forum projects
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that the Contributions Budget stays at £10600 the same as for 2017-18 and that this figure includes the allocation to WEF and Town Promotion.
Recreation WSSA	WSSA Funding request received from WSSA is increased to £20,000 to include £2000 contribution towards legal fees for the constitution changes.
Play Equipment	Small allocation for purchase of minor items Total Budget £200, Increase of £200 on 2017-18
Repairs and Maintenance	Includes Annual Play Equipment Inspection. Total Budget £2000 same as 2017-18
Tree Works	Tree inspection due in 2018 and budget required to address any works identified as needed following the inspection. Total Budget £1000, Increase of £250 on 2017-18
Misc / bin emptying	£1200 – no change on 2017-18

Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that the Recreation Budget increases by £2450 to £24400
Swimming Pool	No change from 2017/18 budget allocation.
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that the Swimming Pool Budget is maintained at £67300
Salaries	Increase provision for nationally negotiated pay increase of 2% (currently under negotiation) along with contracted incremental pay awards Increase in overtime payment allocation as this includes additional payments. Also minor increase in training and expenses budget.
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that Staffing budget is increased by £3594 to £85094
Cllr Expenses Training	Allocation for training increased £1000 to enable sufficient funds for training strategy to be implemented. Total Budget £1000, Increase of £500 on 2017-18
Travel Expenses	No change on 2017-18 budget of £75
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that Cllr Expenses budget is increased by £500 to £1075
Toilets	No change although painting of toilet woodwork may be something that the council wish to consider in the budget allocation.
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that Public Toilets budget is maintained at £13550
Bus Shelters	Increase due to increase cost of cleaning £65/ month Total Budget £1000, Increase of £400 on 2017-18
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that Bus Shelters budget is increased to £1000
Misc Floral Planters	Anticipated increase in cost of plants and compost due to the need to plant up 2 tiered planters however this should be off set by the reduction in lease costs No change on 2017-18 budget of £3500
CCTV	CCTV increased to reflect increased service charge with ORP Total Budget £3000, Increase of £75 on 2017-18
Wem Town Hall	£22000 requested from Town Hall Trust No change from 2017-18 allocation request.

Service Transformation	£15000 allocation for specialist works associated with the development of new services / facilities in the town – e.g reopening the Old toilet Block / Morgan Library. Total Budget £15032, Increase of £6838 on 2017-18
Committee Recommendation	Recommendation that the Town Council consider proposals for Msc. Services/ Facilities budget
Reimburse Reserves (Clerks recommendation)	Due to the large amount of expenditure in 2017-18 from the reserves the Council should consider budgeting an amount each year in the short term to replace funds taken out of reserves for capital projects to ensure that an adequate level of reserves is maintained for future urgent works. Total Budget £4000
Expenditure Budget	£314987 an increase of £14518 on 2017-18
Income	
Interest	Amount reduced to £350 to reflect poor interest rates.
Allotments	Increased to £1000 to reflect number of allotment holders and rent increase.
Burials	Increase to £9000 to reflect increase in number of burials in recent years.
Toilet income	Estimated at £43 / week.
Income Budget not including precept	£12670 an increase of £2250 on 2017-18
Precept	It should be noted that due to an increase in the tax base of 2.38% (see Shropshire Council letter). In order to set a 0% increase in the precept a precept of £296432 would need to be set. This is a £6883 increase on the 2017-18 precept. Every increase of £1000 in the precept will equate to an increase in the Council Tax on a band D property of 51 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.