West Rainton Parish Council - 19 January 2023

Agenda Item 10: Precept for 2023/24

Report of the Parish Clerk

To comply with the deadline of 20th January 2023 set by Durham County Council (the Council Tax administering Authority), the Parish Council is required to agree, set and request the precept for the financial year 2023-24.

Tax Base 2023/24

The County Council has updated its tax base modelling taking into account the updated position in terms of new build and incidence of other discounts and exemptions impacting on the tax base calculation.

The table below shows the position for West Rainton Parish Council

Current Tax Base (2022/23) (A)	690.50
Tax Base for 2025/24 (B)	708.50
Tax Base increase from 2022/23 (C) = (B-A))	17.80
Current Band D Council Tax (2023/24) (D)	£51.80
Increase in Council Tax Yield (E) (C X (D)	£922.04
Removal of the 2022/23 LRTRS Grant (F)	£3187
LCTRS Grant Applicable in 2023/24 (G)	£2582
*Net Position (E) – (F) + (G)	£317.04

*This is the amount the Parish Council could reduce its precept by to give a standstill position in terms of resource availability.

To assist Parish Council consider the setting of the 2023/24 precept please refer to the attached Appendix.

This summarises:

- Actual expenditure and income in 2021/22
- Forecast expenditure and income outturn for 2022/23
- Draft budget for 2023/24 based on a standstill position i.e. no change to precept.

Draft Budget 2023/24

In drawing up the proposed budget for 2023/24, careful consideration has been given to anticipated spending based upon experience gained over previous years. Your attention is drawn to key provisions in the draft budget:

- The forecast general reserve balance at 31/3/23 is £26503
- From the balance of £26503, it is proposed to transfer £3000 to the Village Improvement Plan (VIP) Reserve to fund inflationary pressures on potential new projects, leaving a net general reserve balance of £23503 to carry forward to 2023/24.

- The forecast balance on VIP reserve at the 31/3/23 is £17,000. This will increase to £20,000 to carry forward to 2023/24 with the proposed transfer from general reserves.
- The potential to support Durham Area Youth's funding request for £5,000 2023/24 (to be considered under a separate agenda item at this meeting)
- The potential to support other grant applications received from community groups totalling £1090 (To be considered under a separate agenda item at this meeting)
- The potential to support additional community events with funding up to £1000 e.g. Kings Coronation
- The potential to fund 4 additional waste bins at an estimated cost of £1500.
- The continuation of village strimming over the summer months plus £1000 contingency for ad hoc village maintenance (Total budget provision £3580)
- Cemetery maintenance contingency of £1,000
- An increase for inflation of 5% on pay and 11% on other relevant expenditure as recommended by CDALC
- An increase on all cemetery fees of !!% for inflation
- The draft 2023/24 draft budget forecasts a budget surplus of £10,684 which includes £9432 refund of VAT from 2022/23.

Conclusion

The 2023/24 draft annual budget forecasts a surplus of £10,684. This will increase the general reserve forecast balance at 31 March 2024 to £34,187.

This level of reserve is considered a reasonable sum based on previous reserve guidance**.** (9-12 months of precept figure Consequently, no increase in precept is considered necessary.

Parish Council is asked to consider this report and the Appendix in order to agree the precept requirement for 2023/24 and approve a draft provisional budget for 2023.24

Jan 2023