25/26 L&R Budget Setting Review

06.11.2024

Parish Vision Compliance:
Priorities: Provide a high standard of services and facilities, Protect and Improve our Environment, Promote Inclusivity

1.0 Recommendation

1.1 Consider the budgetary increases outlined within the report, ensuring provision for loan repayments and contributions for grants while covering inflation and maintenance needs.
1.2 Reinstate the parks budget to £5,000.00 to support Green Flag status efforts.
1.3 Maintain the ringfenced allotment income and ensure any surplus is directed towards the sinking fund at year-end.
1.4 Consider requirement for additional Committee budget discussion meetings.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The Leisure & Recreation Committee is tasked with preparing budget proposals for the 25/26 Financial Year. This review builds on the performance of the 24/25 budget, identifying required adjustments and forecasted increases due to rising costs, loan repayment obligations, and strategic objectives. The recommendations made will be submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration during the overall budget setting process.

2.2 **Inflationary Context:**

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI) for October 2024:** 2.2%
- **Retail Price Index (RPI) for October 2024:** 3.5%

These inflationary increases have been factored into budget proposals to ensure service continuity despite increasing costs.

3.0 Key Budget Considerations:

3.1 Sports Pitch Maintenance (Code 200/5500)

3.1.1 23/24 Budget: £3,000
3.1.2 23/24 Actual: £25,500 (overspend mitigated by FF grant)
3.1.3 24/25 budget: £5,500
3.1.4 24/25: Projection: c£20,000
3.1.5 **25/26 Proposed Budget: £25,000**
This significant increase accounts for the £25,000 Football Foundation pitch enhancement grant repayment requirement. The sliding scale of contributions has been factored in, alongside inflation, to ensure this commitment is met.

25/26 L&R Budget Setting Review

06.11.2024

3.2 Play Areas General (Code 210/5515)

3.2.1 23/24 Budget: £17,500
3.2.2 23/24 Actual: £23,124 (overspend mitigated by verge EMR transfer)
3.2.3 24/25 Budget: £27,550
3.2.4 24/25 Projection: c£15,000
3.2.5 **25/26 Proposed Budget: £45,000**
This budget includes a contribution towards Public Works Loan repayments, which supports the parish's play areas strategy, along with the inflationary increase and necessary balance to facilitate maintenance works.

3.3 Allotment Maintenance (Code 200/5535)

3.3.1 23/24 Budget: £15,000
3.3.2 23/24 Actual: £12,050
3.3.3 24/25 Budget: £20,000
3.3.4 24/25 Projection: c£20,000
3.3.5 **25/26 Proposed Budget: £20,000**
Allotment maintenance remains unchanged, with funds continuing to be ringfenced for allotment site use.

3.4 Parks & Open Spaces (Code 200/5761)

3.4.1 23/24 Budget: £7,000
3.4.2 23/24 Actual: £2,000
3.4.3 24/25 Budget: £0
3.4.4 24/25 Projection: c£5,000
3.4.5 **25/26 Proposed Budget: £5,000.00**
Given the Parish’s ambition to attain Green Flag status for Penhill Park and retain the Green Flag status for St Marks, reinstating the parks budget to £5,000.00 will cover upkeep, enhancement, and Green Flag application/renewal costs.

4.0 Additional Budget Considerations:

4.1 Sports Equipment (football nets, flags, pegs etc) - £2,500.00
4.2 Continuation of wildflower seeding programme - £1,500.00

25/26 L&R Budget Setting Review

06.11.2024

Income Projections:

- **Grass Pitch Sports Income:** £44,000 (mix of adult & youth income)
- **Allotment Income:** £19,978
  These income streams are expected to remain stable and continue contributing to the L&R budget in the upcoming financial year.