



Agenda Item 25/022

Central Milton Keynes Town Council

Budget Meeting held on 23rd January 2025

At Centrecom Meeting Place

Present:

David Stabler (Chair)
Rebecca Kurth
Peter Lightfoot
Andrew Thomas
Paul Cranfield (Clerk)

Apologies:

Andre Brady
Anurag Jain
Philip Murphy

In attendance: None

25/014 – Apologies

None.

25/015– Declarations of Interest

None.

25/016 – Portfolios

The papers, as previously circulated, were noted.

It was noted that the interactive map project had not been factored into the 2025/26 budget due the current uncertainty on cost and the logistics of the proposal.

25/017 – Budget and Precept Proposals 2025/26 and to Agree Precept

The papers, as previously circulated, as follows, were noted:-

- i) Precept calculations and options
- ii) Operating budget breakdown for the next 3 years

- iii) Forecast and budget projections for the next 3 years based on current levy
- iv) Precept trend information
- v) Town & Parish council precept details 2024/25

Councillors identified that the options to be considered were to maintain the precept at the current level or to effect a further reduction on the current level of £55 per Band 'D' property.

Whilst it was noted that should the proposed 2025/26 budget be fully spent this would result in a slight overspend against precept income at 2024/25 levels, the amounts held within the general reserves would mean that this would not be a position of concern.

Councillor Thomas requested recorded votes in respect of any decisions made at the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed by Councillors Kurth, Lightfoot, Stabler and Thomas that the precept for the forthcoming year should be reduced, to enable a reduction in the general reserves to be made going forward.

After some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Stabler, seconded by Councillor Kurth and voted for by Councillors Thomas and Lightfoot that certain large items should be met directly from reserves, and thus should not factor into the calculations to determine the level of precept. These items were:

- Landscape support £35,000 per annum for the next 4 years.
- UnityMK van lease £8,000 per annum for the next 3 years
- Planning support for LTP, Reg19 and Campbell Park Northside next financial year £35,000.

These adjustments will result in next year's operating budget being reduced to £95,184, and for the following years the reductions on the projections would be £43,000 per annum.

Further discussion resulted in a vote on the proposal that the precept should be reduced to £34.92 for the financial year 2025/26, being a 36.5% reduction from the 2024/25 year's precept. The proposal, by Councillor Stabler and seconded by Councillor Kurth, was supported by Councillors Lightfoot and Thomas, making the vote unanimous.

It was agreed that this move would be seen as positive, in that residents would enjoy a second year of precept reduction, resulting from the increased numbers of properties being precepted, and the overall impact of the levy will also be a reduction in the general reserves held by the Town Council. It will also mean that the council will have the lowest precept of any urban parish in MK.

The amended operating budget and precept document to be included in the February 2025 papers.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

The next scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 6 February 2025 at Centrecom Meeting Place

Chair's Signature..... Date.....