

Date of Meeting: 25th February 2021

Budget Review – Income and Expenditure

1. Purpose of Report

To note the review of this year's accounts as of 31st January 2021.

2. Introduction

The report includes as appendices:

Appendix 1 – Expenditure and income incurred to 31 January 2021 (Actual year to date) and agreed budget 2020/21.

Appendix 2 – January 2021 Bank / Cash Reconciliation.

(Note: Figures within the Appendices are as of 31 January 2021).

3. Background

The Town Council has received regular monthly reports on income and expenditure for 2020/21. Given the current pandemic members have agreed to continue to act with caution and refrain from unnecessary expenditure.

4. Current month actuals

Expenditure

As advised previously each of the cost centres listed within the attached report provide a summary of total income and expenditure under that cost centre. Within each cost centre are cost codes which hold individual budget headings within the overall budget of the cost centre.

The spreadsheet shows that expenditure as of 31 January 2021 was £850,898 a difference of £123,960 from 30 December 2020, confirming a monthly spend of £83,969 after income. In comparing the spend for the same period for last year of £1,163,188 with careful management the town council has been able to save £312,290.

The main areas of savings to date have come from the following cost centres:

Town Centre Management – A budget of £68,723 with a current spend of £19,304.

Grants – A budget of £13,200 with a current spend of £700

Contributions – A budget of £73,450 with a current spend of £12,369.

Brookfield Hall – A budget of £13,350 with a current spend of £5,471

Civic & Elections – A budget of £22,100 with a current spend of £3,628.

Events – A budget of £70,038 with a current spend of £33,631

Civic Hall – A budget of £377,593 with a current spend of £241,034

There has also been the cost associated with the purchase of the Cherry Picker of £54,559 (net of VAT) that was paid out in January. These funds have been costed to capital reserves.

Income

Overall, the total amount of income received as of 31 January 2021 is £943,435 with most of this coming from the precept of £673,005. In addition, there has been £101,540 received through the Government Job Retention Scheme, £50,214 business support grants through Cheshire East, £17,389 from room hire at the Civic Hall, £14,432 from allotment rents and £64,378 from market rents. In the same period last year, a total of £1,275,683 had been received including the precept, a difference of £332,248.

In total the amount of grants received due to COVID-19 currently stands at £151,754, which far exceeds original expectations.

5. Considerations

Based on the income and expenditure reported above the town council has been able to make savings on expenditure close to the loss of income compared to the same period last year, as highlighted in yellow in the above figures.

The Current Job Retention Scheme ended on 31st October, but due to the most recent government restrictions has now been extended until March 2021 with up to 80% of employees' salaries covered by the scheme for the hours not worked.

6. Decisions Required

Members are asked to consider the report and:

6.1 Note and approve the review of income and expenditure and the bank reconciliation as of 31 December 2020.

6.2 Approve the recommendation to act with caution and refrain from unnecessary expenditure.