

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Planning Committee

Date **20 January 2021**

Report of: **Director of Planning and Regeneration**

Subject: **SPENDING PLANS 2021/22**

SUMMARY

This report sets out the overall level of revenue spending on this Committee's services and seeks agreement for the revised revenue budget for 2021/22 and the base budget for 2021/22 before being recommended to Full Council for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning Committee: -

- (i) agrees the revised budget for 2020/21;
- (ii) agrees the base budget for 2021/22; and
- (iii) recommends the budget to Full Council for approval.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council has a co-ordinated strategic service and financial planning process and this report allows the committee to consider in detail these plans for the provision of the Planning Committee services during the next financial year.
2. This report and the revenue budgets have been prepared in accordance with the Medium Term Finance Strategy that was approved by the Executive on 4 January 2021 and will cover the fees and charges and the revenue budget.

FEES AND CHARGES

3. The Planning Committee charges that are shown in the budget figures are mainly statutory and therefore not under the control of the committee.
4. The current level of Planning fees were set by Central Government and came into force on 17 January 2018.

REVENUE BUDGET

5. Appendix A analyses the overall budget total for the individual Planning Committee services and by the different types of expenditure and income.

BASE BUDGET 2020/21

6. The base budgets for 2020/21 were considered by this committee in January 2020 and were confirmed by Full Council in February 2020. The base budget for 2020/21 amounted to £472,600.

REVISED BUDGET 2021/22

7. The revised budget for 2021/22 is £599,000 which represents an increase of £126,400 or 21% from the base budget.
8. The main change to the revised budgets were the mid year approval of the planning appeal legal and consultant payments. In addition £10,000 was added to Planning Enforcement to remedy Bridge Road which will be funded from general fund reserves.

BASE BUDGET 2021/22

9. The base budget for 2021/22 is £482,000 an increase of £9,400 or 2% from the base budget.
10. The main change to the budget is the introduction of Welborne Applications, which is the design code fee and pre application advice income.
11. Appendix A of this report shows the analysis of expenditure and income

for individual services and the following paragraphs of this report set out issues affecting individual services that have arisen in the current year in order to explain the variations between base 2020/21 budgets and the 2021/22 base budget.

SERVICE ISSUES

12. In preparing the budget there have been limited changes to the way the employee budgets have been calculated due to a national pay freeze from April 2021 and a 3 year freeze on employer pension contributions which commenced in April 2020.
13. Any changes to employee costs reflected in the figures in this report have come from movements in time allocations and not as an increase in costs.
14. Internal Recharges costs provided for this committee include ICT, HR, Finance and Audit, Customer Services and accommodation recharges.
15. In addition the recharges from various partnerships which support the committee include Southampton Legal Partnership, Environmental Health Partnership and Building Control Partnership are shown under Third Party Payments heading.
16. The changes to these two areas have been small when compared to the Base Budget for 2020/21.

PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

17. There has been an overall increase in the 2021/22 base budget for this service of £17,500. The majority of the increase is due to reapportioning of staff time allocation. In addition, there has also been an increase to the cost of internal recharges due to a change in the way the recharges have been calculated.
18. The increases in budget have been more than offset by additional income as a result of income due from the Welborne application.

PLANNING ADVICE

19. There has been a reduction in the 2021/22 base budget for this service of £16,900. This is mainly due to reductions in employee budgets due to movement in time allocations.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

20. There has been a small increase in the 2021/22 base budget for this service of £3,500. This is mainly due to a small increase in the employee budget.

PLANNING APPEALS

21. There has been a larger increase in the 2021/22 base budget for this

service of £40,300. This is due to slippage of the appeal at Newgate Lane North and South, and Posbrook Lane becoming a hearing not an enquiry and both spanning two financial years.

RISK ASSESSMENT

22. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

23. A number of Planning Committee services are partly funded from fees and charges and other types of income. After taking service income into account investment income and the Council's share of business rate income reduce the remainder of the overall cost of services is met by council tax payers.
24. These sources of income are generally outside the Council's control and do not reflect the changes in the overall level of spending on local services.
25. With these sources of income effectively "fixed", members need to be aware that, unless it can be matched by increased service income, additional spending on services has to be fully funded by council tax payers.
26. It follows that Members must give full weight of the Council's overall position and future council tax levels when the revenue budgets for 2021/22 are considered.

Appendix A – Revenue Budget 2020/21 revised and 2021/22 Base Budget.

Background Papers:

Reference Papers:

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Neil Wood. (Ext 4506)

APPENDIX A

PLANNING COMMITTEE

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR THE COUNCIL TAX 2021/22

	Base Estimate 2020/21	Revised Estimate 2020/21	Base Estimate 2021/22
	£	£	£
PROCESSING APPLICATIONS	72,900	108,200	55,400
PLANNING ADVICE	215,400	204,300	198,500
PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	127,300	140,700	130,800
PLANNING APPEALS	57,000	145,800	97,300
	472,600	599,000	482,000

SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

	Base Estimate 2020/21	Revised Estimate 2020/21	Base Estimate 2021/22
	£	£	£
EMPLOYEES	766,400	792,200	766,500
TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE	11,500	11,500	11,600
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	64,800	167,100	103,800
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	103,400	113,300	106,400
INTERNAL RECHARGES	172,500	185,900	184,700
GROSS EXPENDITURE	1,118,600	1,240,000	1,173,000
OTHER INCOME	-2,600	-2,600	-2,600
FEEES AND CHARGES	-643,400	-638,400	-688,400
GROSS INCOME	-646,000	-641,000	-691,000
NET EXPENDITURE	472,600	599,000	482,000

	Base Estimate 2020/21	Revised Estimate 2020/21	Base Estimate 2021/22
	£	£	£
<u>PROCESSING APPLICATIONS</u>			
EMPLOYEES	456,500	473,200	472,200
TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE	7,600	7,600	7,500
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	32,900	32,900	30,500
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	83,200	88,600	86,300
INTERNAL RECHARGES	109,000	122,200	120,200
GROSS EXPENDITURE	689,200	724,500	716,700
OTHER INCOME	-2,600	-2,600	-2,600
FEES AND CHARGES	-613,700	-613,700	-658,700
GROSS INCOME	-616,300	-616,300	-661,300
NET EXPENDITURE	72,900	108,200	55,400

	Base Estimate 2020/21	Revised Estimate 2020/21	Base Estimate 2021/22
	£	£	£
<u>PLANNING ADVICE</u>			
EMPLOYEES	183,900	165,000	167,600
TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE	1,500	1,500	1,500
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	6,000	6,000	5,700
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	13,900	16,100	13,800
INTERNAL RECHARGES	39,800	40,400	39,600
GROSS EXPENDITURE	245,100	229,000	228,200
FEES AND CHARGES	-29,700	-24,700	-29,700
GROSS INCOME	-29,700	-24,700	-29,700
NET EXPENDITURE	215,400	204,300	198,500

	Base Estimate 2020/21	Revised Estimate 2020/21	Base Estimate 2021/22
	£	£	£
<u>PLANNING ENFORCEMENT</u>			
EMPLOYEES	97,200	98,400	101,200
TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE	2,400	2,400	2,600
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	3,000	13,300	2,600
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	6,300	8,600	6,300
INTERNAL RECHARGES	18,400	18,000	18,100
GROSS EXPENDITURE	127,300	140,700	130,800
NET EXPENDITURE	127,300	140,700	130,800

	Base Estimate 2020/21	Revised Estimate 2020/21	Base Estimate 2021/22
	£	£	£
<u>PLANNING APPEALS</u>			
EMPLOYEES	28,800	25,600	25,500
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	22,900	114,900	65,000
INTERNAL RECHARGES	5,300	5,300	6,800
GROSS EXPENDITURE	57,000	145,800	97,300
NET EXPENDITURE	57,000	145,800	97,300