



CAMELFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Budget/Precept Report 2023-24

Summary

Council has looked at the income and expenditure budget for next financial year 2023-24 over 2 meetings. It has also looked forward to medium term budget requirements. Recommendations to full Council on 20th December 2022, including next years' precept.

Methodology

The Clerk noted historic income and expenditure from previous 3 years, current year and potential for next year. Council has met to specifically review these figures and consider projects/needs for the next few financial years. Working groups and committees were asked to put forward their budget requirements for the areas that they are responsible for. These include; Staffing, Enfield Park, Office, Town Maintenance, Allotments, Library, Play areas/Skatepark, Events, Car parks. Council noted past 5 years' precepts, current (11.1%) & predicted inflation rate in 2023 and economic outlook – Cornwall Council has informed CTC that the current tax base will increase to 1100 households. It noted the removal by CC of the Council Tax Support grant from Cornwall Council and one extra events in 2022 – The King's Coronation. Council worked on priorities and endeavoured to keep to a below current inflation only increase on Band D council tax. CTC noted that current year increase was predicted for 4% so inflation has not been covered in current year budget; next year must address this year and next year's cost increases to council. 2022-23 precept is £286,255

Summary of discussions for income lines

£15,219

- £8,000 car park income – £1.5k increase return to pre-pandemic fee structure.
- £1,000 Grants/donations. For events workshops
- Council Tax Support Grant £0 - have lost £5,132 from previous year.
- £3,250 interest from reserves – base rate has increased
- £1,250 from Allotments, £719 for Local Maintenance Partnership

Summary of discussions for expenditure lines

£326,978

Administration -

£25,995

20% increase

- £9,400 - Mileage, Training, Mayor's allowance, bank charges, office supplies and telephone, subscriptions etc.
- £14,945 - £5k increase due cost of insurance and requirement for updated website for legal compliance. Also includes legal expenses, audit, web/technical/accountancy services
- £1,000 elections — £4k per election – saving for 2025.

Accommodation -

£18,280

13% increase

- £9,850 Town Hall rental and rates – below inflationary increase
- £1,700 lift – maintenance contract - £15,000 in reserve.
- £6,730 – 50% increase in utilities operations and utilities.

Staff - £185,000 12% increase over 2022-23 & 2023-24

- 2022-23 assumed 2% incremental rise – actual was 5.5%; have assumed 6% increase in 2023-24; this represents a cumulative increase. Salaries are negotiated centrally to a nationwide scale for all local government sector workers.

Car Parks - £31,525 7% increase

- £9,050 Churchfield maintenance inc. £500 bollards, £3,000 enforcement, £750 ticket machine servicing and supplies, £5000 annual saving required for the £40,000 cost of resurfacing of Churchfield car park in 7 years.
- £15,725. Churchfield Loan repayment/rates.
- £6,000 for Clease car park – rates, EV chargers and maintenance.

Parks and recreation - £23,718 9% decrease

- £15,968 Enfield Park – Broadwood Path and bench repairs/trees/store rates/pond maintenance. Similar to previous. £9,068 PWLB 11-year loan for river bank and path essential repairs.
- £4,800 Play areas – replacement rower/gym equipment, essential repairs and RoSPA inspections
- £3,450. OCM land rent, maintenance and utilities.

Community - £22,410 43% decrease

- £13,310 Events budget; extra one-off event for Coronation. £2,500 Fireworks
- £400 for Defibrillator servicing x 2, located at Conservative Club & Camelford Hall
- £10,200 grants. Lanteglos Church – grass cutting £1,000, Camelford hall – public toilets £1,200, Leisure centre £1,500. £1,500 misc. applications. £1,500 Christmas lights grant.
- £2,000 Marketing and Tourist information – visit Camelford website

Town Maintenance - £20,800 38% increase

- £500 CCTV
- £6,200 vehicle costs – van and mower
- £6,550 Public Toilet utilities and supplies – significant increase – doubled.
- £5,050 Town maintenance. general maintenance equipment and supplies, and plants.
- £2,500 commercial waste from Enfield Park/car parks/OCM.

Town services £4,250 21% decrease

- Allotments - £750 + Saving £3,000 for land clearance &/or future purchase
- Cemetery £500 skip hire.

To note predicted reserves of approximately £110,000 readily accessible at 31.3.23 and reserves of £80k in CCLA investment on notice period. This is over 50% of the required precept 2023 – 24, meeting statutory requirements.

Recommendations/Resolutions for Council:

To precept for the difference between income and expenditure **£316,759**

This represents a Band D £287.96 (+£23.40pa or 8.85% ‘no more than inflation’ increase) on tax base of 1100 households (2% increase in number of households able to pay council tax), or an 8.91% increase in precept for 2022-23.

Forecast

Predicted precept 2024-25 £345,124 (maintenance to Churchfield car park and pond path)

Predicted precept 2025-56 £349,074