

Minutes - County Council 13 February 2001

Budget and Precept 2001-02 – Liberal Democrat Group Amendment

1. To agree that:
 - (a) the net projected over-spendings, currently projected at £1.949 million, will be rolled forward and met from the budgets approved for 2001-02;
 - (b) in respect of the capital programme for 2001-02:
 - (i) following the failure of the Wharfside International Heritage Centre to secure lottery funding at present, there will be inevitable slippage, reducing the cash-flow in 2001-02 by £0.2 million;
 - (ii) £0.2 million should be allocated to highways structural maintenance to ensure the safety of footpaths and cycleways from their increased use;
 - (iii) projects funded from corporate resources will be as set out on Appendix A to this proposal, and those from earmarked resources as set out in Appendix B to the County Treasurer's report;
 - (c) grants to village halls will be transferred to the Education revenue budget after 2001-02, with funding of £50,000 from capital financing;
 - (d) Revenue Support Grant attributable to new credit approvals should be earmarked to capital financing costs, from 2002-03;
 - (e) the following changes will be made to the committee spending proposals recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee:
 - (i) £500,000 to bring education spending up to the Standard Spending Assessment (see letter from County Treasurer and Chief Education Officer dated 12 February 2001);
 - (ii) £400,000 to increase the value of AWPUs, to compensate school budgets for having to meet the funding gap on the school PFI projects;
 - (iii) £500,000 to meet the estimated shortfall on the library service's budget, to avoid threats of closure and reduced opening hours, and increase the stock fund spending to £2 per head of population, to avoid intervention by the Government on library standards;
 - (iv) £200,000 to increase spending on local highway maintenance programmes, to be agreed with district, town and parish councils;
 - (v) £30,000 for post-16 travel passes;
 - (vi) £60,000 for the cost of the coroner's service;

- (vii) £2 million to the Social Services Committee, to enable it to avoid the more damaging reductions in service provision and to reinstate all of the proposed reductions of £196,000 in grants to voluntary organisations;
 - (viii) £1.25 million as a contribution to balances;
 - (f) the revenue budget requirement for 2001-02 will be £307.130 million, as set out and allocated in Appendix B to this proposal;
 - (g) the precept will be £113.909 million (£113.233 million for County Council spending and an additional £0.676 million for the Council Tax Benefit Limitation Scheme);
 - (h) the council tax for 2001-02 will increase by 8.7%; and,
 - (i) the charge for County Council services for each property band will be as follows:

(i)	Band A	£ 465.09
(ii)	Band B	£ 542.60
(iii)	Band C	£ 620.12
(iv)	Band D	£ 697.63
(v)	Band E	£ 852.66
(vi)	Band F	£1,007.68
(vii)	Band G	£ 1,162.72
(viii)	Band H	£1,395.26
 - (j) given continuing pressures on departmental budgets from rising costs and demands for services, to instruct the Corporate Management Team to report on a regular basis to appropriate members on efforts to seek efficiencies by adopting a cross departmental, co-located, corporate approach to delivering council services over the next four years in partnership with district, town and parish councils, or with statutory, voluntary, independent and voluntary organisations in line with the Government's agenda for "Modernising Local Government", Best Value initiatives and Local Community Plans.
2. To authorise the County Treasurer to issue the necessary precepts upon the Collection Funds of the District Councils in the County, and to make the sums due under such precepts payable by installments on dates agreed by the County Treasurer with the District Council Treasurers.
 3. To authorise the Chief Executive and the County Treasurer to release capital projects in priority order from the reserve list, as additional resources become available.
 4. To authorise the Policy & Resources Committee to borrow such sums and to utilise capital receipts for those capital schemes in the capital budget as the Committee may determine.

5. To authorise the County Treasurer to pay out of County Funds sums for:
- (i) all accounts and debts due by the Council forming the Council's net revenue and capital expenditure, approved by the Council at its Budget meeting and such changes as are subsequently approved by the Policy & Resources Committee;
 - (ii) the cost of capital projects funded from developer contributions, or other earmarked resources where the project cost is less than £100,000, and projects in the approved capital programme which are funded partly by matched funding provisions;
 - (iii) the repayment of loans raised by the County Council which fall to be repaid;
 - (iv) housing advances, car loans and such other loans made by the County Council as may be approved;
 - (v) amounts recoverable as income in accordance with approved policies; and,
 - (vi) all debts and liabilities of the Wiltshire Pension Fund and such Trust and other funds as are vested in the County Council.