

Responsible Financial Officer Reports (Items 9 and 10)

9. RFO Reports – Internal Audit – To receive and accept an interim report from the Internal Auditor

Attachment: 9. Interim Audit Report

Recommendation: To accept the interim internal audit report

10. Budget and Precept Setting 2022/2023 – To receive and set the budget and approve the precept for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Attachment: 10i. FED&GP Draft Budget JAN22, 10ii. C&E Draft Budget JAN22, 10iii. Facilities Proposed Budget JAN22, 10iv. Budget & Precept Summary JAN22

Notes

Covid Impact – The Covid pandemic continues to provide a lot of financial uncertainty. The current Omicron variant has caused booking cancellations at the Public Hall, and a reduction in footfall at Foresters Hall. All budgets have been set with the expectation of some continued impact and budget lines have been maintained in the Facilities budget for Covid related expenditure such as PPE, hand sanitiser, maintenance of the external facilities, etc, and in the FED&GP budget for other covid related contingencies.

CCTV – In July 2021 Council agreed to trial a mobile CCTV camera in Castle Park for a three-month period. A second one is currently sited at Rapsons. Evaluation of the impact of the trial has not yet been completed. An allowance has been made in the budget for possible additional CCTV in 2022/23, however this would be insufficient to retain both cameras. The current arrangement for the temporary cameras is not cost efficient in the long term as it would exceed the running costs of the main town system.

Precept – The proposal is to hold the precept at the 2021/22 rate for households (Council Tax Band D charge pa £141.08), which will be the fourth year that it has been set at this level. This would raise a total precept of **£472,485**. This is an increase to the Town Council of £16,747, due to the increase in the tax base, and helps to offset a reduction in the Council Support Grant of £9,403.

To set our 2021/22 Council Tax Band D £141.08 pa element in context this represents 6.9% of the total council tax bill, 13 town councils in Cornwall have a band D element in excess of £200 pa, and of the larger towns, only two have a smaller percentage share; Penryn at 6.5%, and St Austell Town at 6.34% who have a large carpark.

Recommendation: a) To agree a total budget of £581,561 for 2022/23

b) To agree to set a precept of £472,485 for 2022/23

9. Schedule of Payments

To receive and approve the schedule of payments

Attachment: 11. Schedule of Payments

Recommendation: to approve the schedule of payments