

Bodmin Town Council overview of Budget for 2009/10 as agreed at the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 22 January 2009

Note: this is a summary of the major changes included in the detailed 28-page budget report.

	<u>Estimate 2008/09</u>			<u>Estimate 2009/10</u>		
	Income	Expenditure		Income	Expenditure	
	Gross	Gross	Net	Gross	Gross	Net
<u>Normal Revenue</u>						
Democratic Representation	830	404,144	403,314	630	457,036	456,406
Corporate Management	0	10,350	10,350	0	15,142	15,142
Elections	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Grants, Bequests & Donations	0	1,100	1,100	0	1,100	1,100
Shire Hall	14,790	53,532	38,742	16,340	55,247	38,907
Culture & Heritage	10	500	490	10	1,850	1,840
Public Rooms	7,660	14,255	6,595	3,660	15,139	11,479
Recreation and Sport	1,274,801	1,304,635	29,834	1,821	48,103	46,282
Parks & Open Spaces	37,065	300,323	263,258	35,120	277,792	242,672
Tourism	29,364	84,247	54,883	28,679	89,209	60,530
Cemetery	5,735	4,772	-963	6,735	4,488	-2,247
Environmental Health	890	30,264	29,374	0	29,509	29,509
Community Safety	0	24,244	24,244	0	24,772	24,772
Planning	0	600	600	0	600	600
Environmental Initiatives	0	500	500	0	0	0
Highways, Roads and Transport Services	157,506	56,360	-101,146	130,979	37,800	-93,179
Shire House Complex	36,505	58,213	21,708	38,305	52,729	14,424
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1,565,156	2,348,040	782,884	262,279	1,110,516	848,237
Irregular Revenue items	0	17,500	17,500		15,000	15,000
Total Revenue	1,565,156	2,365,540	800,384	262,279	1,125,516	863,237
Capital Expenditure			0			0
Loans capital repaid			287			287
Capital grants received			0			0
Loans received			0			0
Interest received			-25,000			-12,000
Net Operating Expenditure/(Income-)			775,671			851,524
Contributions to Earmarked Reserves			2,000			0
Contributions from Earmarked Reserves			-10,000			0
Contributions to Contingency Fund			15,000			15,000
Contributions from Contingency Fund			-3,000			0
Contributions to Capital Reserves			16,000			16,000
Contributions from Capital Reserves			0			0
Expenditure to be met by Precept			795,671			882,524
Precept to meet this expenditure			795,700			882,550
General Fund opening balance			8,167			8,196
General Fund closing balance			8,196			8,222

Note: due to computer rounding of exact figures there may be occasional apparent differences in additions

The precept for 2009/10 will be £882,550, which represents an increase in the precept of £86,850 on 2008/09. The precept may be expressed as an average Council Tax of £196.04 being the amount applicable to each of the equivalent number of dwellings listed in valuation Band D. In real terms this represents an increase of 33 pence per week for a Band D equivalent property.

The major changes year-on-year comprise:

Insurance (line 37) - Increase in the amount of cover (following recent valuations of Council assets), various claims (that all authorities are experiencing) and provision for the requirement by Auditors that the Council 'tests the market' in October 2009 - Increase £10,500.

Implementation of National Job Evaluation (line 58) - best estimate for the cost of the increase of the JE for 2009/10 and any appeals - this is an undertaking required as good employers within the National Joint Council framework - increase £41,000

District Audit Fees (line 145) - increase in line with national scale determined by Audit Commission - it is interesting to note that the Council receives around 3 weeks of internal and external audit per year - increase £2,292

Health & Safety (line 154) - provision for Asbestos surveys on all Council properties - increase £2,500

Interest & Investment Income (line 170) - This has been reduced from previous years as interest rates are very low at the moment 1% - something that all savers will be experiencing. It is worth noting that the Council has no investments in Icelandic Banks or their UK subsidiaries that are in receivership or administration (Landsbanki, Heritable, Kaupthing Singer Friedlander, and Glitner) - additional income required to offset reduced investment income £13,000

Public Rooms Hiring (line 390) - reflects decreased use over last year - £4,250

Priory Community Support Centre (line 507) - the construction of this building has been placed on hold for the time being to allow time for further consideration of various design elements and the associated costs, and the consequential reconsideration of the funding package. Some costs associated with design, development and planning incurred to date have been built into the budget. In order to mitigate the impact on the 2009/10 budget, some of this cost has been met from reserves and the remaining costs have been allocated across the next 4 financial years - £40,000 included in budget for 2009/10.

Agency work - Parks Department (line 623) - reduction in the horticultural work income from NCDC - £2,495

Parks wages (line 1229) - the need to meet public expectation and increase the number of seasonal workers to improve grass-cutting and flower beds throughout town - increase £3,243

General Purchases - Christmas lighting - contribution towards the town centre Christmas Lights and refurbishment of associated electrical boxes - increase £3,000

CCTV Agency Staff (line 1313) – contract at full cost – previously subsidised by Remploy Managed Services – The Town Council meets the total costs of monitoring and maintaining the town centre CCTV system, which the Council and Police consider to be important for community safety - increase £3,528

Car Park Income (Line 1428) - reduction due to unrealistic expectations in previous years and it has proved more difficult than anticipated to secure the necessary legal amendments to the Parking Order in the expected timescale – plus, there has been provision for increase enforcement in the budget for 2009/10 – projected decrease in income £30,500

Admin - Computer Hardware & Software Purchases (line 38) – upgrading to Office 2007 with associated upgrade of the memory capacity on some of the older PCs – Increase £3,865

Admin - staffing (line14-16) – includes provision for basic grade admin assistant to support the Town Clerk – this is considered to be most cost effective option following the retirement of the PCSC Project Manager – and admin staffing still represents a saving of £1,744 on the 2008/09 budget.

It needs to be borne in mind that, unlike principal councils, this tier of local government gets no funding from Central Government – it is important to compare like-with-like. Essentially, all income comes from sale of services, room hire, cemeteries, car parks or the Council Tax. The only other ways of supplementing this income is via grants, and the Council has a very good track record of bid writing and securing grants. Also, as we move to unitary local government, the Council will seek to increase the number of Service Level Agreements with the principal authority.

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