

**LOUGHBOROUGH AREA COMMITTEE
6TH DECEMBER 2023**

Report of the Head of Finance

Part A

LOUGHBOROUGH SPECIAL EXPENSES DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25

Purpose of Report

To advise Loughborough Area Committee of the draft Loughborough Special Expenses budget for 2024/25.

Recommendation

That the Loughborough Area Committee note the draft Loughborough Special Expenses budget for 2024/25 set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Reason

To enable the views of the Committee to be sought on the draft Loughborough Special Expenses for 2024/25 in accordance with its terms of reference, prior to the final Cabinet budget report on the 8th February 2024 and Council 26th February 2024.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

At the Budget Scrutiny meeting on 12th December 2023, it will be recommended that the Loughborough Special expenses Budget and Levy 2024/25 be endorsed for the consultation period from 15th December 2023 to 16th January 2023.

The Council's Budgets are fundamental to the delivery of all services. The Draft General Fund, HRA and Loughborough Special Expenses budgets will be recommended for consultation by the Cabinet on 14th December 2023.

One of this committees' functions, set out in its terms of reference, is to carry out a consultative role in relation to budgetary and financial issues which either solely or predominantly affect the Loughborough town area.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

It is planned that the proposals on the Council's General Fund, HRA and Loughborough Special Expenses budgets and Council Tax will be submitted to the Cabinet on the 8th February 2024 for recommendation to Council on 26th February 2024.

Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications associated with this decision but could impact on the financial implications of other policies and decisions.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

Appendices: Appendix 1 Draft Loughborough Special Expenses budget and levy 2024/25
Appendix 2 – Analysis of budget

Background Papers: None

Officers to Contact: Neil Whittall
Acting Head of Finance
(01509) 632515
Neil.whittall@charnwood.gov.uk

Part B

Loughborough Special Levy

Appendix 1 shows the Loughborough Special Expense Budget and Levy for 2024/25. There is a proposed increase of 1.99% increase on the Loughborough Special Rate from £81.11 in 2023/24 to £82.72 in 2024/25 per Band D Property.

The current administrations manifesto was to restrict council tax increases to a maximum of 3% for the 2024/25 budget relating to the main Charnwood Borough Council precept. This should enable the Loughborough Special Rate to be increased at 1.99% and remain within government-imposed restrictions re council tax increases. The 1.99% increase is in line with the councils Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The total Loughborough Special Expenses budget for 2023/24 was £1,367,400. This has increased by £121,900 to a total of £1,489,300 for 2024/25.

Appendix 2 shows a summary of the movement between years. An explanation highlights of the total difference can be summarized as:

- **Net increase in employee costs £30.4k.** £13.9k CCTV increase in Cameras, £2.2k increase re Voluntary & Community Sector Dev Officer post (75% LSX), £1.5k increase re Recital fees payable to the carillonneur £9k Loughborough cemetery unlocking and locking fees, £3.8k increase to employee costs.
- **Net increase in operating costs £18.8k** – £10k saving on Loughborough in Bloom as part of 2024/25 Options for Change exercise plus £31k cost at Loughborough cemetery for essential memorial testing. £2.2k reduction in other operating costs
- **Net increase in NNDR (business rates) £2.4k-** set nationally by central government.
- **Increase in Management of Open Spaces (MOS) and Environmental Services contract £63.6k.** This is due to the MOS contract price being rebased as part of the new 10-year extension agreement with Idverde as approved by Cabinet on the 13th April 2023 min 81.
- **Net increase in Support Services £25.1k**
- **Net increase in income £18.4k**
 - *New income £48.3k* – mainly additional cemetery income £40k + £5k implementation of Tennis charges at Park Road, Premises rental income £1.3k at Derby Road, £2k Bowls and Tennis charges income at Nanpantan sports ground
 - *Loss of income £29.2k* – because of the rebasing of the MOS contract, there has been a reduction to guaranteed income.

