

BUDGET REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE 11/11/21 & TO COSTESSEY TOWN COUNCIL 14/12/21 - ACCOUNTS TO END SEPTEMBER 2021

AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER COUNCIL WAS 1/2 (50%) OF THE WAY THROUGH THE FINANCIAL YEAR AND WAS IN BUDGET BY £50,499. IT HAD RECEIVED 49.8% OF ITS BUDGETED INCOME AND SPENT 40.3% OF ITS BUDGETED EXPENDITURE

Council has received the first instalment of the precept (£329,513). Some cost centres are showing a potential overspend, though many will even out over the year (eg Subscriptions at 87.2.% & Insurance at 91.9%) as these are paid annually at the beginning of the financial year.

Stationery and Printing: the new schedule of meetings means that there are more meetings, more photocopying of agendas, minutes and supporting documentation, more paper used and copies charged for. We have also just paid a large amount for specialised stationery (£682) on new burial & grave register books & Books of Exclusive Rights which are a once in 30 years' purchase but will last for many years to come.

Refuse Disposal: General Waste: paid quarterly, with additional fly tip clearance/skip hire when required. **Dog Bin Collections:** Paid annually towards the end of the financial year

Hall hires: We budgeted at half the previous "normal" income due to Covid. Council has received £7,854 income for Breckland Hall (62.8%), £9,823 for the Costessey Centre (36.4%), £6,637 for Queen's Hills Community Centre (57.7%) and bar commission of 45.9% at the Costessey Centre. The Business Restart Grants received for the halls were repaid to South Norfolk Council following clarification of Government rules.

Burial & Memorial fees, which are sporadic and cannot be accurately predicted, were low at £8,734 (35.3%).

Community Infrastructure Levy: Council has received the first of two possible instalments of CIL receipts (£6,419), but this is always an unknown quantity and varies according to planning consents granted in Costessey. The held CIL has now been allocated to play equipment apart from approx. £3,200.

Licences: Comprising Premises, TV, PPL, PRS, TENs licences for each premises.

Property Maintenance & Grounds Maintenance: Since Covid and Brexit, material costs have risen substantially and there is a shortage of materials and goods, plus companies providing services are short-staffed. This will have an adverse effect on the budget during the coming months

Property Maintenance EMR will be used to fund property maintenance and smooths out the variable peaks & troughs over the years.

Rolling Capital Fund EMR is used to fund all manner of projects

THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A SHORTFALL IN INCOME OVER THE YEAR DUE TO THE EARLIER RESTRICTED USE OF THE COMMUNITY HALLS FOR PERIODS FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ON LOCKDOWN. ALTHOUGH BRECKLAND AND QUEEN'S HILLS HALLS HAVE RECOVERED, THE INCOME AT THE COSTESSEY CENTRE HAS NOT.

THE COUNCIL IS RUNNING A DEFICIT BUDGET IN 2021-22 WITH THE SHORTFALL (-£53,230) COMPENSATED FOR BY LAST YEAR'S SURPLUS

Hilary Elias. 3 November 2021