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## COUNCIL - 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019

### BUDGET AND PRECEPT

At the Policy and Resources Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> December Councillors considered the budget and precept and recommended the attached document to full Council for approve.

The following factors have been taken into account:

- Pay award for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 already confirmed and salaries budget approved by Personnel Committee.
- Reduction in Council Tax Support grant to £16250 awarded by Government via SHDC (final year of payment so not shown against a specific budget heading but in all probability would offset some of Butterpark costs for 2019/20)
- Watermark budget approved by the committee and incorporated as part of the Town Council figures.
- The recognition that the bulk of the new housing on the eastern side of Ivybridge will remain in Ugborough although the 106 payments to enhance services and demand on facilities will be allocated to this Council, for areas like Filham Park. Persimmon and Larkfleet Homes will be part of Ivybridge Parish, along with around 100 at Stowford Mill.
- 2.4% have been added to charges made by this Council.

One issue considered by the Committee was the expenditure on Christmas lighting as there had been several complaints from the public and it was suggested that perhaps this should be left to businesses to run, as is the norm in many other communities. However it was felt that transferring it away from the Town Council would potentially mean no Christmas lights or celebrations as for 2018 the local Chamber did not make any financial contribution at all.

Some increases, like in the youth budget, could offer an opportunity to see if there is a limited contribution which could be made to encourage younger childrens services to be provided at the Town Hall and if appropriate Cllrs Rea and Hladkij would report back on any opportunities which emerge from meetings with the South Hams Childrens Centre or others offering such services.

The Butterpark site continues to attract a large business rates bill but efforts will be ongoing via the Valuation Office to explore ways in which this unnecessary cost for a site awaiting development for learning disabled and social housing can be reduced, following several failed efforts to appeal to South Hams DC for dispensation. LiveWest provided information to the Policy and Resources Committee about the first draft plans for the site, which were well received, and it is hoped that the project will move ahead this year, albeit that work is unlikely to start on site until early 2020 (Policy and Resources minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> December refer).

## Summary

The Council tax requirement in the budget is £450,806 and the Council tax base has increased slightly to 3862.48 which means that the Band D equivalent would be £116.71 (currently £113.71 per household). The additional houses are starting to make a difference but much of the future development will of course fall in Ugborough Parish.

Members are invited to endorse the budget and precept for 2019/20.

Mrs Lesley Hughes  
Town Clerk