



## CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

### 2023-2024 DRAFT BUDGET REPORT

### FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 18th OCTOBER 2022

#### Introduction

The current budget proposals would result in a 3.37% increase in the precept. This does not consider any change in the tax base, which can sometimes reduce this figure.

#### The City Council's budget for 2023/24.

The following items are for consideration:

- The National Joint Council pay award for 2022-2023 is likely to be £1,925 per employee, the 2022-2023 Budget included a 2% pay award so we have had to include the difference. Based on an average salary this equated to approximately 7%, plus the additional estimated 8% for 2023/2024.
- That the Discretionary Grants Budget remains at £35,000.
- In the 2021-2022 Budget the Public Realm budget was increased to £23,000 to assist with the increased cost of the City Rangers to £12,064, since then the City Council agreed to fund 50% of the extra cost of increasing Ranger cover from £12,064 to £15,834 (3 days per week to 4). This continue to be funded from Public Realm Budget.
- The District Council have restructured their proposed funding model for the Wardens, there will continue to be 4 Wardens in the Chichester City area and the cost to the City Council will be £47,180 only £3,884 more than last year.
- A decision needs to be reviewed annually regarding the £300 gold level sponsor for the City Band.
- Energy costs included in the Budget have been doubled. Our gas and electric charges are fixed until October 2023.
- The contribution towards the cost of Priory Park Public Conveniences has been increased in line with RPI from £15,232. The Memorandum of Understanding

was last reviewed in 2017, so needs to be reviewed urgently. This was delayed during Covid.

- Each year the election budget is £12,000 giving a total in reserve, after 4 years of £48,000 This should be sufficient to cover the cost of an election (approx. £22k) and any by-elections in between. See Earmarked Reserves table attached.
- The Queens Platinum Jubilee 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022. We have added an additional £5,000 to the original budget of £1,000.
- Cemetery charges have been very hard to predict. Last year we were recharged Qtr1 £1,140.84 Qtr2 £8,079.08 Qtr3 0 and then Qtr4 £21,414.60 (received in August 2022). Wages have gone up, but income has also increased. I have reduced the Budget from £44,000 to £38,000.
- Hanging baskets and planters. Chichester BID contribute £7,000 towards Hanging Baskets and are keen to see more baskets in the City. We currently provide approximately 120 baskets. It is our aim to increase the number next year and attempt to more evenly space the baskets throughout the City. We will aim to add an additional 30 baskets in 2023. We have funds set aside in earmarked reserve for this.
- Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester - This organisation help and support local charities in the area. The organisation gives a voice and promotes awareness of the Voluntary Sector. The Mayor has specifically asked whether we can build funding into our base budget to support this organisation. A Budget of £2,000 has been added to the Budget.

## **Income**

The following assumptions have been made to budgets:

- The Market House.  
We are currently guaranteed £50,000 per annum with a 50/50 split of additional income. It is unlikely that we will get any additional income above the £50,000 next year, so the budget will remain unchanged.
- Income from Council House bookings has increased substantially in the last year. Cards for Good causes have made a commitment to hire again in 2022 and hopefully 2023. The Budget has been increased by £19,000 from £17,500 to £36,500 in line with increased demand. After consideration we have decided to keep the charges the same. We recognise that the costs relating to running the building are increasing but are concerned that we will deter hirers if we increase charges at this difficult time.

- The City Council has £490,000 invested in the Local Authorities' Property Fund for which we are receiving a return of approximately £4,500 interest a quarter, plus income from Public Works Loans Board. I have increased the estimated income from £18,000 to £19,500.

## **Summary**

Overall, this Budget has allowed for the increase in salaries and staff changes.

Income budgets have been increased gradually but given the difficult economic climate we are taking a cautious approach.

Fortunately, our investment income has remained constant, but high costs, increasing utility bills and rising inflation will also need to be accounted for.

The estimated increase in the budget of 3.37% equates to an increase of £2.17p per Band D taxpayer per annum from £64.07 to £66.24. The average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies (including local Councils) for 2022-23 is £74.81 with an average increase from 2021-22 of 4.1% so we are still below average. I have attached, for information a table extracted from the Clerk magazine that shows the highest Council Tax Band D councils and Councils with Precepts in excess of £1m.

This budget report is a discussion document used to identify and forecast changes to the 2023/24 budget. The Budget does not include any additional services being devolved from the District or County Council.

The actual taxbase figure will change the final precept increase. This is currently unknown until Late November.

R. Duggua  
Town Clerk

K. Martin  
Finance Manager and Deputy Town Clerk



Earmarked Reserve Balances

<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>	Bal 2022/2023	Total
Local Elections	38,429	£12,000 is transferred from the Rev Acc per annum to assist with the cost of elections. Last bill £15,330 paid 2022 for 06.05.21 & 04.11.21 Byelections.
Painting Restoration (Prof fees)	3,700	To assist with Council House Professional fees
Computer Replacement	5,610	Build up a reserve for computer replacement
Brewery Field	6,531	To assist with ground works in the future.
Chi in Bloom	5,000	To assist with Chi in Bloom projects, such as cost of weight testing and new brackets.
Council House	98,855	To assist with refurbishment works and five year works programme.
Lift Contract	2,000	To assist with lift repairs
Solar Panels	3,000	To assist with solar panel repairs
Joint Twinning - Chartres	2,075	)Transferred to or from revenue account as required. (Anniversaries)
Joint Twinning - Ravenna	6,832	)Transferred to or from revenue account as required. (Anniversaries)
International Relations	3,530	)Transferred to or from revenue account as required.
City Cross Conservation	16,117	£2,000 put into reserves every year as part of a rolling programme.
St James Obelisk	1,800	£100 transferred into reserve each year for future maintenance.
Civic Regalia	9,199	£2,000 put into reserves every year as part of a rolling programme. (Audit completed 2019)
Litten Gardens	3,000	To assist with costly tree works.
War Memorial	6,004	To assist with restoration works required.
Disused Burial Ground Maintenance	11,070	Grounds maintenance and tree works set aside for emergency works.
Benches	11,938	From WSCC to maintain street furniture
Allotment Improvements	5,480	Specific reserve set up for Allotment improvements.
Allotment deposits	650	To be paid back to tenants
Bus shelter	17,064	Bus shelter Broyle Rd - money from WSCC
The Market House	13,913	Set up to cover Buttermarket professional fees or loss of rent.
	271,797	



# PARISH PRECEPTS



The government has published information on Council Tax levels set by councils in England<sup>1</sup> for the financial year 2022-23.

The average Band D parish precept is £74.81, an increase of £2.95, or 4.1%, from 2021-22<sup>2</sup>.

- 5,638 parishes have precepts exceeding £10,000, up from 5,268 in 2021/22
- 781 councils have precepts exceeding £200,000, up from 742 in 2021/22
- 281 councils have precepts exceeding £500,000, up from 260 in 2021/22
- 83 local councils have precepts exceeding £1M, up from 70 in 2021/22

Precept statistics can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3ujhDQk>.

<sup>1</sup> 2022/23 data has not been released for Wales. Data for previous years can be found at <https://bit.ly/3dz04GA>  
<sup>2</sup> DLUHC (2022) Statistical release Local Government Finance Council tax levels set by local authorities: England 2022-23 revised [online]. Available from <https://bit.ly/3R752cS> (accessed 4 July 2022).

## Top 50 highest Council Tax at Band D

Parish name	Band D C-Tax (£)	Parish name	Band D C-Tax (£)
1 Falmouth	377.97	26 Oakengates	236.83
2 Bodmin	316.02	27 Bradford On Avon	236.42
3 Filton	314.63	28 Redruth	233.00
4 Peterlee	304.81	29 Salisbury City Council	232.96
5 Horden	303.35	30 Oundle	232.09
6 Easington Colliery	286.82	31 Wadebridge	231.93
7 Shildon	281.30	32 Gillingham	231.09
8 Chippenham	280.53	33 Castle Cary	229.93
9 South Kirkby and Moorthorpe	279.62	34 Saltash	228.78
10 Langport	277.83	35 Martock	228.67
11 Truro	275.40	36 Sherborne	228.59
12 Launceston	274.05	37 Ferryhill	228.07
13 Shirebrook	271.72	38 Blandford Forum	227.13
14 Camelford	264.37	39 Westbury	226.45
15 Woughton	260.75	40 Newquay	225.78
16 Cranbrook	256.03	41 Marlborough	224.60
17 Great Aycliffe	255.06	42 Somerton	222.63
18 Thornley	251.87	43 Chilton	222.44
19 Seaham	251.52	44 West Haddon	221.50
20 Bridport	249.81	45 Hayle	221.48
21 Bishop's Castle	249.58	46 Wareham Town	220.63
22 Bude Stratton	248.28	47 Corsham	220.30
23 Penzance	246.31	48 Ampthill	219.89
24 Callington	240.18	49 Sturminster Newton	219.77
25 Kingsbrook	237.62	50 Spennymoor	219.70

## Councils with precepts in excess of £1.5m

Parish name	Precept (£)	Parish name	Precept (£)
1 Chippenham	3,606,289	16 Lowestoft	1,867,228
2 Salisbury City Council	3,502,565	17 St. Neots	1,864,357
3 Weymouth	3,223,970	18 Sutton Coldfield	1,843,024
4 Falmouth	2,863,663	19 Witney	1,829,398
5 Central Swindon South	2,653,443	20 Northampton Town	1,793,300
6 Weston super Mare	2,631,385	21 Abingdon	1,755,659
7 Dunstable	2,480,490	22 Penzance	1,754,515
8 Leighton Linlade	2,424,254	23 Great Aycliffe	1,746,869
9 Trowbridge	2,349,843	24 Bicester	1,684,269
10 Truro	2,019,651	25 Dorchester	1,581,669
11 Banbury	2,017,911	26 Shrewsbury	1,551,586
12 Bracknell	1,940,167	27 Yate	1,539,994
13 Newquay	1,909,000	28 Bodmin	1,530,689
14 Aylesbury	1,874,951	29 Crowborough	1,522,738
15 Frome	1,870,628		





Budget 2023/2024

Significant variances in the budget

£

Precept 22/23

737,615

Expenditure

Pay award £1,925	18,080	above the 2% awarded 2022-202
Pay award 8%	33,687	
Community Wardens	3,795	
Platinum Jubilee	4,000	
Utility bills	8,500	
Boilers (funded from Cil)	-16,000	
Cemetery Bills	-6,000	
Contribution to Public Conveniences	1,732	
Contribution to VAAC	2,000	
Twinning Scroll	1,000	

50,794

Income

Hall Booking income	-19,000
Investment Income	-1,500
Street name change	-3,300
Allotment rental income	-1,500

-25,300

other minor variances

-600

Precept 2023/2024

762,509

3.37%

