

# COCKING PARISH COUNCIL

7 JANUARY 2019

## BUDGET & PRECEPT

### REPORT BY CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

### FOR INFORMATION

Accompanying this summary is a revised budget update, showing

#### **2018-19 original budget**

#### **2018-19 as at 7 January 2019**

#### **2018-19 prediction of out-turn at year end.**

For this, for certain cost centres, we know that further payments will be due, e.g. salaries etc. Conversely it is highly likely that no further expenditure will be incurred on other cost centres.

#### **2019-20 suggested budget.**

Members have been looking at this at the past few meetings and this hopefully reflects what Members have indicated they wish to do in the next financial year.

Whilst some months ago we were looking to create an Earmarked Reserve for future Asset Replacements so as to justify what some would consider as unnecessarily high reserves, the Council's wish to possibly support some traffic calming, (e.g. Gateway Features) next year, shows that the Council's Reserves could actually dip significantly once again, which the Council has been steadily rebuilding after they were depleted previously. In addition, this budget also includes no provision for the possibility of a contested election in May, the cost of which would fall to the Council.

In the light of this, in the accompanying table I have outlined several options which Members may wish to consider.

**Option A** Keep Precept at £13,000 and allow reserves to drop. Amount paid by Band D Council Tax payer drops due to increase in Council Tax Base.

**Option B** Raise precept slightly. Reserves still drop (but not quite so much!) but amount paid by Band D Council Tax payer stays same due to increase in Council Tax Base

**Option C** Raise precept by £2,500. Hope that election is uncontested and traffic calming measures etc. cost less than budgeted. Reserves drop a little. Amount paid by Band D Council Tax payer increases by approximately £10.

**Option D** Raise precept by £5,000. Ensures all potential expenditure is fully funded and Council Reserves maintained. Amount paid by Band D Council Tax payer increases by approximately £20.

Members will be aware that all other precepting authorities are also likely to be increasing their share of the Council Tax.

I hope Members find these notes useful in determining the 2019-20 budget and precept.