

District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC

February 2023

Budget 2023-24

The District Council has now set it's budget for the forthcoming year. I have provided a table below showing the overall movements in department funding. The council has agreed an Authorised Limit for total external debt of £447.673m and forecasts external borrowing to be £315.1m by March 2026. The budget has a significant gap with £2.79m of savings/income identified. Council tax is to be increased by the maximum, unfortunately the amendment I proposed to freeze council tax was voted down. I raised concerns over the increased borrowing and council tax rises along side the potential reduction of service quality as a result of the amount of savings made, I did not support the budget.

	Increased Resource £'s	Decreased Resource £'s
Resources		
Council Tax	511,000	
Business Rates	6,980,000	
Funding Guarantee Allocation	1,070,000	
Rural Services Grant/Services Grant/RSG	56,000	
New Homes Bonus		868,000
Net Increase in Resources	8,617,000	868,000

	Reduced Spending/ Funding changes £'s	Increased Spending £'s
Spending		
Chief Executive	442,000	
Climate, Environment and Waste Services		881,000
Finance Service		4,637,000
Housing Services		438,000
Planning Services	952,000	
Transformation, HR & Corporate Services		1,206,000
Interest Payable		1,713,000
Investment Income	1,548,000	
Other Levies & Contributions		333,000
Capital Financing & MRP	2,100,000	
Contribution to Earmarked Reserves		4,227,000
Contribution to General Fund	644,000	
Change in budget requirement between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024	5,686,000	13,435,000

Housing Budget

I was pleased to support the council's plan to increase the amount of council housing stock across the district. There was also a review of the Council house rents and shared ownership properties rates. The Council has decided to increase the rents and charges by 7%, this is the highest increase possible as the government has set a 7% cap. This is something that I did not support especially in the current climate with rising costs.

Accounts 2019-2020

On the 21st February the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee met to approve the 2019-2020 accounts. It is yet unknown what the final auditors fee for this years accounts will be.

Battery Recycling

There are changes to how the waste collectors will deal with batteries. Adjustments to the bin lorries mean that batteries can be collected every collection not just on blue bin days. All residents need to do is simply place a sealed or tied up plastic bag on top of any the green, black or blue wheelie bins.

Cllr Heather Williams

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