

FINANCIAL REPORT

Council tax (parish share) in 2018/19 will rise by 3% with a similar increase anticipated in 2019/20. These numbers are in line with earlier indications.

Net spending trends are discussed below:

2017/18 - A return to full staffing levels and the new gardening contract have increased costs but, with the clinic lease continuing for longer than budgeted and the higher precept, a substantial surplus of about £52,000 is anticipated and will help to offset the increased costs of the new community building.

2018/19 - Net expenditure is estimated at £242,000. The increase reflects several factors:

- A return to full staffing costs and changed job specification
- A new and higher priced gardening contract
- Clinic is assumed to terminate lease by end 2017 causing a net loss of income and added costs which together total £22,000.
- A contribution to part funding a PCSO

A surplus of about £18,000 is anticipated.

2019/20 - Net expenditure is anticipated to be £248,000 leading to a surplus of about £19,000. This figure could rise significantly if Crafton Green House can be made cost neutral or income generated following the departure of the clinic, along with a continuation of the grant by UDC towards the cost of the youth service.

Trend in free reserves

	Mar-17	Mar -18	Mar-19	Mar-20
Free Reserve (£'000)	82	74	92	111

A transfer of £50,000 into the reserve for the Crafton Green Project largely offset by the surplus generated during the year explains the fall in the year to March 2018.

Crafton Green Project

After the extended delay, work on site will recommence in Spring 2018 and should be completed by late Summer 2018. The cost of the building contract has increased by £xxx reflecting inflation increases while the buyout of the easement rights coupled with costs was £173,000. These substantial increases have been funded from the Section 106 Community Fund and the reserves of the Council. The Parish Council has resolved to rebuild the S.106 Fund and any viable scheme coming forward for Foresthall Park will be considered on its merits.

Precept and Council Tax

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19(e)	2019/20(e)
Precept (£'000)	217	222	255	260	268
Council Tax (Band D) £	66.4	67.9	79.9	82.33	84.80
% change	0.9	2.3	17.7	3.0	3.0

Over the two years to March 2019, UDC has eliminated the LTCS grant to parishes at a cost to Stansted of £13,000 spread over the two years.