

## **Revenue Estimates - Service Specific Issues**

### **Corporate Services**

- a) Salary estimates (CS 2) – reflects savings accruing during the first part of the year and part year effect of establishment changes. Forward estimate reflects the full year effect of establishment changes and provision for pay inflation.
- b) Council Offices (CS 3) – lower energy costs as a result of current working arrangements where majority of staff are working from home offset by increased Covid-19 related costs.
- c) Car & Travelling Allowances (CS 5) – reduced costs due to Covid-19.
- d) Information Technology Services (CS 9) – estimates reflect increased IT infrastructure costs.

### **Chief Executive**

- a) Climate Change (CE 5) – includes initiatives in support of the Climate Change Strategy funded from an earmarked reserve established for this purpose.
- b) Economic Development & Regeneration (CE 6) – includes support for economic development and regeneration initiatives funded from the 2018/19 Kent and Medway 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot reserve and or the Kent Business Rates Pool reserve. Further detail can be found in the relevant report presented to the Economic Regeneration Advisory Board on 3 November 2020. The estimates also include payments made under the Discretionary Business Grant Fund and Additional Restrictions Grant Fund and corresponding grant allocations with the balance met from the Kent and Medway 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot reserve.

### **Director of Central Services**

- a) Tonbridge Castle Gatehouse income (CEN 2) – reflects the adverse impact of Covid-19 on income levels.
- b) Local land charges income (CEN 4) – reflects the adverse impact of Covid-19 on income levels and anticipated market demand for property searches in 2021/22.
- c) Commercial Property (CEN 6) – includes the estimated cost of £275,000 in respect of walkway repairs at Martin Square and Twisden Road to be met by the Council under the terms of the lease agreement with Clarion Homes in 2020/21.

- d) Land Review (CEN 8) – assumes sale of the River Walk Offices is concluded part way through 2021/22; and includes the cost of external advice on asset related matters funded from an earmarked reserve(s) established for this purpose.
- e) Licensing income (CEN 10) – reflects the adverse impact of Covid-19 on income levels and proposed increase in fees from April 2021 approved by the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 17 November 2020.

**Director of Finance and Transformation**

- a) Housing Benefits (FT 2) – estimates reflect anticipated reduction in rent allowance payments and associated subsidy as working age claimants move to Universal Credit; and the widening shortfall between rent rebates and associated subsidy due to the marked increase in the homelessness caseload. The estimates also include the anticipated self-isolation payments and corresponding grant allocation in respect of the Self-Isolation Payments Scheme and New Burdens Grant received to meet the cost of administering the Scheme.
- b) Housing Benefits / Council Tax Support (FT 2 and FT 4) – estimates assume a further reduction in the administration grant from the DWP and MHCLG in respect of housing benefits and council tax support.
- c) Local Revenue & NNDR Collection (FT 3) – estimates include payments made under the Small Business Grant Fund, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Sector Grant Fund and Local Restrictions Support Grant Fund and corresponding grant allocations and New Burdens Grant received and or anticipated to meet the cost of administering these Schemes and the Discretionary Business Grant Fund. The estimates also reflect the adverse impact on summons costs recovered with court hearings on hold due to Covid-19.
- d) Council Tax Support (FT 4) – estimates include the anticipated council tax hardship payments and corresponding grant allocation in respect of the Council Tax Covid-19 Hardship Fund and New Burdens Grant anticipated to meet the cost of administering the Scheme.
- e) Treasury Management & Banking Arrangements (FT 5) – reflects the marked adverse impact of Covid-19 on investment income.

**Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health**

- a) Development Management (PHEH 2) – includes costs associated with tackling illegal development funded by government grant received in 2019/20.
- b) Building Control (PHEH 4) – reflects the adverse impact of Covid-19 on income levels.

- c) Preparation of Local Development Framework (PHEH 5) – reflects costs associated with the preparation of the Local Plan funded from an earmarked reserve.
- d) Planning Policy (PHEH 6) – includes costs associated with the Borough Green Gardens project funded by government grant received in 2019/20.
- e) Homelessness (PHEH 9 and PHEH 10) – includes additional grants from the MHCLG (Rough Sleeping Initiative, Next Steps Accommodation Programme and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Covid-19 Contingency Fund). This against a backdrop of a marked increase in caseload and significant (in excess of £600,000) increased net cost.
- f) Private Sector Housing Renewal (PHEH 13) – reflects grant funding received from BEIS for the Minimum Energy Efficiency Project and associated expenditure. Estimates also include continuation of revenue initiatives in 2021/22 funded from the 2020/21 Better Care Fund allocation.
- g) Private Sector Housing Standards (PHEH 14) – includes work on Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Modelling Exercise funded from an earmarked reserve.

### **Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services**

- a) Refuse Collection and Recycling (SSLTS 2 to SSLTS 4) – estimates reflect, amongst other things, revised contract sums following updated property numbers, delay in moving to new bring sites service, proposed increase in garden waste charge from April 2021 and the adverse impact of increased tonnages on the recycling performance payment.
- b) Public Conveniences (SSLTS 6) – assumes public conveniences in parished areas will transfer to parish councils or close from April 2021.
- c) Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust (SSLTS 8) – estimates reflect the anticipated financial support required in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and notional grant allocation from the National Leisure Recovery Fund.
- d) Larkfield Leisure Centre (SSLTS 9) – reflects residual loss of income claim in respect of the ventilation, boiler and pool hall roof works funded from an earmarked reserve.
- e) Open Spaces & Amenity Areas (SSLTS 17) – revised estimate reflects priority repair works to Council owned bridges.
- f) Leybourne Lakes Country Park (SSLTS 21) – revised estimate includes additional security patrols during the Summer to enforce Covid-19 regulations.

- g) Events Development (SSLTS 28) – estimates reflect a revised approach to this activity.
- h) Off-Street Parking / On-Street Parking (SSLTS 30 and SSLTS 33) – car parking income has been reduced in both the current year and 2021/22 to reflect the impact of Covid-19, ongoing economic uncertainty, societal change and re-timetabling of increase in charges / new charges.
- i) Civil Contingencies (SSLTS 37) – reflects Covid-19 related costs including Community Hub, food deliveries and personal protective equipment and reallocation of officer time in mobilising and supporting the Council's response. Estimates also include Covid-19 support work carried out on behalf of and funded by Kent County Council and compliance and enforcement activity funded by government grant.