

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, provision for a pay award and the national insurance social care levy.
- b) Council Offices (CS 3) – includes increased office cleaning related costs due to Covid-19.
- c) Legal Expenses (CS 5) – reflects the engagement of solicitors during the year to provide advice on contractual, employment and planning related issues.
- d) Information Technology Services (CS 9) – revenue estimates reflect transition to ‘cloud’ based services.

Chief Executive

- a) Climate Change (CE 5) – includes the establishment of a 2-year fixed term contract for a full-time Climate Change Officer funded from the Climate Change reserve.
- 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. The estimates also include the budgeted costs and associated grant allocation under the Welcome Back Fund initiative and grant payments anticipated to be made under the Additional Restrictions / Business Restart Grant Fund.

Director of Central Services

- a) Tonbridge Castle Gatehouse (CEN 2) – reflects renewal of the lighting in the Great Hall and the adverse impact of Covid-19 on income levels in 2021/22.
- b) Commercial Property (CEN 6) – includes the estimated cost 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 2021/22; and renewal of the flat roof at 2-4 Twisden Road in 2022/23.
- c) Land Review (CEN 8) – includes costs in respect of public conveniences closed at the end of March 2021 whilst a decision is made as to the next step, e.g. disposal, alternative use; the sale of River Walk Offices part way through 2021/22; and the cost of external

advice on asset related matters funded from an earmarked reserve established for this purpose.

- d) Licensing income (CEN 10) – reflects anticipated increased demand following Covid-19 and proposed increase in fees from April 2022 approved by the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 16 November 2021.

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. The estimates also include 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 DLUHC in respect of housing benefits and council tax support.
- c) Local Revenue & NNDR Collection (FT 3) – estimates include payments made under various Business Grant Funded Schemes and corresponding grant allocations and New Burdens Grant anticipated to meet the cost of administering the Schemes.
- d) Council Tax Support (FT 4) – estimates include support for low-income households funded by government grant or via Kent County Council.
- e) Treasury Management & Banking Arrangements (FT 5) – reflects the investment of existing funds and the proceeds from the sale of River Walk Offices in multi-asset diversified income funds during 2021//22.

Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

- a) Development Management (PHEH 2) – reflects increased costs of external consultant support in respect of planning appeals; costs associated with tackling illegal development funded by government grant; and increased planning application fee income including a few exceptionally large applications.
- b) Building Control (PHEH 4) – reflects the cessation of the Building Control Partnership with Sevenoaks District Council in September 2021.
- c) Preparation of Local Development Framework (PHEH 5) – reflects costs associated with the review, revision and resubmission 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.

- e) Homelessness (PHEH 9 and PHEH 10) – reflects the continuing high homeless caseload and consequent significant increased cost of temporary accommodation.
- f) Private Sector Housing Renewal (PHEH 13) – includes the outcome of the review of disabled facility adaptations spend and funding profile where a contribution from the Council’s own resources is not required; and further grant funding received from BEIS for the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard project and associated expenditure.
- g) Public Health (PHEH 20) – includes one-off funding from KCC to tackle obesity in key target groups and associated expenditure.

Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services

- a) Refuse Collection and Recycling (SSLTS 2 to SSLTS 4) – estimates reflect, amongst other things, delay in moving to new bring sites service, suspension of the garden waste service, a change in the accounting treatment of the garden waste charge from a cash to an accruals basis and a 9.1% inflationary uplift on the contract sum.
- b) Public Conveniences (SSLTS 6) – estimates reflect the transfer or closure of public conveniences in parished areas.
- c) Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust (SSLTS 8) – estimates reflect the anticipated financial support required in 2021/22 and balance of grant allocation from the National Leisure Recovery Fund.
- d) Open Spaces & Amenity Areas (SSLTS 17) – estimates reflect urgent repairs/replacement of play equipment due to increase use during Covid-19 and priority repair works to Council owned bridges.
- e) Countryside / Woodland Management (SSLTS 20) – estimates reflect advanced tree inspections and increased costs of tree works.
- f) Leybourne Lakes Country Park (SSLTS 21) – estimates reflect the transfer of the management of the country park to TMLT with effect from 1 November 2021.
- g) Off-Street Parking / On-Street Parking (SSLTS 30 and SSLTS 33) – estimates reflect impact of Covid-19 on income levels and increase usage over time, together with a proposed increase in charges from April 2022.
- h) Civil Contingencies (SSLTS 37) – reflects reallocation of officer time to support the Council’s Covid-19 work. Estimates also include Covid-19 support work carried out on behalf of and funded by the Department of Health and Social Care and Kent County Council.