

REPORT TO:	King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee		
DATE:	31 October 2019		
TITLE:	Recommendations on Special Expense Charge for King's Lynn		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Policy development		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Leader, Culture, Heritage and Health, Environment, Housing and Community		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Tina Stankley		
OPEN		WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	Yes

REPORT SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
To consider the proposed King's Lynn Special Expenses for the year 2020/2021.
KEY ISSUES:
<p>The terms of reference for the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee (KLACC) describe one of its roles as acting as a consultative forum, on the funding raised by, and utilisation of the King's Lynn Special Expenses, and to offer input on priorities for this expenditure and if appropriate the level of funds to be raised. This will need to be a recommendation to Cabinet.</p> <p>Any recommendations will need to be made in full consideration of the implications on the Special Expenses charge.</p>
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make no recommendations for changes to Special Expenses for the 2020/2021 financial year. 2. Make recommendations to Cabinet on the priorities for, and utilisation of, the Special Expenses charge for King's Lynn, for the period 2020/2021.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Committee endorse the Special Expenses charge for 2020/2021 as set out in section 2.2 of the report
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
Making recommendations on the utilisation of Special Expenses for King's Lynn was within the original terms of reference of the Committee.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 One of the Terms of Reference of KLACC, is “to act as a consultative forum on the funding raised by, and utilisation of the King’s Lynn Special Expenses, and to offer input on priorities for this expenditure and if appropriate the level of funds to be raised.”
- 1.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 defines a Local Authority’s Special Expenses. It states that Special Expenses are any expenses incurred by the authority in performing in a part of its area, a function performed elsewhere by a Parish Council.
- 1.3 Special Expenses are currently charged for:
 - Footway Lighting
 - Play Areas
 - Community Centres
 - Closed Churchyards
 - Allotments
 - Pavilions
 - Dog Bins
 - Open Spaces
 - Bus Shelters
 - Public Conveniences (80% of costs of Walks Broadwalk and Management Building facilities)
 - Parish Partnership

- 1.4 The total cost of Special Expenses is met by the Council tax payers of King's Lynn. The annual charge to the residents is made through an addition to the Council tax bill. The table below details the special expenses charge 2019/2020 for King's Lynn.

	Charge 2019/2020
	£
Footway Lighting	36,430
Play Areas	35,830
Community Centres	39,300
Closed Churchyards	10,160
Allotments	6,690
Pavilions	32,280
Dog bins	12,390
Open Spaces	296,650
Bus Shelters	0
Public Conveniences	13,690
Parish Partnership	810
Total	484,220
Less Council Tax Support Grant	(7,390)
Net Total Charged as Special Expenses	476,830
Taxbase 2019/2020	10,190.4
Band D Charge 2019/2020	46.79

2. Special Expenses 2020/2021

2.1 The council tax base for King's Lynn for 2020/2021 is 10,672.1 and this is an increase of 481.7 from 2019/2020.

2.2 The table below details the special expenses charge 2020/2021 for King's Lynn.

	Charge 2020/2021
	£
Footway Lighting	39,220
Play Areas	36,600
Community Centres	43,550
Closed Churchyards	10,390
Allotments	7,470
Pavilions	33,480
Dog bins	12,650
Open Spaces	302,380
Bus Shelters	0
Public Conveniences	13,820
Parish Partnership Traffic Calming	810
Total	<u>500,370</u>
Less Council Tax Support Grant	(7,050)
Net Total Charged as Special Expenses	493,320
Taxbase 2020/2021	10,672.1
Band D Charge 2020/2021	46.23
Band D Charge 2019/2020	46.79
Decrease	0.56
Percentage Decrease	1.21%

Note: Band D Charge is subject to increase if any / all of the Parish Partnership Schemes (10p) are agreed and if South Lynn Play Area is agreed (31p).

- 2.3 The main movements between the special expenses charge for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 are –
- Footway lighting increased by £2,790 to cover the cost of additional lighting and inflation.
 - Community Centres have increased by £3,650 as a result of increased cost of repairs and maintenance, especially at Fairstead, due to the age of the building. Some larger items, such as doors, require replacing and some redecoration is required. This will help the property look more appealing and may help with promoting it for hire.
- 2.4 It was anticipated that the Council would not receive revenue support grant in 2020/2021, however, a one year extension has been granted. Therefore, the Council has taken the decision to continue with the council tax support grant passed on to parishes as it has done in recent years. The amount of council tax support grant allocated to King's Lynn special expenses depends on the number of council tax payers receiving the discount and in 2020/2021 the grant is £7,050, a reduction of £340. Local council tax support will reduce in line with the Borough's reduction in revenue support grant. As this continues for one year into 2020/2021 the level of support will remain the same as for 2019/2020.
- 2.5 Consideration needs to be given to the affordability of any new schemes as to whether they are within the £5 limit on increasing council tax.

3. New Schemes

- 3.1 A number of schemes have been proposed and these are detailed in a separate report 'Parish Partnership Scheme – Proposals for the funding period 2020/21'. If the Committee chooses to go forward with the proposed highway schemes under the Parish Partnership regime (covered earlier in this Agenda), in the event they are accepted by Cabinet and by Norfolk County Council, this would add 10p to the 2020/21 special expenses charge, taking it from £46.23 to £46.33.
- 3.3 **New Play Area at South Lynn Community Centre**
It is proposed that this will add 31p per year Band D for King's Lynn council tax for the next 15 years. This is the capital sum and includes the ongoing annual maintenance and inspection costs. This will be the subject of a separate proposal by Cllr Kemp for a new play area in South Lynn, also on the agenda.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There will be financial implications associated with the allocation of Special Expenses. The implications will depend on the recommendations which the Committee make to Cabinet.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 As part of their terms of reference the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee (KLACC) can make recommendations on priorities for the expenditure and if appropriate the level of funds to be raised through Special Expenses within King's Lynn.

5.2 The Committee is asked to endorse the special expenses charge for 2020/2021 as set out in the report.