

REPORT TO:	King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee		
DATE:	17 January 2019		
TITLE:	Budget Monitoring on Special Expense Charges for King's Lynn		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Monitoring		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Leader		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Stuart Ashworth – Assistant Director – Environment & Planning Lorraine Gore – Executive Director – Finance Services		
OPEN		WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

REPORT SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
To provide an update on the budget monitoring and outturn position for the Committee of King's Lynn Special Expenses for the year 2018/2019.
KEY ISSUES:
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.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
1. That the Committee consider the monitoring position and projected outturn 2018/2019 as detailed in 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
- 1.4 The total cost of Special Expenses is met by the Council tax payers of King’s Lynn. The annual charge to residents is made through an addition to the Council tax bill. The table below details the special expenses charge 2018/2019 for King’s Lynn.

	Charge 2018/2019
	£
Footway Lighting	27,454
Play Areas	35,003
Community Centres	38,020
Closed Churchyards	10,020
Allotments	7,080
Pavilions	28,130
Dog bins	12,140
Public Conveniences	14,190
Parish Partnership – Traffic Calming	700
Open Spaces	301,885
Bus Shelters	0
Total	<u>474,622</u>
Less Council Tax Support Grant	(16,250)
Net Total Charged as Special Expenses	458,372
Taxbase 2018/2019	10,048.8
Band D Charge 2018/2019	45.61

1.6 At the KLACC meeting on 20 September 2018 the Committee agreed:

- That going forward the Committee receives a monitoring report on expenditure within special expenses
- That a budget of £1,000 be set aside for ways of promoting community centres, to be spent this financial year, given the current underspend in the community centres budget. In the event of a continued underspend, at the end of the financial year, the remainder of the monies be available to the Committee for a future marketing campaign.

2. Current Position

2.1 The 2018/2019 estimates have been reviewed and updated to reflect current costs and activity and are detailed in the table below.

	Projected Outturn 2018/2019	Variance over/(under)spend
	£	£
Footway Lighting	32,920	5,466
Play Areas	35,003	0
Community Centres	42,500	4,480
Closed Churchyards	10,020	0
Allotments	7,080	0
Pavilions	28,130	0
Dog bins	12,140	0
Public Conveniences	14,190	0
Parish Partnership – Traffic Calming	810	110
Open Spaces	301,885	0
Bus Shelters	0	0
Total	486,100	10,056

2.2 The reasons or the variances are detailed below –

- Footway lighting is projected to be overspent as a result of higher electricity costs; however, some of this may relate to bus shelters and be contained within the overall budget – a query has been raised with the supplier. It is anticipated that the benefits of the change to LED lighting as part of the Refit programme will be important in keeping energy costs down in future. Indications are that energy costs will continue to rise above the general rate of inflation.
- Community Centre costs were projected to be underspent at year-end and £1,000 has already been ring-fenced as a marketing budget, to promote bookings and try to increase income. Repairs and maintenance is overspent due to the need to replace the boiler which was installed in December. No further savings are projected.

- Parish Partnership - Traffic Calming costs will be slightly overspent due to the insurance cost that were not known when estimates were prepared.

2.4 The next monitoring report will be presented to KLACC meeting on 29 March 2019.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There is currently a projected overspend for 2018/19 for Special Expenses within King's Lynn. The position will continue to be monitored and a further update will be provided to the KLAC meeting on 29 March 2019.