

Agenda Item: 9 (a) Special Expenses Appendix C
Report to: Finance and General Purposes Committee
Date: Wednesday 15th December 2021
Subject: Special Expenses
Summary: To receive background information

Recommendation:

The committee is recommended to note the report.

1. What is ‘Special Expenses’?

District council’s charge council tax in categories; general expenses and special expenses.

A ‘general expense’ is an expense that relates to the cost of services provided by the district council for the benefit of the entire district.

A ‘special expense’ is a where a service only relates to a specific part of the district, parish or unparished.

These charges vary dependent on the costs of maintaining services within each area.

2. Rother District Council

Rother District Council charges special expenses to residents of Bexhill for services identified as only relevant to this parish. The charges to Bexhill residents are made up of the following:

Parks and Open Spaces	587,510
Christmas Lighting	15,000
Bexhill Museum	9,540
Bus Shelters	11,780
Bexhill Town Forum	4,270
	628,100

This equates to £38.17 per year for a Band D property.

4. Town Council Precept

The Town Council precept raised for 2021/22 is completely separate to Special Expenses.

£371,765 which equates to £22.59 for a Band D property.

5. Asset Transfer

Rother District Council are exploring transferring a variety of Bexhill assets and services to Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council. This is being investigated by the town council through its Asset Transfer Committee.

If the assets are transferred to the town council, the town council the funding that is raised through the existing special expenses charge would be raised by the town council.

The district council has suggested that if the town council took on the special expenses charges it would no longer charge this amount to Bexhill residents, creating a 'transfer' of funding with no impact on the tax payer.

6. What does the Special Expenses funding consist of?

Parks and Open Spaces	587,510	Maintenance of the district council parks and open spaces in Bexhill
Christmas Lighting	15,000	A donation to Light Up Bexhill
Bexhill Museum	9,540	Contribution to the running costs of the museum
Bus Shelters	11,780	Maintenance of the bus shelters
Bexhill Town Forum	4,270	A donation to the Town Forum
	628,100	

7. Points to Note

The district council has indicated that the cost of maintenance for parks and open spaces exceeds the amount collected through special expenses.

Light Up Bexhill had a three-year contract to supply Christmas Lights in the town centre, which is coming to an end.

The district council would be agreeable to transferring the ownership of the museum and bus shelters to the town council.

The future of the Town Forum is not known now that a town council is in place. The Town Forum has advised that they will await the decisions of the council following the results of the survey.