



Fylde Borough Council – Budget Proposal Consultation

This document outlines the proposed Fylde Council budget for 2021/22. Comment and feedback is welcome from all stakeholders. Feedback received before 19th February 2021 will be considered as part of the Budget setting process which culminates at Fylde’s Council meeting of 4th March 2021. Feedback should be submitted by email using listening@fylde.gov.uk or by post to Budget Consultation Feedback, The Town Hall, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 1LW.

The Financial Context

Throughout the last few years Fylde has been implementing plans to reduce spending, deal with falling levels of income, particularly from central government, and rising costs. The primary objectives are to maintain high levels of service delivery across the borough, attract inward investment wherever possible and enhance the quality of life for residents whilst maintaining a robust and balanced budget position over the medium term to support the delivery of the priorities set out in the Councils Corporate Plan, which can be found on the Council website at: [Corporate Plan 2020-24](#).

Each year the Council produces a five year rolling budget forecast which is included within the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy. In recent years much work has been done to ensure that the Council’s finances remain robust. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy will be considered by the Council’s Finance and Democracy Committee on 16th February 2021 and the full Council on 4th March 2021. This includes a summary financial forecast (See Appendix A) which shows an in-year revenue surplus for 2020/21 and 2021/22 followed by a period of uncertainty as the national framework for the financing of local government is subject to fundamental review. It is proposed that surpluses generated this year and next are transferred to the Council’s capital investment reserve to fund projects within the borough aligned to the Corporate Plan priorities. This approach has ensured that the Council spends within its means and is debt free, with no external borrowing.

The latest update to the Financial Forecast includes the impact of the 2021/22 Local Government Finance Settlement, details of which were announced on 17th December 2020. The government has announced that it is to delay the implementation of the Fair Funding Review from the revised scheduled implementation date of April 2021. Similarly, the planned reform of the Business Rates system from April 2021 will also now be delayed. Consequently the finance settlement for 2021/22 is a single-year only settlement.

The provisional settlement confirms that a review of the New Homes Bonus scheme will be undertaken during the next financial year. For 2021/22 the settlement confirmed a single year New Homes Bonus grant allocation for 2021/22, along with the legacy payments from earlier years.

The continuation of the option for a Lancashire-wide Business Rates Pool was confirmed for 2021/22 as part of the Settlement announcement, with all existing pool members in Lancashire opting to remain in the pool for 2021/22.

The impact of the covid restriction measures on a number of service areas, and consequently on the Council’s financial position for 2020/21, has been significant, although a range of national funding measures have also been introduced that assist in off-setting some of those negative financial effects. The

financial impact of the restriction measures for the current year, in terms of reduced levels of income and the cost of providing financial assistance to specific local businesses, continues to be carefully monitored but the full impact of the income losses and additional costs that the Council will have suffered as a consequence of the covid pandemic will not be fully known until the conclusion of the 2020/21 financial year or until the current situation has passed.

Ongoing modernisation work and business improvement will continue to make Council services more efficient, save money and maintain frontline services to customers. This work has yielded ongoing savings to help improve the Council's overall financial position over that period. For Fylde Council to continue to successfully meet the new challenges that it faces it is vital that this approach is re-doubled and that all reasonable opportunities for further cost-reduction measures and for the generation of additional income are seriously considered. Prudent financial management in previous years has provided a level of reserves which allows the necessary time to determine how this council can best respond to those continuing challenges.

The Budget Proposals for 2021/22

The latest budget forecast included as Appendix A, whilst reflecting the impact of reducing central government grants, low investment returns and increasing costs, remains robust. Savings and efficiencies will continue to be delivered where possible throughout the life of the forecast to reduce the call on reserves in the later years of the forecast.

The full Medium Term Financial Strategy, which is available on the Council's website [at this link](#) or by request from the Council, highlights a number of significant future risks including: the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, possible further central government grant reductions, particularly in respect of the New Homes Bonus, and the levels of Business Rates that Fylde Council will retain as a member of a Lancashire-wide pooling arrangement. As in previous years (and in common with many other Councils) the proposed budget includes the use of income from the New Homes Bonus to support general expenditure as other forms of central funding are reducing.

For 2021/22 there is a proposed overall Council Tax increase of 1.99%, resulting in an average overall Band D charge for 2021/22 of £214.91. This will mean an increase of less than 10p per week for a Band D property which will help to safeguard services.

However, due to the relative changes in the tax base for the Special Expense areas and for the borough as a whole, this equates to an increase in the two elements that make up that total charge and which residents will see on their bills (i.e. the borough-wide charge and the special expense charge) of 2.1%.

A number of growth items have been proposed for 2021/22 as the Council focuses on the continued drive to deliver the savings and efficiencies already included in the forecast.

The revenue budget proposals for 2021/22 are:

- Support for the Kirkham Town Council CCTV Scheme Extension
- Support for the Newton-with-Clifton Parish Council CCTV Scheme
- The allocation of government covid support funding to all areas of the borough

The capital growth proposals for 2021/22 are:

- Additional access control measures at a number of parks
- Ashton Gardens Lighting Improvement Scheme
- Park View Drainage Improvement Scheme
- Fairhaven Boathouse - Remodelling and Refurbishment Scheme
- Play Area Improvements at a number of parks
- Friends of Newton Community Park Development Scheme - £50k Fylde Council contribution
- Staining Drainage Improvement Scheme
- A further Scheme of Tree planting throughout the borough

Further details of these budget proposals are included in Appendix B.

In addition to these proposals, the Council has approved a number of other projects and investments during the financial year to date which are itemised in Appendix C.

Capital Expenditure is defined as expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset and/or expenditure which adds value (not merely maintains) to the value of an existing fixed asset. Examples of fixed assets are: land, building, plant and vehicles.

These proposals are now published for consultation, and feedback from all stakeholders will be considered as part of the Budget setting process which culminates at Fylde's Council meeting of 4th March 2021.

Appendix B – Budget Growth Proposals

BUDGET PROPOSALS - REVENUE ITEMS

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Description
Kirkham Town Council CCTV Scheme Extension	6	0	0	0	0	The Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting on 5th January 2021 agreed support for a revenue bid by Kirkham Town Council for an extension of the CCTV scheme in the town, subject to the town council being able to demonstrate a pressing need for each camera and providing a copy of an associated data impact assessment.
Newton-with-Clifton Parish Council CCTV Scheme Extension	3	0	0	0	0	The Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting on 5th January 2021 agreed support for a revenue bid by Newton with Clifton Parish Council for an extension of the CCTV scheme in the parish, subject to the town council being able to demonstrate a pressing need for each camera and providing a copy of an associated data impact assessment.
Distribution of Government Covid Support Funding to All Areas of the Borough	33	0	0	0	0	The distribution of an element of the Covid support funding received by Fylde Council to all areas of the borough, as recommended by the Budget Working Group, in order for all parts of the borough to help in both managing the Covid19 outbreak and/or support recovery activity including the delivery of commemorative projects or events within their locality.
TOTAL OF REVENUE GROWTH PROPOSALS	42	0	0	0	0	

BUDGET PROPOSALS - CAPITAL ITEMS

(It is recommended that each of the schemes detailed below is funded from the Capital Investment Reserve)

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Description
Additional Parks Access Control Measures	16	0	0	0	0	The Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting of 7th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £16,000 in 2021/22 for additional access control measures at a number of parks that are considered to be vulnerable from unauthorised access. The Committee ranked this bid as priority 1 on the list of bids submitted for consideration.
Ashton Gardens Lighting Improvement Scheme	25	0	0	0	0	The Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting of 7th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £25,000 in 2021/22 for the improvement of lighting in Ashton Gardens. The Committee ranked this bid as priority 2 on the list of bids submitted for consideration.
Park View Drainage Improvement Scheme	40	0	0	0	0	The Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting of 7th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £40,000 in 2021/22 for improvements to the existing drainage system at Park View playing fields. The Committee ranked this bid as priority 3 on the list of bids submitted for consideration.

Appendix B (Cont'd.)– Budget Growth Proposals

BUDGET PROPOSALS - CAPITAL ITEMS - Cont'd

	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Description
Fairhaven Boathouse - Remodelling and Refurbishment Scheme	224	0	0	0	0	The Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting of 7th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £224,000 in 2021/22 for improvements to the Operational Boathouse at Fairhaven Lake. The Committee ranked this bid as priority 4 on the list of bids submitted for consideration.
Play Area Improvements	100	0	0	0	0	The Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting of 7th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £100,000 in 2021/22 for a scheme of improvements to children's play areas at a number of parks. The Committee ranked this bid as priority 5 on the list of bids submitted for consideration.
Friends of Newton Community Park Improvement Scheme - Fylde Council Contribution	50	0	0	0	0	The Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting of 7th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £50,000 in 2021/22 by the Friends of Newton Community Park group for a contribution from Fylde Council to the parks improvement scheme at School Lane, Newton. The Committee ranked this bid as priority 6 on the list of bids submitted for consideration.
Staining Drainage Improvement Scheme	55	0	0	0	0	The Operational Management Committee meeting of 12th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £55,000 in 2021/22 for a scheme of improvements to the existing surface water drainage system in Staining. The full scheme cost is £65,000, with a contribution of £10,000 from Staining Parish Council for the remainder of the scheme cost.
Tree Planting Scheme	25	0	0	0	0	The Planning Committee meeting of 20th January 2021 agreed to support a capital bid in the sum of £25,000 in 2021/22 for a scheme of further tree planting to be carried out during the 2021/22 planting season throughout the borough.
TOTAL OF CAPITAL SCHEME PROPOSALS	535	0	0	0	0	

Appendix C - Key Investment/Expenditure Decisions since Budget Council - March 2020

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
COVID 19 Local Authority Grants to Town Centres	15				
Support to Fylde Coast YMCA	100				
Review of Rent Subsidies on Leases/Concessions Due to the Impact of COVID -19	127				
St.Annes Town Centre commissioning of vision/strategy funded by Funding Volatility Reserve	150				
Additional resource to support Town Centres/Blackpool Enterprise Zone	30	121	97	73	
St Anne's foreshore sand extraction development studies and regulatory applications	70	162			
COVID-19 Council Tax Hardship Fund	50				
Lytham Hall Driveway Grant	52				
Beach Safety Sign Improvements	37				
Snowdon Road Depot Welfare Improvements	71				
Blackpool Road North Playing Fields drainage	20				
Additional contribution to M55 link road reserve	692				
	1,414	283	97	73	1,867