

## 1 Introduction

The Parish Council considered the principles behind budget Option 1 as a basis for the budget planning for 2021/22 at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and asked the Finance Committee to give the budget further consideration and return with a recommendation to Council at the December Meeting.

## 2 Tax base and Precept Request

Wiltshire Council have now issued the draft tax base figures for 2021/22 and although not confirmed it is unlikely that the figure for Calne Without will change significantly however if it does the Council will need to reconsider the Precept request in the light of the change, but this will be available before the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 so the Clerk will be able to give a verbal update if required.

The precept request must be received by Wiltshire Council by 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

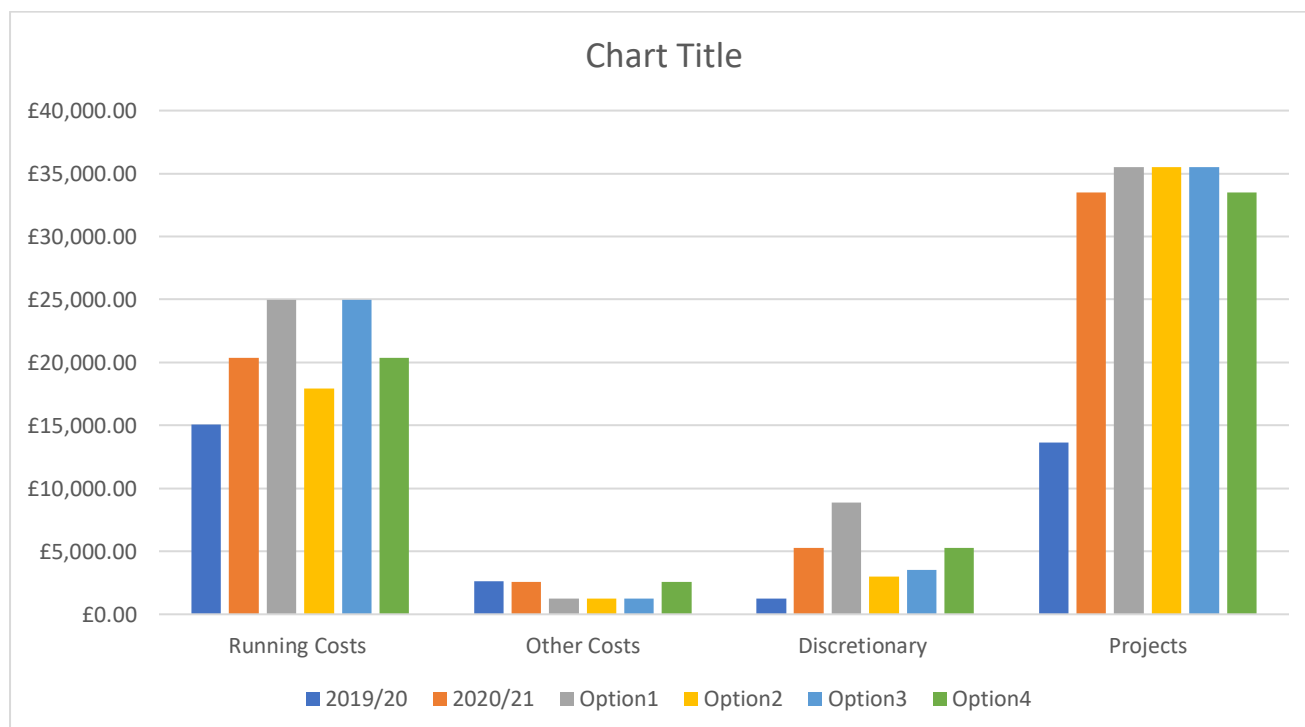
Wiltshire Council's Council Tax setting timetable is given here:

2021/2022 Council Tax Setting Timetable		Last year
04-Oct-20	Date CTB1 return to Central Government is required to be based on	01-Oct-19
14-Oct-20	CTB1 return deadline for submission to Central Government	11-Oct-19
21-Oct-20	Deadline for New Build information to be provided to Accountancy	21-Oct-19
30-Oct-20	Wiltshire Council CFO to approve draft 2021/2022 Council Tax Base	31-Oct-19
04-Nov-20	Wiltshire Council to issue draft 2021/2022 Council Tax Base figures to Parish/Town Councils	04-Nov-19
02-Dec-20	Formal Decision to approve 2021/2022 Council Tax Base	10-Dec-19
18-Jan-21	Deadline for Parish/Town Councils to return approved 2021/2022 precept requests to Wiltshire Council	24-Jan-20
02-Feb-21	Cabinet meeting to recommend 2020/2021 Wiltshire Council Council Tax Demand	11-Feb-20
23-Feb-21	Full Council meeting to approve 2020/2021 Council Tax	25-Feb-20

## 3 Options Presented

The Finance Committee considered a range of options to test and give context to the principles agreed by the Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

A spreadsheet has been circulated with the full details and comments on each budget heading within the option. The following graphs show the comparison of spending in each option



### 3.1 Option 1

Option 1 is the option based on the principles agreed by Council in November.

This option sees increases of £500 or more in the following budget headings:

Councillor Training; Clerks costs; IT Services; Equipment and Facility Inspection and Maintenance; Neighbourhood Plan and Aesthetics. A reduction in costs is seen in Restoration of Reserves and Bin purchase

#### 3.1.1 Precept Request

Option 1	
Running Costs	£24,952
Other Costs	£1230
Discretionary Costs	£8850
Total (Precept Request)	£35,032

This gives a precept request of £35,032, £25.63 for a band D property, an increase on 202/21 of £4.87 or 23.4%

#### 3.1.2 Finance Committee Comment

On examining this option, the Finance Committee was concerned that the increase may be too high considering the impact that the Covid-19 restrictions have had on many residents ability to pay. The Committee explored the options to move spending to the projects and the use of reserves and on balance decided not to recommend this option.

### 3.2 Option 2

In order to set the principles of Option 1 in context the Finance Committee were given 2 further options to consider. Option 2 cuts budgets to the minimum required and if implemented would restrict the Council's ability to provide certain services and projects.

This Option sees increases of £500 or more in 3 areas only, Clerks costs, Neighbourhood Plan and Equipment and Facility Inspection and Maintenance. A reduction in cost is seen in IT Development; Bin emptying; Election Provision; Petty Cash (this is moved to be included in Equipment and Facility Inspection and Maintenance; Restoration of Reserves; Public Participation; Bin Purchases; Aesthetic; Project running costs and Accountancy.

It also moves defibrillator maintenance to Projects to be funded by Sun Edison or CIL

#### 3.2.1 Precept Request

Option 2	
Running Costs	£17952
Other Costs	£1230
Discretionary Costs	£3000
Total (Precept Request)	£22182

This gives a precept request of £22182, £16.23 for a Band D property a decrease on last year of £4.53 or 21.82%

#### 3.2.2 Finance Committee Comments

The Finance Committee considered this option to be a retrograde step and contrary to the Council's aims to engage more with the community and drive the bringing forward and implementation of projects. The

Committee also had concerns about the safe operation of the Council under these reductions. The Committee did not support this option.

### 3.3 Option 3

This option takes parts of Options 1 and 2 to form a hybrid. The principle behind the option is to ensure the safe and efficient running of the Council without using the general reserve but, where possible, to reduce discretionary costs and to facilitate spending in these areas through the use of Sun Edison and CIL funds. The Finance Committee recognised that precept request in subsequent years may see a significant rise as running costs from the capital projects have to be met. The Committee recommend that any future consideration of a project makes clear the running cost that will be ongoing and the impact of that on future precept requests.

Option 3 see increases in cost of £500 or more in Training; Clerk costs; IT Services; Equipment and Facility Inspection and Maintenance and Neighbourhood Plan. A reduction in cost is seen in Restoration of reserve; Public participation; Bin purchases; Chairman Allowance; Aesthetics; Project running costs and Accountancy.

It also moves defibrillator maintenance to Projects to be funded by Sun Edison or CIL

#### 3.3.1 Precept Request

Option 3	
Running Costs	£24952
Other Costs	£1230
Discretionary Costs	£3500
Total (Precept Request)	£29682

This gives a precept request of £29682, £21.72 on Band D, a £0.96 increase, 4.62%  
Finance Committee Comments

#### 3.3.2 Finance Committee Comments

The Finance Committee recommends this option as the basis for the precept request and Budget for 2021/22 with the proviso that the Council recognises that any running costs arising from implemented projects will need to be included in the Councils running cost in subsequent financial years and may lead to significant increase in precept.

### 3.4 Option 4

This has exactly the same budget heading costing as 2020/21 but because of the increase in the Parish Council tax base this would lead to a reduction for a Band D property of £0.15.

#### 3.4.1 Precept Request

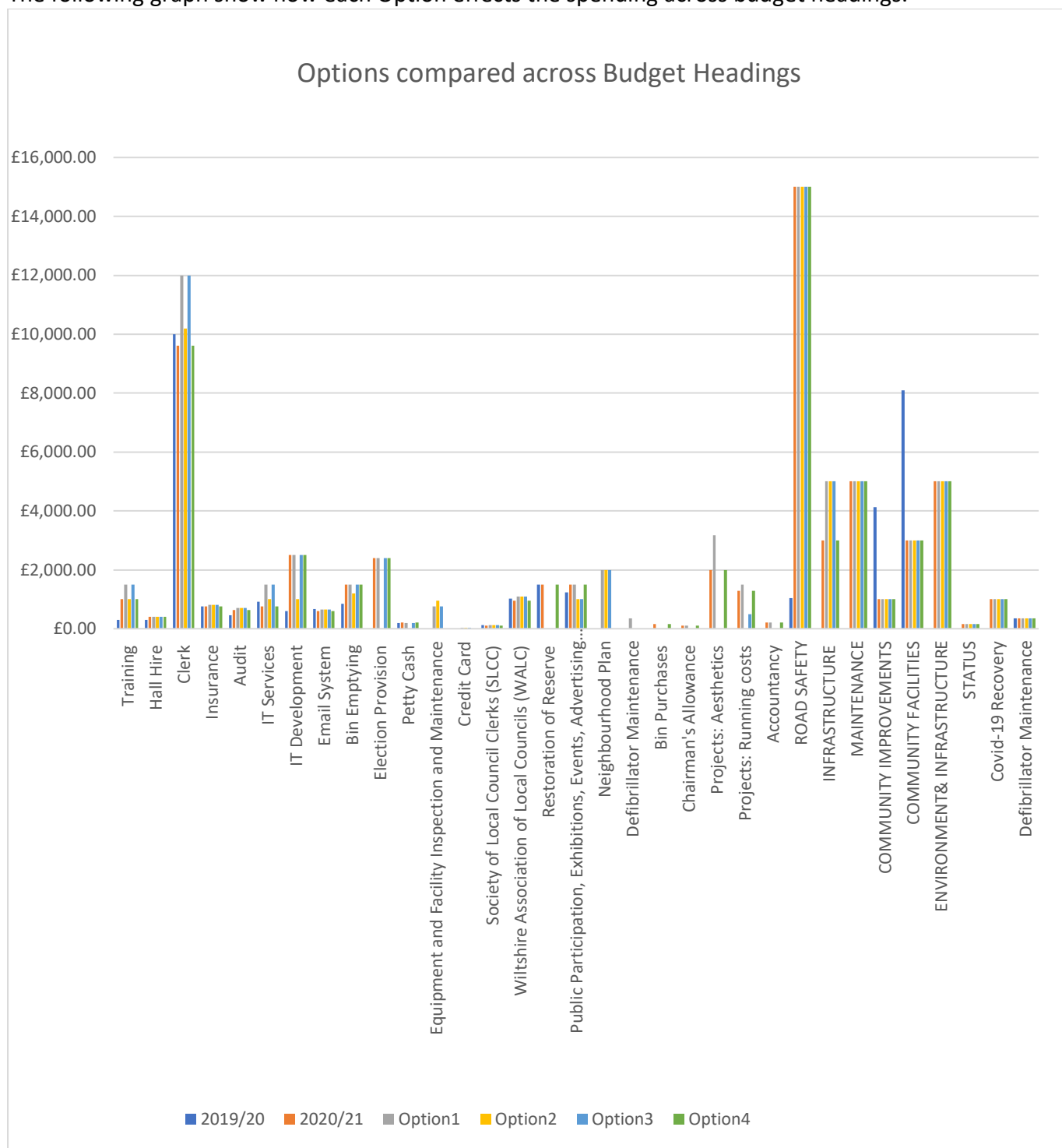
Option 4	
Running Costs	£20355
Other Costs	£2555
Discretionary Costs	£5251
Total ( Precept Request)	£28161

This is a precept request of £28161 £20.61 Band D, reduction of £0.15 0.74% decrease.

#### 3.4.2 Finance Committee Comments

The Committee requested that this option be added to the report for completeness.

The following graph show how each Option effects the spending across budget headings.



#### 4 Projects

All the budget options have been drafted so that all spending on Projects for 2021/22 is funded from the Sun Edison and Community Infrastructure Reserves.

The project budget headings include the alterations made during this financial year to reflect the Councils wish to provide funding for Covid-19 recovery, Environmental and footpath works and to support the defibrillator maintenance. The levels of spending in Options 1,2 and 3 are slightly higher reinstating the spending levels for Infrastructure to £5000.

## 5 Conclusion

The following table is a summary of the budget options presented. The Finance Committee is recommending Option 3.

Summary of the Options				
	Option 1	Option2	Option3	Option4
Running Costs	£24,952	£17952	£24952	£20355
Other Costs	£1230	£1230	£1230	£2555
Discretionary Costs	£8850	£3000	£3500	£5251
Total (Precept Request)	£35,032	£22182	£29682	£28161
Band D	£25.63	£16.23	£21.72	£20.61
% Change	23.4%	-21.82%	4.62%	-0.74%

### Recommendation:

1. That the Parish Council approve the budget detailed in Option 3 to form the budget for 2021/22 and the Precept request of £29,682 to Wiltshire Council.
2. That the Council authorises the signing of the Parish Precept Requirement by the Chairman and Clerk and this be submitted to Wiltshire Council.