

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24th FEBRUARY 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Item 12 – Community Governance Review – Proposed Braunstone Town Council Response

Purpose of the Supplementary Report

To provide an update on the projected costs and potential precept rises resulting from the creation of separate parish councils for Braunstone Town and for Thorpe Astley; and to update the proposed Braunstone Town Council formal response to the Community Governance Review consultation (Appendix 4, submitted with Item 12 on the agenda).

Background

Following publication of the agenda, the working documents which provided for the estimated precept rises resulting the creation of separate parish councils for Braunstone Town and for Thorpe Astley were revisited.

Errors and some items were found, which hadn't been adjusted. These were mainly on the Braunstone Town budget:

- income from the Thorpe Astley Community sums had not been removed; and
- the costs for insurance, councillor allowances and computer equipment had not been reduced.

On the Thorpe Astley budget, some minor costs for sports pitches and facilities and clothing had not been reduced pro-rata.

Staffing Costs

The staffing cost split has also been reviewed with reference to the staff establishment in 2009, prior to Thorpe Astley services being provided by the Town Council. As the new Community Centre and parks and open spaces in Thorpe Astley were transferred to the Town Council's management, an additional manager post and senior groundman post was created. On cleaning and premises, it is difficult to quantify since the number of staff didn't change but more hours were created over a period of 5 years as hires at the Community Centre required. Overall, the staff cost split in the predictions is Braunstone Town 67% and Thorpe Astley 33%. Given the estimates are at this stage a desktop exercise, the estimates seem reasonable given the establishment cost rises in the first 5 year period of running services in Thorpe Astley.

Revised Estimates: split parishes of Braunstone Town and Thorpe Astley

The revised precept figures are set out below. Thorpe Astley increase down by 0.33%. Braunstone Town increase up by 2.6%. It is important to note that these estimates are based on the forthcoming 2022/23 year and therefore the increase is compared to the current 2021/22 year.

CURRENT PARISH OF BRAUNSTONE: approved 2022/23 budget: £720,356.

COUNCIL TAX BANDS	A (6/9)	B (7/9)	C (8/9)	D (9/9)	E (11/9)	F (13/9)
NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IN EACH BAND (January 2022)	921	3707	1538	731	224	3
SCALED CHARGES FOR 2022/2023	£98.25	£114.63	£131.00	£147.38	£180.13	£212.88
Charges in 2021/2022	£92.99	£108.49	£123.99	£139.49	£170.49	£201.49
Cash Increase	£5.26	£6.14	£7.01	£7.89	£9.64	£11.39

Percentage increase on 2021/2022: 5.66%

**PARISH OF BRAUNSTONE TOWN (Millfield, Ravenhurst & Fosse and Winstanley)
2022/23 budget: £549,138.**

COUNCIL TAX BANDS	A (6/9)	B (7/9)	C (8/9)	D (9/9)	E (11/9)	F (13/9)
NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IN EACH BAND	903	3151	1119	265	39	2
ANNUAL PAYMENT	£102.11	£119.13	£136.15	£153.17	£187.21	£221.25

Percentage increase on 2021/2022: 9.81%

PARISH OF THORPE ASTLEY 2022/23 budget: £210,129.

COUNCIL TAX BANDS	A (6/9)	B (7/9)	C (8/9)	D (9/9)	E (11/9)	F (13/9)
NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IN EACH BAND	18	556	419	466	185	1
ANNUAL PAYMENT	£107.55	£125.47	£143.40	£161.32	£197.17	£233.02

Percentage increase on 2021/2022: 15.65%

Revised Recommendation

That Braunstone Town Council's proposed formal response to the consultation on the Community Governance Review of Braunstone Parish, attached at Appendix 4 of the report, be approved and updated as set out in the supplementary report to item 12 and submitted to Blaby District Council.

Reason

To ensure that the facts and impact resulting from any proposed split to the Parish of Braunstone and associated changes were clearly set out to Blaby District Council.