

## **Budget Strategy 2020/21**

### **The Financial Strategy**

The principal aim of the strategy is to enable the Council to set a balanced budget each year without the need to cut services. Members agreed a revised Financial Strategy which built onto the success of the previous strategy, but looked ahead for the next three years, and sets new financial targets at the same time.

The Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan report approved by Members summarised the key themes to the strategy as:

- a) Ensuring clear service priorities that clearly align with corporate strategy and plans
- b) Maximising operational efficiency and value for money through optimising benefits of the future operating model and exploring how new technologies can further improve efficiency
- c) Adopting robust financial control and reporting arrangements
- d) Developing approaches to manage and reduce demand on services in partnership with Somerset councils and other service delivery organisations
- e) Investing further in property, energy and new services to generate additional income that can be reinvested to maintain and improve services to our community
- f) Increasing the income yield from financial investments as part of a prudent treasury management approach
- g) Taking a more commercial approach and increasing income yield by 5% per year
- h) Reduce reliance on government grants such as New Homes Bonus for the funding of ongoing services
- i) Supporting and enabling economic and housing growth and regeneration to protect and enhance funding through local taxation and grant funding
- j) Focus on long term financial resilience through robust financial planning and maintaining appropriate reserves to manage risk and meet future commitments

### **Revenue Spending**

The Council's net revenue budget will amount to £15.207 million in 2020/21. The Council's share of the total Council Tax (for a Band D property) will be £172.11 – or £3.31 per week - with £1.85 being transferred to the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). The increase towards SSDC services is £5.00, an increase of 2.99%. This is 9.2% of your total tax bill.

### **Capital Spending**

The capital strategy outlines how the Council will utilise its capital resources to deliver the Council Plan and key strategies, in particular the commercial investment strategy and regeneration programmes for Yeovil, Chard and Wincanton. The gross capital programme spend is £53,019 million in 2020/21.