

## 2018/19 draft budget highlights by Gillian Durrant, Finance and Corporate Services Manager

- The Salaries budget takes into account the 2% cost of living increase for all staff (6,229), which has been offered by employers, but not yet agreed by the unions. It also includes a 1.7% increase in the LGPS employers' pension contributions (5,421).
- The new Grounds Maintenance contract figure for 2018/19 is £288,690, a saving of £8,991 in the year, even taking into account the administration fee charged by WBC.
- The tennis courts are predicted to bring an income of £9,000 in 18/19, and we will be putting £3,600 into an earmarked fund each year to save up for repairs to the tennis courts when needed.
- There is nothing in the budget for tree maintenance for 2018/19, (usually £10,000) as this has been underspent for several years, so will be taken from reserves for the coming year, and topped up each year according to what has been spent.
- 5 of the 6 allotment sites have now had their budgets combined. The exception being Wash Common as this is held by a charity, and the income and expenditure is reported on annually to the Charities Commission.
- At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on Monday 15 January, members agreed a draft budget giving a precept of £1,043,032, resulting in a band D decrease of 4p a year less than 2017/18.
- This figure was reached following these amendments to the draft budget circulated to all councillors prior to Christmas:
  1. The £10,000 grants for youth work were combined with the £15,000 grants budget
  2. The photocopier charges budget was reduced from £5,300 to £4,500
  3. The Victoria Park Family Day budget increased from £1,000 to £2,125
  4. The Newbury in Bloom budget was increased from £1000 to £2000
  5. The budget for Regalia and Robes was decreased from £1600 to £500
  6. The budget for the Twin Town 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with Bagnols was removed