



## WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

### 2019-2020 PRECEPT GUIDANCE NOTES

#### What does this mean for Witney Residents?

West Oxfordshire District Council has advised that the tax base for 2019/20 is likely to be 10224.03 and the Council Tax Reduction Grant (CTRG) will be 15% less this year amounting to £29,330 from £34,199.

**Therefore for the Town Council to continue to maintain its services and progress improvement across its services a precept increase of 2% giving a resultant Band D equivalent Council Tax of £140.36 per annum (from £137.61) would be required. This equates to a weekly increase of 5.2 pence per household.**

These notes are provided to help understand how the amount of Council Tax (parish precept) you pay to Witney Town Council is spent.



#### Why has it gone up?

This year the Town Council plans to continue supporting the town centre bus service by an increased financial contribution from £15,000 to £18,000. Funds have been earmarked for its programme of play area refurbishments including the skate park at the Leys Recreation Ground, Phase II of the Corn Exchange refurbishment such as acoustic panels, soft furnishings, lighting and sound systems. Investment will also be made in improving street furniture, floral and the Christmas lights displays.

#### What is a 'Precept'?

The Town Council raises funds to support its activities by adding an extra cost known as a "local parish precept" to each household's Council Tax bill. The precept is included separately on council tax bills and is collected by the billing authority, West Oxfordshire District Council on behalf of the Town Council.

#### How is the Precept calculated?

As part of the annual budget process the Council looks at its forecast expenditure and non-precept generated income to decide what it will need to generate through the precept to continue providing its services for the following year.

The following pages outline the expected income and expenditure and budget for the Town Council in 2019-20.

#### Further information on Council Tax & Precepts:

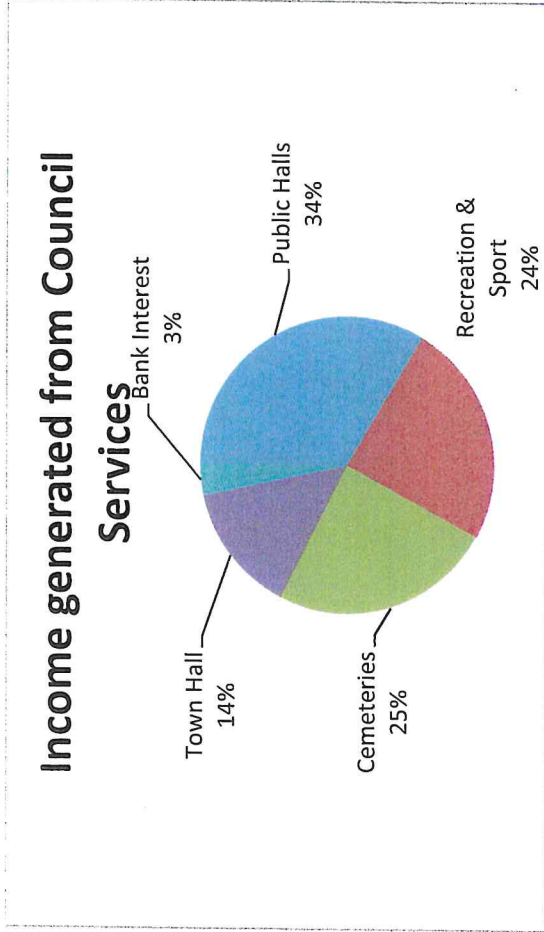
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) National Government Website  
[www.naloc.gov.uk](http://www.naloc.gov.uk) National Association of Local Councils

#### Further information on services provided by local Councils:

[www.witney-tc.gov.uk](http://www.witney-tc.gov.uk) Witney Town Council  
[www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) West Oxfordshire District Council  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) Oxfordshire County Council

## INCOME Forecast 2019-20

The Council charges for its public halls, cemeteries and recreation areas when they are used for sports or events. These charges do not generate sufficient income to cover the costs of maintaining these areas.



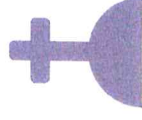
The Council does not charge for the use of its parks and the Country Park. It also has an ongoing programme of investment in the infrastructure of these areas which is also not covered from income other than the precept or grant funding – the best example of this is the highly successful Splashpark regeneration of the Leys play area.

## EXPENDITURE Forecast 2019-20

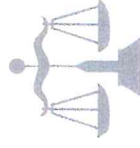
Your Precept is spent on maintaining the provision of all the facilities and services the Town Council offers as shown below.



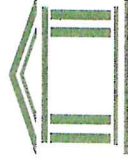
The Leys (Sports Pitches & Splashpark) £22.95  
 West Witney Sports Ground £3.13  
 BurwellQEII Recreation Ground £2.79  
 King George V Recreation Ground £2.06  
 Witney Lake & Country Park £1.27



Tower Hill Cemetery £11.75  
 Windrush Cemetery £9.01  
 Closed Churchyards £0.10p



Bank Interest/Charges -£0.78p  
 Corporate Management £5.86  
 Democratic Representation & Management £5.99  
 Capital & Ear-Marked Reserves £13.71



Burwell Hall £7.11  
 Corn Exchange £12.24  
 Langdale Hall -£0.66p  
 Madley Park Community Hall £0.31p



Community Activities/Newsletter £7.68  
 Community Infrastructure £28.50  
 (inc grass cutting & open spaces)  
 Civic Activities £3.54 (inc Remembrance Sunday & events)  
 Christmas Lights £3.81

