

# Concurrent Functions Funding Options for 2021/22

# Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- seek your feedback on the options proposed for the next four year funding period commencing 2021/22 and
- to make recommendations to the decision making committee.

The viewpoints and recommendations made during this meeting will be summarised in the final Committee report and the full minutes of the meeting attached as an appendix.

# Background

- 4 year funding allocations 2017/18 to 2020/21 due to end
- Early engagement meeting held in February to shape budget options in the context of increasing financial pressures and understand the implications for parishes
- Formal consultation commenced in March on options for the overall budget, contingency funding and arrangements for land owned by CCC
- Post-consultation options presented to COVID Emergency Committee in August.  
Item was deferred to enable ward and parish councillors to debate the options and make recommendations to the decision making committee.

# CFF Expenditure

Annual budget of **£134,500** split between 24 parish councils.

Funds the maintenance of agreed eligible parcels of land.

Core items within these functions:

- **Bus shelter maintenance**
- **Recreational grounds;** litter picking and rubbish clearing, grounds and tree/shrub maintenance, grass cutting, fencing repairs, repairs to car parks, access and play equipment, safety inspections and insurance
- **Closed burial grounds;** grounds and tree/shrub maintenance, grass cutting and fencing repairs
- **Cemeteries;** grounds and tree/shrub maintenance, grass cutting, wages/rent for cemetery worker, repairs to car parks and access, safety equipment, burglar alarm maintenance, and insurance.

# Draft Committee report proposals

- To **reduce the budget over a four year period from 2021/22 to 2024/25, to £0** from 2025/26 onwards. A flat rate reduction would be made to parish council applications agreed for 2020/21
- To **remove the £20,000 annual contingency fund** from 2021/22. Any underspend from the 2020/21 contingency fund will roll over and remain available until 31 March 2022.
- To **transfer the maintenance of Council-owned parcels of land** where no lease agreement is in place **into the Council's grounds maintenance contract** from April 2021 (currently only Garlinge Green Village Green).

## Your key concerns

- Lack of parity between provision and funding for parish and non-parished areas
- Potential loss of facilities in parished areas at a time when they are used more than ever by residents across the District and the health and wellbeing of residents is paramount
- Extra financial pressures for both parish councils and local residents on the back of impact of COVID

# Our response



Our revised proposals are:

1. **Not to make any changes for 2021/22** and to fund parish councils for a further year at the same levels as per 2020/21.
2. To **audit the current levels of provision** in parishes compared to urban areas and subsequently **consider the funding options for 2022/23 in line with the average costs incurred** across all parish councils for the maintenance of this provision.

# Next steps for 2021/22

**Report to Community Committee 25 November 2020 to recommend:**

**Budget option:** Parish councils to receive same CFF allocation as per 2020/21; audit work as outlined to be carried out for 2022/23.

**Contingency Fund:** to remove the £20,000 annual contingency fund from 2021/22. Any underspend from the 2020/21 contingency fund will roll over and remain available until 31 March 2022.

If budget confirmed for 2021/22: Funding Agreements issued in **February 2021** and payments made in **April 2021**.



# Next steps for 2022/23



Your feedback today will shape the proposal presented to Community Committee on **25 November** to investigate funding options to support parity of provision for 2022/23. If agreed, the timetable would be:

## **Jan - Feb 2021:**

- Parish councils to provide information on provision and costs incurred
- CCC to map provision across the District and analyse costings

## **March 2021:** Drafting of options

## **April-May 2021:** Consultation on options with parish councils

## **June 2021:** Options to be presented to Rural Forum + Community Committee

# Your thoughts?

Revised proposals:

1. **Not to make any changes for 2021/22** and to fund parish councils for a further year at the same levels as per 2020/21.
2. To **audit the current levels of provision** in parishes compared to urban areas and subsequently **consider the funding options for 2022/23 in line with the average costs incurred** across all parish councils for the maintenance of this provision.