

Committee	COUNCIL MEETING
Date	11th February 2020
Agenda Item	9

District Councillor Report

Performance Management Board

I attended the above meeting on 29th January. The main subject of the meeting was a presentation by the Cabinet with an update on the budget position.

As you can imagine with the recent General Election there have been delays in finalising the central government Funding Settlement with local authorities. This settlement was finally released on 20th December 2019 and was essentially a roll forward of 2019/20 for 2020/21. The following years are less certain with a pending government Fair Funding and 2020 Spending Review.

I was surprised to see that the taxbase for BDC had only increased by only 1.62% where Halstead has increased by 4.8%.

It is proposed to maintain BDC car park charges at their current levels for 2020/21. It is proposed to increase the BDC element of council tax by £4.95 per year (Band D), which is a 2.75% increase in 2020/21.

The resultant overall financial position is now as follows,

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Surplus/shortfall	+222,269	-394,962	-£173,680	-£334,165

The shortfalls 2021/22 onwards are very dependant upon the outcome of the 2020 Spending Review and business Rate Retention scheme.

Open Spaces Action Plan

As promised I arranged a meeting with BDC officers to discuss the Open Spaces Action plan for Halstead. This meeting took place on 27th January at the HTC offices with BDC officer Nicola Murphy, Cllr Janet Atkinson, Cllr Malcolm Fincken and I. We discussed and reviewed the outstanding section 106 balances and open spaces priority projects.

We expressed our concerns with the lack of progress by BDC in implementing projects in recent years. Nicola was understanding of our situation, however, she informed us that her current priority is with projects in Witham where there is a risk of losing the money if it isn't spent. Nicola is the only resource in BDC for these projects. Nicola did offer some help and guidance and offered the opportunity for HTC to spend some of the money for projects up to £10,000 in value.

A follow up meeting will be arranged in two months.

Recommendation: that HTC members note this report.

Cllr. Mick Radley

Braintree District Council
Halstead St Andrews Ward