## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 21 December 2023 PROPOSED TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2024-2025

Folkestone Town Council is committed to improving and enhancing the Town of Folkestone in an environmentally sustainable manner, having regard to the identified needs and wishes of all sections of the community, whilst delivering the Town Council's vision 'To revitalise our town of Folkestone, restore civic pride and regenerate a community spirit.'

Facilities and services owned and managed by the Town Council in Folkestone include, but are not limited to, allotments, the Museum, public realm CCTV, Visitor Information Service, civic and community events, the mayoralty and some of the play parks, Christmas lighting, bus shelters, salt bins, litter bins, flowerbeds, tree planting and grant schemes.

The Chair of the Finance \& General Purposes Committee, Councillor Connor McConville, said "Protecting our past, working for our future by improving the environment, local services and facilities making Folkestone an even better place is a priority for Folkestone Town Council.

In the coming year, significant funds must be invested in the Christmas lighting scheme throughout Folkestone to deliver this initiative for 2024 and future years. Much of the current Christmas lighting scheme in Folkestone combines festive lighting installations that were inherited by the Town Council in 2014 with new infrastructure added over the last 9 years. Some pre-owned lighting and motifs, including over street installations, have required refurbishment and/or replacement since they were acquired with the remaining elements of the lighting scheme predating 2014 now being identified as not being viable for repair or installation beyond 2023.

The large trees that are currently illuminated in the Town Centre and its borders had their lights installed over 5 years ago and, as such, many of their LED string lights now require replacement. A significant replacement programme is therefore required if the trees are to be illuminated for 2024.

Continued $\qquad$

## -2- <br> PRESS RELEASE PROPOSED TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2024-25

Following the refurbishment of several of the playgrounds in Folkestone throughout 2023, the Town Council are committed to making further improvements and continuing to maintain the parks to a high standard. Future plans include a commitment to improve the natural environment, which would encourage a thriving urban habitat for local insects and wildlife with thoughtful tree planting and bug hotels, in addition to the installation of benches and seating to create a social environment.

Some of our smallest parks have helped people overcome social isolation, assisted in shaping local identity whilst creating a sense of belonging.

Folkestone Town Council are also hoping to welcome RAF assets providing air displays as part of the Armed Forces Day celebrations in June 2024.

The last 12 months have been difficult for most due to inflation and the rising cost of living. The financial year ahead is expected to present these same challenges.

The Town Council's income and expenditure could continue to be impacted as a result of this, as well as the plans highlighted above. However, despite this, the Town Council believes it can deliver a balanced budget for its residents with a small increase in the precept demand. The Town Council is committed to utilising its funds prudently to provide excellent services and facilities, entertaining events and the provision of ongoing support to the many local organisations that depend on us to deliver a wide range of services to local residents."

Folkestone Town Council's draft 2024/25 budget includes the 'precept', the amount charged to residents to pay for Town Council services. For 2024/25 we propose that the precept for a Band $D$ household is $£ 67.13$ per year, $£ 1.29$ per week - this is an increase of $£ 1.71$ per year / 3p per week.

We are keen to hear your views on the draft 2024/25 budget which will be considered by Councillors before the budget is approved on 11 January 2024.

The draft budget is available to view on the Town Council's website www.folkestonetc.gov.uk
Please respond with your comments/thoughts to enquiries@folkestone-tc.gov.uk

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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| Folkestone town councll - DBAFT BUDGET 202425 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | SUMMAAY OF | Changes: |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | RECURRING | NoN-RECNG |  | BASE BUDGET | Changes in | Notes |
|  | REVISED ANNUAL | Actual costs | REVISED ANNUAL | Actual costs | REVISED ANNUAL | Actual costs | annual budget | draft budget | revenve | growt | budget | 2024125 | 202425 |  |
|  |  | 202021 |  | $2021 / 22$ |  | 202223 | 202324 | 202425 |  |  | ${ }^{202425}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 202425 | 202425 |  | 202324 | 202324 in \% |  |
| TOTAL PREMISES EXPENOTURE | 102,400 | 89,224 | 103,900 | 174,482 | 103,640 | 164,464 | 111,350 | 131,310 |  |  | 131,310 | 19960 |  |  |
| RENTAL INCOME | 15.660 | 3,700 | 15.660 | 16,000 | 15,750 | 15.800 | 15,800 | 5,900 |  |  | 5.990 | 100 <br> 300 |  | Dut ei increase in cinemarentin vear 202425 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 300 |  | New ${ }^{\text {Cinemama }}$ Susurare, hiring of the meeting room |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL PREMSES INCOME | 15,660 | 3,908 | 15,660 | 16,107 | 15,750 | 15,809 | 15,800 | 19,200 |  |  | 19,200 | ${ }_{3400}$ | ${ }^{22}$ |  |
| NET PREMSES EXPENOITUREINCOME | 86,740 | 85,316 | 88,240 | 158,375 | 87,990 | 148,655 | 95,550 | 112,10 | - | . | 112,110 | 16550 | 17 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SEEVICES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INSURACESS. - PREMISES \& PUBLIC LABLITY ( inc. Heritage) | 9.800 4.100 | 10,030 3.800 | 11.000 4,100 | 8.556 4.900 | 9.000 4.100 | \% $\begin{aligned} & 8.829 \\ & 4.090\end{aligned}$ | $\xrightarrow{9.000} 4$ | 9.800 4.300 |  |  | 9.800 4300 | 800 |  | 9 9 hnsurance for 2022 233 was 9.9 .7 lk |
| ALLOTMENTS -PFR MAITTENANCE |  | ${ }_{\text {j, }}^{2,196}$ | 3,000 | ${ }_{2}^{4,328}$ |  | ${ }^{4,145}$ | ${ }^{4.000}$ | ${ }^{4.0000}$ |  |  | ${ }_{\substack{4,300 \\ 3,000}}$ |  |  | 0 Grass cuting, water usage |
| ALLOTMENTS -TKL MAINTENANCE | 3.000 | ${ }_{4}^{2.302}$ | ${ }_{3.000}$ | $\xrightarrow{2.722}$ | ${ }_{3.000}$ | ${ }_{3,127}^{2,14{ }^{2}}$ | 3.000 | ${ }_{3.000}$ |  |  | ${ }_{3.000}$ |  |  | 0 Grass cutting, water ussage |
| MAINTENANCEOF BEACOON | - | ${ }_{\text {, }}^{1720}$ | $\begin{array}{r}300 \\ 3000 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | ${ }_{14}^{25}$ | 2000 | +1055 | $\xrightarrow{300}$ | 300 4.000 |  |  | +300 |  |  | 0 Freedome Parade |
| NOCTCEEINTIVOCMATIONHERTIAGE BOARDS | 1,000 |  | 7,000 | 6.814 | ${ }_{1}^{1,100}$ | ${ }^{2} 27$ | ${ }^{1,100}$ | 1,000 |  |  |  | 100 |  |  |
| US SHELTERS |  | 12.995 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UARD GRants | $\begin{array}{r}19.800 \\ \\ \hline 2000\end{array}$ | 4.798 | 19.800 <br> 3800 | 14,992 | $\begin{array}{r}19.800 \\ \hline 3800\end{array}$ | ${ }^{27,013}$ | $\begin{array}{r}19.800 \\ \\ \hline 3800\end{array}$ | 19.80 <br> 1.80 |  |  | 19.80 <br> 1.80 |  |  |  |
| ${ }_{\text {PARKS }}$ Tow GARDENS $\&$ RECS - FLOWEREEDS | ${ }_{3}^{25.500}$ | ${ }^{18.5006}$ | ${ }_{3}^{34.250}$ |  | ${ }_{3}^{34,000}$ | ${ }_{3}^{32,5000}$ | ${ }_{35,000}^{34,000}$ | ${ }_{3}^{34,000}$ |  |  | ${ }_{\text {34, }}^{3}$ |  |  | 0 Flowerbed costs in $2022 / 23$ was 5 37k |
| CHRIITMAS LIGHTING | 51,000 | 41,075 | 40,00 | 28,203 | 30,00 | 20,345 | 17,000 | 21,000 |  | 20,000 | 41,000 | 24,000 |  | Christmas lighting set up and emergency call <br> outs. Community Services Committee put forward <br> £20k increase budget for purchasing of new <br> Christmas Lights |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHRIITMAS FESTVVTIES | 12.000 | 721 | 12.000 | 8.824 | 12,000 | 18.973 | 12,000 | 12,000 |  |  | 12,000 |  |  | uudget |
| YOUTH FACILTIES | 7.500 |  | 11,600 | 2.257 | 3.600 | 2.007 | 6,000 | 3,000 |  |  | 3,000 | 3,000 |  |  |
| PARKS, GARDENS \& RECS - TREES | 15.000 | 15.660 | 15,000 | 14,975 | 20.000 | 420 | 20,000 | 20.000 |  |  | 20,000 |  |  | 0 KCCCT Teee planting scheme, othe |
| PARKS, GARDENS \& RECS - PLAY AREAS |  |  |  |  |  | 270,770 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 Mexterni play in inseececioion, playys cround reapais |
| PARK BENCHES | 200 | 1,280 | 500 | ${ }^{387}$ | 500 |  | 500 | 500 |  |  |  |  |  | 0 Maintenance of council owned benches 14 x |
| LITter bins, bollards \& Ralling | 3.000 | 4.595 | 2,250 | 860 | 2,250 |  | 2,250 | 2.000 |  |  | 2.000 | 250 |  |  |
| Tounist incormationvision services | 10.000 500 500 | ${ }^{10.445}$ | 9.000 <br> 500 | 2.114 | 5.000 500 | 3.782 | 5.000 500 | 5.000 |  |  | 5.000 |  |  | 0 OTourism adverts |
| MAITTENANCE OF MEMORIALS | 2.500 | 1,950 | 2.500 | 1.680 | 2.500 | 1,160 | 2,500 | 2,000 |  |  | 2.000 | 500 |  |  |
| TELLPPHONE BOX CCTV MONTORING | 100 | 5800 | 100 | 9195 | $\begin{array}{r}100 \\ 2500 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r}93 \\ \hline 27439\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r}100 \\ 2900 \\ \hline\end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | 20. Phone box electicicty |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 27,39 |  |  |  |  |  | 29,000 |  |  |
| CCTV MANTENANCE COMMUNTY MINBUS MAINTENANCE | 15,000 | 62.850 | 18.000 | 19,256 | 16,000 | 27,962 | 20,000 | 25,000 |  |  | 25.000 | 5,000 |  | $0_{0}^{0}$ cctrs set up costsi inh house |
| COMMUNTTY MNIBUS INSURANCE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 Communtry Transport reserve use |
| MISCELANEOUS SERVICES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AR SHOW ARMED FORCES DAY | 22.800 |  | 22.800 | 6.116 | 22.800 | ${ }_{\text {9, }}^{\substack{\text { 9,007 }}}$ | 12,000 | 25,000 |  |  | 25,000 | 13,000 | 108 |  |
| Ellectrical charging vehicles |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,000 |  |  | 1,000 | 1.000 |  | ${ }^{\text {Hectirical charging tor the mayoral car and }}$ minibus |
| Coontila Tover | ${ }_{\text {279, } 2 \text {, } 500}$ | 277,87 | ${ }^{300,000}$ | 264,796 | ${ }_{300,450}^{3000}$ | ${ }_{\text {50, }{ }^{11730}}$ | ${ }^{280,000}$ | ${ }_{\text {271,000 }}^{2}$ | . | 20,000 | 29,000 | 10,970 |  | $\stackrel{0}{4}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ALLOTMENT RENTS PFR | 5.000 | 5.312 | 5.000 | 5.412 | 5.000 | 5.960 | 5.900 | 5.100 |  |  | 5.100 | 800 |  |  |
| ALLOTMENT RENTS TKL | 4.800 | 4.805 | 4.800 | 4.958 | 4.800 | 4.674 | 4.600 | 4.850 |  |  | 4.850 | 250 |  | 2\% RPI increase for each allotment plot. Reduce from last year due to deposit and keys not being |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | New income source- -Sonosorships trom local |
| SPONSORSHP ARMCD FORCOME |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3.000 |  |  | 3,000 | 3,000 |  | organisations |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1000 |  |  | 1000 | 1000 |  | New income source - Chistmas stals income for |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHRIISTMAS CHERTON DONATONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| cctiv income |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Insurance companies requesting viewing of customer incident |
| TOTAL SERVICES INCOME | 9.800 | ${ }^{234,055}$ | 9,800 | 28,742 | 9,800 | 123,128 | 10,500 | 4,250 |  |  | 4,250 | 3,750 | 36 |  |
| NET SERVVICES EXPENOITUREINCOME | 269,950 | 43,825 | 296,850 | 236,054 | 290,650 | 388,402 | 269,50 | 256,770 |  | 20,000 | 276,770 | 7,220 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Consulitants fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ${ }^{500}$ |  |  | 500 | 500 |  | Protessionaladice tom exiemal sevices |
| EXTERNAL AUDIT FEES | 2.000 | 2,000 | 2,500 | 2,000 | 2,100 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 2,200 |  |  | 2,200 |  |  | gxema audorie 2 2.1. k reaing y year 202223 |
| INTERNAL AUDIT FEES | 1.500 | 877 | 1.000 | 884 | 1.000 | 984 | 1.050 | 800 |  |  | 800 | 250 |  | New interna auditior, Mubery \& Cow with ower fee |
| Legal fees |  |  |  |  |  | 4.42 |  | 1,000 |  |  | 1,000 | 1,000 |  |  |
| CAAR RECEPIP FEES | 940 14.40 | ${ }_{2.888}^{11}$ | 940 | ${ }_{3.160}$ | - $\begin{array}{r}\text { 94040 }\end{array}$ | 7,244 | ${ }^{940}$ | 5.40 |  |  | ${ }_{5}^{9400}$ | 1750 | 47 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MUSEUMHEERTAGE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MH TRANNG | 700 |  | 700 | ${ }^{723}$ | 700 |  | 700 |  |  |  |  | 700 | 100 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 |  | Visitor Accreditation, Museum Association <br> Membership, , AIM subscription, GEM <br> Membership |
| MH EEUPCPENTFUUNTTURE | ${ }_{200}^{400}$ | 6.139 | ${ }_{200}^{400}$ | ${ }^{2.296}$ | ${ }_{200}^{400}$ | 410 | ${ }_{400}^{400}$ | ${ }_{500}^{50}$ |  |  | 500 |  |  |  |
| MHEXHHIETS |  | 1.654 |  |  |  | ${ }_{2.85}^{4.5}$ |  |  |  |  | 1,750 |  | $\xrightarrow{775}$ |  |
| MH COLLECTIONS CARE |  |  |  | 1,084 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3.500 |  |  | ${ }_{3}$ Change budget name to Conservaions \& Repairs |
| MHAUDIENCEDEVELOPMENT | 1.000 |  | 1.000 |  | 1,000 | 537 | 1,000 | 2,750 |  |  | 2,750 | 1,750 | ${ }^{175}$ |  |
| MH LLEALLLTSTSUBLLCSATONS | ${ }_{1} 1.000$ | 1,200 | ${ }^{1.000}$ |  | ${ }_{1}^{1.000}$ | 18 | 1.000 |  |  |  |  | ${ }_{1} 1.000$ | -100 |  |


| FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCLL - DRAFT BUOGET 202425 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | RECURRING | NON-RECNG |  | SUMMARY OF BASE BUDGET | CHANGES: | Notes |
|  | REVISED ANNUAL <br> BUOGET | Actual costs | REVISED ANNUAL <br> BuDGET | Actual costs | REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET | Actual costs | ANNUAL BUDGET | Draft budagt | revenue | GRowTH | BUDGEt |  | 202425 |  |
|  |  | 202021 |  | $2021 / 22$ |  | 202223 | 202324 | 2024125 | GROWTH | ${ }^{1 \text { ITEMS }}$ | ${ }^{202425}$ | ${ }^{\text {Less }}$ | $\frac{10}{20324 i n \%}$ |  |
|  |  | $\varepsilon$ |  |  |  | ¢ | - $\varepsilon^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  | 202324 in \% |  |
| MHM MERCHANOISE | $\xrightarrow{2.000} 1$ | $\begin{array}{r}30 \\ 7.035 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 2.000 1.500 | ${ }^{469}$ | 2.000 | ${ }^{796}$ |  | 2.000 |  |  | 2.000 | 3500 |  | Exparsion or Museum shop |
| MH SERVVCES | 1.500 5.000 | 7.035 | 1.500 5.000 | ${ }_{\substack{3,786 \\ 1,100}}$ |  | ${ }_{\substack{2,108 \\ 1,84}}^{\text {2, }}$ | ${ }_{\substack{3.500 \\ 5.000}}$ | 5.000 |  |  | 5.000 | 3.500 | -100 | Howe canily |
| MH TEMPORAPY EXHIITIONS | 4.000 | 417 | 4.000 | 252 | 4.000 | 1.390 | 5.000 | 6,000 |  |  | 6.000 | 1,000 | ${ }^{20}$ |  |
| MH EDUCATIO N ESOURCES | 500 4.00 | 2.900 | 500 4000 | ${ }^{777}$ | 500 4000 | (1,339 | 500 4000 | 4.850 |  |  | 4.850 | 500 850 | $\begin{array}{r}100 \\ \hline 21\end{array}$ |  |
| MH UOLUNTEERSS EXPENSES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ${ }_{6}^{5000}$ |  | ${ }_{600}^{6000}$ | 884 | ${ }^{500}$ | ${ }^{25}$ | ${ }^{500}$ | 350 |  |  | 350 | ${ }^{150}$ | ${ }^{-30}$ |  |
| TOTAL MUSEUM HERITAGE EXPENDITURE | ${ }^{20,500}$ | ${ }_{52,416}$ | 20,500 | 15,372 | ${ }^{20,500}$ | 20,749 | ${ }^{29,500}$ | 27,250 |  | . | 27,250 | -2250 | ${ }_{-8}$ |  |
| MHH INCOME | 500 | 2,245 | 500 | 4.121 | 2.500 | 5.519 | 4.500 | 5.000 |  |  | 5.000 | 500 | 11 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MH GRANTS | . |  | - | - | . | . |  |  |  |  |  | . |  |  |
| MH T RANSEEERS FROM RESERVES |  | ${ }^{117,008}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MH RETALL SALES | 3.000 | 128 | 3.000 | ${ }^{933}$ | 3.000 | 1.453 | 2.000 | 2.500 |  |  | 2.500 | 500 | 25 |  |
| TOTAL MUSEUMHHERITAGE INCOME | 4,200 | 119,381 | 4,200 | ${ }_{5,129}$ | ${ }^{6,200}$ | ${ }^{2,172}$ | 7,000 | 8.000 |  | . | ${ }^{8.000}$ | 1000 | 14 |  |
| NET MUSEUMHERITAGE EXPENOITUREINCOME | 25,300 | 65,965 | 25,300 | 10,193 | 23,300 | 13,577 | 22,500 | 19,250 |  | . | 19,250 | 3,250 | -14 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SUUMARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL LXPENDIURE | 905,900 32,660 | ${ }_{\substack{869,809 \\ 35,555}}$ | ${ }^{900,37} 29.800$ | ${ }_{\substack{94,988 \\ 50,321}}$ | ${ }_{\substack{972,890 \\ 31,950}}$ |  | 1,006,670 48.300 | $\xrightarrow{1,052,040}$ |  | 20,000 | ${ }^{1,072,040} 71,450$ | ${ }^{65370} \mathbf{2 3 1 5 0}$ | ${ }_{48}^{6}$ |  |
| NET TOTAL | 877,330 | 511,254 | 910,510 | 899,667 | 940,940 | 1,092,713 | ${ }_{958,370}$ | 980,590 |  | 20,000 | 1,000,590 | 42220 | 4 |  |
| PRECEPT | 873,950 | 87,950 | 873,950 | 873,950 | 915,510 | 915,510 | 952,970 | 980,590 |  |  | 1,00,590 | 47,620 | 5 |  |
| TRANSFER TO(FROM) RESERVES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | ${ }_{\text {\% }}^{\text {BUDGET INCREASE }}$ | 30,4003.30\% | BUDGET INCREASE 116.8220 |  | BUDGEET TCREASE $\%$ | ${ }_{4}^{42.220} 4.41$ |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | PROPOSED PRECE FROM RESERVES | ${ }^{915.510} 20.90$ |  |  | PROPOSED PRECEPT | 1,000,590 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | PRECEPT NCREAS | ${ }^{41.560} 4.760$ | PRECEPT INCCEASE E 4 [77.460 |  | PRECEPPT NCREASE | ${ }^{476.620}$ |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Provisional lax base 2024/25 | 14,906.09 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Provisional tax base 2024/25 Tax base 2023/24 | ${ }_{\text {¢ }}^{\text {¢67.7.13 }}$ |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Increase from lastyear | ع1.71 |  |  |  |  |

