

Revenue Budget Summary - Members and Civic Expenses

Budget Description	Budget Holder	2021/22 Gross Budget	2021/22 Net Budget
Members and Civic Expenses	Christine Ryder Senior Administration Officer	£71,950	£71,950
<p>Purpose of the Budget:</p> <p>The purpose of the Members and Civic Expenses Budget is to provide the resources to facilitate the effective democratic management of the Council by elected members, support the office of Town Mayor, and meet the costs of civic events and hospitality.</p>			
<p>Scope of Activity and Nature of the Service:</p> <p>The Members and Civic Expenses Budget provides for the costs of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Officer support to the mayor and all other councillors; (b) The provision of a taxi chauffeur service for the Mayor and members' travelling expenses; (c) The payment of members' allowances and a mayors' allowance; (d) The training of members and the attendance of members at conferences; (e) The organisation and running of the following civic events and functions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Council Meeting; - Christmas Council Meeting; - Civic Carol Service; - Civic Ball; - Civic Service; - Mayor's at Home; - Remembrance Day (f) Civic hospitality for the Council and its guests; (g) The Council Donations Budget. <p>The Administration Section supports the Town Clerk in providing much of the day to day staffing support to members and the office of mayor.</p> <p>The Members and Civic Budget is of a partly statutory and partly discretionary nature.</p> <p>The Council could not operate without effective democratic management by members and the support from officers that is required to facilitate this.</p>			
<p>Contribution to Council Aims:</p> <p>The Members and Civic Budget contributes to the Council's Strategic Aim 1:-</p> <p><i>"To provide good quality governance and management of the Council"</i></p>			

Performance Measures and Indicators

There are currently three targets within the Service Delivery Plan specifically relating to the Members and Civic Budget:-

- Provide an annual member training programme from member requests.
- Develop a recommended training programme for Members which shows highly recommended and recommended courses with a reminder being sent quarterly and records of attendance and non-attendance kept.
- Hold a Parish Meeting.

Key Budget Changes for 2021/22

The Members and Civic Budget has been reduced by £1,050 or 1.4% per year, to a net running cost of £71,950 per year.

This reduction accounts for the sale of the civic car which has saved on insurance costs, as well as a small reduction in the Council Donations Budget to bring the budget to £5,000 per year.

Importance of Service to the Community

While there have not been any customer satisfaction surveys or consultation exercises carried out relating specifically to the Members and Civic Expenses Budget, it is considered that effective democratic management of the Council, the role of the Town Mayor, and the provision of civic functions and hospitality helps to raise the profile of the Parish and therefore benefits the community of Great Aycliffe as a whole.

The 2019 'Your Town, Your Choice, Your Voice' Satisfaction Survey and 2021/22 budget consultation exercise provided some negative feedback as to public satisfaction with Members and Civic Services with the view expressed that members and civic spending is not a high priority for local taxpayers and that spending should be reduced.

This feedback has been taken into account in recent budget setting exercises, with a number of reductions in member and civic spending having been made over the last few years.

External Funding and Fees and Charges:

Some income is raised through ticket sales in relation to the civic ball and this is used to offset the running costs of this annual event.