

FINANCIAL ASK OF BLAP MEMBER PARISH COUNCILS FOR 2024/25 – NOTE OUTLINING ITS CALCULATION

This note outlines BLAP's financial ask of its Parish Council members for the financial year 2024/25. It is understood that Parish Councils typically discuss and pull together their 2024/25 budget plans during the remainder of 2023.

The starting point is the previous ask made for 2023/24, which was agreed and paid to Bridport Town Council by all thirteen member Parish Councils. There are three components which now need to be taken into account to calculate figures for 2024/25. These are:

1. Updating of the tax base figures used for each Parish (basing them on latest figures from the Dorset Council website);
2. Adding a percentage increase to take account of inflation or cost pressures since last year; and
3. Taking account of boundary changes which come into effect in April 2024 following the Community Governance Review (CGR).

The calculation and ask are shown in the table on page three. It should be noted that, for consistency with previous years, a fourteenth Parish Council – Upper Marshwood Vale – also appears in the calculation. That Parish Council left BLAP in 2021 but taking it out of the initial stage of the calculation would introduce an inconsistency and alters all the figures. It is therefore left in purely for calculation purposes.

Updating the tax base

This step is straightforward. Dorset Council annually updates the tax base figures in December. Latest figures available are therefore those it released in December 2022. Step one of the calculation recalibrates the previous year's (2023/24) ask using the latest tax base figures for each Parish Council area.

Taking account of inflation

In order to draft a budget for 2024/25, Bridport Town Council is assuming an inflation figure of 6%, which is just below the latest official (Bank of England) rate. Where appropriate, its budget will incorporate a 6% annual inflation increase. (It is important to add that this does not imply anything about 2024/25 precept levels for households.) Step two of the calculation aligns with the Town Council budget process and adds 6% to the ask figures for each Parish Council.

Taking account of CGR

A complication on this occasion is CGR. Three BLAP parishes will no longer exist in 2024/25, so their tax base is re-assigned (mainly) to Bridport and (partly) to Symondsburry in line with CGR changes. Four other BLAP parishes are unaffected by CGR boundary changes (Burton Bradstock, Charmouth, Litton Cheney and Puncknowle & Swyre). Five BLAP parishes have minor CGR boundary changes (Char Valley, Chideock, Loders, Netherbury and Shipton Gorge), which involve very small numbers of properties. To keep things simple we have not adjusted for this, both because the effect in the calculation would be small (pennies) and because Dorset Council is not due to release new tax base figures until December.

The most complex CGR changes affect Bridport and Symondsburry. Bothenhampton & Walditch becomes a ward within Bridport. The built-up part of Bradpole become a ward within Bridport and its rural part moves into Symondsburry. Allington will similarly be split between Bridport and Symondsburry. Furthermore, three areas move between Symondsburry and Bridport. The following assumptions are made in the 2024/25 calculation and have been agreed with Symondsburry Parish Council:

- That the current 298.5 tax base for Allington is estimated to go 194.5 into Bridport and 104.0 into Symondsburry. The basis for this estimate is Symondsburry Parish Council's CGR submission, which expected to gain 118 households from Allington (a figure which it says needs reducing by about 12% to estimate the effect on the tax base). The remainder of the tax base is allocated to Bridport.
- That in net terms the tax base for Symondsburry is reduced by 168 given changes to its boundary with Bridport. Two parts of Symondsburry will transfer to Bridport, being West Cliff at West Bay (126 households) and Magdalen Lane or Pine View (90 households), whilst an area around West Road/Edwards Close (25 households) will transfer from Bridport to Symondsburry. Discounted by 12% the net effect on the Symondsburry tax base is a reduction of 168.

On that basis, it is estimated that the current tax base of 551 for Symondsburry is reduced by 168 and increased by 104 to become 487.

The following table shows the full calculation. Please note that the funding contribution asks of Parish Councils for 2024/25 are the figures that appear in bold in the right-hand column, called 'Step three: adjust for CGR'.

Table: Calculation for the financial ask of BLAP Parish Council members for 2024/25

The final column (step three) completes the calculation and so shows the 2024/25 ask of Parish Councils for a contribution to BLAP costs.

| Parish | Tax base used last year | Previous (2023/24) ask | Latest tax base figures | Share (%) of new tax base (excl Bridp't) | Step one: adjust to new tax base | Step two: uprate by 6% | Adjust tax base for CGR changes | Step three: adjust for CGR |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Allington | 297.9 | £62.85 | 298.5 | 4.28 | £62.39 | £66.13 | n/a | n/a |
| Both & Wald | 996.4 | £210.23 | 1,001.0 | 14.37 | £209.21 | £221.77 | n/a | n/a |
| Bradpole | 959.2 | £202.38 | 968.2 | 13.90 | £202.36 | £214.50 | n/a | n/a |
| Bridport | 3066.5 | n/a | 3,076.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 5,407.8 | n/a |
| Burton Brads | 566.3 | £119.48 | 569.0 | 8.17 | £118.92 | £126.06 | 569.0 | £126.06 |
| Charmouth | 729.1 | £153.83 | 736.3 | 10.57 | £153.89 | £163.12 | 736.3 | £163.12 |
| Char Valley | 577.3 | £121.81 | 573.1 | 8.23 | £119.78 | £126.97 | 573.1 | £126.97 |
| Chideock | 336.1 | £70.91 | 336.2 | 4.83 | £70.27 | £74.48 | 336.2 | £74.48 |
| Litton Cheney | 207.8 | £43.83 | 206.3 | 2.96 | £43.12 | £45.70 | 206.3 | £45.70 |
| Loders | 280.3 | £59.14 | 285.4 | 4.10 | £59.65 | £63.23 | 285.4 | £63.23 |
| Netherbury | 604.1 | £127.46 | 611.6 | 8.78 | £127.83 | £135.50 | 611.6 | £135.50 |
| Punck & Swy | 305.0 | £64.35 | 310.5 | 4.46 | £64.90 | £68.79 | 310.5 | £68.79 |
| Shipton Gorg | 197.0 | £41.57 | 201.2 | 2.89 | £42.05 | £44.57 | 201.2 | £44.57 |
| Symondsbur | 526.3 | £111.04 | 551.0 | 7.91 | £115.16 | £122.07 | 487.0 | £107.89 |
| Upp. M. Vale | 318.0 | n/a | 318.0 | 4.56 | n/a | n/a | 318.0 | n/a |
| Total | 9,967.3 | £1,388.88 | 10,042.4 | n/a | £1,389.52 | £1,472.89 | 10,042.4 | £956.31 |
| Minus Bridp't | 6,900.8 | £1,388.88 | 6,966.3 | 100.0 | £1,389.52 | £1,472.89 | 4,634.6 | £956.31 |

Note: Although some Upper Marshwood Vale figures are shown in the table, there is no funding ask of that Parish Council.