

## **Explanation of Differences Between 2015/16 and 2016/17**

### **RECEIPTS**

#### **1) Precept**

The Council was asked to vacate its premises in June 2016/17, which it had occupied as a tenant of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council since local government reorganisation in 1974. By the apparently unwritten agreement of tenancy the Borough had borne most of the costs for the building in that time.

The Town Council is now renting new accommodation at market prices and has had to spend money on building improvements, necessitating a significant rise in the precept.

#### **2) Discount Grant**

These sums are at the discretion of the government and our overseeing Borough Council.

#### **3) Compensation**

The Borough Council offered to the Town a one-off payment of £50,000 as compensation for vacating the Offices.

#### **4) Portland Fair**

The payment for the autumn fair by the promoters remains unchanged, but they have decided not to hold any spring fairs in future and no further donation in lieu of a spring fair was forthcoming.

#### **5) Hire of Hall Refund**

The refund by the Borough Council was the last under the agreement. As well as reimbursement for the Town's expenditure in 2015/16 meetings in April and May 2016 were also compensated.

#### **6) Lottery Fund Grant**

This is the first time the Council applied for such funding.

#### **7) Neighbourhood Plan**

The increase in grant reflects increased activity on the Plan as it starts to take shape.

#### **8) Sale of Council Furniture**

This was necessitated by the move to much smaller premises. As much of the furniture was elderly the sale only raised part of the value by which the Council's assets were reduced.

#### **9) Other Income**

The Council benefitted from the maturing of a fixed interest account this year.

#### **10) VAT**

No reclaim form was completed for 2015/16 because of pressure on staff resources and the Council no longer has an interest-bearing current account to provide an incentive for completion.

## **PAYMENTS**

### **1) Audit**

There were fewer demands on the internal auditor's time this year.

### **2) Bank Charges**

The Council decided to transfer all of its current financial resources. The new bank levies a charge for its account unlike the old and costs were incurred over three cheques presented against the old account but falling foul of the transfer arrangements.

### **3) Civic Expenditure**

This year's civic events were less extensive than those of the previous year, which for example had required a road closure.

### **4) Computer Equipment**

A replacement, refurbished lap-top was purchased.

### **5) IT Support**

IT problems occurred as a result of the office move and were recorded against the Office Move budget. The changes made were sufficient to avoid further assistance in the rest of the year.

### **6) Council Offices**

See Receipts: Precept.

### **7) Furniture & Equipment**

Five quarterly charges were recorded in 2015/16 and the volume of photocopying carried out was much reduced.

### **8) Hire of Halls**

There were slightly fewer meetings in 2016/17.

### **9) Legal Fees**

It is hoped that an ongoing legal dispute was resolved in 2016/17.

### **10) Mayoral Allowance**

Council made a reassessment to deal with successive inflationary pressure.

### **11) Postage**

We have looked to make economies, in particular the use of Internet banking.

### **12) Publications**

These included a new edition of Arnold-Baker.

### **13) Subscriptions**

One subscription paid this year is triennial to take advantage of the discount offered.

### **14) Training / Conferences**

More training was requested last year when we had an intake of new councillors.

**15) Cheyne Weares and Landscape Maintenance**

Costs were reassigned between the two budgets. Last year's costs had involved a significant landscape exercise.

**16) Grants**

Reductions are being made to match the fall in Fair revenue, from which comes the basic funding.

**17) Lottery-Funded Events**

See Receipts: Lottery Fund Grant.

**18) Office Move**

See Receipts: Precept

**19) Website**

Two annual charges were recorded at each end of 2015/16, but only one was made in 2016/17.

**20) VAT**

The volume of payments has increased significantly with the additional responsibilities for our premises.

**TOTAL FIXED ASSETS**

Because the Council was obliged to move into much smaller premises during the year most of the furniture had to be sold. See also Receipts: Sale of Council Furniture.