

MEDIA RELEASE



RATE INCREASE SET AT 1%

The Board of Port St Mary Commissioners have agreed a rate increase for the coming 2021/22 year of 1%, which equates to 349p (previously 346p).

The Board has again worked hard to minimise the impact on rates for Port St Mary residents, early discussions starting in September 2020 and taking into account the projects faced in the coming year, the Board are pleased to be able to keep the rate as low as possible during what has been a difficult period for many financially. The Board will continue to scrutinise expenditure and apply sound financial planning to their decisions. The Board have identified several areas in which savings can be made and will continue to seek further savings where possible.

There are several budget increases from external sources which are beyond the control of the Board;

- The proposed increase for Government salaries for the coming year is unknown at this time.
- A 1.8% increase in contributions to the Southern Civic Amenity Site.
- Disposal costs at the Energy From Waste Plant are due to rise by 2.09% in April, this accounts for 10% of our budget.

Ongoing and further investment in plant and machinery is required in the coming year. A street light replacement scheme is also due to be undertaken alongside an audit by Manx Utilities of the street lights and their condition, which unfortunately was not able to be carried out last year due to restrictions. It is proposed that at least 10 street lights per year will be replaced on a rolling basis and these costs have been included in the budget, along with costs for unforeseen replacements.

The Board have been working alongside contractors regarding the stability of Happy Valley and costs for a capital project to strengthen and retain the structure are also included for the coming year, this project was also postponed due to restrictions, but is due to commence in the Spring this year.

Funding to replace the nets at the tennis courts has also been included in the budget for the coming year.

The latest available CPI rate stands at 0.1%, and RPI rate is negative 1.1% (both December 2020). The Board anticipates that cost saving measures and careful scrutiny of expenditure will allow them to deliver a balanced budget for the forthcoming year.

Michelle Haywood
Chair

29th January 2021

The table below sets out our predicted income and expenditure for the 2021/22 financial year;

Income	£	%
Rates	488,174	73%
Search Fees	3,900	1%
Admin tfrd from housing	29,647	4%
MCHC	36,919	6%
C&M EPH	16,321	2%
Incidentals	59	0%
Lettings	74,339	11%
Commercial Refuse	14,796	2%
Memorial seats	3,494	1%
	667,648	100%

Expenditure	£	%
Salaries	-260,262	39%
Office Expenses	-30,154	5%
Professional Fees	-32,687	5%
Election Expenses	-4,000	1%
Bank Charges	-2,442	0%
Travel Exp & Staff Training	-7,597	1%
Attendance Allowances	-3,570	1%
Civic Events, Advertising & Donations	-8,223	1%
Vehicles	-36,081	5%
Commissioners Buildings	-67,861	10%
Refuse Costs	-89,868	14%
SRC Contribution	-41,429	6%
Street Lighting	-15,198	2%
Street Cleaning & conveniences	-4,247	1%
Parks, Leisure & Public Areas	-46,214	7%
Public Amenities	-12,297	2%
Bad Debt Provision	-31	0%
	-662,160	100%

Predicted 21/22 surplus	5,488
-------------------------	--------------

Professional Fees includes audit, accountancy, consulting & legal fees.

Commissioners Buildings includes town hall costs, insurance and stores expenses.

Refuse Costs includes tipping costs at the EFW & the current refuse contract.

Public Amenities includes swimming pool contribution, playground maintenance and beach cleaning.