



Local Services Committee

06 December 2021 Appendix B

Report of Town Clerk

Items of Growth or Savings

Access Public

Background

1. Committee has considered two proposals that will have a significant impact on the shape of the budget, if not its total cost.
2. The first is the proposal to replace Spittal Play Park, the second the proposal to bring local services in house.

Spittal Play Park

3. The condition issues have been confirmed by independent inspection; much of the park is beyond its serviceable life.
4. Local residents have been consulted, and are clearly in favour of the park's replacement.
5. Councillors have been informally consulted, and have indicated a preference for the park being entirely replaced in one operation.
6. Informal soundings have indicated a willingness for council to borrow sufficient funds to enable the park to be replaced from the Public Works Loan Board.
7. In order for that borrowing to take place, provision has to be made in the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the cost of borrowing.
8. Committee is therefore invited to consider whether it formally recommends to council that the budget for 2022-23 should include provision for a recurring cost of £10,500 to cover a 15 year loan on an equal payments of principal basis for the cost of replacing Spittal Play Park, and that reserves should be reconfigured to cover any costs above that amount.

Local Services

9. Having heard the presentation from Mr Hodgson, committee is invited to make recommendations to either:
 - a. Negotiate a new Local Services agreement with Northumberland County Council,
 - b. To prepare to bring services in house on the basis previously described by the Town Clerk at council's request, or
 - c. To make such arrangements as it sees fit, adjusting the precept requirement appropriately.

Recommendation

1. To consider paragraphs 8 and 9 above and make recommendations as committee sees fit to council.

Author	GD	Town Clerk sign off (if required)	GD
Checked by	SC	Finance Officer sign off (if required)	N/A