

Precept information for Alcester council tax payers

The Town Council sets the precept each year in January. The precept is the primary source of income for the Town Council and is part of the Council Tax which residents pay to Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

The Town Council only receives a very small proportion of the Council Tax. In 2017-18 Band D council tax payers in Alcester paid £1,740.68 in Council Tax of which only £114.11 was paid to the Town Council. The Town Council does not receive any direct funding from central government.

At the Full Council meeting on 9th January 2018, the Town Council agreed to request a precept of £250,746 from Stratford on Avon District Council for the year 2018-19. The precept in 2017-18 was £240,756.

The Council has increased its total expenditure budget by 2% for the forthcoming year. This increase is required to cover the statutory increase in the minimum wage in April 2018, anticipated rises in local government salary scales, reduction in the Council Tax support grant previously received from Stratford-on-Avon District Council and additional costs connected with data protection which will come into effect in May 2018. In addition, inflation is anticipated to be in the region of 3% in 2018 which will increase running costs generally.

The agreed precept will result in a small increase in the precept charge to Alcester residents (Band D) from £114.11 to £116.34 per annum.

This rise of £2.23 per Band 'D' property is equivalent to 4 pence per week.

The Town Council uses the precept to run council business and to provide a range of services to the residents. These include four allotment sites, four play grounds, the cemetery on Birmingham Road, civic and community events, grants to voluntary organisations, maintenance and upkeep of the Jubilee Centre, the Alcester Green River Corridor, the recreation ground on Stratford Road and miscellaneous street furniture such as signs, benches and bins.

Many of these do not generate any income and need regular re-investment to enable them to remain an asset for the community.

With ever increasing budgetary pressures on County and District Councils over the coming few years town and parish councils will be asked to take on additional responsibility for some of the non-statutory services they currently operate. The Town Council is charged with getting more for less, while maintaining and improving, the services provided to the town. The handing over of some additional areas of responsibility is inevitable and beyond the Town Council's control.