

SPECIAL EXPENSES AREA COMMITTEE 22nd JULY 2003REPORT OF HEAD OF FINANCERE: DEFINITION OF SPECIAL EXPENSES AREA ITEMS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information on the current basis of classification of items as Special Expenses functions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That members consider the classification of items as Special Expenses functions and recommend any amendments to Council.

BACKGROUND TO REPORT

1 Introduction

At its meeting on 12th June 2003, this Committee resolved that a report be presented to the next meeting of this Committee identifying functions classed as Borough or Special Expenses Area.

2 Basis of classification

The current classification was initially based on a joint Borough/Parishes report on financing of concurrent functions which was approved by the then Policy and Resources Committee on 3rd March 1977 (copy attached as Appendix 1).

Following a change in the legislation defining Special Expenses, the Council agreed the classification of Special Expenses following a report to the Policy and Resources Committee on 4th February 1993, which is attached as Appendix 2. Essentially it identifies functions which are carried out by the Borough Council in Hinckley and Barwell which are carried out by Parish Councils in the rest of the Borough and provides for the cost of these to be charged only to taxpayers in the relevant area. The functions included are Parks and Open Spaces, Cemeteries and "Poop Scoop" Schemes.

As a result of the recommendation of the then Special Expenses Area Working Party, Council agreed on 25th June 2002 that from 2003/04 the cost of Argents Mead, with the exception of the War Memorial, was to be removed from the Special Expenses Area and form part of the cost of the Council Offices.

A detailed list of the Special Expense functions are included as Appendix 3:

All other items are treated as Borough functions.

If members wish the definition of Special Expenses items to be amended recommendations will have to be made to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are dependent on any recommendations which members decide to make. However, any amendments to the current definitions are likely to impact on both the Special Expenses and Borough elements of the Council Tax.

Background Papers: None

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