



PEEL TOWN COMMISSIONERS REVENUE BUDGET 2012/2013

Over the last three months the Commissioners have been examining the revenue budget for the ensuing financial year 2012/2013.

Over the last two years the setting of the Town rate has been difficult due to the economic climate and in particular the continuing need to keep expenditure under tight control following Central Government's shortfall in funds as a result of the adjustment to the reciprocal VAT agreement with the United Kingdom.

All areas of the Commissioners finances have been examined to identify savings in the day to day operations and service provision. However, the Commissioners have been advised that the cost to dispose waste at the Island incinerator will increase from £30.74 to £35.00 per tonne. This will increase costs by over £8,000 per annum.

To achieve significant savings the current three year grass cutting contract for Ballawattleworth Estate will not be renewed and from April 2012 this work will be undertaken in-house with the Commissioners own staff. First year costs (including purchase of new equipment) are on a par with the cost of the contract but significant savings will accrue from year two onwards.

Whilst the Commissioners continue to exercise restraint some new projects will be undertaken including provision of new play equipment in the sum of £10,000, additional CCTV coverage in the Town Centre at a cost of £10,000, street lighting at the Market Place and Ballaterson Crescent in the sum of £9,000. Over recent years the Town's public conveniences have been upgraded and improved. This will continue with £6,000 to be spent on the Market Place toilets. Additionally minor Information Technology upgrades have been included for 2012/2013 at the Town Hall.

Having regard to the estimated expenditure required the Board has agreed to set a Town Rate of 242 pence in the £ (increased from 237 pence in 2011/2012 and representing a 1.7% increase and a separate refuse charge per dwelling of £128.50 (increased from £126.50 in 2011/2012 and representing a 1.6% increase).