

## **Norfolk County Council Report for Scarning Parish Council 18 April 2016**

### **Norfolk County Council Budget 2016/17**

The 2016/ 17 Budget for the County Council was agreed on Monday 22nd February 2016. This included:

- A net revenue budget for the county council of £339million
- A big proportion of this will be derived from council tax: the county council's share of this is increasing by 3.99% (including 2% specifically for adult social care services).
- This amounts to an increase of £45.72 a year for a Band D household
- The budget prevented the closure of certain fire stations, recycling centres, libraries and a raft of front-line services across the county, which were initially under threat from a projected budget gap of £42 million for next year

### **Devolution Deal for East Anglia**

On Wednesday 16th March this year, the Chancellor's budget included confirmation that local leaders in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough had agreed a deal with the government - to devolve significant powers to a regional level.

The offer currently includes:

' Over £1 billion of new money to support economic growth over the next 30 years

At this stage, £65m per year for the next 5 years - then £3 Om thereafter  
The region will take control of millions of pounds of a multi-year consolidated and devolved transport budget

° New powers over infrastructure, developing skills for employment, and improving our health and social care system

£175 million of capital grant for the East to deliver an ambitious target of new homes in line with national targets.

The deal would also include the creation of a combined authority for East Anglia, chaired by a directly elected Mayor supported by a cabinet made up from leaders from the partner authorities.

Councils would still keep their sovereignty and deliver local services.

Significant resources and powers would be transferred from central government to the region but at this stage specifically for infrastructure, housing, economic development, jobs and skills

Norfolk County Council considered and debated the draft agreement at full council on Monday 11th April 2016 and agreed to continue discussions with the government over agreeing a final deal

There will be a period of public consultation after June 2016 before a final deal would be put to local councils in September 2016

### **Children's Services**

In December 2015, the government announced that a special commissioner, Dave Hill, would be coming in to help improve children's services in Norfolk. This comes after the county council was given another 'inadequate' rating by Ofsted.

In their report, Ofsted highlighted under-developed services for children in, and leaving, the council's care.

It is hoped that the commissioner will be able to help bring about the much-

needed improvements and most importantly, better outcomes.  
There will be more updates on this in the coming months.

### **There is good news on GCSE results for Norfolk's pupils (October 2015)**

Norfolk's schools have narrowed the gap on the national average at GCSE for the second successive year, according to provisional results published last autumn.

Early results suggest that Norfolk has climbed 35 places up the national league tables over the last two years

Statistics show that 53.8% of students achieved five A\* to C grades, including English and Maths - compared with 52% on the same day last year\* (an improvement of 1.8 percentage points)

Progress in Maths in Norfolk is particularly strong - 67.3% of students made progress in the county, putting Norfolk above the national average of 66.6%.

### **Broadband**

185,885 mainly rural homes and businesses have now been given access to fibre-enabled broadband

More than 80% of households and businesses in the county can now buy a superfast broadband service (24 Megabits per second and above), nearly double the number who could receive these speeds three years ago before the Better Broadband for Norfolk programme got underway.

### **Norfolk/Suffolk waste deal extended (May 2015)**

The inter-county deal, which sees some of Norfolk's waste dealt with at Suffolk County Council's new energy-from-Waste (EF W) plant was extended for a further four years, in May last year, to last until 2020.

The extension was agreed as part of Norfolk County Council's work to secure four years' worth of waste services, using facilities that are already up and running inside or outside Norfolk, to replace its current arrangements which end this year, which deals with the 210,000 tonnes of rubbish left after recycling (residual waste) that Norfolk generates each year.

### **Changes at Norfolk recycling centres**

From 1st April until 30th September, with the exception of Mile Cross in Norwich, all recycling centres across Norfolk will be operating under the new summer opening hours timetable - open from 9am until 5pm ((under the previous summer schedule, sites were open until 6pm).

Also from 1st April, the price of disposing of tyres at the eight recycling centres which accept them, will increase to £4 per tyre, to cover the full costs of collection and disposal. The number of tyres which can be accepted at the sites will still be limited to five per household per week. Bicycle tyres are still accepted for free.

### **The road surface dressing programme has started in Norfolk (April 2016)**

NCC's annual road surface-dressing programme for 2016 will began on Wednesday 13 April, with work starting in the Great Yarmouth, Bradwell and east coast areas

Surface dressing is one of the best ways of extending the life of roads while contributing to safety by improving skid resistance and preventing potholes.

This year's planned programme is worth £9.7m, and the aim is to complete busier routes by the end of July

People living along the affected routes will receive notification a day or two before the crews arrive. They will be asked not to park on the road on the day of the surfacing, or the following day when loose chippings will be swept up

**Parish Partnership Scheme (March 2016)**

Funding of £380,000 for 122 small scale highway projects across Norfolk was approved by councillors in March

Scarning successfully bid for a SAM2 (Speed Awareness Message Sign) for the 2016/17 round of schemes, at a cost of £2,900

William Richmond

County Councillor for Dereham North (including Scarning)

Norfolk County Council