

County Council Report.

February 2021

Cllr Kevin Cuffley

Cllr Roger Hickford.

Firstly apologies if you have already had your Parish meetings, but I thought it would be better to send the report of the February County Council full meeting as this is the Budget setting meeting.

At the meeting it was voted through to accept a 2.99% increase in council tax. This consists of 1.99% normal tax and 1% for Adult Social Care. The council is planning to spend £660.3 million in 2021/22. The amount is an increase of around £47.3 million or 7.7% compared to last year's budget. In reality the council ended up spending £70million more than budgeted over past year because of the pandemic most of financed by central Government.

When the budget was set last year it was estimated it needed to address a budget gap of £4.2 million when setting the budget for 2021/22. Despite planning to make around £4 million savings, the budget gap this for this year due to be closed before the ahead of the meeting was around £9.6 million. The Conservatives introduced a council tax increase of 2.99% as a 'last resort'. The change is a 1.99% is 1% higher than the

1.99% increase previously expected, which is estimated to raise an additional £3 million this year. In addition the Conservatives would not put in an extra £4.1 million into the council's transformation fund, and will withdraw £3.8 million.

The county councils share of the council tax is just over 70% of residents total bill, with district councils and the police and fire services also levying a charge. Tuesday's change will increase the county council's share of the council tax to an average property – Band D – from about £1359.18 a year to £1399.77 a year, an increase of around £40.59 a year on Band D properties.

Government rules allowed the council to raise the council tax by up to 4.99% this year. The Conservative group it would be 'unthinkable' to implement the maximum increase. With the ongoing and likely lasting damage done by the pandemic the Conservatives wanted to protect our residents from the burden of extra taxation.

The county council estimates it will receive £320 million from council tax, £64 million business rates, £122 million for fees and charges and around £136 million from Government grants.

Impact on Households. Percentage Increase.

. 2% £27.18 Band D

. 3% £40.77 Band D

. 4% £54.36 Band D

. 4.99% £67.77 Band D

County council share of tax bill for 2021/22

. Band A £933.18

. Band B £1088.71

. Band C £1,244.24

. Band D £1,399.77

. Band E £1,710.83

. Band F £2,021.89

. Band G £2,332.95

. Band H £2,799.74.

Having listened to the concerns of residents the council will invest a further £29.7 million in Cambridgeshire over the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021 – 2026.

The council recognises that we are still in the grips of the Pandemic and that there is a lot of uncertainty in what post pandemic will look like.

It is also pleasing to report that Cambridgeshire has the highest proportion of over 70's vaccinated in the country. With all care homes having received their 1st vaccinations.

It is only right to recognise the giant achievements of the NHS under the stresses they are working, and the remarkable roll out of the vaccinations within Cambridgeshire. With the fantastic support from the volunteers who have played a major role within all our communities. To all a Huge thank you.