

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division

Report October 2020

Budget:

NCC is starting the budget setting for 2021/22 in very uncertain times for local government finance. Areas of uncertainty are; the local government funding allocations from government are unknown; the governments Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) has not yet been delivered; key reforms to government funding have been delayed (by Covid distractions) the Fair Funding Review, Business Rate Retention localisation and Adult Social Care funding. Covid pressures on NCC budget for this year amount to £75.421m against government support of £63.824m leaving an overspend this year (so far) of £11.597m. Due to the impact of Covid £17.780m of planned savings have not been realised. The Council is also working to address a forecast budget gap of £45.434m for 2021/22 prior to any Covid impacts. Many of the additional costs, lost income and undeliverable savings experienced in this financial year may have an extended impact on the 2020/21 budget. The Cabinet meeting on the 5th October will not be able fully to address the forecast budget deficit, further work will be required to identify further saving options.

Local Government:

NCC and other Norfolk local authorities have written to government to request that any Local Government Review is delayed until the effects of Covid 19 on the economy, council services and budgets are returned to the normal. LGR is an expensive and disruptive process to undertake and, although projected to save money, is best carried out when there is stability in local government.

Waste Amnesty:

A reported last month, and as a reminder, NCC are holding free hazardous waste disposal days during September and October at the recycling centres. The following are the dates and times for the nearest ones:

Dereham 2nd, 3rd, 4th October.

Hempton 9th, 10th, 11th October. Both centres are open from 9am to 4pm.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.