

County Council Report
Scarning Annual Parish Meeting -April 2015

NCC BUDGET 2015/16

The budget for the County Council was agreed in February. This included:

- .. The Authority's share of council tax being frozen in 2015/16 for the fifth year running
- .. A £500,000 efficiency saving for 2015/16 being returned into the Adult Social Services budget to protect transport for people using Adult Social Care services
- .. Previous proposals on the reduction of recycling centre opening hours and related charges being placed under review.

Proposals to meet a budget shortfall for 2016/17 and 2017/18 will be developed and brought back to Members over the spring and summer of 2015.

The Council has a Gross income of £1.413 billion. This comes from a variety of sources, including:

Schools Funding Council Tax
Revenue Support Grant (central government) Business rates
Interest, receipts and other income Sales, fees and charges
Other government grants and reimbursements.

Central government funding has reduced by £ 123. 8m since 2011/12 and further reductions are expected in 2016/17 and 2017/18. It is anticipated that the Revenue Support Grant, worth £138m in 2015/16, will completely disappear by 2019.

A break down of Gross expenditure is as follows:

Schools - £445,538,160
Adult Social Services - £358,963,457
Community and Environmental Services - £247,655,211 Children's Services - £169,337,070
Resources - £92,855,973
Finance General - £76,497,083
Finance Department - £22,162,872.

SCHOOLS

For 2015/16 £2.2m has been received by NCC from central government for schools expansion and repairs - of which Scarning Primary School has received £6,891 as part of this allocation.

BETTER BROADBAND

Better Broadband for Norfolk is the Norfolk County Council, Government and BT funded programme to implement improved broadband infrastructure in Norfolk. By the end of 2015, the first rollout will be complete and over 80% of Norfolk properties will have access to Superfast broadband speeds (24 Mbps+). 141,077 houses are now able to access super-fast broadband across the County.

In order to get the best coverage possible for the investment available, NCC has asked BT to seek to make the highest levels of Superfast Broadband available (24Mbps+) where possible and where this is not achievable to make Basic Broadband available to remaining premises.

Further funding has been secured, a new £12 million contract has been let, which will implement

more fibre based infrastructure across the county. The new contract has two elements:

- The first tranche will increase coverage to 90% of properties
- A second tranche, funded by Breckland Council will increase coverage further, Breckland has committed £1.9 million.

Scarning is included within the first tranche of the new contract. This is subject to survey and detailed design and at this stage implementation dates are not available.

All updates and information are available on the Better Broadband website here: <http://www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk/>

PARISH PARTNERSHIPS

The 2015/16 bids for Parish Partnerships were received and assessed in January 2015.

Scarning did not apply for any schemes for this year but I would encourage the Parish Council to do so for next year as it is intended that there will be further opportunities for parish councils to participate in such a scheme again for 2016.

A list of the 2015/16 successful schemes are to be circulated for information.

HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE

The highways teams will continue to deliver repairs as their resources permit, but will seek to prioritise and programme the type of works and repairs made. There are some pothole repairs to be made shortly on various roads in and around Scarning including just outside the village hall.

W Richmond 20 April 2015