

County Council budget 2017-18

The County Council's General Purposes met in late January to consider budget proposals for 2017-18.

Because there is no overall political control, agenda papers are prepared and presented by council officers, with the budget proposals drawn up based on assumptions agreed by councillors. At the GPC meeting, there four different amendments were put forward – these were based on

- no increase in Council Tax and no Social Care precept;
- no increase in Council Tax and 2% Social Care precept;
- 2% increase in Council Tax and 2% Social Care precept;
- 2% increase in Council Tax and 3% Social Care precept.

There was also a single issue amendment put forward by an individual councillor. The specific issue had been included in one of the amendments above, and there was widespread support for including this in the budget.

None of the four amendments above received majority support, and so the Committee made no recommendation to Full Council about the level of Council Tax / Social care precept.

Cambridge Sporting Village

Tony stated that he was attending a briefing on the Cambridge Sporting Village the following day. [In the event, the briefing was attending was Jane Ward and Janet Lockwood as well as Tony.]

The Cambridge Sporting Village is a proposal to build sporting facilities and several hundred houses on land south of the Trumpington Meadows development, though with some facilities on the Hauxton side of the M11. It is associated with the Cambridge Community Stadium proposal, which seeks to develop Cambridge United's stadium and immediate surroundings.

It was thought that these two linked planning applications will go to committee for determination within the next 3 months or so.

Service 26 bus

Tony and local residents and councillors attended a meeting with Andy Campbell (Stagecoach) to express their concerns about the reduction in frequency of the 26 bus service, the reduction from one per hour to one per every two hours during non-peak times of the day having been implemented in early January 2017.

It was stated that commercial bus companies were not allowed to use money from profitable routes to subsidise loss-making routes. A way of returning to an hourly schedule on the 26 route was put forward by Stagecoach but this would involve terminating northbound services at the Trumpington Park and Ride site, and so would involve a change of bus for those wishing to travel into the City centre.

Further discussions will be held locally to see whether there is support for this or any other suggestions that may come forward.

Tony Orgee and Gail Kenney
County Councillors for Hauxton