

County Council Report

March 2019

BUDGET

At the February full Council meeting it was voted to set this years council at 4.99%. This means Band D properties will set at £1313.11 for the year. The smoothing fund will retain its £9.1 million, with the transformation fund remaining. Through grants the Highways will have £28.7 million for repairs and maintenance. Through extensive re negotiation on waste the County has saved £1 million. There are continued pressures on front line services.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has raised the precept by £2 per a month. This will fund extra Police.

LIBRARY

On the 1st of February, the Library's launched the new Business & Intellectual Property Service (BIPC) I am very pleased to have been involved in the setting up of the service from the start. It has taken months of hard work from Officers and myself. The BIPC is a service for young budding entrepreneurs as well as new start-up businesses. To help them to start up a business and for current businesses to develop and grow. The BIPC is a national and international business network that the British Library set up. This is a fantastic opportunity as anyone no matter of their background, Ethnic Origin, Gender, Age, Disability or Education, as it gives an equal opportunity to all. The Chamber of Commerce in Cambridge are also fully supportive. Cambridgeshire is the only Council in the country that has kept all its Library's, it is also expanding.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

In January Ofsted undertook the unannounced two week inspection of Childrens Services. Cambridgeshire was praised for the quality of leadership in Children's Services. The report was published on the 18th February.

The report rated the impact of senior leaders as good and praised our accurate assessment of strengths and areas for improvement, as well as our use of peer review and evidence-based analysis to improve children's social care. They said that leaders had recognised that improvements were needed, and had taken a series of well- considered actions. They also noted how we have worked closely with local safeguarding children board and partner agencies.

Inspectors said that the leadership change programme that resulted in a major restructure of children's services the 'Change for Children Programme' which was implemented in November 2018 **Has Been intelligent and Effective.**

ADULTS

In January, Cambridgeshire County Council's Adults Committee gave approval for all of our funded Older People's Day Services to undergo a [strategic review and redesign](#). This is to ensure that our funding is achieving the best possible outcomes for older people in Cambridgeshire and their carers.

With this in mind, and to support us in this review, we are trying to find out about all of the great activity taking place in our communities that support older people to socialise with others. These are things like lunch clubs for over 65s, 'men's sheds', support groups around using digital technology and lots more.

As you are closely linked in to the communities you represent and serve, we believe that you may have a good understanding of local initiatives.

If you are aware of any services / clubs / initiatives that support older people to get involved in meaningful activities and socialise with others, please could you contact me by email with the details of these? My email address is Adam.Thorp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Please could you send me this information by 22 March 2019

OTHER

Millions choose Park & Ride. More than 3million passengers chose to leave their car and catch the Park & Ride in the last year. Passenger journeys increased by nearly 250, 000 over the year as thousands more people used Park & Ride. There were more than 261,000 journeys on Park & Ride services in January up more than 15% on the same time last year.

EAST WEST RAILWAY

There is an online consultation with regards to the East West railway. I would recommend that as a parish you take part in this survey. There are five routes they are asking for public opinion on. The link is.

https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay?gclid=EAlalQobChMI-tCQp5zm4AIV6LftCh3qggJeEAAYASAAEglt9vD_BwE

GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Launch of Choices for Better Journeys

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has just launched [Choices for Better Journeys](#) – a public engagement campaign about future travel in the Greater Cambridge area and beyond.

Background

In autumn 2017, [Our Big Conversation](#) asked people about the travel challenges they faced and their ideas for the future. Many people said that a more affordable public transport network, with better availability and reliability, would be of great benefit to them, and criticised the level of congestion in the Greater Cambridge area.

We have looked at how we could significantly improve public transport across the area, alongside continued improvements to walking and cycling provision, to give people better choices for travelling into and around Cambridge.

Your views needed

We are now asking for people's views on a range of issues and ideas, including:

- proposals to transform public transport to offer a better alternative to the car;
- different options for tackling congestion, improving air quality and freeing-up road space; and
- funding a future improved public transport system.

Choices for Better Journeys will run until 31 March, please [complete the survey](#) to tell us your views.

The survey has been developed in collaboration with Cambridge Ahead and in association with Cambridge Network and the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce.

Further information and Next Steps

We are also hosting a number of [public events](#) across the region that you are welcome to attend.

Choices for Better Journeys will be asking people about ideas and principles for better public transport, reducing congestion and improving air quality. Following this engagement, the GCP Executive Board will consider feedback and next steps.

If you have any questions on Choices for Better Journeys, please don't hesitate to contact us by emailing consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk or calling 01223 699906.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to wish Beverly Agass, CEO at SCDC, all the best in her early retirement.

Alex Coylier Former Section 151, all the best in his new adventure.

Stephen Hills Leading Housing officer and much respected throughout the country. All the best with his new adventure.

Cllr Kevin Cuffley

Cllr Roger Hickford.