

Parish and Town Council webinar: budget and working together

13 February, 2024



- 1. Housekeeping Donna Rist, Leicestershire County Council's Communities Team
- **2. Welcome** Council leader, Nick Rushton
- 3. Update on county council budget Deputy council leader, Deborah Taylor and Cabinet Member for Resources, Lee Breckon
 - Latest proposals
 - Next steps
 - Questions
- **4. Parish pilot** Guy Darragh, Leicestershire County Council Team Manager, Environment and Transport
 - Update
 - Questions
- 5. **Next steps** Donna Rist, Leicestershire County Council's Communities Team

Budget update: national position

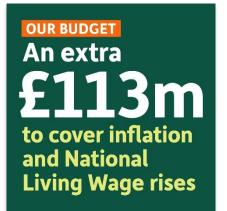
- Tough across local government sector
- Spiralling social care prices, growing service demand and inflation driving up costs for councils
- Some councils have declared that they do not have enough resources to continue to deliver services –
 by issuing a section 114 notice
- National finances in a poor state, savings required to meet Chancellor's plans support for local government would require new tax increases or reductions to a different Government department
- Public sector needs to shrink direction given by Chancellor in Autumn Statement
- £500m extra Government-funding provides welcome short-term help but doesn't help close longer-term gap

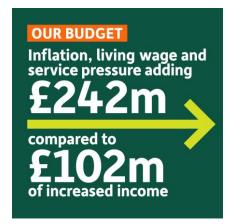
Budget update: local

- We aren't in crisis territory but do have a significant budget gap so must control costs more tightly
- We ran a consultation in December and January thank you for sending us your feedback
- **Most people who responded agreed with our proposals** on core Council Tax, Adult Social Care precept and our growth and savings allocation
- We received £5m of extra Government funding in late January it's welcome, it halves the reserves we need to use to balance the books next year, but doesn't help with the budget shortfall in later years
- It's enabled us to scale back proposed waste site closures subject to consultation due to start later this month and some further investment in flooding improvements

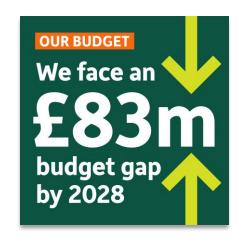
Budget proposals











Budget proposals (cont)

OUR BUDGET A 4.99% Council Tax increase generates F18 m for front line services



For the first time, we are proposing using up to £6.4m of reserves to help balance the books next year



What we're doing

- We've tightened up finance controls around recruitment, procurement and other spend to help bring down our budget gap
- Major redesigns of children's and adults' care are already underway to bring down future demand and costs by millions-of-pounds
 - Creating more new placements locally working with Barnardo's to run children's homes locally,
 recruiting specialist foster carers to look after young people with the most complex needs
 - Transformation SEND and inclusion a new approach which balances growing demand for support with getting the right help for children
 - Rolling out new technology over 2,600 pieces of equipment, including falls detectors and GPS location trackers, installed over last year, benefiting over 1,000 people
 - Helping more people live independently boosting 'supported living' over 100 new placements created since 2020, enabling people with learning and physical disabilities and mental health needs to learn life skills and live independently

Next steps

- We have to tackle the 20 per cent gap between expenditure and income – so we need to deliver services differently
- New savings will need to be identified to address future challenges – we'll need to look across all services
- We're talking to Government about the policy changes that are needed to help councils – in the absence of local government funding reform
- The final budget will be agreed at a meeting of the county council on 21 February





Parish Pilots – Guy Darragh, Special Projects Team

E&T Members and Communities Engagement Strategy and Parish Pilots

Background

- Developed from feedback
- Aim to improve communications and processes across E&T Department
- 11 core actions
- Delivered October 2023- March 2025
- Reports to a Members Panel

What are Parish Pilots?

- To enable Parishes and community groups that are constituted to take action in their area
- Can not replace statutory LCC functions
- Eligible works are additional requested items of work that are non safety critical and important to that vicinity
- Should bring a defined enhancement to the location
- Can be carried out by organised volunteer groups or paid staff
- Possibly funded through Parish Precepts, sponsorship or donations



Parish Pilots

Parish Pilots set-up process

- Call for projects
 - Parish and Communities update
 - Parish Clerk Operational meetings
 - Direct emails
 - Members informed
- Initial scoping meetings
- Developed ideas locally
- Requested work lists submitted
- Checks with functional E&T teams
- Project approval
- Legal agreements

Delivery phase process

- Parish or community group begin delivery with enacted legal agreement
- 3 monthly monitoring meetings
- 12 month evaluation including an impact study
- Review and agree possible extensions



Parish Pilot Examples

Requested work

PROW maintenance



Grass cutting





Parish Pilots Examples (cont)

Fence maintenance/ painting



Sign washing



Parish Warden





Initial 10 Parish Pilots

Parish	Pilot
• Huncote	 Grass cutting in between cuts Fence painting
Oakthorpe, Donishthorpe & Acresford	 Grass cutting Painting of an asset Sign cleaning
Tugby & Keyworth	 Grass cutting in between cuts PROW maintenance Sign cleaning
Waltham on the Wolds	 Painting handrails on a set of steps on grass verge/pathway Vegetation trim in same area
• Witherley	Case Studies (training)
• Whitwick	 Parish Warden – case study
Barrow on Soar	o PROW maintenance
Broughton & Old Dalby	PROW maintenance
• Thurnby	o PROW maintenance
Mountsorrel	 Sign cleaning (tbc due to funding from Govt)
• All	 Volunteers (apply best practice from Snow Warden process)



Next steps and future aspirations

Next steps

- Enact legal agreements with 10 initial Parish Pilots
- Support Parish in set up/ delivery
- Promotional activity
- Monitor performance
- Evaluate Autumn 2024
- Waiting list for other areas being collated
- Decision on rolling out late 2024 (subject to agreement and resources)

Future aspirations

- Potentially rolled out to other Parishes and constituted community groups
- Scope of works widened and more complex projects funded locally
- Widen coverage across Leicestershire towns as well as villages





Thanks for listening guy.darragh@leics.gov.uk



Questions and discussion

Next steps and feedback

- Thank you
- We'll send the recording of this session to you and make available on the County Council YouTube channel
- Annual conference in July
- We'll share feedback on parish pilot later in the year

