

County Councillor's Report January 2019

County Council Budget

At the time of writing this report (31st January), the County Council's 2019/20 budget is due to be set on Tuesday 5th January with a proposal to Full Council of a general council tax rise of 2.9% along with the 2% ring-fenced to Adult Social Care.

Shared roles at the top secure efficiency and effectiveness for CCC & PCC

Proposals to further share best practice, resources and improve financial efficiency for the taxpayer across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been agreed by both the County and Peterborough City Council.

Plans focused on reorganising and extending roles for the mutual benefit of both councils rather than a formal restructuring, will see a new joint Executive Director role joining the top management team alongside Gillian Beasley, who has successfully held the post of joint Chief Executive of both councils since 2015. Two other existing Cambridgeshire County Council director's roles are being extended to cover Peterborough City Council.

The new Executive Director role is being created to lead Place & Economy work across both councils, replacing a senior role in each council. Recruitment for the new Joint Executive Director role is set to begin shortly.

The existing Cambridgeshire County Council roles of Directors of Business Improvement & Development and Corporate & Customer Services have been extended to cover both authorities. Immediate changes at the top are set to deliver efficiency savings of £90k across both councils, - as well as delivering benefits of more streamlined working, particularly across areas where the council already works closely with the same partners such as private sector highways partner Skanska, or major IT and digital providers.

This proposal sees the County Council building on the success already achieved with Gillian Beasley as our joint Chief Executive driving forward an ambitious plan to share expertise, efficiency and effective practices, driving down costs and reducing duplication is of enormous benefit for our residents and the partner agencies the County Council works with.

The Library Presents

The Spring programme out now! Tickets are available for all activities from 2 February to 25 May 2019. The programme is really wide-ranging and includes many family shows, folk music, magic and drumming workshops. Take a look at the brochure at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts>.

Twenty two libraries will be involved in the Spring 2019 Programme, with new additions Burwell, Great Shelford and Rock Road libraries joining the programme as hosting libraries. The Library Presents Autumn 2018 Programme finished on 15 December, with a Mosaics Workshop and a sold-out 'Comedy 4 Kids' show. Many activities proved very popular and the programme is growing in attendance and reach. If you haven't already been to an event, it's well worth a visit.

Designing Libraries of the Future

The Library Service has teamed up with CIVIC, a national charity specialising in animating communities, to lead the way and design the libraries of the future for the country.

Recognised for its innovative and open mind-set, our Library Service offers a unique network of physical spaces across a huge breadth of community settings.

Our libraries are an ideal test bed for new ideas and to develop a family of library models that are replicable and scalable beyond Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

CIVIC have united a team of national and local experts, supporters, partners and potential funders around this major project and have spent the past few months working with the Business Intelligence team and Library Service to identify five possible models of libraries and a shortlist of pilot locations.

They will soon be embarking on an exciting journey to engage with the pilot communities and start co-designing the libraries of the future that reflect the diversity of communities and contexts. This will form a blue print for all councils across the country to use in the future.

Team in a Frame' - Transforming the lives of disabled children

I'm going to do some reports on the many different teams we have working around the county doing great work within our communities.

The first ***Team in a Frame***, is focused on the nine person Disabled Early Help team, based in Huntingdon, who support disabled young people up to age 19. The team currently work with more than 700 young people, helping them to develop skills to prepare for adulthood, to access community activities and increase their independence. Eligible young people are allocated a personal budget of up to £2,000 which can be used to pay for a range of agreed activities, or for a support worker.

Recent success stories include an 18-year-old who was supported to attend a three day computer course, which helped boost his confidence and social skills, encouraging him to make a successful university application.

Another 17-year-old used his personal budget to attend an arts group in Cambridge for more than eight years. His passion has led to him being offered an evening job helping with younger children's parties, which is a great achievement for him and boosts his job prospects for the future. Fantastic work!

Let's Get Moving - funding extended

'Let's Get Moving', funded by County Council Public Health, is a Cambridgeshire-wide physical activity programme that aims to increase levels of physical activity, especially in areas and groups with high needs.

It was developed as a collaborative initiative between the district and city councils - which lead local delivery - their partners and Living Sport, the County Sports Partnership. 'Let's Get Moving' has a key role in the delivery of the Cambridgeshire Healthy Weight Strategy with its central themes of collaboration across the system to support healthy behavioural change and communities taking responsibility for their health and wellbeing.

Delivery of the programme started in July 2017 and was funded to run for two years. The County Council's Health Committee recently received an initial evaluation report for the first 15 months of the programme which indicated that it had an impact in communities across the county. To ensure that enough evaluation data is collected to fully demonstrate the impact of the programme, the Health Committee agreed at its December meeting to fund 'Let's Get Moving' for a further year, until June 2020.

<https://www.letsgetmovingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>

Peter Hudson
County Councillor

Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick and Over