

Cllr Greg Peck, Reepham Division, Norfolk County Council.

**Norfolk County Council Budget.** The current administration at County Hall is presenting a balanced budget for 2019/20. However, we still have massive financial challenges ahead of us.

Since 2010-11 Norfolk County Council has lost over £204m in Government funding whilst the actual cost pressures on many of the council's services have continued to go up. We have also made over £364m of savings in that time.

**There's still over a £3bn shortfall in local government funding nationally.**

Councils have borne the brunt of national spending reductions – far more than other arms of government. Our Settlement Funding Assessment for next year sees us lose another £16m.

Front line services are being supported; not a single library has closed; we are well on our way to achieving the £20m investment in highways. We have completed the BNW (or NDR); are making good progress on the Western Link and the £120m third river crossing in Great Yarmouth; we are investing £120m in new SEND (Special Educational Needs) school provision across the County; a £29m project to build new housing with care facilities and our housing company Repton is continuing to build new homes.

These are all part of the County Council continuing to invest in key infrastructure projects across the county. We have also invested to support and maintain a strong care market. We are robustly lobbying MPs and Ministers for a better funding deal; made submissions to the fair funding review and contributed to the LGA's ongoing lobbying.

Our annual spend has remained over £1bn for a number of years but the money going on children's and adult's services has risen from less than 50% to over 60% of that spend. Absorbing ongoing pressures of this scale requires the Council to keep its business and operations under constant review, to continually seek to deliver services in the most effective way possible, and for the lowest cost. To do so we are taking some tough decisions. This includes raising Council Tax for 2019/20 by 2.99%.

**Western Link** I am continuing to fight to ensure that the final decision on the route of the Western Link will be the best outcome for the Parishes I represent. The decision on the final route is expected to be made in May.

### **Development Projects**

I will try and ensure that we prevent inappropriate development that would negatively impact on my division and my constituents.

### **Contact:**

I would encourage any residents with concerns about these and any other subjects to contact me for advice and support.

Tel; 07972 230282

Email; greg.peck.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk