

County Council budget 2017-18

At the County Council's General Purposes Committee meeting in late January, councillors considered 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 being drawn up based on assumptions agreed by councillors, for example: rate of inflation, Council Tax increase etc.

Four different amendments to the budget presented by officers 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.

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.

These four different proposals were considered at today's Full Council meeting, and each, in turn, was voted down. However, the proposal for no increase in Council Tax and 2% Social Care precept was lost by a single vote. After an adjournment, the Council reconvened and by 32 votes to 31 agreed to **no increase in Council Tax and 2% Social Care precept**.

Sawston Library Hub

There is an item about the Sawston Library Hub on tonight's Parish Council agenda. The planning application is just about to be determined, and the only remaining issue is about the parking of contractors' vehicles, where the parish Council may be able to help.

A1307 City Deal Local Liaison Forum

The City Deal Joint Assembly and City Deal Executive Board will consider proposals for the A1307 at its meetings on March 1 and March 8 respectively. Agenda papers for these meetings will be published and available on the web a fortnight before the Joint Assembly meeting.

The County Council is setting up a Local Liaison Forum to ascertain local views about City Deal proposals for the A1307. The A1307 Local Liaison Forum will meet in public, and the first meeting is scheduled for 6:30 – 8:30 pm on Monday 20 February at Linton Village Hall.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Bid by Sawston Parish Council

Sawston Parish Council was one of many parish councils that submitted LHI bids to the County Council. Tony was one of the Panel members who considered and scored these bids, though Panel members could not score schemes in villages that

they represent. The Sawston bid was for a crossing in New Road near the entrance to the Village College.

Tony informed the Panel that he and Gail Kenney fully supported what Sawston Parish Council was trying to achieve. We are hopeful that the bid may be successful.

The bids will be put in priority order by score, and reported to the County Council's Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee meeting on 14 March. A county council officer will be assigned to each successful scheme, and their first action will be to discuss details of the scheme with the Parish Council.

Tony Orgee and Gail Kenney

County Councillors for Sawston