

## Lighthorne Parish Council 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 County Councillor's Report

### 1. Budget

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020, after a six-hour debate the Council agreed the fiscal plan for the next five years as well as setting a budget for 2020/21. This plan is based on the County Council's established outcomes and objectives which support them. This reflects the long-term nature of the outcomes and objectives, it also supports strategic alignment with the Council's other strategies. The Core Purpose articulates that the Council seeks:

*"to make Warwickshire the best it can be, sustainable now and for future generations".*

This is supported by the two already established outcomes:

*"Warwickshire's communities and individuals are supported to be safe, healthy and independent";*

*"Warwickshire's economy is vibrant and support by the right jobs, training, skills and infrastructure"*

Over the course of the One Organisational Plan, our financial management has made sure that the Council is financially resilient. The Council has been prudent in anticipating the considerable reductions in its financial resources that were predicted along with coping with the steady rise in demand for our services.

#### **The Budget will:**

- Invest in our residents' services;
  - Invest in our large infrastructure and 5G to boost opportunities for our residents and businesses;
  - Create a place-shaping model ready to take advantage of the Government's Spending Review –
  - Look after our most vulnerable adults and give our children the best possible start in life;
  - Deliver value for money for every taxpayer pound the Council are custodians of and develop opportunities on the strength of its balance sheet; and
  - Create a commercial property company that looks at investing some of its land alongside private sector partners putting expertise and capital investment into Warwickshire for the economic prosperity and benefit of our residents, their families and children.
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- **The Council will be investing:** £182 million in our Adults and Older People in need of support (*an extra £15m revenue*);
  - £187 million giving our Children the best possible start in life) (*an extra £18m revenue*);
  - £50 million Improving the quality of our Residents' roads (*capital*);
  - £27 million in our Fire Service keeping our Residents safe (*revenue and capital*).

**The setting of the Budget requires that Council tax rises of 3.99% which is a 1.99% increase together with a 2% levy ringfenced for Adult Social Care.**

The Budget proposals were accepted by a substantial majority of the full Council.

**Cllr Chris Williams**

**Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division**

**09.03.2020**