

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division

Report January 2022

Budget:

The Council will set its budget for financial year 22/23 at a meeting to be held on 21st February. The Council consulted on a proposed council tax increase of 1.99% in the general rate and an increase of 1%, the consultation ended on the 30th December 2021. Cost pressure in the major demand led services of Adult Social Care and Children's Services is the main reason for having to increase the council tax. There are still some work which the government has not carried out (fairer funding review, NDR review, financing of adult social care etc) which will affect the Councils finances in future years.

Covid – Omicron:

We know that the Omicron variant of the Covid virus generally leads to milder illness. However, it still poses a significant risk to the unvaccinated or those who haven't had a booster or those with underlying conditions such as being immunosuppressed. The variant is also much more infectious and thus easily spread. The government has told NCC to expect unprecedented sickness rates over the coming weeks with an estimated 25% of staff being absent. Given the high infection rates our prime objective is to minimise staff infection and isolation to ensure we can deliver our critical services. We are doing this by avoiding bringing staff together unnecessarily (ie work from home) and concentrating our face to face presence on service delivery. If over the coming weeks you or any resident has difficulty accessing NCC services, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.

Member for Necton and Launditch.

Norfolk County Council. mark.kiddle-morris.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk