



PRESS RELEASE

Loughton Council Tax Frozen for a 7th Consecutive Year

We are pleased to announce there will be no increase in the local precept for Loughton households in the coming year. At the January budget-setting meeting, the Town Council unanimously approved a total precept of £594,600.

This means that for the 7th year in a row the proportion of council tax specifically for Loughton for a Band D property remains at £49.18. This amounts to less than 95p a week for Band D householders, which continues to provide excellent value for money given the extensive range of services delivered by the Town Council.

Cllr Stephen Pewsey, chairman of the Resources and General Services Committee said, "All residents will welcome the fact that Loughton's precept will not increase in 2016-17, the seventh year in succession that the Town Council has held the Band D precept increase at zero. Over the past six years the Town Council has maintained its policy of prudent spending and careful management of its finances while maintaining high levels of service and delivering a steady stream of projects to benefit the town."

Importantly, the financial assistance budget, the grant money available to local charities, clubs and voluntary organisations to assist them in their vital work in the community, has been set at £27,500 with a further £8,000 ring-fenced for the Loughton Citizen's Advice Bureau.

The council's key priorities for 2016/17 include the major refurbishment of the Traps Hill play area by Loughton library now scheduled for late spring 2016 and also major works to the changing rooms and car park area on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. These works will be funded by the use of reserves built up over recent years for this purpose and through external grant funding.

Note to Editor:

Despite increases in running costs the council has achieved this budget mainly through the use of reserves; in particular a decrease in the amount held in earmarked reserves for the development of a new cemetery off Loughton Lane. This major project is unlikely to proceed in the near future as the site still requires extension environmental studies and planning permission. The option to work with a commercial partner is open to the incoming council following May's election should it view this development as a priority.

For immediate release.

For more information contact:

Enid Walsh, Town Clerk

020 8508 4200

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