



Margaret Stone MSc. BA(Hons)
Conservative member for Clavering
Norfolk County Councillor
Email: margaret.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk
01508 499389

Report for November 2020

Lockdown – Museum closures. Libraries Closed from Thursday but online services available. Check out all website

Further to the announcement by the Government over the weekend, and subsequent confirmation by DCMS, museums and galleries in England will be required to close, alongside non-essential shops, leisure, and entertainment venues, from 00.01 on Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, when the Government will seek to ease restrictions and go back to the local tiered system.

From a Norfolk Museums Service perspective, this will mean that the four museums which we have worked hard to reopen over the last few months – Norwich Castle, Gressenhall, Time and Tide, and Lynn Museum – will close to the public until 2 December.

NCC Budget

Covid 19 has worsened the “extremely challenging” financial situation facing the county council, which is predicting a £129.7 million budget gap over the next four years.

Norfolk County Council is calling for long-term, sustainable funding from the Government, predicting that, without it, the council will have to save £45.4 million next year alone.

Covid 19 has added to our pressures, through extra costs, reduced Council Tax and other income and ongoing additional demand. The challenges we face have got even tougher.

We’ve got an excellent track record of balancing the books in testing circumstances but this is getting harder and harder to achieve.

Consultation Council Tax proposals .1.99 general council tax with 2% adult social service precept

Online Consultation

See NCC Website

Consultation on the council’s proposed share of Council Tax and its savings proposals will take place up until 14th December, at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget .

Norfolk Covid 19 Engagement Board.

NCC specific contact tracing rather than NHS plans

Norfolk CC hopes to establish locally supported contact tracing area to support and protect Norfolk residents, recognising that full costs are still to be confirmed and that they are likely to create a cost pressure

FINANCIAL PRESSURES

Adult Social Care

With the Purchase of Care (POC) budget making up 77% of our ASC budget, and being heavily dependent on the individual needs of the 14,000+ people at any one time being supported by this budget; it is perhaps not surprising that this is the area feeling the financial pressure. The department is looking to achieve savings of £23m in this financial year, and as described in the budget savings section of this paper, it has been extremely difficult in the current climate to deliver against this challenge.

Within Adult Social Services, the areas of highest pressures, the main area of forecast overspend is on Older People and Learning Disabilities services within the Purchase of Care budget

Highways and Pathways

Please keep me informed of any issues with footpaths which are more important than ever before to ensure we can exercise during the Lockdown period

County Council Officers Lockdown measure

All staff and County Councillors at NCC, have continued working throughout the pandemic but have done so and will continue to do so until at least after the new year. This includes virtual PC meetings.

White Paper on Planning. Robust response from NCC to Government white paper.

(A) Planning reform and simplification of processes welcomed

(B) Some good proposals but feeling that expectations of too much building

There were some proposals such as energy efficiency ones which should be welcomed.

White Paper was trying to streamline aspects of planning and risks.

It was felt that the White Paper should also target developers and landowners who held unrealistic expectations.

There were approximately 18-20k undelivered planning permissions in the greater Norwich area, therefore the aims, although laudable, should be aimed at the delivery rather than planning aspect.

It was also queried how funding for infrastructure could be received if Section 106 and CIL money was no longer available.

Concerns about proposals for large amounts of development in rural districts.

In the Great Yarmouth area over 5.5k approved planning permissions had been given for properties that had not been built.

We prefer to see developers being given 2 years to commence a development once planning permission. Another possibility was withdrawing planning permission if the development was not commenced within a set period of time.

**Please continue to let me continue to let me know of any issue where I am able to offer support
01508 499 389**

Margaret.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk