



Dear Colleague

Budget Consultation 2020/21

Norfolk County Council wants Norfolk to be a county where businesses, organisations and communities work together to create a better place to work and live in.

Our business plan, **Together, for Norfolk**, sets out how we are planning to grow our economy, manage development and achieve better futures and outcomes for everyone who lives and works here.

Day to day, we provide services to give children and young people the best start in life, support vulnerable and older people, maintain our highways and transport network, provide library, waste disposal and fire services and work in partnership to grow the economy.

We are currently delivering these services in a changing financial climate that has seen a huge amount of money taken out of local government since 2010. Like all councils, we have come to the end of a long-term funding deal and are awaiting announcements from Government about the level of funding we can expect in the future.

Although we are faced with financial uncertainty we are not sitting back and doing nothing. We have been investing the money we do have on making our services more efficient, keeping families together and helping vulnerable people remain independent. We continue to ask the Government for fairer funding, a better way to pay for social care for older people and more investment in transport links and broadband so that we can help grow our local economy.

Making decisions about how we spend your money is never easy. We have focused our budget on the needs of vulnerable people by increasing the proportion of our budget we spend on social care for children and adults. However, as demand is rising all the time this increase is still not enough to stop our services feeling the squeeze. Even increasing council tax, by the amount we're allowed to without a local referendum, won't balance our budget. There are statutory services we need to protect and a limited choice of where savings can be made. This means we must find around £40m savings in savings in 2020-21.

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By listening to you we know what services you value. And by developing our budget proposals in line with your priorities and our strategy of changing services to make them more efficient, we can make most of the savings we need without directly affecting services.

We now want to hear your views on our council tax and budget approach to help our elected councillors agree a balanced budget for next year.

I wanted to alert you to the webpage where we will publish our budget consultation on **Wednesday 23 October**. You can find out more at www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget and have your say using our online feedback form. Using our online feedback ensures we have a clear record of your response and that your views are accurately recorded.

We appreciate that some residents may not have online access and people who are unable to respond online can send us their views in writing to:
Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.

Residents can request our budget consultation document in other formats, including paper form, by calling 0344 800 8020 or emailing haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk. We will make all materials as accessible as possible.

Our consultation closes at **midnight on Tuesday 10 December 2019**. Please note that if we receive any consultation responses after this date we cannot guarantee that we will be able to take them into account.

I hope this update is helpful to you in giving your organisation the time to plan how to make your views known and to schedule any agenda items or special meetings that you may need to put in place.

If you have any questions about the process for consultation, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Mawson, Stakeholder and Consultation Manager, Email: christine.mawson@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01603 224485.

Yours sincerely



Tom McCabe
Head of Paid Service