

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR EDGEFIELD PC – APRIL 2024

FUNDING FOR LOCAL COUNCIL SERVICES

A Local Government Assoc (LGA) survey found that 85% of councils will have to make cost savings, cuts to you and me, in 2024/5 to balance the books despite the extra £600 million announced in the local government funding settlement in the Spring Budget. The Household Support Fund to support households facing hardship has been extended only until September nearer to the General Election but not beyond. Core spending power for the Council has been cut by 23.3% in real terms since 2010/11.

RIGHT TO BUY RECEIPTS

Government have increased the cap from 40 to 50 % that can be used to fund a replacement home from Right to Buy receipts. This misses a key opportunity to allow councils to permanently retain 100% of sales receipts, primarily for new social housing. However it is a step in the right direction.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Budget made no provision for new funding to compensate the spending on temporary accommodation. Its disappointing that no support to address the spiralling cost of temporary accommodation. Building more genuinely affordable homes for local primary residents remains the best way to help families struggling to meet housing costs, provide homes for rent, reduce the 2,300 on the waiting list and reduce homelessness in the long term.

NEW HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME

NNDC is responsible for assessing and addressing housing need across the district. This has not been reviewed for over 14 years. Registered Housing Providers and others involved are being consulted to ensure allocations are fair and consistent. Legislation requires policy to be relevant and effective and to ensure this a process of further consultation over the next 12 months will be delivered before the new changes are adopted.

NEW BIN COLLECTIONS

The Council's contractors continue to roll out the new collection rota and at the time of writing the new arrangements with a few exceptions are working well for our residents. I made a request to the waste services to ensure that collections do not start before 7 am by the new crews and any enthusiasm to do so to familiarize themselves with the rounds would not be welcomed in our communities. If anyone has concerns about bins being missed, collected too early or any other issues with the new changes, please contact me on [07970 298695](tel:07970298695) or by email at andrew.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk.

DOG FOULING ISSUES

Having reported serious fouling in Rectory Road to Victory Flagship, the management team have informed me that they have received very few reports of dog fouling and none has been evident when they have inspected. They noted there are no dog bins in the area and invited me to arrange either NNDC or the Parish Council to install and maintain one. To be continued.

Public space protection orders are currently out for consultation until 11 April; these relate to beaches and proms across the district.

EMPTY PROPERTIES

The Council Tax Empty Property Premium that charges empty properties an additional 100% charge after 12 months (rather than 2 years) starts from 1 April. These customers have been notified ahead of the usual annual billing.

LOCAL ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

The recently adopted Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2023-7 sets out the approach and actions your Council will deliver to support the growth of the local economy over the next 3 years and is dependent on working with local partners, stakeholders and businesses. Adopting the aims of the strategy by the Council will serve to demonstrate the importance NNDC places on promoting a healthy and sustainable local economy.

(PCC) POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

PCC elections are being held across the district on Thursday 2 May 2024 and postal votes are available for use in the elections or if voting in person please remember to take valid photo ID with you to the polling station. The count will take place at Northrepps Village Hall on Friday 3 May.

Thank you for reading this report.

CLLR ANDREW BROWN

14/04/2024