Ipswich Borough Council

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION 2017/18

Message from Councillor David Ellesmere, Leader, Ipswich Borough Council:

Ipswich Borough Council is, like councils across the country, facing huge cuts in Government funding.

Just three main changes introduced by the Government – cuts in the Council's main grant; cuts to the New Homes Bonus; and an increase in business rates – will cost the Council more than £12 million over the next four years.

Clearly this presents a severe financial challenge and will make it increasingly difficult to protect the frontline services that are important to the people of Ipswich.

We have put savings plans in place to ensure that there will be no immediate need for large-scale cuts to services.

We will still be able to offer Ipswich residents the comprehensive range of services you have come to expect such as waste collection – including free brown bin collection – street cleaning, sports facilities, the Regent and Corn Exchange, the Museum and Mansion, car parks, cultural events, CCTV, an out-of-hours noise nuisance service and our superb parks.

We will continue to invest in the town to bring new businesses and jobs to Ipswich and to reduce our reliance on Government funding.

The new Birketts offices on Princes Street, funded by the Council's new property company is proceeding well. Work will start soon on the new multi-storey car park at Crown Street and we have begun preparatory work on a new multi-storey car park in the Princes Street area to service new businesses and increased commuter parking. Work on the former Sproughton sugar beet site will start later this year.

We will continue to build affordable new council housing and have already gained planning permission for a further 67 homes.

Our major savings and efficiency programme enables us to continue to provide quality services but the Government expects all councils to increase the level of council tax. For the majority of households in Ipswich we are increasing council tax by 10p a week or less. This represents excellent value for money.

The Borough Council's element amounts to just 15% of the increase you will see on your bill. The rest is from Suffolk County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Find out more at: www.ipswich.gov.uk/council-tax

Message from Cllr Colin Noble, Leader of Suffolk County Council

Suffolk County Council

Over the last year we have continued our transition into a much leaner organisation, having now saved more than £200m since 2010. We have done this whilst continuing to prioritise the needs of our most vulnerable residents and ensuring everyone has access to the services they rely on.

I understand the pressures household budgets are under so I am committed to freezing the county council's element of council tax bills for the seventh year running. It's possible to do this because of the sound financial management we have in place.

We will continue to face financial challenges in the years ahead and with that comes difficult decisions; not ones we want to take, but have to take.

For the coming year, we have committed a sensible proportion of reserves to mitigate reduced government funding and meet the increased demand for services, but this cannot be a long-term solution.

The Government has told councils that they can raise additional funds through the national adult social care precept and we have taken the decision to do that. This will raise £8.5m of extra funding in

2017/18 and will help us meet the financial challenges currently facing the care sector.

It's important to realise however, that even with the precept, our funding will be less than in previous years due to reduced government grants.

Despite all that has been thrown at us, there is much to be proud of; our children's services have been rated as 'Good' by Ofsted, which is a fantastic result, 89 per cent (January 2017) of schools in the county are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and we continue to improve at a faster rate than across the rest of the country. We know that isn't 'job done' and we continue to work hard to make sure all children and young people can achieve their full potential.

We have also secured £150m of Government funding to deliver the much needed Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich and Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft, and invested an additional £10m in maintaining the county's road network.

It's important to me to hear first-hand the issues affecting residents, so throughout the year I have visited towns across Suffolk, to listen to the things that affect you. As part of many interesting discussions residents have told me that they think our delivery of vital public services is good. I want to ensure that we continue to deliver these.

Thank you to everyone I have spoken with – I have found your feedback to be invaluable. I look forward to being out and about again in the year ahead to make sure decisions that are taken are informed by the residents of this great county.

Find out more at: **www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax**

Message from Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk

Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

A major part of my role as Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner is to distribute the policing grants from government and set the policing part of your council tax.

This means I am responsible for setting the budget, which includes how much you will be asked to pay through your council tax for policing our county.

Suffolk Constabulary does a great job; it's a low-cost force and offers good value for money. As with all public services, savings need to be made but I want to reassure you that Suffolk Constabulary will always respond to you in an emergency and your safer neighbourhood teams will continue to serve you locally, supported by the neighbourhood response teams and enhanced investigation teams.

In view of the enormous increase in demand that the Constabulary is facing, I have decided to increase the policing part of the precept by 1.972%.

Raising the precept will add around £830K to our budget in the next financial year to help deliver the priorities within my new Police and Crime Plan which was published last month; you can read more on my website: **www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/aboutus/police-and-crime-plan-2017-21**.

By increasing the precept the average payment will increase from £173.43 to £176.85 per year in 2017/18, an average increase of a penny a day (based on Band D property).

As your PCC, my job is to ensure the policing needs of your community is met as effectively as possible, bringing communities closer to the police and building confidence in our Constabulary. My job is to listen and respond to the needs of the people of Suffolk, bringing more of a public voice to policing.

If you have an issue that you would like to raise, please contact me via the website, **www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk**, e-mail **spcc@suffolk.pnn.police.uk** or write to me at the **Office of the PCC, Suffolk Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath IP5 3QS. @timspcc**

Find out more at: **www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk**

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