

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

14 November 2018

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GARETH DADD

Chancellors Budget

As Members will be aware, the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his budget on Monday 29 October. In the absence of a new spending review, the news was always going to be fairly limited and restricted to 2019/20. However, we received some welcome news in the shape of a national pot of £650m extra for Social Care and £420m for potholes. No detail has been forthcoming on these funds as yet and we would hope that the funds are on-going beyond 2019/20 and therefore look forward to the Spending Review in the New Year. In the meantime we will have to work on the basis that this is further one off money and ensure that we have good plans to balance the books over the medium term.

County Council's budget position

At the end of the 1st quarter it was reported that the County Council was facing a £2.3m overspend principally as a result of increased pressures in Children's Services, notably Special Educational Needs. The next financial monitoring report Q2 will be considered by the Executive on 20 November and whilst the detail is not ready at this stage, I can report that the financial position has improved. The pressures within Children's Services remain recurring pressures and will feature significantly in the updated budget / medium term financial strategy in February of 2019 but work is being progressed in order to mitigate some of these pressures and Members will be fully involved in discussions as the budget process picks up pace.

The government has announced that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement will be announced on 6 December 2018 so Members should watch out for updates at that stage. Can I also take this opportunity to remind Members that there will be significant updates on the budget / medium term financial strategy at the Members Seminars on 5 December 2018 (unfortunately the day before the Finance Settlement) and 9 January 2019. I would encourage all Members to attend these Seminars and the Seminar in January will again present an opportunity for Members to hold face to face discussions with Corporate Directors and their Portfolio Holders in some detail.

Cyber Security

As part of the National Cyber Security Strategy, the LGA has been granted funding by the Cabinet Office to ensure that councils are as resilient against cyber-attacks as possible. This has been agreed with them on the basis of a phased approach. The first phase has now commenced. Every council in England has completed an online stocktake questionnaire concerning their cyber security arrangements.

NYCC has received an overall Green rating. We still have areas of continued improvement as outlined below and are putting together an action plan to address those areas. A Green

rating means there is an opportunity for NYCC to engage and support others councils in a peer support programme who have received a lower rating.

NYCC continues to prepare for all eventualities, we run regular Disaster Recovery tests at our DR sites (Richmondshire and Selby) to ensure we can recover applications on a rolling basis. We are also working with the Emergency Planning team to run a workshop looking at cyber security scenarios and we would collectively respond.

County Hall refurbishment work

On 24 April the Executive approved proposals for a programme of remodelling and refurbishment works at County Hall as part of a wider programme of property rationalisation that will reduce the County Council's overall footprint and expenditure in respect of property. Since then officers have been working to develop the detail of the Programme.

It is expected that works will commence in the Summer of 2019 and that they will last for a period of 12 months. During that time all areas of County Hall will be affected and, therefore, there will be some disruption to visitors, Members and staff. The project is, however, being planned to minimise the extent to which disruption is caused and further information will be being made available over the course of the coming months.

Preparation for the work has already commenced and, as part of this, initial staff moves are already being implemented. These will, however, have limited impact upon Members.

GARETH DADD