

CLLR ALEXANDER MAUGHAN LINCOLNSHIRE CC UPDATE – MARCH 2023



County Council budget for 2023/24

The County Council has set the budget for the next financial year. Below are some of the key figures from the budget book:

Revenue Budget 2023/24

- Revenue budget - £595million will be sent on delivering services in Lincolnshire next year.
- How it will be spent - £177million Adult Care and Wellbeing, £97million on Children's Services, £47million on Highways maintenance, £22million Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- £9m additional spend on Highway maintenance next year to cover inflationary cost pressures.
- £65million of cost pressures – increasing demand in adult care and children's services, local government pay award/staff pay increases, impact of inflation on materials and contracts.
- Savings of £11million from smarter working, additional income and efficiencies. Despite cost pressures the County Council continues drive value for money for local taxpayers.
- Council Tax will be increased by 2% on the Adult Care precept and 3% general council tax.
- £7million additional monies raised from the county precept increase will be used specifically for additional highway maintenance activity in 2023/24. This will be directed towards TROs, pedestrian crossings and rural road schemes.
- £8.5million has been released from earmarked reserves that are no longer required, to create a designated Development Fund to be spent on community projects that provide wider public benefits. The scope of this funding is currently being discussed and agreed by the Council's Executive.

The County Council continues to deliver a balanced budget, despite cost pressures from inflation and demand led care services, and whilst keeping Lincolnshire council tax rates at one of the lowest in the country and protecting key frontline services.

Capital budget

- £131million will be spent on capital projects in 2023/34 to improve and develop infrastructure in Lincolnshire, including new roads, schools and flood defences.
- £428million is budgeted to be spent over future years on capital projects in Lincolnshire. The funding for capital projects comes from council borrowing, government grants and S106 developer contributions.

Phase two of Grantham bypass project now open

Work on phases two and three of Grantham Southern Relief Road continued through December.

Phase two, being the new A1 trunk road and B1174 roundabout, was opened to traffic at the end of December following installation of the final linings and signage. This marks another significant milestone in the £133million project to improve traffic and congestion around Grantham.

Phase three, which links the B1174 roundabout to the A52 at Old Somerby, continues to progress. The bridge extension identified last year is expected to cost an additional £15million. It is still anticipated that the third and final phase of the bypass will be complete and open to traffic in 2025.

Funding for Grantham Bypass comes from £33million of government grants with the balance forward funded by Lincolnshire County Council, and recovered as far as possible through developer contributions.

Lincolnshire firefighters supporting Turkey

Firefighters from Lincolnshire joined the UK International Search and Rescue team deployed in February to support the international effort in Turkey following the devastating earthquake.

Four firefighters from Lincolnshire, and Colin the fire dog, joined a team of 77 firefighters from across the UK who spent almost two weeks in Turkey rescuing survivors from the aftermath of the earthquake.

Lincolnshire Police to cut PCSO numbers

Lincolnshire Police have announced plans to cut Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers in Lincolnshire from 91 to 50 next year.

Despite funding increases we are told by the Police these are not enough to keep pace with inflation and many of the additional grant monies they have received are to support specific activity and statutory functions.

There is a policy nationally to recruit additional Police Officers and therefore locally we are seeing a reduction in PCSOs as a result.

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