

District Councillor's Report.

Council Tax.

Again this year there will be no increase in Council Tax. This decision has attracted a grant of £186K from central government (the Council Tax freeze Grant) but significant savings have had to be found. Every service has been reviewed, opportunities taken to increase income and revenues, and some hard decisions made about whether we can still afford some of what we do. The County Council has also frozen its charge but the figure set by the Police and the precepts set by some of the district's town and parish councils have risen, so residents could see slight increase in their bills.

Our partnership with Waveney is playing a key role in keeping down costs. Since the Councils first agreed to have a shared Chief Executive, progressively more of our services have become shared, helping to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Moreover, the freeze has been achieved without borrowing or reducing reserves.

Business Plan

Suffolk Coastal has also adopted its first ever Business Plan which sets out our aims for the next ten years. Given the financial difficulties facing us and the proposed changes to funding from Central Government, it is essential that we now align our vision and priorities with the current and projected income

Localism Act

The Localism Act brings some major changes to the way in which District and Parish Councils will work together. Suffolk Coastal is now working through the details of how best to introduce these changes.

Local Development Framework

The latest consultation on the LDF proposals will finish on 7th March. All comments received will be put forward with our submission for consideration by the public inspector. This phase of the process should take until around end of October this year