

Parish Report December 2012

Councillor

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Preparing for winter

Suffolk County Council has launched a new webpage helping you prepare for the winter months, providing advice and many updates as to the latest news around the County.

By following this link you can see latest information from Suffolk's gritting service, as well as links to any school closures that may take place as a result of the cold weather, and other organisations that can help. It also provides advice on driving, protecting both your house and yourself, as well as clearing ice and snow from pavements.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergency-and-safety/civil-emergencies/winter-are-you-prepared/>

County Council Budget 2013-14

At the end of November, the County Council announced the first version of the 2013 budget. This was discussed and questioned at the recent Scrutiny Committee.

This year will see a further reduction of £24.9m, as part of a two year programme to reduce the budget by just over £50m. As seen last year, many of the services are looking to efficiencies rather than specific service cuts; however I am extremely concerned that these reductions will hide damage to the Counties frontline. These are the reductions;

Saving Ref.	Task	Saving 2013-14 (£'m)
A	Improve efficiency and remove unnecessary processes across the organisation	9.7
B	Reduce management costs across the organisation	0.5
C	Rationalise office accommodation	1.3
D	Share of profits from Eastern Facilities Management Solutions Ltd.	0.2
E	Redesign home to school transport	0.2
F	Target resources in children's services to reduce demand	2.5
G	Change the relationship with schools	0.2
H	Adult Care in Depth Review	7.0
I	Reduce expenditure on library services	0.3
J	Re-let the highways contract	2.0
K	Work with District/Borough Councils to reduce costs of Suffolk-wide waste services	0.8
L	Reduce the number of uniformed fire fighters	0.2
	TOTAL	24.9

As you can see, there is a significant reduction in Adult and Community Services of £7m, and another reduction of £2.5m in Children and Young People's services. There are both areas which have significant pressures, and help to protect the vulnerable in our community.

I will continue to keep you updated as to the latest news regarding the budget for 2013 as the process continues.

For more information about the Scrutiny committee and the budget reductions, please head to this link for the report –

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=26/Nov/2012&c=Scrutiny%20Committee>

Cabinet – 11th December

The County Council today released the Cabinet papers for December, with a number of important items that include –

- Decision on whether to enhance Concessionary Fares further after the Lib Dem scrutiny call in, as a result of the consultation.
- Procurement of Highways services – decision on awarding the contract to Balfour Beatty Living Places.
- Suffolk Rail Strategy – creation of a rail prospectus for Suffolk which is aiming for hourly services between Ipswich and Peterborough, and new inter-city rolling stock.

For further information, and to see what else is being discussed at the Cabinet meeting, please head to -

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=11/Dec/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>