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Report for September 2020

NCC Budget

Covid 19 has worsened the “extremely challenging” financial situation facing the county council, which is predicting a £129.7 million budget gap over the next four years.

Norfolk County Council is calling for long-term, sustainable funding from the Government, predicting that, without it, the council will have to save £45.4 million next year alone.

Covid 19 has added to our pressures, through extra costs, reduced Council Tax and other income and ongoing additional demand. The challenges we face have got even tougher.

We’ve got an excellent track record of balancing the books in testing circumstances but this is getting harder and harder to achieve.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=47574f7a6e454dc6a42c5f6912ed7076>

COVID 19

They show only a very small rise in numbers of infections of workers from the factory and a steadily reducing average number of weekly cases across the county.

“A total of 127 workers at the factory have now tested positive out of 735 individuals tested. A total of 1,860 tests have been conducted across the community following this outbreak, with five household members being identified as positive cases.

“Excluding the known Banham Poultry worker cases, the seven-day average incidence is 6.2 cases per 100,000 across Norfolk. The overall seven-day average daily number of cases, including Banham Poultry outbreak, in Norfolk is 9.3, which is steadily reducing from a peak of 18.3 at the height of the Banham Poultry outbreak

Norfolk Covid 19 Engagement Board.

NCC specific contact tracing rather than NHS plans

Norfolk CC hopes to establish locally supported contact tracing area to support and protect Norfolk residents, recognising that full costs are still to be confirmed and that they are likely to create a cost pressure

FINANCIAL PRESSURES

Adult Social Care

With the Purchase of Care (POC) budget making up 77% of our ASC budget, and being heavily dependent on the individual needs of the 14,000+ people at any one time being supported by this budget, it is perhaps not surprising that this is the area feeling the financial pressure. The department is looking to achieve savings of £23m in this financial year, and as described in the budget savings section of this paper, it has been extremely difficult in the current climate to deliver against this challenge

Within Adult Social Services, the areas of highest pressures, the main area of forecast overspend is on Older People and Learning Disabilities services within the Purchase of Care budget

Living Well ethos requires a different climate to be wholly effective in preventing, reducing and delaying need for formal services. In the first four months of the year many of our care providers were paid fixed (minimum amounts whereby additional services provided are paid for in addition) payment amounts to enable them to have secure cash flow during Covid-19

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service – Training Facilities Agree to work with Norfolk Constabulary to develop the emergency services training academy concept. 2. Collaborate with Norfolk Constabulary to develop the former Hethersett Old Hall Site

Devolution

Support the approach taken to date by Norfolk Leaders Group and the County Council's ongoing commitment to closer collaboration and joint working to deliver the best possible services in the most efficient, effective and inclusive manner. 2. Endorse Norfolk County Council's approach to devolution and local government reform

Highways and Pathways

NCC subcontracts much of our Highways and Pathways maintenance and indeed has to subcontract some of the Highways work to Velocity to apply summer dressing. This process has just been completed but I have been made aware of some issues with 10 mph road signs not being removed for months in some cases or sides incorrectly placed about closed roads. I have raised this at the highest level and an investigation is being undertaken

I am also aware that there have been issues regarding Pathways maintenance also being agreed and work not being carried out when planned.

Although I accept there may have been mitigating facts due to social distancing and covid related issues as well as staff being moved to more urgent jobs, but I equally annoyed that failure to attend to these pathways is unacceptable
I have therefor initiated an investigation at the highest level .

All staff and County Councillors at NCC, have continued working throughout the pandemic but have done so and will continue to do so until at least after the new year. This includes virtual PC meetings

Please continue to let me continue to let me know of any issue where I may be able to offer support

Margaret

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