

Temple Guiting Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 15th May 2019
Report by Cllr Dr Nigel Moor Gloucestershire County Councillor for the Stow Division

County Council tax increased by 4.99% overall this year – which includes an Adult Social Care levy of 2% which is ring-fenced for adult care. Gloucestershire's council tax is the third lowest of any county council in England (£1.57 pa higher than lowest), and lower than every neighbouring county.

Despite keeping tax down, the budget this year increases investment in key areas:

- £2m extra to protect older people
 - £11m extra for children and young people
 - Year 2 of £150m investment into road resurfacing
 - £45m for Gloucestershire schools (part of our overall £100m commitment)
- Demand continues to grow in key areas.
 - The level of children in care has increased by 39% since 2014 (478 – 707).
 - Since 2015, the number of children requiring a Educational Health and Care Plan (what used to be called a statement of special educational need) has increased by 47%.
 - The level of older people in Gloucestershire has grown by 28% since 2007, with projections showing that the number of older people needing help with an illness or disability will increase by 41% in the next 11 years.
 - The recently agreed budget provides the 2nd year of the Conservative £150m investment road resurfacing programme. In its first year, this saw 164 projects carried out across the Gloucestershire, with over 108km of roads resurfaced and 60km surface dressed. In the Cotswolds this included more than 40 projects valued at £7m and some 80 km of roads resurfaced. This coming year will see a similar scale of work in the Cotswolds with many minor roads also included.
 - Since the start of April 2018, the council has repaired almost 50,000 potholes on Gloucestershire roads – with over 99% repaired on time.
 - This year's budget also provides every councillor with £25,000 of Highways Local funding to invest in repairing and upgrading roads and footpaths in their division.
 - Key route announcement for the A417 Missing Link was announced by Government in March. Total cost of £500m. Work on improving Junction 10 on the M5 (West Cheltenham) to increase capacity and build to a full junction with access/leave both North and South directions continues. GCC has also bid for funds to expand Cheltenham's Arle Court Park and Ride.
 - The Government also announced support for the Ashchurch Garden Town located off the A46 near Junction 9 on the M5 and adjoining the station on the Gloucester: Birmingham railway line. This is to accommodate 10,000 new homes and in my view should help to relieve housing pressures in the North Cotswolds

- The £100m investment into Gloucestershire schools continues this year, with a range of capital projects, including a brand new secondary school for Cheltenham as well as improvements to local schools including Moreton, Stow, Rissington, and Bledington.

Fastershire – We are investing a further £1.4m from April into delivering fast broadband right across the county. So far, over 97% of homes and businesses have access and work continues on the hardest to reach areas.

GCC have appointed Ringway Infrastructure Services to deliver the new £245m highways maintenance contract for the county. The contract is initially for seven years and they are responsible from 1st April 2019 for

- Pothole repairs
- Winter gritting and snow clearing
- Gully cleaning
- Verge and grass cutting
- Surface dressing

Ringway have been working for Worcestershire for over 13 years as well as Wiltshire and Highways England in the south west. They have a lot of capacity and experience and mobilisation has begun. Together with the choice of Tarmac for the major resurfacing projects and WS Atkins for the professional service contract this now completes the procurement of the highways contract.

The proposal by the Police & Crime Commissioner to present a business case for his governance of the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service: Gloucestershire County Councillors debated a motion at Council on this further proposal by the PCC and all 53 councillors resolved that governance should remain with the County Council. In a letter to the PCC in November all five Conservative MP's for Gloucestershire constituencies confirmed their support for the county council's position. All six district councils in Gloucestershire have also confirmed their opposition. Both Moreton and Stow Town Councils have voted in support of the county council's position.

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan Review 2015-2041 Work has begun on the review. Consultation in autumn 2019. We will also look further ahead to tie in with the 2050 vision so as to examine long-term options eg. A Third Severn Crossing. The use of the Fosse as a strategic freight route will also be examined.

GCC have received around 100 acceptances for our Climate Change Summit to be held next week from a broad range of stakeholders. The outcomes from this event will be used to develop a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the council. This will include the governance arrangements for taking the strategy forward. The draft strategy and action Plan will be published for public consultation in the summer and then go to Cabinet in October 2019.