

July County Council Report for Cllr Stuart Bird

There are just two updates to give this month, both relating to my roles at the County Council.

This week and next week I will be undertaking the required training to sit on the Development and Regulation Committee. This is the County equivalent of Planning Committee, dealing with applications relating to schools, roads and footpaths.

I have provisionally volunteered to be a member of the budget working group again this year. The County Council budget setting process is complex and thorough, beginning almost as soon as the last budget has been implemented. The working group critically examines every aspect and almost every item of the budget, looking for savings and efficiencies, whilst maintaining excellent front line services. The recommendations from the working group then go to the Conservative Group and Cabinet to formulate a final budget to present to full Council. With an annual net expenditure of almost £700 million, it is vital to provide best value for money for the Council Tax payer. I enjoy the challenge of the working group, which involves an intense period of meetings over about three weeks, examining the Council finances in detail. I will report developments on the budget and Council Tax as they happen.

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