



## **THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING PROCESS FOR 2018- 19**

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

Thetford Town Council has set the budget and precept for the year ending 31 March 2019 at a full council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The budget and precept were both unanimously voted through by all attending councillors.

The precept is to rise by 4.75% from £724,766 (2017-18) to £759,192. This equates to a 3.36% increase in the Thetford Town Council proportion of the council tax. Residents will pay £120 in 2018-19 per household for all the services Thetford Town Council provide. The increased responsibilities that the council have inherited over the past few years and the need to adequately maintain their buildings has resulted in a requirement to increase expenditure although every effort has been made to keep this to a minimum. The increased cost to households in 2018-19 will be a total of £3.91 per annum or 7.5 pence per week.

Examples of areas that the Town Council have taken extra responsibility for over the last few years are:

Public toilets

Skate Park

Market Place

Castle Park

11 Play parks

St Peters Church

Barnham Cross Common

Festival

Heritage Open Days

The council is also striving to improve the services it has always provided including: allotment provision, burial provision and hire facilities and to improve community engagement. The council own a number of historic building some of which require extensive refurbishment (St Peters, the Guildhall, the Cemetery Chapel and Cottage, the Royal British legion premises and the Shambles) and plans are either in place or

being put in place to address the required maintenance to ensure these building are saved for future generations.

The council has budgeted to spend over £300,000 on capital improvement or one off expenditure in 2018-19 but this is being financed by reserves the council currently hold so will have no direct impact on the public purse. Some of this expenditure is designed to generate efficiency savings which will keep required increases in precept in the future to a minimum.

The year 2017-18 has seen a number of projects completed by the council such as the Castle Steps and the fencing and grazing on Barnham Cross Common which generated plenty of interest in Thetford and beyond. Major work is in progress on both the Cemetery Chapel and the public toilets hoping to improve facilities for residents and the council have fully replaced one play park and refurbished 8 others since Breckland Council handed them over.

Community engagement is an area the council are committed to improve and therefore welcome any feedback on the budget and proposed spending. Improved public consultation for major expenditure will be taking place in future so please sign up to our newsletter via the website or facebook to be kept informed of future events and plans.

Please visit the council website for extensive information and documentation relating to the council and its work including the budget and the Corporate Plan 2017-18 at [www.thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) or email the council if you have any queries of complaints at [mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mail@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)