

5th February 2024, District Councillors' Report to Chaddesley Corbett PC:

Wyre Forest Issues:

The District Council has been consulting on its budget; we are proposing increasing council tax by the minimum 3% allowed which is circa an additional £7 per year for a Band D property!

We are proposing investing in services that are important to the public, unlike the previous administration. For example, we are proposing two full-time litter pickers across the District to act as a litter blitz squad responding to non-routine work. We are also proposing an additional Civil Enforcement Officer to tackle parking on double yellow lines. We plan to be more open and transparent than the previous administration and will be funding the webcasting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

We are further proposing 1-hour free car parking Monday – Friday between 8am -6pm in one car park in each of the District's 3 towns. We will also be investing £50k in accessible play equipment at Brinton Park and Stourport Riverside. Each District Councillor will also have £1,000 for the community leadership fund to spend on projects or organisations in their ward.

We are proposing additional commercial income from a wide variety of areas to fund our investments. We will still have circa £3million of unallocated reserves in 2024-2025 and indeed will still have reserves at the end of the 3-year medium-term financial strategy. We are also taking a different approach to localism and not simply transferring services to town and parish councils unless they want to.

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If you have any issues requiring our assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

District Cllrs. Marcus Hart, Robin Drew, Ian Hardiman