



ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mrs Mary Dalton

I have had a very enjoyable year during my year as Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council. It has been my pleasure to meet many residents of the town who were celebrating a special occasion.

After the sudden death of my husband Reg, my duties as Mayor kept me going and busy. Thank you to everyone for their kind thoughts.

The nominated charities for my year as Mayor were the North East Army Benevolent Fund and the following local charities.



- ◆ Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club
- ◆ Friends of Senior Citizens
- ◆ The Mobility Club
- ◆ Newton Aycliffe Brownies, Guides, Rainbows and Senior Section
- ◆ ACLE Scouts, Cubs, Senior Scouts and Beavers
- ◆ 1st Aycliffe Baden Powell Scout Group
- ◆ 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout Association

I would like to thank everyone who helped me raise £7693.50 which was split between these charities.

This annual report is intended to provide a brief summary of some key achievements from the past year; an overview of financial information and a snapshot of the year to come.

SOME KEY THINGS WE DID LAST YEAR

- ✓ Delivered a 1% reduction on the Town Council portion of the 2010/2011 Council Tax.
- ✓ The Town Council achieved £263,587 savings across all service areas which have been added to council balances and will be used to fund investment in the Town over the next few years.
- ✓ Provided a park patrol service, to improve security, reduce anti-social behaviour, provide public reassurance and respond to public concerns at the parks and play areas, which has been in place since January 2010.
- ✓ Re-opened the toilets at St. Oswald's Park and started to refurbish them.
- ✓ Purchased a Geographical Information System (GIS) to plot all council owned land and property.
- ✓ Undertook a large amount of work at both Stephenson Way and West Cemeteries to provide a peaceful environment.
- ✓ Improved security at the Clarence Chare and St Oswald's allotment sites and St. Oswald's Park by installing new fencing.
- ✓ The Environment Officer undertook 67 school activities and 43 public and community events.
- ✓ Awarded £1,460 in grants to 8 organisations and a capital grant of £10,000 to MIND.
- ✓ Created Sheila's Garden and picnic area at St. Oswald's Park.
- ✓ Refurbishment of Simpature Park changing facilities.

- ✓ Disabled access improvement to the Oakleaf Sports Complex, installation of CCTV and new indoor bowls carpet.
- ✓ Golf Course improvements to the fencing, footpaths and the installation of CCTV.

A message from the new Mayor, Councillor Mrs Dorothy Bowman

I am looking forward to my year as Mayor and representing the Town Council in an official capacity. The charities I have chosen for my year in office are Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer.

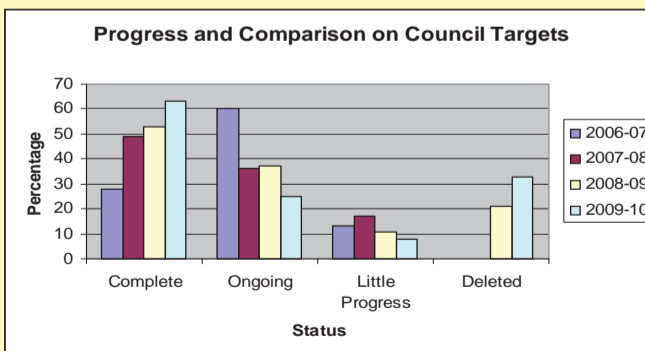
We are all aware that we are living in difficult and uncertain financial times. The recent recession and ongoing economic problems have affected us all and the Town Council has been no different. As your local Town Council we are committed to the efficient management of public money and providing value for money services to the community.

Having said that, the Town Council is well placed to meet the challenges that the ongoing uncertainty in the economy will bring and is likely to be able to maintain the relatively healthy state of our finances over the next few years, without needing to make cuts to important community services or increase the Council Tax substantially.

We will continue to work with the residents of Great Aycliffe through our satisfaction surveys, open days, attending community events, the youth council and the customer panel. This will ensure we take into account your views and act upon your priorities in order to improve our services for YOU the residents of Great Aycliffe.

As you can see from the table below the Council monitors its targets each year and regular reports are provided to both Councillors and the Customer Panel.

Why not attend one of our council or committee meetings to see for yourself what goes on. Everyone is welcome.



SOME KEY TARGETS FOR THIS YEAR

Following the annual review of the Town Council aims and targets, and including recommendations from the residents of Great Aycliffe, some of our key targets for 2010/2011 are:

- Refurbish School Aycliffe Play Area.
- Investigate options for a redevelopment in the Horndale Park area.
- Map the council owned land and property onto the Geographical Information System.
- Improve communication and publish specific

information newsletters for the parks, play areas, open spaces and other council services.

- Open additional allotments at St Oswald's allotment site (pending planning permission).
- Undertake various improvements and publicise the Great Aycliffe Way.
- Undertake a dog fouling and litter awareness campaign.
- Undertake 40 public 'environmental' events.
- Undertaken 60 school 'environmental' engagements.

AIMS AND TARGETS 2010/11

AIM 1 "TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL"

- 1) Publish a Parish Performance Plan by 30th June.
- 2) Achieve an unqualified audit opinion on the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3) Quarterly performance report to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 4) Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report to council.
- 5) Review the personal development reviews to find a more user friendly approach.
- 6) Prepare an annual training list, developed from the Personal Development Review, or replacement, process and feed into the budget setting process.
- 7) Provide a Member and Town Clerk training programme to comply with guidance for Quality Status.
- 8) Undertake a review of all records and filing systems annually to comply with Freedom Of Information Act.
- 9) Improve advertising of council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication.

AIM 2 "TO MANAGE THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND ASSETS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER"

- 10) Produce annual statement of accounts by 30.6.10.
- 11) Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the account by 30.9.10.
- 12) Complete any Government returns electronically by the relevant deadline.
- 13) Aim to deliver 3% efficiency savings.
- 14) Implement any works highlighted in the Asset Management Plan, prioritised by Disability Discrimination Act compliance.
- 15) Undertake a review of all Council risks every March and report to Council.
- 16) Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2011.
- 17) Map all council owned land, buildings and other assets onto the Geographical Information System.
- 18) Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register.
- 19) Undertake an annual review of the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for plant and machinery and build into the capital works programme as necessary.

AIM 3 "TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES"

- 20) Complete the Best Value Review of the Oakleaf Sports Complex.
- 21) Deliver 30 public countryside events.
- 22) Deliver the Council's programme of special events.
- 23) Provide 2 training sessions on the new dance mat

- system ('train the trainer' type sessions).
- 24) Work with community groups and voluntary organisations to provide at least 5 community dance sessions.
 - 25) Pursue the of opening additional allotments at St. Oswald's Park/allotments.
 - 26) Replace the Oakleaf Sports Complex heating system to be more efficient.

AIM 4 "TO PROVIDE PRE-SCHOOLEDUCATION AS APPROPRIATE IN GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 27) Investigate the need for extended opening hours at the Early Years settings. If required extend the opening hours.
- 28) Achieve successful Ofsted Inspection Results (if undertaken).

AIM 5 "TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF AYCLIFFE BY MANAGING AND DEVELOPING PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES"

- 29) Environmental Officer to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities.
- 30) Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups to hold a Town Pride Environment Day.
- 31) Publicise environmental/green spaces in the Great Aycliffe area. Including the development and publication of a leaflet.
- 32) Plant a hedgerow round the inner field boundary at Cobblers Hall Plantation.

- 33) Publicise parks and play areas in Town Council ownership. Including the development of a leaflet.
- 34) Complete the improvements to the Great Aycliffe Way.
- 35) Develop and publish a Great Aycliffe Way leaflet to promote the walk.
- 36) Refurbish School Aycliffe Play Area.
- 37) Open the public toilets at St. Oswald's Park.
- 38) Continue the replacement of dog waste bins at various town council owned locations.
- 39) Consider the re-development/use of Horndale Park and football pitches.

AIM 6 "TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 40) Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by:-
Organising the election process;
Holding at least 8 meetings a year;
Help organise at least 1 project per year.
- 41) Working with other groups to develop community activities to encourage pride in Great Aycliffe.
- 42) Hold a litter awareness campaign in partnership with Durham County Council, the Youth Council and any national initiatives.
- 43) Negotiate with Durham County Council to hold a high profile 'dog fouling' campaign in the Great Aycliffe area.
- 44) Work with County Councillors for Aycliffe and Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP)

- and Durham County Council to provide additional off-street parking.
- 45) Work with County Councillors for Aycliffe and GAMP to access Neighbourhood Budgets for the benefit of Great Aycliffe residents.

AIM 7 "TO ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY"

- 46) Hold at least 5 Customer Panel meetings with the residents of Great Aycliffe.
- 47) Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel.
- 48) Hold a Parish Meeting.
- 49) Hold an Allotment AGM.
- 50) Hold 6 allotment representative meetings.
- 51) Provide information about elections, the need to register to vote, how to become a Councillor etc on the Council's website.
- 52) Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services.

AIM 8 "TO RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MAKE THE CASE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 53) Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out.
- 54) Undertake benchmarking and research where appropriate for new policies and procedures.
- 55) Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required.

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDALE & COBBLERS HALL WARD



Dorothy Bowman
Lab - Tel. 308094



Ian Gray
Lab - Tel. 313770



Vincent Crosby
Lab - Tel. 315083



Brian Hall
Lab - Tel. 314105



Irene Hewitson
Ind - Tel. 318763



Alison Palmer
Lib Dem - Tel. 317652

WOODHAM NORTH WARD



Barbara A. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



John D. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Mary Dalton
Lab - Tel. 320499



Joan Gray
Lab - Tel. 313778



Sandra Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318645



Keith Henderson
Lab - Tel. 319542

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR

WOODHAM SOUTH WARD



Paul Gittins
Ind - Tel. 317666



Valerie M. Raw
Lab - Tel. 311447



William Iveson
Lab - Tel. 312490

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE



Bill Blenkinsopp
Lib Dem - Tel. 308057

SIMPASTURE WARD

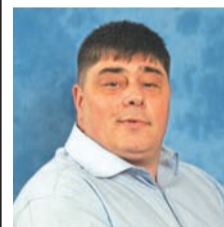


Alan Warburton
Ind - Tel. 315182



Malcolm Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759

WEST WARD



Steve Bambridge
Ind - Tel. 300195



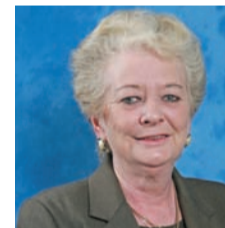
Thomas R. Bowman
Ind - Tel. 308094



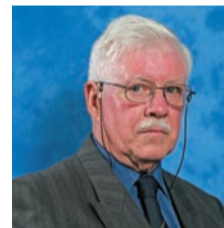
Helen J. Hutchinson
Lab - Tel. 316899



George C. Gray
Ind - Tel. 314934

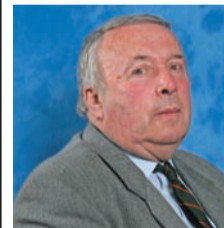


Enid M. Paylor
Lab - Tel. 313697



Bill Curtis
Ind - Tel. 320291

SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S WARD



Robert S. Fleming
Lab - Tel. 310025

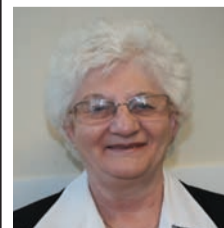


Brian Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318645



Terry Hogan
Ind - Tel. 313828

NEVILLE WARD



Sarah J. Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759



George R. Gray
Ind - Tel. 304480



Paul Ducker - Ind
Tel. 07950 351830

THE SENIOR OFFICERS WITHIN THE COUNCIL ARE

Town Clerk
Corporate & Policy Officer
Finance Manager
Works Manager

Andrew Bailey
Christine Walton
Dan Austin
Don Thompson

info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
christine.walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
dan.austin@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Complex Manager
Environment Officer
Early Years Officer
Senior Admin Officer

Derek Snowball
Steven Cooper
Jackie Swainston
Christine Ryder

derek.snowball@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
jackie.swainston@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
christine.ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010 / 2011

COUNCIL (All Members of the Council)

Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman (Mayor), Councillor R.S. Fleming (Deputy Mayor)

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (24 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors S. Bambridge, W. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

RECREATION COMMITTEE (24 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors S. Bambridge, W. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (24 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors S. Bambridge, W. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (Members chosen as necessary)

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS - (Policy and Resources Committee)

SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE (8 Members + Mayor OR Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors V. Crosby, W. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson and Mrs. V.M. Raw. (1 Vacancy)

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (8 Members + Mayor OR Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and A. Warburton.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (4 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)

Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, M. Iveson and W. Iveson.

ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP (9 Members)

Councillors J.D. Clare, W. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, K. Henderson, M. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

CHARGES WORKING GROUP (Chairmen and Vice-Chairman of Full Council, Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees)

Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall and M. Iveson.

WORKING GROUPS - (Recreation Committee)

GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP (3 Members)

Councillors R.S. Fleming, B. Hall and M. Iveson

SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)

SHOW WORKING GROUP (7 Members + Chairman & Vice-Chair of Recreation)

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor

MAYOR'S ANNUAL EVENTS

The following Civic Dates have now been finalised for the Mayor's Year in Office:

Mayor "At Home" - Tuesday, 29th June 2010 at the Council Offices - 2.15 p.m.

Civic Service - Sunday, 18th July 2010 at St. Clare's Church - 9.45 a.m.

Charity Golf Tournament - Friday, 10th September 2010 - Oakleaf Golf Complex.

Town Community Carol Service - Sunday, 12th December 2010 - Xcel Centre - 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Civic Carol Service - Sunday, 19th December 2010 - St. Clare's Church - 6 p.m.

Civic Dinner and Dance - Friday, 18th February 2011 - Summerson Suite, The Hall Garth Hotel - 7 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2010/11

- (a) Youth Council
Councillors V. Crosby, A. Warburton and Corporate and Policy Officer.
- (b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
Councillors R.S. Fleming, J.D. Clare and Town Clerk
- (c) Citizens' Advice Bureau
Councillor M. Iveson and Councillor B. Hall (Reserve)
- (d) Agnew Community Centre
Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare and K. Henderson
- (e) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillors Mrs. J. Gray and K. Henderson
- (f) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council's Committee
Councillors R.S. Fleming, B. Hall and Town Clerk.
- (g) Durham Countryside Volunteers
Councillors V. Crosby, I. Gray and A. Warburton
- (h) Larger Local Council's Forum
Councillor B. Hall, R.S. Fleming and Town Clerk.
- (i) Lifelong Learning Committee
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, V. Crosby and R.S. Fleming
- (j) Normandy Veterans
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton
- (k) Woodham Community Technology Collect Forum Meeting
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman and Mrs. V.M. Raw
- (l) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor V. Crosby
- (m) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillors I. Gray and B. Haigh

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 26th May 2010 | Environment | 7.15 p.m. |
| 26th May 2010 | Recreation | * 7.15 p.m. |
| 2nd June 2010 | Policy & Resources | 7.15 p.m. |
| 9th June 2010 | Full Council | 7.15 p.m. |
| 7th July 2010 | Environment | 7.15 p.m. |
| 7th July 2010 | Recreation | * 7.15 p.m. |
| 14th July 2010 | Policy & Resources | 7.15 p.m. |
| 21st July 2010 | Full Council | 7.15 p.m. |
| 8th Sept. 2010 | Environment | 7.15 p.m. |
| 8th Sept. 2010 | Recreation | * 7.15 p.m. |
| 15th Sept. 2010 | Policy & Resources | 7.15 p.m. |
| 22nd Sept. 2010 | Full Council | 7.15 p.m. |
| 20th Oct. 2010 | Environment | 7.15 p.m. |
| 20th Oct. 2010 | Recreation | * 7.15 p.m. |
| 27th Oct. 2010 | Policy & Resources | 7.15 p.m. |
| 3rd Nov. 2010 | Full Council | 7.15 p.m. |

* The Recreation Committee will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

4th MAY, 2011 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. ()**

11th MAY, 2011 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.

(* *) (N.B. - this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council's area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the Council which are in furtherance of a person's individual circumstances or which are about a matter where there is a right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it concerns has been the subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months.

The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2009/10 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

| Surname | Forenames | Title | Total Payment | Allowance | Subsistence | Mileage Claim |
|-------------|------------------|-------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| Bambridge | Stephen | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Blenkinsopp | William Maurice | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Bowman | Thomas Raymond | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Bowman | Dorothy | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Clare | John Duncan | Mr | £971.30 | £971.30 | | |
| Clare | Barbara Anne | Mrs | £971.30 | £971.30 | | |
| Crosby | Vincent | Mr | £1,090.85 | £1,059.60 | £31.25 | |
| Curtis | William James | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Dalton | Maria WH | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Ducker | John Paul | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Fleming | Robert Stuart | Mr | £1,079.60 | £1,059.60 | £20.00 | |
| Gittins | Paul Steven | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Gray | George Coulson | Mr | £1,112.27 | £1,059.60 | | £52.67 |
| Gray | George Robert | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Gray | Joan | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Gray | Ian | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Haigh | Brian | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Haigh | Sandra | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Hall | Brian | Mr | £1,090.85 | £1,059.60 | £31.25 | |
| Henderson | Keith | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Hewitson | Irene | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Hogan | Terence | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Hutchinson | Helen | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Iveson | William | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Iveson | Sarah Jane | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Iveson | Malcolm | Mr | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Palmer | Alison | Ms | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Paylor | Enid Marion | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Raw | Valerie Margaret | Mrs | £1,059.60 | £1,059.60 | | |
| Warburton | Alan Derek | Mr | £1,079.60 | £1,059.60 | £20.00 | |

Subsistence figures are for Conferences - As per approved Members Allowance Scheme

An Overview of the Council's Finances

The Cost of Running the Council's Services

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

| 2008/2009 £ | Service Area | 2009/2010 £ |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| 74,918 | Members and Civic Expenses | 69,755 |
| 464,212 | Corporate Management, Finance and Administration | 448,459 |
| 46,594 | Capital Financing Charges | 44,700 |
| 190,837 | Pre Schools | 235,511 |
| 143,854 | Community Events | 136,899 |
| 715,864 | Sports Complex | 742,612 |
| 254,575 | Golf Course and Driving Range | 273,990 |
| 317,441 | Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas | 340,368 |
| 233,245 | Environment, Works and Street Equipment | 278,154 |
| 55,127 | Cemeteries | 70,431 |
| 15,978 | Allotments | 14,215 |
| - | Contingency Sum | 10,000 |
| 2,512,645 | Total Cost of Running Council Services | 2,665,094 |
| | Less Income | |
| (15,000) | Grants | (85,019) |
| (172,527) | Pre Schools Funding and Fees | (188,845) |
| (435,987) | Sports Complex Fees and Charges | (450,927) |
| (187,314) | Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges | (183,081) |
| (21,861) | Cemeteries Fees | (25,953) |
| (42,476) | Other Fees and Charges | (41,968) |
| (32,688) | Investment Income | (2,921) |
| (907,853) | Total Income | (978,714) |
| (291,986) | Exclusion of Depreciation Charges | (324,467) |
| 1,312,806 | Actual Net Cost of Council Services | 1,361,913 |
| 263,969 | Contribution to Council Balances / Savings | 263,587 |
| 1,576,775 | Council Precept / Council Tax | 1,625,500 |

The net cost of running the Council's many services is met from the Precept. The Precept is the amount that the Town Council ask Durham County Council, as the Council Tax Billing Authority, to collect for us from the Council taxpayers of Great Aycliffe to fund the estimated net cost of all of the services we provide.

As shown above, the Council's Precept for 2009/2010 was set at £1,625,500 which resulted in a Town Council Tax bill of £206.12 per year at Valuation Band D.

However 60% of properties in the Great Aycliffe area fall within Council Tax Band A, for which the Town Council element of the Council Tax bill was £137.41 a year or £2.64 a week.

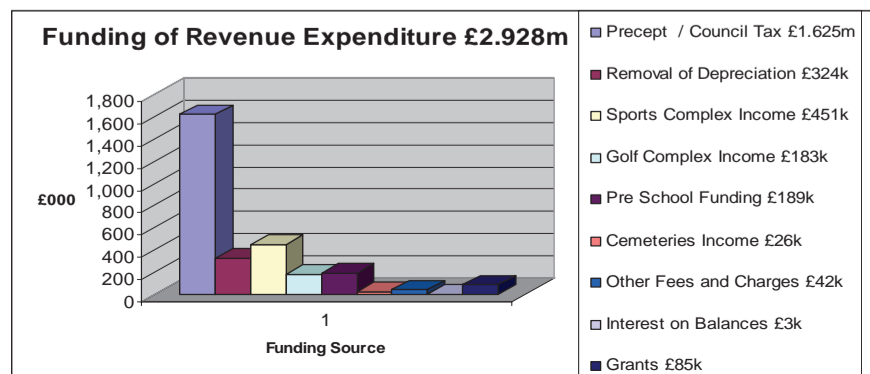
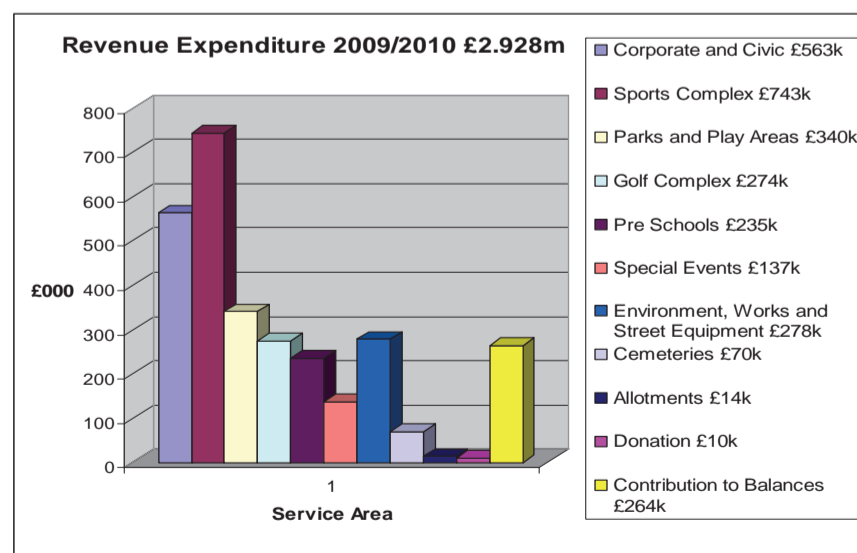
The financial position and spending of the Council is continuously monitored and controlled in order to help achieve the most efficient use of public resources.

As can be seen above, prudent management of the Council's spending has been achieved in both 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, when the Council **achieved savings in the region of 16% against the approved Revenue Budget.**

These savings have arisen from the inclusion of a contribution to capital reserves in the Revenue Budget, limited use of the contingency sum, a lower than expected pay award in 2009/2010, savings on staff cover and overtime costs, increased Pre School funding arising from numbers of children running at capacity levels in both years, renegotiated gas and electricity contracts and general efficiency savings being identified and achieved in all budget areas.

These savings have now been set aside in the Council's earmarked reserves to meet future spending commitments and to provide for further investment in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the next few years.

A graphical summary of the Council's spending in 2009/2010 and how it was funded is shown below:-

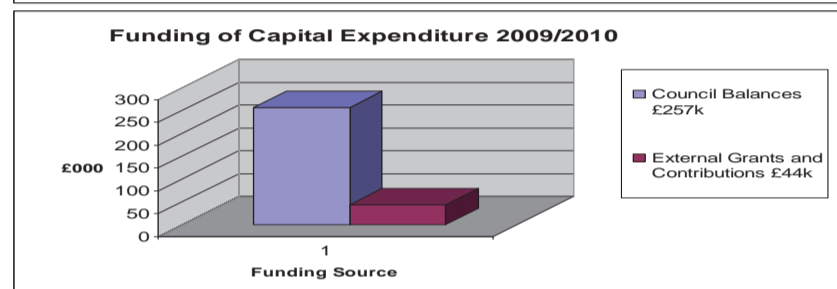
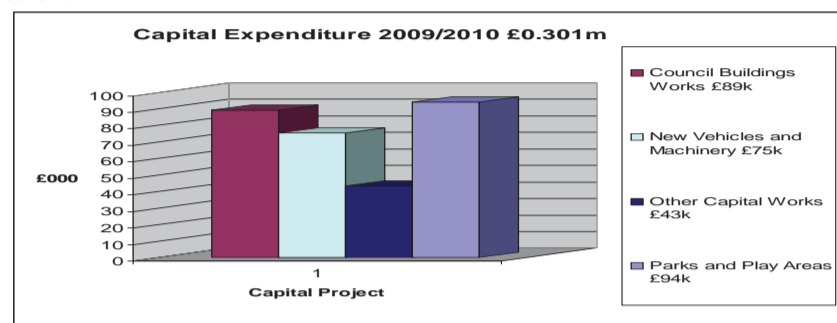


Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

| 2008/2009 £ | Investment Area | 2009/2010 £ |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| 161,424 | Council Buildings Works | 79,081 |
| 42,434 | Sports Complex Disabled Lift and Automatic Entrance | 10,249 |
| 60,420 | Sports Complex Bar Refurbishment | - |
| 30,030 | Replacement Vehicles and Machinery | 74,506 |
| - | CCTV Cameras | 8,600 |
| 400,745 | Parks and Play Areas Investment | 94,496 |
| 32,584 | Other Capital Investment | 34,275 |
| 727,637 | Total Capital Investment | 301,207 |
| | Funded by:- | |
| (363,062) | Capital Contributions | (44,418) |
| (364,575) | Use of Council Balances | (256,789) |
| (727,637) | Funding of Capital Investment | (301,207) |

A graphical summary of the Council's capital spending in 2009/2010 and how it was funded is shown below:-



Capital investment by the Council in community assets has totalled around **£1.5 million over the last 5 years** and this has included the construction of the Town Park, numerous new play areas and multi use games areas across the town, and the new Environment Centre.

A further £1 million has been invested in Council assets such as the new depot building, disabled access works to public buildings and replacement vehicles and machinery.

This is all investment that would not otherwise have been possible if the Council did not include a contribution to capital reserves in its Revenue Budget and achieve efficiency savings each year.

It is also important to note that **the Council has actively sought external grant funding to support it's capital investment in the town in recent years, securing over £500,000** from funds such as the Local Improvement Programme.

The Council's Balance Sheet

A summary of the Council's Balance Sheet for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 is detailed below and shows the net worth of the Council, in terms of its assets and liabilities:-

| 2008/2009 £ | Category of Asset or Liability | 2009/2010 £ |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| | Fixed Assets | |
| 4,867,000 | Land and Buildings | 4,693,000 |
| 1,194,000 | Vehicles, Plant and Machinery | 1,233,000 |
| 250,000 | Community Assets | 294,000 |
| | Current Assets | |
| 500,000 | Investments | 600,000 |
| 458,000 | Bank and Cash | 290,000 |
| 153,000 | Other Current Assets e.g. Stocks, Debtors etc | 80,000 |
| | Current Liabilities | |
| (345,000) | Creditors, Provisions, Short Term Borrowing etc | (202,000) |
| (273,000) | Outstanding Borrowing | (246,000) |
| (562,000) | Capital Contributions used to fund Fixed Assets | (517,000) |
| 6,242,000 | Net Worth of Council | 6,225,000 |

The net worth of the Council is presently just over £6.2 million and this is expected to drop over the next few years as the Council's balances are used up to fund capital investment requirements and the Council's fixed assets are subject to depreciation.

Annual Audit Report

The Council is subject to an annual external inspection by the Audit Commission and the overall opinion on the overall financial standing of the Council is set out in an Annual Audit Letter. The Audit Commission looked at four main areas in 2008/2009:-

1. Statement of Accounts
2. Parish Performance Plan
3. Annual Governance Statement
4. Use of Resources Assessment

The Council has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the inspection. This means that, in overall terms the Audit Commission considers that the Council's Accounts present fairly its financial position, its finances are in good order and its arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money are sound and provide value for money to local tax payers.

The Audit Commission did make some recommendations around improvements to the Council's budget setting process and these have been implemented in the setting of the 2010/2011 Budgets.

The Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter for 2008/2009 and the 2008/2009 Statement of Accounts are available to view at the Council Offices or on the website.

The 2009/2010 Statement of Accounts are due to be approved by the Council on the 23rd June 2010, and must be published by the 30th September 2010 after the Audit is completed. The 2009/2010 Audit Letter will then follow at the end of the year.