



Great Aycliffe Town Council

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ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

27th May 2011

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mrs Dorothy Bowman

I have many happy memories to remind me of my year as Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council including representing the Town on two Royal visits. This has been a very busy year for me with my work as the Mayor and being a Town Councillor on top of my work as a County Councillor and being active as part of the Area Action Partnership. I have enjoyed the company of my grandson, Richard, who has been my Consort throughout this busy year. I am looking forward to finally having time to visit an orphanage in Romania and taking toys and gifts for the children.



It has been my pleasure to meet many residents of the town who were celebrating special occasions. I presented many sports achievement awards, met many young people and attended a number of charity and fund raising events. Yet, I have still found time to work with the Junior Neighbourhood Watch and the New Friends New Places group who are very important to me and have just received charity status.

The nominated charities for my year as Mayor were Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Trust and Wear Valley Women's Aid. I would like to thank everyone who helped me raise £5194.00 which was split between these charities.

The Town Council endeavours to rise to all challenges whilst focussing on the community's needs and continuing to improve our services. 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

- ✓ Held the Town Council portion of the Council Tax at the same level as last year.
- ✓ Achieved £213,036 savings across all service areas which has been added to council balances. This will enable us to continue to deliver all of our services to you without the need to make cuts.
- ✓ Refurbished School Aycliffe Play Area following consultation with the residents and Aycliffe Youth Council.
- ✓ Started mapping the Town Council owned land and property onto an electronic Geographical Information System which has proved very helpful.
- ✓ Planning permission has been sought for additional allotments at St Oswald's allotment site and the project is on-going.
- ✓ With joint funding from the Great Aycliffe Area Action Partnership, various improvements have taken place along the Great Aycliffe Way and a new leaflet has been published.
- ✓ Refurbished the toilets at Stephenson Way Cemetery and St. Oswald's Park, including the provision of a separate accessible toilet.
- ✓ The Environment Officer has been working really hard with the schools and communities of Great Aycliffe holding over 150 activities and events.

- ✓ Undertook a very successful dog fouling and litter awareness campaign in conjunction with Durham County Council.
- ✓ Held another successful Town Pride Environment Week working with the Youth Council, local schools and volunteers.

A message from the new Mayor, Councillor Mrs Mary Dalton

I am looking forward to another year as Mayor and representing the Town Council in an official capacity. I have undertaken this very important role a number of times over the last few years and always enjoy the experience, even though it is hard work. The charities I have chosen for my year in office are North East Army Benevolent Fund and various organisations from the Town. The Town Council has been working very hard to find cost savings, yet still deliver the high level of services the residents of Great Aycliffe have become accustomed to.

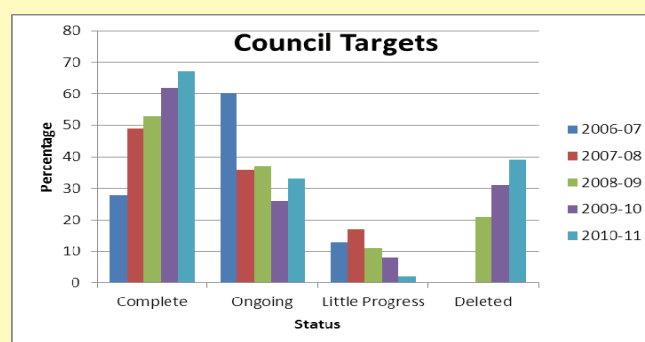


The hard times continue for many of our residents. So it is reassuring to know in these difficult financial times the Town Council, due to its hard work, is well placed to meet the challenges that the ongoing uncertainty in the economy will bring. We are likely to be able to maintain the relatively healthy state of our finances over the next few years, without needing to make cuts to important community services, lose staff or increase the Council Tax substantially.

We encourage the residents of Great Aycliffe to engage with the Town Council and make their views known. We have a customer panel where residents can be actively involved in Town Council business and we are always looking for new members. Please contact the Town Council Offices 01325 300700 for further details. Or, why not attend one of our Council or committee meetings to see for yourself what goes on. Everyone is welcome.

We will continue to work with the residents of Great Aycliffe and ensure we take into account your views and act upon your priorities in order to improve our services for YOU. We continue to invest and improve our green spaces and have offered to work with partners where possible to safeguard these places.

The table below shows progress on the Council targets over the previous 5 years. Regular reports are provided to both Councillors and the Customer Panel who have the opportunity to discuss progress on individual items.



SOME KEY TARGETS FOR THIS YEAR

The Town Council constantly strives to provide excellent services for its residents. Some of our key targets for 2011/2012 are:

- We are aiming to once again freeze the Town Council portion of the Council Tax.
- Continue to provide value for money for our services.
- Continue to look for efficiency savings in all our work.
- Improve Byerley Park Play Area.
- Provide a separate toddler play area at the Town Park.
- Develop a woodland area along Woodham Burn in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- Undertake 40 public environmental events.
- Undertaken 60 school environmental engagements.
- Improve our partnership working.
- Improve our community engagement.
- Through our improved website we will offer local communities the chance to promote their organisations.

AIMS AND TARGETS 2011/2012

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 reports are presented to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 4 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report to Council.
- 5 Hold quarterly team meetings or staff supervision sessions to discuss training needs and generate new ideas.
- 6 Provide an annual training list, developed from the team meetings and any supervision sessions.
- 7 Provide a Members 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 the Freedom of Information Act.
- 9 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication.
- 10 Provide apprenticeship/learning opportunities to give young people work experience.
- 11 Undertake a town wide questionnaire consultation exercise.

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

- 12 Produce annual statement of accounts by 30th June.
- 13 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the accounts by 30th June.
- 14 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year.
- 15 Complete any government returns electronically by the relevant deadline.
- 16 Aim to deliver 3% efficiency savings.
- 17 Implement any works highlighted in the Asset Management Plan, prioritised by Disability Discrimination Act compliance.
- 18 Quarterly budgetary control reports are presented to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 19 Undertake a review of all Council risks every March and report to Council.
- 20 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2012.
- 21 Map all Town Council owned land, buildings and other assets onto the Geographical Information System.
- 22 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register.
- 23 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.
- 24 Undertake a review of the waste disposal options and costs available to the Town Council.
- 25 Undertake and complete a programme of roof surveys of Council owned buildings.

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

- 26 Deliver 40 public countryside events.
- 27 Plant a woodland area along Woodham Burn to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- 28 Deliver the Council's programme of special events.
- 29 Pursue the opening of additional allotments at St Oswald's Park/allotments.
- 30 Expand the activities offered at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.
- 31 Maximise on the possible closure of neighbouring facilities and increase the number of people accessing the indoor bowling facility.
- 32 Complete the programme of asset management planned work at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

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

- 33 Achieve successful Ofsted inspection results (if undertaken).
- 34 Aim to maximise child numbers at both pre-schools.

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

- 35 Environment Officer to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities.
- 36 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups to hold a Town Pride Environment Day.

- 37 Undertake improvements to Byerley Park Play Area.
- 38 Install a toddler play area within the Town Park.
- 39 Work with Sedgfield Borough Homes to pursue the land transfer of the area known as Seven Hills.
- 40 Work with Durham County Council and present a case for the Town Council to take over certain green spaces to help improve these areas.
- 41 Continue to provide a limited snow clearing and gritting service on behalf of Durham County Council.
- 42 Undertake a range of improvements to Aycliffe Nature Park.

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

- 43 Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by:
Organising the election process.
Holding at least 8 meetings a year.
Helping to organise at least 1 project a year.
- 44 Working with other groups to develop community activities to encourage pride in Great Aycliffe.
- 45 Work with partners and assist with initiatives to reduce litter.
- 46 Working in partnership with Network Rail, The Bishop Line and others to adopt Aycliffe Train Station.

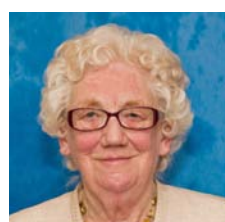
AIM 7 "TO ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY"

- 47 Hold at least 5 Customer Panel meetings with the residents of Great Aycliffe.
- 48 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel.
- 49 Hold a Parish Meeting.
- 50 Hold an Allotment AGM.
- 51 Hold 6 allotment representative meetings.
- 52 Provide information about elections, the need to register to vote, how to become a Councillor, etc, on the Council's website.
- 53 Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services.
- 54 Develop a Welcome Pack for new residents to highlight the facilities provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council.
- 55 Develop a Guide to Town Council Services, setting out the responsibilities of the Town Council and what facilities it provides, along with a list of useful contacts.
- 56 Investigate options for setting up a Senior Citizens' Panel to gather information regarding the needs of our older residents.

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

- 57 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out.
- 58 Undertake benchmarking and research where appropriate for new policies and procedures.
- 59 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

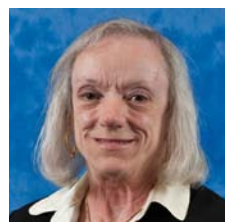


Irene Hewitson
Ind - Tel. 318763



Alison Palmer
Lab - Tel. 07810 170325

WOODHAM NORTH WARD



Barbara A. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



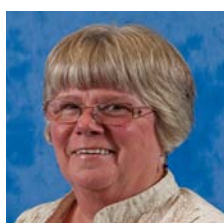
John D. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



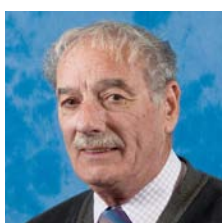
Mary Dalton
Lab - Tel. 320499



Joan Gray
Lab - Tel. 313778



Sandra Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318645



Keith Henderson
Lab - Tel. 319542

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR

WOODHAM SOUTH WARD



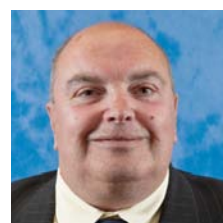
Paul Gittins
Ind - Tel. 317666

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE

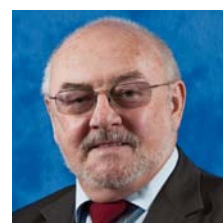


Bill Blenkinsopp
Lib Dem - Tel. 788893

SIMPASTURE WARD



Alan Warburton
Ind - Tel. 315182



Malcolm Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759



William Iveson
Lab - Tel. 312490

WEST WARD



Steve Bambridge
Ind - Tel. 300195



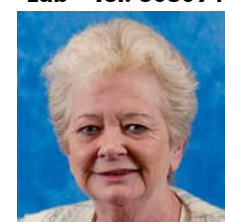
Raymond Bowman
Lab - Tel. 308094



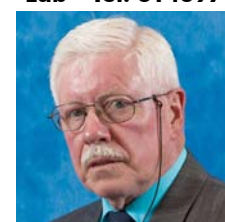
Kate Hopper
Lab - Tel. 314697



George C. Gray
Ind - Tel. 314934

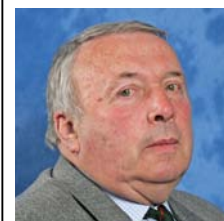


Enid M. Paylor
Lab - Tel. 313697



Bill Curtis
Ind - Tel. 320291

SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S WARD



Robert S. Fleming
Lab - Tel. 310025

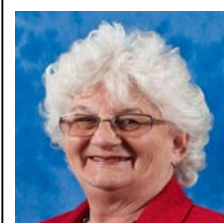


Brian Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318645



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

Judith Simpson
Steven Cooper
Jackie Swainston
Christine Ryder

judith.simpson@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 2011 / 2012

COUNCIL (All Members of the Council)
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Mayor), Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw (Deputy Mayor)
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (24 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors S. Bambridge, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. 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, Mrs. K. Hopper, 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, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. 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, Mrs. K. Hopper, 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, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. 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, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS - (Policy and Resources Committee)
SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)
GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (Members chosen as necessary from Parent Committee)
PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE (9 Members + Mayor OR Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors V. Crosby, B. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, M. Iveson, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and Mrs. V.M. Raw.
APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (9 Members + Mayor OR Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, Mrs. K. Hopper, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and A. Warburton.
AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (6 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, B. Hall, M. Iveson, W. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.
ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP (9 Members)
Councillors J.D. Clare, B. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, K. Henderson, Mrs. K. Hopper and M. Iveson.
CHARGES WORKING GROUP (Chairmen and Vice-Chairman of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees)
Councillors 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 Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor.
SUB-COMMITTEE – (Environment Committee)
PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE(10 Members)
Councillors T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson and A. Warburton.

MAYOR'S ANNUAL EVENTS

The following Civic Dates have now been finalised for the the newly appointed Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton.
Mayor “At Home” - Wednesday, 29th June 2011 at the Council Offices - 2.00 p.m.
Civic Service - Sunday, 24th July 2011 at St. Clare’s Church, Newton Aycliffe - 10.00 a.m.
Charity Golf Tournament - Friday, 9th September 2011 at Oakleaf Golf Complex
Town Community Carol Service - Sunday, 11th December 2011 - Xcel Centre - 2.30 p.m. to 4p.m.
Civic Carol Service - Sunday, 18th December 2011 at St. Clare’s Church - 6 p.m.
Civic Dinner and Dance - Friday, 17th February 2012 - Summerson Suite, Hall Garth Hotel - 7 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2011/12

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

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Table with 2 columns: Date, Topic. Rows list council meetings from May 2011 to April 2012, including Environment, Recreation, Policy & Resources, and Full Council sessions.

* The Recreation Committee will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.
2nd MAY, 2012 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (**)
9th MAY, 2012 - 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).

Table with 7 columns: Surname, Forenames, Title, Total Payment, Allowance, Subsistence, Mileage Claim. Lists allowances for council members from Bambridge to Warburton.

Annual Report on the Council’s Finances 2010/11

1. Introduction

Welcome to the annual report on the Council’s finances. This report sets out a summary of the Council’s spending plans for 2011/12 as represented by the Revenue and Capital Budget and explains how this is funded by the council tax payers of the Parish. The report also provides a summary of the Council’s financial performance in 2010/11 including details of its actual spending and the outcome of the annual audit report from the Audit Commission.

2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to fund all of the services that it provides, to achieve its strategic aims and objectives and address community and local taxpayer needs and priorities. The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget. The **Revenue Budget** funds the **day to day running costs** of the Council’s services such as salaries, supplies and fuel and the net cost after deducting any income receivable to the service from fees and charges and grants is **met from** the Town Council proportion of the **Council Tax**. The **Capital Programme Budget** funds **major one off investment** in the Council’s fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is generally **funded from the Council’s Balances and Reserves** and any external grants and contributions that may be available.

3. 2011/12 Revenue Budget

The development of the 2011/12 Revenue Budget needed to take into account a number of important issues, including:-

- the impact of the current economic climate and public sector spending cuts;
- providing for inflation and any other unavoidable increases in costs;
- accounting for falls in income from fees and charges;
- identifying efficiency savings and potential budget reductions;
- identifying opportunities for increased income or securing external funding;
- considering any required investment in priority services

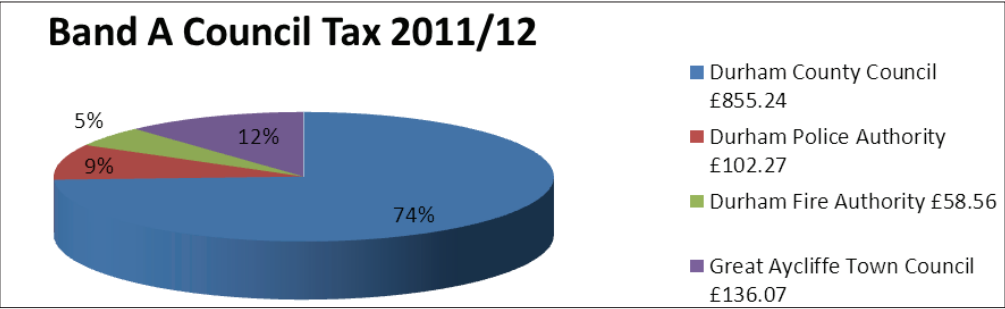
The Council’s revenue spending plans for 2011/12 can be summarised as follows:-

Service Area	2011/12 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	72,600
Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	453,100
Capital Financing Charges	29,650
Pre Schools	249,500
Community Events	151,650
Sports Complex	671,300
Golf Course and Driving Range	240,350
Environment and Open Spaces	116,700
Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	249,050
Works Depot and Street Equipment	146,650
Cemeteries	72,700
Allotments	15,650
Contingency Sum	16,150
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,485,050
Contribution to Capital Reserves	50,000
Total Planned Spending	2,535,050
Less Income	
County Council Funding for Pre-Schools	(165,000)
Double Taxation Grant (Cemeteries and Allotments)	(38,500)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(450,250)
Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(187,400)
Cemeteries and Allotments Fees and Charges	(29,550)
Other Income	(42,500)
Investment Income	(5,000)
Total Income	(918,200)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,616,850

The Council is fortunate in that it does not rely on any grant funding from central government and does not face any direct cuts to its spending. The Council has also been carefully managing its finances for a number of years. **The Council is pleased to report that it achieved a small reduction in the level of its Precept for 2011/12, thereby allowing it to freeze the council tax. It is important to stress that this was achieved without the need to make cuts to front line services or staffing levels.** This was possible largely because there were a number of one off savings available to the Council’s Revenue Budget this year, arising mainly from the officer pay freeze, the repayment of two of the Council’s outstanding loans, the removal of a number of items of one off budget, efficiency savings and reductions in non-essential budgets.

4. 2011/12 Council Tax

As detailed above, the Council’s 2011/12 Precept is £1,616,850 which equates to a Band D Council Tax of £204.10. However a significant proportion of properties in the Great Aycliffe area fall within **Council Tax Band A**, for which the Town Council element of the **Council Tax bill is £136.07 per year or £2.63 a week**. This represented a freeze in the level of Council Tax. The overall Council Tax figure for 2010/11 for Band A properties in the Great Aycliffe area is £1,152.14. The following illustration demonstrates that **only 12p in every £1 of council tax comes to Great Aycliffe Town Council:-**



5. Capital Investment Plans 2011/12

The Council also plans to make investment in community assets next year via its **2011/12 Capital Programme Budget** which has been set at **£351,300**. Capital projects planned for 2011/12 include:-

- Roofing works at the Sports Complex and Stephenson Way Cemetery;
- New Council website;
- Extension of St Oswald’s Allotments;
- Refurbishment of Byerley Park play area;
- Installation of a new toddlers’ play area at the Town Park;
- Creation of new woodland in Woodham Burn;
- Resurfacing of the Sports Complex and Golf Complex access road.

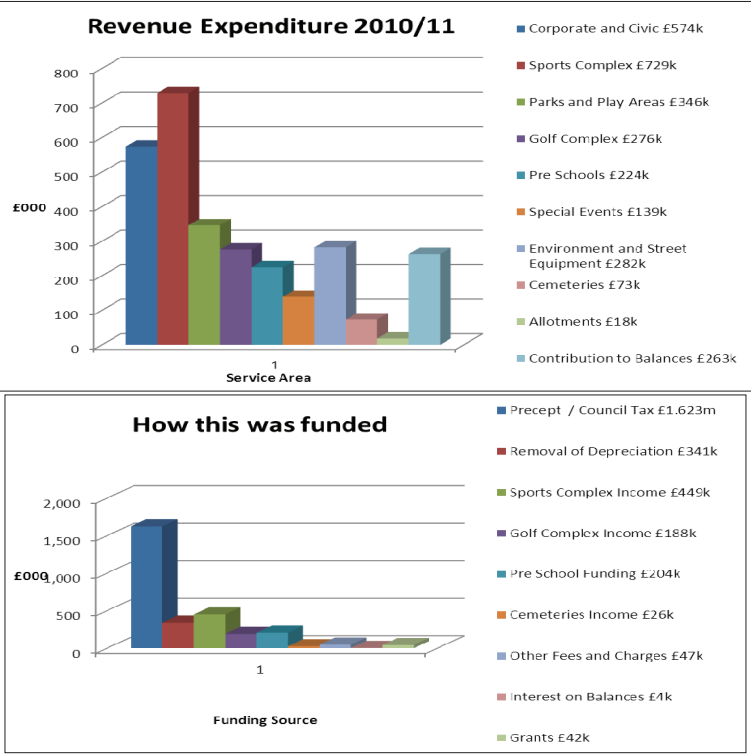
The Capital Programme Budget **will be funded in full from the Council’s Reserves**, as it is not expected that any external funding will be available towards the Council’s capital investment plans.

6. 2009/10 and 2010/11 Actual Spending

A summary of the Council’s actual expenditure in 2009/10 and 2010/11 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2009/10 £	Service Area	2010/11 £
69,755	Members and Civic Expenses	68,188
448,459	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	460,036
44,700	Capital Financing Charges	45,582
235,511	Pre Schools	224,118
136,899	Community Events	139,475
742,612	Sports Complex	728,526
273,990	Golf Course and Driving Range	276,237
340,368	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	346,092
278,154	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	281,448
70,431	Cemeteries	72,739
14,215	Allotments	18,327
10,000	Contingency Sum	-
2,665,094	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,660,767
	Less Income	
(85,019)	Grants	(47,570)
(188,845)	Pre Schools Funding and Fees	(204,297)
(450,927)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(449,192)
(183,081)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(188,030)
(25,953)	Cemeteries Fees	(25,923)
(41,968)	Other Fees and Charges	(41,529)
(2,921)	Investment Income	(3,561)
(978,714)	Total Income	(960,102)
(324,467)	Exclusion of Depreciation Charges	(340,702)
1,361,913	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,359,964
263,587	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	263,036
1,625,500	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,623,000

A graphical summary of the Council’s spending in 2010/11 and how it was funded is shown below:-



7. 2010/11 Capital Investment

A summary of the Council’s capital investment in Council and community assets in 2009/10 and 2010/11, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2009/10 £	Investment Area	2010/11 £
101,980	Council Buildings Works	123,410
76,126	Replacement Vehicles and Machinery	35,000
8,600	CCTV Cameras	-
81,846	Parks and Play Areas Investment	50,530
-	Great Aycliffe Way Improvements	22,745
-	Dance Mat System	15,000
23,077	Office and IT Equipment	23,820
9,578	Other Capital Investment	18,995
301,207	Total Capital Investment	289,500
	Funded by:-	
(44,418)	Capital Contributions	36,905
(256,789)	Use of Council Balances	252,595
(301,207)	Funding of Capital Investment	(289,500)

8. 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 Council is pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the inspection.** This means that the Audit Commission considers that:-

- the Council’s Statement of Accounts presents fairly its financial position;
- it is well managed and governed with sound strategies, policies, procedures, systems and internal controls;
- its finances are in good order;
- it delivers economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money;
- it delivers value for money services to the local community.

All in all, this was a very positive Audit Report for the Council and the Audit Commission commended the Council for the progress it has made over the last few years. This is an excellent achievement and is testament to the hard work and commitment of all councillors, management and staff. It was also recently agreed by the Council that it will continue to seek a greater level of external audit assurance in future years despite a recent change in legislation which would have allowed the Council to move to a ‘limited assurance’ audit regime. As one of the largest Town Councils in the country and one which spends nearly £3 million of local tax payers’ money each year, the Council felt it needed to continue to manage its finances to a higher standard and to seek a greater level of assurance from external auditors in order to demonstrate efficient use of public money. The 2010/11 Audit Letter is due to be received later this year, following the completion of the 2010/11 Audit.