



# Great Aycliffe Town Council

## NEWSLETTER



22nd June 2018

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Email: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) • Website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

### Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Wendy Hillary

This has been a wonderful year for me to represent the Town Council of Great Aycliffe in my role as Mayor. I had the pleasure of attending 90 engagements in addition to the formal civic duties. Meeting so many residents, some of who were celebrating special occasions, is one of the things that I enjoy the most about being the Mayor.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me raise £3,235 for my nominated charity the MRI Scanner Appeal



at Bishop Auckland and Darlington Hospitals.

This annual report provides a brief summary of some key achievements from the past year and an overview of financial information.

### SOME KEY THINGS WE DID LAST YEAR

The Council made capital investment of £185,000 in 2017/18 and the main capital works completed, or nearing completion, are listed below:

- Replacement roller door and separation tank cleaning at the depot.
- External lighting replacement for the driving range.
- Replacement festive lighting (first year of a new rolling programme of full replacement).
- Additional drainage works at Stephenson Way Cemetery.
- Widening of the Town Park access gate
- Further investment at St Oswald's pre-school, changing the office building into a second pre-school setting specifically for two-year olds including an outdoor play area fencing and surfacing.
- Three replacement works vehicles; a multi-use mowing machine, compact tractor and a wood chipper.
- Play area surfacing replacement (first year of a new rolling programme of full replacement).
- Various pieces of leisure equipment.
- Computer replacements and website development.
- New leisure equipment including bubble balls, targets and foam fencing equipment for use at the sports complex;
- On-going programme of footpath repairs.

Further details on the Council's recent capital spending and capital investment plans for the future are provided in the 2018/19 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and the 2018/19 Budget and 2017/18 to 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Plan.

In addition to the capital works the Town Council:

- ✓ achieved £182,000 savings across all service areas;
- ✓ once again achieved a clean bill of health with our finances and received an unqualified audit;
- ✓ provided and managed a wide range of special community events such as Fun-in-the-Parks; Santa Tours, Senior Citizens' Excursions; Christmas Lights; Firework Display and the Aycliffe Festival;
- ✓ assisted and supported other event organisers – 10K race; 3K Fun Run; Remembrance Parade and Community Enhancement Awards;

### A message from the new Mayor, Councillor John Clark

I was honoured to have been elected at the Annual General Meeting on the 16 May 2018 to serve as the Mayor of Newton Aycliffe for the coming year and will endeavour to always promote our great town to the best of my ability, and respect and follow the wishes of the people who have voted for me to represent them on the council.

My aims are to better the town of Newton Aycliffe for the benefit of its residents and the local area.

I have chosen to raise funds for the 'Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group', and will be supported during my year by my Mayoress, Bernardette Moore.

If you would like me to attend any special event or occasion, please contact Sharna Stretch at the Town Council Offices on 300700.

The Capital Programme Budget for 2018/19 totals £444,750 and includes provision for the following planned projects:

- The installation of a diesel fuel tank and dispenser at the depot in order to generate revenue budget savings through the bulk buying of fuel;
- Replacement of St Oswald's Pre-School flooring, installation of a window to the manager's office, and installation of a fire alarm system;
- Various replacement works vehicles and machinery, comprising a pick up vehicle, seven gang mowing unit, 3 golf buggies and golf tees mower;
- Building repairs to Simpasture Pavilion
- The ongoing programme of play area surfacing replacement;
- The installation of a hard standing staging area and path upgrade at the Town Park;
- Hedge removal and replanting at Stephenson Way Cemetery;
- Replacement of St Oswald's Allotments perimeter fence;
- Replenishment of litter and dog bins and public seating stocks;
- Footpath improvements in the Woodham Burn area; and
- Agnew 5 improvements including footpath installation and scrub management works; and
- Aycliffe Angels memorial seating replacement.

We also continue to provide our usual services such as:-

- ✓ An environmental centre at Moore Lane
- ✓ Held another successful Town Pride Environment Week working with the Youth Council, local schools and volunteers
- ✓ Manage 9 parks, all with play equipment and provide additional play areas at Scott Place, School Aycliffe and the Oak Leaf Sport Complex
- ✓ Continue to provide 6 football pitches, Mini-soccer, Rugby pitch and six-a-side pitches
- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Sports Complex - indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children's holidays courses, indoor/outdoor sports activities



- ✓ Continue to run the Oak Leaf Golf Complex - 18 hole golf course and an 18 bay floodlit driving range
- ✓ Continue to provide a limited supply of free dog poo bags
- ✓ Continue our partnership working with Durham County Council
- ✓ Worked with a range of partners to deliver a variety of events and services
- ✓ Manage Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery and provide grounds maintenance and burial service at St Andrew's Churchyard
- ✓ Provision and maintenance of Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden
- ✓ Maintenance of war memorial and flagpole
- ✓ Run a pre-school play setting at St. Oswald's Park - with a 'good' Ofsted rating which now also included provision for 2 year olds.
- ✓ Provide a range of civic events
- ✓ Provide 212 allotment plots in 5 different locations. Including 2 allotment sites with pigeon or poultry facilities
- ✓ Employ a Town Pride Team and a team of Park Patrol Operatives
- ✓ Provide public seats in many locations
- ✓ Provide a number of bus shelters with litter bins
- ✓ Grounds maintenance and environmental management at a number of key sites
- ✓ Assist Aycliffe Youth Council
- ✓ Provide a lorry park
- ✓ Encourage Community Empowerment through Customer Panel, Consultation and Open Days
- ✓ Provide small grants to local voluntary organisations
- ✓ Continue to support the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan
- ✓ Comment on planning applications

### Town Council Targets for 2018 to 2019

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

- 1 Publish a Town Council Service Delivery Plan by 31st May each year.
- 2 Publish an Annual Report.
- 3 Provide an annual member training programme from member requests and the town clerk from his annual appraisal and CPD requirements.
- 4 Develop a recommended training programme for Members which shows highly recommended and recommended courses with a reminder being sent quarterly and records of attendance and none attendance being kept.
- 5 Undertake an annual review of the Council Constitution, Financial Regulations and ensure compliance with current legislation.
- 6 Ensure compliance with GDPR.
- 7 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication making sure each area is targeted at least once.
- 8 Ensure that social media is used to advertise the Council's services and facilities.
- 9 Undertake research where appropriate for new policies and procedures.
- 10 Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required.
- 11 Continue to monitor energy consumption, implement energy saving initiatives and reduce usage where possible.

12 Ensure all staff have an annual appraisal.  
13 To undertake quarterly review of staff sickness and report to performance management group.

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

14 Produce Annual Return by 30th June each year.  
15 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the Annual Return by 30 September 18  
16 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year.  
17 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report quarterly to Audit Sub Committee then to Council.  
18 Manage the financial impact of the localisation of support for council tax (LCTSS) and any future cuts to LCTSS funding.  
19 Quarterly budget control reports are presented to Policy and Resources Committee.  
20 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2019.  
21 Ensure all relevant information is published in compliance with the Transparency Code/Openness of Local Government Regulations.  
22 Deliver the work set out in the Asset Management Plan via the capital programme and ensure that a six monthly review is undertaken with Officers and Member Asset Management Group.  
23 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for buildings, plant and machinery.  
24 To consider the Council's Business Risks every March and minute that the full review has taken place by Council.  
25 Ensure that at least one Service Review is completed each year. Reviews for 2018/19 and will include:

- Oak Leaf Golf Complex
- Oak Leaf Sports Complex

**AIM 3 - TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

26 Deliver the Council's programme of special events:

- Fun in the Parks
- Senior Citizens Trips
- Firework Display
- Santa Letters
- Santa Tours
- Christmas lights

27 Undertake a review of the Santa Tours to ensure volunteers and members of the public are safe and as much, as possible, of the Town has a visit from Santa.  
28 Help co-ordinate and deliver the Aycliffe Festival, providing assistance, financial support if required, training and publicity and undertake a review as soon as possible following the event.  
29 Construct new play area at Cobbler's Hall, subject to lease being completed.  
30 Undertake a review of activity usage and explore the possibility of any new activities that could be implemented at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.  
31 Investigate partnership working with outside bodies including the Sedgfield Sports Partnership.

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

32 Ensure the continuous improvement of the service and obtain at least a 'good' and aiming for 'excellent' Ofsted Inspection.  
33 Ensure all recommendations from the Ofsted Inspection are implemented.

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

34 Works & Environment Manager to arrange to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities.

35 To continue to monitor the health and condition of the trees on Town Council land in line with the tree management policy and undertake a visual tree inspection of a specific area every 6 months to assess the health and condition of the trees.

36 Investigate options to obtain hydrology information on the lakes at West Park and investigate ways and means to implement any recommendations.  
37 Works and Environment Manager to organise and help deliver 15 public countryside events.  
38 Complete at least 5 targeted Himalayan Balsam removing working parties along The Burn.  
39 Identify 2 new areas to be developed as wildflower meadow.  
40 Undertake maintenance and management of specific Durham County Council environmental areas as per the management agreement.  
41 Undertake a limited snow clearing and gritting service for Durham County Council (DCC) as per the winter maintenance agreement for the benefit of residents.  
42 Undertake improvements to the Aycliffe Angels memorial area.  
43 Replace the junior play area at Aycliffe Village.  
44 Complete the improvements to St. Oswald's allotment fencing.  
45 Undertake improvements to the Town Park Skate Park.  
46 Undertake footpath repairs including sections of Woodham Burn.

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

47 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

48 To continue partnership working with DCC and build on the existing initiatives.  
49 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups hold a Town Pride Environment Week.  
50 The Works and Environment Manager and Park Patrol Officers to work with DCC Officers and Police in regard to anti-social behaviour issues.  
51 The Works & Environment Manager and Town Pride Team to work with DCC Officers and Tidy Britain to ensure that the Great Aycliffe Parish has a targeted Anti-Littering campaign.  
52 Work in partnership with residents and friends groups to improve our parks, play areas and environment areas.

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

53 Hold an aims and target meeting each March to discuss progress on existing targets and new targets with the Customer Panel Group.  
54 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel.  
55 To review the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan in 2022.  
56 Hold a Parish Meeting.  
57 Hold an Allotment AGM.  
58 Hold 4 allotment representative meetings.  
59 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**

60 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out.

# MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

30th May 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
30th May 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
6th June 2018	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
13th June 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
11th July 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
11th July 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
18th July 2018	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
25th July 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
5th Sept. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
5th Sept. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
12th Sept 2018	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
19th Sept. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
17th Oct. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
17th Oct. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
24th Oct. 2018	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
31st Oct. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
28th Nov. 2018	Environment	7.15 p.m.
28th Nov. 2018	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
5th Dec. 2018	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
12th Dec. 2018	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
16th Jan. 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
16th Jan. 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
23rd Jan. 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
30th Jan. 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
27th Feb. 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
27th Feb. 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
6th Mar. 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
13th Mar. 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
10th Apr. 2019	Environment	7.15 p.m.
10th Apr. 2019	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
17th Apr. 2019	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
24th Apr. 2019	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

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

**15th MAY, 2019 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.**  
**22nd MAY, 2019 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (\*\*\*)**

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”.  
(\*\*\*) (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).

## OUTSIDE BODIES LIST FOR 2018/19

- (a) **Youth Council**  
Councillors Jim Atkinson and Derek G. Atkinson together with the Corporate and Policy Officer.
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**  
Councillors R.S. Fleming, M. Iveson and the Town Clerk.
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association**  
Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp.
- (d) **Woodham Village Community Association**  
Councillors K. Henderson and B.A. Clare.
- (e) **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Local Councils' Committee**  
Councillors R.S. Fleming, B. Hall and the Town Clerk.
- (f) **Larger Local Councils' Forum**  
Councillors R.S. Fleming and M. Iveson and the Town Clerk.
- (g) **Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society**  
Councillor I. Gray.
- (h) **Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve**  
Councillor I. Gray.
- (i) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**  
Councillor Dave Hardaker.

## GRANTS / DONATIONS

The Council considered applications for Grants and the following were agreed and paid out over the year 2017/18.

• Akari Care Home	£75.00
• Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe	£150.00
• Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group	£52.00
• Great North Air Ambulance	£350.00
Total	£627.00

**CHAIRMAN /**  
**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**  
**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018 / 2019**

**Members on**  
**Committee**

**COUNCIL** (*All Members*) **Councillor John Clark (Mayor), Councillor Mary Dalton (Deputy Mayor)**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** (*27 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*)

Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Derek G. Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, **I. Gray**, George C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, K. Henderson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE** (*27 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*)

Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Derek G. Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, George C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, **B. Hall**, Dave Hardaker, K. Henderson, **Jed Hillary**, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** (*26 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*)

Councillors Eddy Adam, M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Bill Blenkinsopp, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, **R.S. Fleming**, I. Gray, George C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Mrs. I. Hewitson, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, Kate Hopper, **M. Iveson**, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw, Ken Robson, Paul Symons and Sally Symons.

**SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS from the Policy and Resources Committee**

**SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP** (*10 Members*)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Ken Robson.

**GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE** (*Members chosen as necessary from appropriate Committee*)

**MEMBER APPEALS PANEL** (*Members chosen as necessary from Personnel Sub-Committee*)

**PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE** (*15 Members + Mayor as ex-officio*)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, Arun M. Chandran, J. Clark, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and Ken Robson.

**APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE** (*6 Members + Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*) Councillors Eddy Adam, P.J. Bergg, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, George C. Gray, Kate Hopper and Paul Symons.

**AUDIT, RISK & GDPR SUB-COMMITTEE** (*8 Members + Mayor & Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, P.J. Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, George C. Gray, Dave Hardaker, Wendy Hillary, M. Iveson and Mrs. S.J. Iveson.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP** (*11 Members*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Jim Atkinson, P.J. Bergg, Arun M. Chandran, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, Dave Hardaker, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and Paul Symons.

**CHARGES WORKING GROUP** (*Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall, Jed Hillary, and M. Iveson.

**REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE** (*7 Members + Mayor & Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, Jed Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, Mrs. V.M. Raw and Ken Robson.

**PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE** (*5 Members + Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy & Resources & Mayor & Deputy Mayor as ex-officio*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathy Beetham, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. S. Haigh, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Sally Symons.

**SUB-COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUPS from the Recreation Committee**

**GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP** (*5 Members + Chair and Vice-Chair of Recreation*)

Councillors M. Ashcroft, Derek A. Atkinson, Jim Atkinson, R.S. Fleming, B. Hall, Jed Hillary and M. Iveson.

**SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP** (*Members chosen as necessary*)

**HORNDALE PARK SUB-COMMITTEE** (*Chairman & Vice-Chair of Environment, Recreation, Policy and Resources and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor + 2 further members*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Bill Blenkinsopp, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall, Jed Hillary, M. Iveson and Paul Symons.

**EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE** (*8 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor*) Councillors M. Ashcroft, Kathy Beetham, Bill Blenkinsopp, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, Jed Hillary, M. Iveson and Paul Symons.

**SUB-COMMITTEE from the Environment Committee**

**PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE** (*14 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor*)

Councillors Kathy Beetham, P.J. Bergg, Mrs. D. Bowman, Arun M. Chandran, B.A. Clare, J. Clark, Mrs. M. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, George C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, Dave Hardaker, M. Iveson, Ken Robson and Paul Symons.

**MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2017/18 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Surname	Forenames	Title	Total Payment	Allowance
Adam	Edward M.	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Ashcroft	Martin	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Atkinson	Derek George	Mr	£948.55	£948.55
Atkinson	James	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Beetham	Kathryn Sarah		£925.75	£925.75
Bergg	Peter John	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Blenkinsopp	William M.	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Bowman	Dorothy	Mrs	£925.75	£925.75
Chandran	Arun	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Clare	John Duncan	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Clare	Barbara Anne	Mrs	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Clark	John Joseph	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Collinson	Neil	Mr	£111.10	£111.10
Dalton	Maria	Mrs	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Davies	Peter Lewis	Mr	£111.10	£111.10
Fleming	Robert Stuart	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Gray	George C.	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Gray	Ian	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Haigh	Sandra	Mrs	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Hall	Brian	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Hardaker	David Wilson	Mr	£925.75	£925.75
Henderson	Keith	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Hewitson	Irene	Mrs	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Hillary	Wendy P.	Mrs	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Hillary	Jeremy Paul	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Hopper	Catherine M.	Mrs	£925.75	£925.75
Iveson	William	Mr	£111.10	£111.10
Iveson	Sarah Jane	Mrs	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Iveson	Malcolm	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Kjenstad	Paul Einar	Mr	£111.10	£111.10
Raw	Valerie M.	Mrs	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Robson	Kenneth	Mr	£1,036.85	£1,036.85
Symons	Sally AM	Mrs	£925.75	£925.75
Symons	Paul	Mr	£925.75	£925.75
Wheeler	Christopher A.	Mr	£111.10	£111.10

*Any subsistence figures are for Conferences – As per approved Members Allowance Scheme*

*Denotes:- Councillor Allowances from previous 4 years elections (April to 17 May 2017 prior to Council Elections held in May 2017).*

**MEMBERS**  
**ATTENDANCES**

**17th MAY 2017**  
**TO**  
**16th MAY 2018**

Councillor	Att.	Apol.	Poss.
Adam E	32	4	37
Ashcroft M	64	2	67
Atkinson DG	24	6	30
Atkinson J	44	1	45
Beetham K	45	12	58
Bergg PJ	47	12	59
Blenkinsopp W	35	6	41
Bowman Mrs D	36	1	37
Chandran AM	66	0	66
Clare Mrs BA	43	11	59
Clare JD	36	0	37
Clark J	44	11	57
Dalton Mrs M	32	4	41
Fleming RS	52	0	53
Gray GC	57	4	61
Gray I	56	1	57
Haigh Mrs S	48	10	62
Hall B	72	3	76
Hardaker D	55	14	69
Henderson K	13	1	28
Hewitson Mrs I	11	7	18
Hillary JP	64	8	74
Hillary Mrs WP	56	13	70
Hopper K	31	5	37
Iveson M	57	17	77
Iveson Mrs SJ	43	12	55
Raw Mrs VM	41	6	49
Robson K	53	11	64
Symons P	29	0	29
Symons Mrs S	24	6	31

**BYERLEY PARK, HORNDALE & COBBLERS HALL WARD**



**John D. Clare**  
Lab - Tel. 318333



**Ian Gray**  
Lab - Tel. 313770



**Brian Hall**  
Lab - Tel. 314105



**Dorothy Bowman**  
Ind - Tel. 308094



**Irene Hewitson**  
Ind - Tel. 318763



**Peter J. Bergg**  
Lab - 07432 070717

**WOODHAM WARD**



**Barbara A. Clare**  
Lab - Tel. 318333



**Paul Symons**  
Ind - 07496 180442



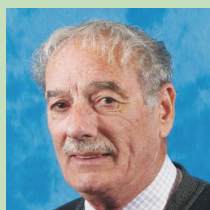
**Mary Dalton**  
Lab - Tel. 320499



**Sally Symons**  
Ind - 07495 705413



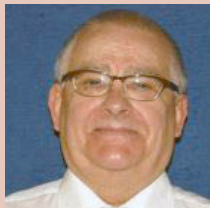
**Sandra Haigh**  
Ind - Tel. 318303



**Keith Henderson**  
Lab - Tel. 319542

**KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR**

**AYCLIFFE CENTRAL WARD**



**Jim Atkinson**  
Lab - Tel. 310791

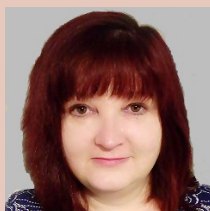
**AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**



**Bill Blenkinsopp**  
Ind - Tel. 788893



**Valerie M. Raw**  
Lab - Tel. 311447



**Kathy Beetham**  
Lab - 07826 258822

**SIMPASTURE WARD**



**David Hardaker**  
Lab - Tel. 314442



**John Clark**  
Lab - 07972 170190

**WEST WARD**



**Eddy Adam**  
Lab - 07900 701966



**Kate Hopper**  
Lab - 07837 917138



**Arun M. Chandran**  
Ind - Tel. 313224



**George C. Gray**  
Ind - Tel. 314934



**Martin Ashcroft**  
Lab - 07811 403986



**Ken Robson**  
Ind - 07443 046804

**SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S WARD**



**Robert S. Fleming**  
Lab - Tel. 310025



**Wendy Hillary**  
Lab - Tel. 313273



**Malcolm Iveson**  
Lab - Tel. 319759



**Derek Atkinson**  
Lab - Tel. 301395

**NEVILLE WARD**



**Jed P. Hillary**  
Lab - Tel. 313273



**Sarah Iveson**  
Lab - Tel. 319759

# Annual Report on the Council's Finances

## 1. Introduction

Welcome to this annual report on the Council's finances which we hope you will find informative and of interest.

This report sets out the Council's spending plans for this year; 2018/19, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's actual income, expenditure and financial performance over the last year; 2017/18.

## 2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to be raised from council tax to fund all of the services it provides for the year ahead.

The Budget covers the financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March.

The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget each year.

The **Revenue Budget** funds the day to day running costs of the Council's services such as salaries and goods and services, and the net cost, after deducting any income receivable from fees and charges and grants, is met from the Town Council proportion of the Council Tax.

The **Capital Budget** funds major one off investment in the Council's fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is funded from the Council's Balances and Reserves and any external grants that may be available.

## 3. 2018/19 Revenue Budget

The 2018/19 Revenue Budget was developed in a way that ensured that services can continue to be provided to current standards this year, whilst recognising the longer term budget pressures faced by the Council, and the need to maintain contingency resources within the Revenue Budget for as long as possible.

Additional budget provision needed to be made for a number of issues including a 10% cut to the Council Tax Support Grant funding, the 2018/19 local government pay award which amounted to a 4.5% increase in the Council's staffing costs, the opening of a new pre-school setting offering places for two year olds, costs linked to complying with the new General Data Protection Regulation, significant falls in sports and golf complex income and inflation on running costs.

However these increases were partly offset by council tax base growth from new housing development, efficiency savings including reduced staffing costs from vacant posts, flexible retirements, reduced working hours and cover, savings from energy efficiency measures across the Council, and a significant increase in pre-school funding following expansion of capacity, an increase in the funding rate, a rise in funded hours, and an improvement in the numbers attending.

In addition, in light of the future financial challenges identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the Council has also taken the decision to increase the Revenue Budget Contingency Sum to £66,000.

These surplus resources will provide protection against any unforeseen budget pressures next year, as well as a means of topping up the Council's balances and reserves if they are not used during the year.

### 2018/19 Revenue Budget Summary

However, most importantly, they provide spare resources within the Revenue Budget which can then be utilised in subsequent years to offset some of the ongoing budget pressures faced and help to restrict future Precept increases.

**In overall terms, the Council's 2018/19 Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept has increased by £117,500 or 8.1%, when compared to the 2017/18 Precept, from £1,453,500 to £1,571,000.**

This increase has been agreed in order to ensure that all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe next year, whilst continuing to provide a firm foundation, and some surplus resources, to meet the financial challenges, spending commitments and funding cuts that lie further ahead.

The following table provides a summary of the Council's 2018/19 spending plans:-

## 4. 2018/19 Council Tax

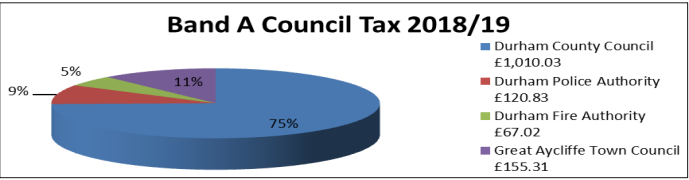
**The 2018/19 Band D Town Council Tax is £232.97 per year.**

**This represented an increase of 4.99% on the 2017/18 Council Tax.**

However, it is important to note that more than half of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and therefore pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax.

**The 2018/19 Band A Council Tax is £155.31 per year which equates to £13 per month or £3 per week. This is an increase of £7 per year or 62p per month.**

A breakdown of the 2018/19 Council Tax is shown here, demonstrating that **11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council.**



## 5. 2018/19 Capital Programme Budget

The Council will continue to make capital investment in order to deliver the Council's Asset Management Plan and invest in community assets.

**The Capital Programme Budget for 2018/19 currently stands at £429,750** and includes provision for building works, replacement works vehicles and machinery, computer hardware, footpath and play area safety surface repairs, a new park in Cobblers Hall, a new play area at Aycliffe Village and the replacement of the Town Park Skate Park.

**The Capital Programme Budget will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves and external capital grants and contributions.**

## 6. Council Balances and Earmarked Reserves

**The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.265 million at the 31st March 2018.** This is better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget last year, as well the receipts from a land sale, and lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget.

2016/17 £	Service Area	2017/18 £
62,944	Members and Civic Expenses	56,937
384,991	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	400,611
1,318	Neighbourhood Plan	-
30,478	Capital Financing Charges	31,290
146,491	St Oswald's Pre School	149,132
114,542	Community Events	114,832
638,365	Sports Complex	661,775
237,728	Golf Course and Driving Range	256,211
207,915	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	197,239
241,772	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	273,036
85,995	Cemeteries	81,804
23,989	Allotments	21,846
7,999	Contingency Sum	745
7,376	Elections	17,479
<b>2,191,903</b>	<b>Total Cost of Running Council Services</b>	<b>2,262,937</b>
	<b>Less Income</b>	
(220,765)	Council Tax Support Grant	(191,733)
(96,628)	Pre Schools Funding and Fees	(132,949)
(416,771)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(398,527)
(179,883)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(180,107)
(35,473)	Cemeteries Fees	(32,295)
(6,248)	Allotments Rents	(6,896)
(24,340)	Other Income	(27,328)
(8,694)	Use of Balances (Elections and Neighbourhood Plan)	(17,479)
(5,375)	Investment Income	(4,160)
<b>(994,177)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(991,474)</b>
<b>1,197,726</b>	<b>Actual Net Cost of Council Services</b>	<b>1,271,463</b>
<b>213,424</b>	<b>Contribution to Council Balances / Savings</b>	<b>182,037</b>
<b>1,411,150</b>	<b>Council Precept / Council Tax</b>	<b>1,453,500</b>

This is considered to be an adequate level of reserves to fund capital spending commitments for the foreseeable future and to provide some protection against future revenue budget pressures and possible cuts to funding.

## 7. 2016/17 and 2017/18 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2016/17 and 2017/18 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

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 and, as can be seen above, this prudent management of the Council's spending has resulted in significant savings being achieved in both 2016/17 and 2017/18.

**Spending in 2017/18 was £182,000 or 12.5% under the level of Precept** and this saving was made up of the inclusion in the Revenue Budget of the £25,000 contribution to Earmarked Capital Reserves, as well as efficiency savings, increased income and other under spending on the Revenue Budget of £157,000.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget will be set aside in the Council's Earmarked Reserves to provide for further investment in Council and community assets for the benefit of the tax payers of Great Aycliffe over the coming years.

## 8. 2016/17 and 2017/18 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2016/17 and 2017/18, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed here:-

2016/17 £	Investment Area	2017/18 £
42,693	Council Building Works and Improvements	22,235
45,054	Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	140,014
19,500	Information Technology and Office Equipment	9,712
80,179	Parks and Play Area Improvements	8,717
30,153	Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Footpaths)	3,065
3,478	Street Equipment (Bus Shelters, Bins, Fencing)	1,050
<b>221,057</b>	<b>Total Capital Investment</b>	<b>184,793</b>
	<b>Funded by:-</b>	
24,500	Capital Contributions	-
196,557	Use of Council Balances	184,793
<b>221,057</b>	<b>Funding of Capital Investment</b>	<b>184,793</b>

## 9. Annual Audit Report

The Council completes an Annual Return each year comprising its Accounting Statements, Annual Governance Statement and Internal Auditors Report.

The Annual Return is reviewed by the Council's external auditors and an opinion is provided on whether the Council has prepared the accounts and governance statement in accordance with statutory requirements and proper practices for town and parish councils.

**The Council is pleased to report that the external auditors did not raise any issues of concern in respect of the 2016/17 Annual Return.**

The 2016/17 Audited Annual Return to the Council is available to view at the Council Offices or on the Council's website.