



Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER

June 2022

T: 01325 300700 • E: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • W: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



In Search of Community Heroes

Do you know a Local Hero?

Do you know someone who dedicates their time to improving the welfare of residents of Great Aycliffe or raising the profile of the parish through charity work, fundraising, environmental work, outstanding sport, art or cultural contributions?

Great Aycliffe Town Council is launching its new Community Recognition and Awards Scheme, which aims to recognise the often-unsung heroes of the local community. Parish residents are invited to nominate individuals whom they feel are deserving of this award. Nominations will be considered by the Council and successful nominees will be invited to a Council meeting and presented with a Community Recognition Scheme Certificate and Local Hero Medal by the Mayor.

Nominations may be made at any time throughout the year and will be reported to the next available meeting of the Council for consideration.

Full details of the scheme, nomination criteria and a nomination form are available on request to info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or via the Council's website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Message from the Outgoing Mayor, Cllr Mrs Sandra Haigh

"It has been an honour to serve the town as Mayor, we have seen a lot of change over the last twelve months, with things starting to re-open as normal.

It was wonderful to be able to take part in over 50 engagements including many formal civic duties and meeting so many of our residents and sharing in their special occasions. Fundraising was part of many of my events and I was pleased to present a cheque for £2115 for my chosen charity Children's Blessing's at the Annual Meeting on 18th May. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to these events and wish the new Mayor, Councillor Ken Robson success for his forthcoming year".



75th Celebrations

Newton Aycliffe will be 75 years old next year.

The Town Council is planning a display of photographs and memorabilia as part of the birthday celebrations and would like your help. Do you have any old photographs or memorabilia depicting events on the town – such as royal visits, Silver Jubilee street party celebrations, the carnival, community events, construction or opening of buildings or shops? Anything of nostalgic or historic interest.

If you have anything at all that you would like to donate, or memories to share, please contact: Amanda Donald, Corporate & Policy Officer at the Town Council.

Tel: 01325 300700 or email Amanda.

Donald@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

2021-22 Donations

Durham Constabulary (Bike Lights) £400

Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society £380

Aycliffe Beekeepers Association £659

Catherine Lenahan £600

Neville Community Association £760

Junction 7 Summer Event £1000

Neville Parade Community Centre £2000

Oakleaf Golf Club £400

Rotary Newton Aycliffe £200

The Friendship Club Newton Aycliffe £500

Sedgefield District 75 Swimming Club £4995

Aycliffe Squash Club £240

Aycliffe Tri Club £3700

Veterans Community Hub £3597

Acle Scout Group £600

Shine Community Choir £170

Woodham Village Community Assoc. £2000

Cyclocross TBC

Junction 7 Food Festival £1000

Community Spirit £1000

Message from the New Mayor, Cllr Ken Robson



I am honoured to be elected Mayor of Great Aycliffe for this year and I am looking forward to getting out and about visiting residents and communities around the town to celebrate your special occasions.

My chosen charities are Together 21 based at the Pioneering Care Partnership who provide support and activities for children and young people with Down Syndrome and Wishing Well (Gateway Club) who promote and provide leisure and social opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

If you would like me to come along to your event, please contact the Council offices on 01325 300700.

Town Council Meetings

01 June 2022	Environment	30 November	Recreation
01 June	Recreation	07 December	Policy and Resources
08 June	Policy and Resources	14 December	Full Council
15 June	Full Council	11 January 2023	Environment
13 July	Environment	11 January	Recreation
13 July	Recreation	18 January	Policy and Resources
20 July	Policy and Resources	25 January	Full Council
27 July	Full Council	01 March	Environment
07 September	Environment	01 March	Recreation
07 September	Recreation	08 March	Policy and Resources
14 September	Policy and Resources	15 March	Full Council
21 September	Full Council	12 April	Environment
19 October	Environment	12 April	Recreation
19 October	Recreation	19 April	Policy and Resources
25 October	Policy and Resources	26 April	Full Council
02 November	Full Council	AGM Wednesday 17 May	
30 November	Environment	Parish Meeting Wednesday 24 May	

All meetings start at 7.15pm, Recreation Committee follows Environment Meeting

Annual Report

The Town Council has strived to support the community throughout the difficult times during and after the pandemic, keeping the vast majority of our services, running as close to normal as possible under the restrictions, and re-opening our sports complex and driving range as soon as the regulations allowed.

The Council also set up a COVID-19 Recovery Fund using some of the money saved as a result of the cancellation of the community events during 2020 and 2021. Beneficiaries of the Covid-19 Recovery Fund included:-

- Enhanced Senior Citizens' Trips and Fun in the Parks Events

- Funding of investigatory surveys in relation to the possible establishment of a woodland burials site adjacent to West Cemetery

- A COVID Recovery Grants Fund which has given many local community organisations and charities the opportunity to access funds to help them deal with the financial losses suffered as a result of the pandemic. More than £15,000 has been allocated from this fund to a total of seven local organisations.

The Town Council will face significant challenges over the coming years as it deals with likely funding cuts and budget pressures as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis with inflationary pressures causing particular strain on the Council's Revenue Budget.

The Council will need to review the services it currently offers and how they are delivered to ensure that they are providing the best value for money possible and that the services, align with community needs and priorities.

• What we do

The Town Council takes great pride in the green environment of the town and provides a number of services in support of this. This includes the provision of:-

• Allotments

The Town Council provides over 200 allotments including facilities for keeping pigeons and poultry as well as beekeeping plots at specific allotments sites located at:

- o Clarence Chare
- o Finchale Road
- o St. Oswald's
- o Aycliffe Village and
- o Byerley Park
- Cemeteries

The Town Council provides, maintains and undertakes burial services at its two cemeteries at West Cemetery and Stephenson Way. We also provide a burial service for St. Andrews Church in Aycliffe Village.

• Grounds Maintenance

The Town Council undertakes grounds maintenance e.g. the provision of flower beds, grass cutting and tree planting and maintenance, on all Council owned land and facilities.

- Environment and Green Open Space

The Town Council runs the Environment Centre at Moore Lane and runs a programme of environment events.

We also carry out environmental management of a number of nature and conservation areas including the Great Aycliffe Way and other green open space across the Parish including the Great Aycliffe Way, Woodham Burn, South Agnew Plantation, Cobbler's Hall Plantation, Simpasture Railway Walk, Aycliffe Nature Park, School Aycliffe Wetlands and Byerley Park Nature Area.

The Town Council is also the custodian of Aycliffe Village Greens.

We also assist a number of community groups such as local scout, guides, and Friends groups.

The Town Council has also declared a Climate Emergency and is working towards reducing its carbon footprint and becoming carbon neutral.

• Street Equipment

The Town Council provides public seating, bus shelters, litter, and dog bins on Town Council owned land.

Leisure facilities and community events have formed a major part of the Council's service provision over the years. This includes the provision of:-

• Parks and Play Areas

The Town Council owns and operates eight very different parks, all with their own character. These are found around the town at:

- o Moore Lane Park
- o St. Oswald's Park
- o Town Park
- o Horndale Park
- o Simpasture Park
- o West Park
- o Byerley Park
- o Woodham Park

We provide modern and well-maintained play equipment at all of these parks, as well as specific play areas at the following sites:

- o Oakleaf Sports Complex
- o School Aycliffe
- o Aycliffe Village
- o Scott Place
- o Cobbler's Hall

The Town Council also provides five multi-use games areas at Moore Lane, Simpasture, Horndale, Woodham and Cobbler's Hall, as well as a skate park in the Town Park, a scoot track at Horndale Park and a BMX track at Woodham Park.

The Park Patrol Service provides an out of hours service to monitor and safeguard the Council's assets and its users.

• Oak Leaf Sports Complex

The Oak Leaf Sports Complex provides an indoor bowls green, a multi-use sports hall, four squash courts, function room and bar and catering facilities.

The sports complex is also home to an indoor bowls club, squash club, running club and archery club, and provides a number of coaching and activity sessions for both adults and children, including an activity programme for children during school holidays.

In recent years, a programme of events has been developed at the sports complex including school sports events, steam punk/sci-fi events, MMA events, dog shows and craft fairs.

• Oak Leaf Golf Complex

The Council also manages and operates the Oak Leaf Golf Complex, comprising an eighteen-hole golf course, 18-bay floodlit driving range, golf shop and changing rooms.

• Football Pitches

The Town Council provides eight football pitches, including junior football and six a side pitches at three sites:

- o Sports Complex
- o Simpasture and
- o Moore Lane

• Community Events

The Town Council runs a series of annual community events including:

- o Senior Citizens' Excursions
- o Fireworks Display
- o Fun in the Parks
- o Santa Tours / Letters
- o Christmas Lighting Display

We also provide financial support to events

run by local organisations including the following events:

- o Remembrance Day Parade
- o Cyclocross Event
- o Junior Cross Country Race
- o Tri-Golf Schools Event
- o Food and Craft Fair

Other services provided by the Town Council include:-

• Pre-School Learning Centres

The Town Council provides a Pre-School Learning Centre located in St. Oswald's Park which is currently registered for 40 places for 3-year-olds.

It also provides a setting for two-year olds called 'Tots in the Park', offering 12 places, morning and afternoon, 5 days per week.

• Grants and Donations Fund

The Town Council operates a grants and donations fund offering financial support to community organisations and local charities

• Youth Council

The Council operates a Youth Council offering local school children the opportunity to get involved in local politics.

• Civic Events

The Town Council hold a number of civic events including Mayor's at Home and the Annual Civic Ball.

2021/22 Allowances

Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council's Elected Members during the financial year 2021/22 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.

Adam, Edward	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Armstrong, Tony	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Ashcroft, Martin	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Aston, Lindsey	£ 414.33	£ 414.33
Atkinson, James	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Bergg, Peter	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Bowman, Dorothy	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Chandran, Arun	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Clare, John	£ 746.82	£ 746.82
Clare, Barbara	£1,024.74	£1,024.74
Clark, John	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Collinson, Neil	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Fleming, Robert	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Gray, George	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Gray, Ian	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hall, Brian	£ 635.99	£ 635.99
Haigh, Brian	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Haigh, Sandra	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hardaker, David	£ 635.99	£ 635.99
Hawkins, Phillip	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Hill, Andrew	£ 414.33	£ 414.33
Hillary, Jed	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hillary, Wendy	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Hopper, Catherine	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Jones, Joanne	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Jones, Neville	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Miller, Andrea	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Moore, John	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Robinson, Carl	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Robson, Kenneth	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Shelton, Maureen	£1,190.14	£1,190.14
Stead, Michael	£1,300.97	£1,300.97
Woodward, John	£ 414.33	£ 414.33
Dalton, Maria	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Raw, Valerie	£ 88.30	£ 88.30
Iveson, Sarah	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Iveson, Malcolm	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Blenkinsopp, William	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Hewitson, Irene	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Atkinson, Derek	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Symons, Sally	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Symons, Paul	£ 110.83	£ 110.83
Beetham, Kathryn	£ 110.83	£ 110.83

Annual Report

on Council's Finances 2021/22

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; 2022/23, whilst also providing a summary of the Council's actual income, expenditure, and financial performance over the last year; 2021/22.

2. 2022/23 Revenue Budget

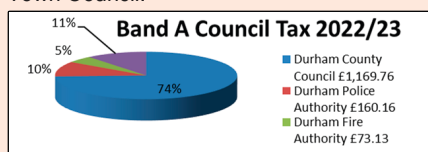
The 2022/23 Revenue Budget was prepared on the basis of 'business as usual' for the new financial year, following another uncertain and challenging year with the Coronavirus pandemic. It was also developed on the principle of continuing to provide all Council services, facilities and events and maintaining current standards of service, 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 and address the forecast depletion in the level of the Council's balances and reserves. Additional budget provision needed to be made for a number of issues including substantial increases in insurance premiums, significant increases in relation to electricity and gas costs, increases in staffing cost including a local government pay award and an increase in the employers national insurance contributions as well as ongoing unavoidable inflationary increases. However these increases were partly offset by council tax base growth, in addition to this, the Council Tax Support Grant settlement for 2022/23 saw a year on year increase in funding. The overall effect of these changes resulted in the 2022/23 Revenue Budget being approved on the basis of an increase of 1.99% in the Town Council Tax. In overall terms, the Council's 2022/23 Net Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept has increased by £49,369 or 2.9%, from £1,697,500 in 2021/22 to £1,746,869 in 2022/23. In overall terms, the proposed 2022/23 Revenue Budget is considered to be a robust and prudently set budget, that will ensure all services can continue to be provided to the standard expected by the residents of Great Aycliffe during the year, continue to provide a firm foundation and some surplus resources to meet the increase in running costs that lie further ahead, and allow the Council to continue to replenish its balances and reserves moving forward.

2022/23 Revenue Budget Summary

Service Area	2022/23 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	72,600
Finance Section	91,050
Administration Section	76,650
Corporate Section	272,750
St Oswald's Pre Schools	270,150
Works	179,100
Depot	35,250
Capital Financing Charges	25,900
Community Events	228,100
Sports Complex	763,100
Sports Pitches	21,600
Golf Course	220,800
Driving Range and Golf Shop	141,350
Parks and Play Areas	209,950
Environment and Open Spaces	101,200
Street Equipment	8,050
Cemeteries and Church Works	110,450
Allotments	30,950
Contingency Sum	11,950
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,870,950
Capital Programme Investment in Council Assets	280,600
Contribution to Capital Reserves	50,000
Total Planned Revenue and Capital Spending	3,201,550
Less Income	
Council Tax Support Grant	(191,681)
Pre-School Funding and Fees	(211,700)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(405,150)
Golf Course Fees and Charges	(144,300)
Driving Range and Golf Shop Fees and Charges	(130,250)
Cemeteries and Church Works Fees and Charges	(57,900)
Allotments Fees and Charges	(7,600)
Feed in Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(12,000)
Other Income	(11,000)
Investment Income	(2,000)
Total Income	(1,174,081)
Less Use of Council Balances - Capital Programme	(280,600)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,746,869

3. 2022/23 Council Tax

The 2022/23 Band D Town Council Tax is £255.06 per year. This represents a 1.99% increase on the 2021/22 Council Tax. However, it is important to note that around 60% of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax. The 2022/23 Band A Council Tax is £170.04 per year which equates to around £14 per month. A breakdown of the 2022/23 Council Tax is shown below demonstrating that 11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council:-



4. 2022/23 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 2022/23 currently stands at £280,600. The budget includes provision for various building works, replacement works vehicles and machinery, information technology improvements, footpath repairs, play area safety surfacing replacement and provision to drain and repair West Park Lakes. There were a large number of delayed capital projects in 2021/22, totalling £279,000, which have been carried forward to 2022/23. The Capital Programme Budget will be funded from the Council's Earmarked Capital Reserves which are set aside for this purpose.

5. Council Balances & Earmarked Reserves

The Council's Balances and Earmarked Reserves stood at £1.662 million at the 31st March 2022. This is much better than anticipated and is as a result of the savings delivered on the Council's Revenue Budget and lower than expected spending on the Capital Programme Budget last year.

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. During 2022/23 it is anticipated that Balances and Reserves will fall to £1.040 million as a result of commitments including carry forward requirements from 2021/22, funding of the 2022/23 capital programme, and contribution to reserves from the 2022/23 Revenue Budget.

6. 2020/21 and 2021/22 Actual Revenue Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2020/21 and 2021/22 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2020/21 £	Service Area	2021/22
60,764	Members and Civic Expenses	64,232
75,951	Finance Section	81,039
98,134	Administration Section	66,628
250,376	Corporate Section	300,484
246,134	St Oswald's Pre Schools	242,829
117,371	Works and Depot	165,662
28,789	Depot	31,321
28,908	Capital Financing Charges	26,159
65,359	Community Events	116,371
457,708	Sports Complex	599,918
17,128	Sports Pitches	18,525
197,799	Golf Course	212,338
108,875	Driving Range and Golf Shop	136,782
124,726	Parks	141,153
50,409	Play Areas	61,319
100,550	Environment and Open Spaces	93,524
5,393	Street Equipment	8,733
110,267	Cemeteries	92,406
9,250	Church Works	12,500
33,691	Allotments	30,032
0	Contingency Sum	4,377
2,185,582	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,506,332
Less Income		
(165,036)	Council Tax Support Grant	(184,992)
(242,163)	Pre School Funding and Fees	(229,433)
(57,397)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(306,312)
(125,859)	Golf Course Fees and Charges	(133,461)
(53,749)	Driving Range Fees and Charges	(131,818)
(118,043)	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Funding	(39,198)
(27,525)	COVID Funding	
(56,086)	Cemeteries Fees	(49,320)
(7,374)	Allotments Rents	(7,664)
(8,587)	Other Income	(13,477)
(8,837)	Investment Income	(424)
(12,213)	Feed in Tariff Income from Solar Panels	(12,325)
(880,869)	Total Income	(1,108,424)
1,304,713	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,373,707
412,787	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	323,793
1,717,500	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,697,500

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.

Spending in 2021/22 was £323,793 or 19% under the level of Precept. The main reasons for this saving were the budgeted contribution to capital reserves, limited use of the contingency sum, staff savings due to vacant posts, savings due to the Coronavirus pandemic as a result of a number of cancelled events, lower spending during the COVID restriction periods, a significant increase in golf shop sales and an increase in pre-school funding and fees.

All savings achieved on the Revenue Budget are 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.

7. 2020/21 and 2021/22 Actual Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2020/21 £	Investment Area	2021/22 £
18,128	Council Building Works and Improvements	57,094
51,521	Replacement Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment	84,718
12,523	Information Technology and Office Equipment	7,753
8,308	Parks and Play Area Improvements	54,451
1,540	Infrastructure Works (Drainage, Footpaths)	41,782
7,355	Street Equipment (Bus Shelters, Seats, Bins, Fencing)	17,301
99,375	Total Capital Investment	263,099
Funded by:-		
99,375	Use of Council Balances	206,151
-	External Funding	56,948
99,375	Funding of Capital Investment	263,099

8. Annual Return and External 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. The Council is pleased to report that the external auditors did not raise any issues of concern in respect of the 2020/21 Annual Return. The 2020/21 Audited Annual Return to the Council is available to view at the Council Offices or on the Council's website, along with the 2021/22 Unaudited Annual Return.

2021/22 Attendances

Councillor	Att	Apols	Poss
Adam, Edward	40	3	42
Armstrong, Tony	34	5	39
Ashcroft, Martin	54	2	56
Aston, Lindsey	4	0	4
Atkinson, James	36	3	39
Bergg, Peter	31	16	48
Bowman, Dorothy	24	12	45
Chandran, Arun	54	1	55
Clare, John	15	2	17
Clare, Barbara	18	9	27
Clark, John	30	12	50
Collinson, Neil	23	11	35
Fleming, Robert	48	6	54
Gray, George	46	0	47
Gray, Ian	42	2	44
Hall, Brian	6	4	10
Haigh, Brian	44	6	51
Haigh, Sandra	39	11	52
Hardaker, David	17	1	18
Hawkins, Phillip	32	19	51
Hill, Andrew	8	0	10
Hillary, Jed	33	7	40
Hillary, Wendy	19	21	40
Hopper, Katherine	31	4	35
Jones, Joanne	26	4	30
Jones, Neville	29	4	33
Miller, Andrea	13	23	38
Moore, John	28	9	38
Robinson, Carl	54	1	56
Robson, Kenneth	47	2	49
Shelton, Maureen	12	17	31
Stead, Michael	44	8	55
Woodward, John	6	0	6
Woodward, A	1	0	1

Aims and Targets - 2022-2023

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

Publish a Town Council Service Delivery Plan by the end of June each year.
Publish an Annual Report.
Provide an annual training programme for the Town Clerk from his annual appraisal and CPD requirements.
Maintain a training programme for Members which shows recommended courses with a regular reminder sent and records of attendance and non-attendance kept.
Annually
Develop and provide an annual training programme for the staff within each service area, informed by the annual appraisal process.
Undertake an annual review of the Council Constitution, Financial Regulations and ensure compliance with current legislation.
Ensure compliance with GDPR.
Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication making sure each area is targeted at least once.
Ensure that social media is used to advertise the Council's services and facilities.
Undertake research where appropriate for new policies and procedures.
Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to council as and when required.
Continue to monitor energy consumption, implement energy saving initiatives and reduce usage where possible.
Ensure all staff have an annual appraisal.
To undertake quarterly review of staff sickness and report to service managers.
Complete review of electronic filing system and implement improvements to enable upgrade of the Council's main server and transferring data to 'the cloud'.
Continue to implement any Government guidance and recommendations regarding Coronavirus to ensure the safety of staff, members, and public.
Monitor and enhance Cyber Security arrangements in conjunction with TSG
Complete a programme of new Member Induction Training to cover all service areas, roles, and responsibilities.
Continue to review and reduce the Council's use of single use plastic.
Officers liaise with CDALC, NALC, DCC and Genex Consultancy to discuss progressing the Council's climate change response
Officers begin the process of factoring in the possible additional capital costs of tackling climate change in the next update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan

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

Produce Annual Return by 30th June each year.
Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the Annual Return by 30th September each year.
Ensure the Medium-Term Financial Plan is approved by 31st July each year.
Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report quarterly to Audit Sub Committee then to Council.
Manage the financial impact of any cuts to LCTSS funding.
Quarterly budget control reports are presented to P&R Committee.

Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2023.

Ensure all relevant information is published in compliance with the Transparency Code/ Openness of Local Government Regulations.
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.
Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register including the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for buildings, plant, and machinery.
To consider the Council's Business Risks every March and minute that the full review has taken place by Council.
Ensure that at least one Service Review is completed each year.

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

Deliver the Council's programme of special events:-
Platinum Jubilee
Fun in the Parks
Senior Citizens' Excursions
Firework Display
Sk8t Fest
Santa Letters
Christmas Lights
Santa Tours
Town's 75th Anniversary
Develop and provide an improved and enhanced yearly programme of events, including new events.
Continue to diversify, improve, enhance, and increase the number of events and activities offered within the Sports Complex.
Partner with outside bodies including Wellbeing for Life
Officers to carry out feasibility study on refurbishment of Simpature Pavilion
Sports Complex Service Review to be completed

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

Ensure the continuous improvement of the service and obtain at least a 'good' and aiming for 'excellent' Ofsted Inspection
Ensure that all staff undertake all relevant training and that any new staff receive Special Educational Needs training.

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

Works and Environment Manager to arrange to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities by helping to deliver 15 public countryside events
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
Investigate options and costings for the drainage and repair of West Park lakes
Complete at least 5 targeted Himalayan Balsam removing working parties along The Burn
Undertake maintenance and management of specific Durham County Council environmental areas as per the management



agreement

Proactively monitor Ash Dieback Disease and remove diseased trees as necessary
To undertake maintenance and management of the former Elmfield School site, subject to a lease being agreed with Durham County Council.

Work with Great Aycliffe Gardeners' Guild to establish a Gardeners' Guild at Clarence Chare Allotments

Complete a feasibility study into possible woodland burial site at West Cemetery
Carry out repairs to St Oswald's play area safety surface
Carry out programme of footpath inspections on Town Council owned land

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

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
To continue partnership working with DCC and build on the existing initiatives.
Work with the Youth Council, DCC Officers, Tidy Britain, schools, community, and voluntary groups to hold a Town Pride Environment Week, incorporating an anti-litter campaign.
The Works and Environment Manager and Park Patrol Officers to work with DCC Officers and Police in regard to anti-social behaviour issues.
Work in partnership with residents and friends' groups to improve our parks, play areas and environment areas.
Work with Newton Aycliffe Police to address anti-social behaviour issues

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

Undertake a budget setting and aims and targets consultation using social media or other suitable platforms.
To review the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan in 2022.
Hold a Parish Meeting
Hold an Allotment AGM
Hold a minimum of 4 allotment representative meetings
Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services with an aim to establish priorities.
Make better use of social media to engage with resident and undertake consultations
Re-engage with community groups and organisations following prolonged Covid restrictions.

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

Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out.