

1. Chairman of Surrey County Council – Award winners

I am pleased to advise that the outstanding voluntary work undertaken by Dr P Cragg and Mr T Cater have been recognised by the Chairman of Surrey County Council. Both men will receive their award at a ceremony to be held on 10 April 2019.

2. Traveller Encampments

As a result of a public consultation undertaken last year, the Government has announced plans to give police tough new powers to crackdown on illegal traveller sites.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-plans-to-tackle-illegal-traveller-sites>

3. Surrey Police – Crime rates

There has been a downward trend in crime with the Parish of Worplesdon having one of the lowest number of offences in Guildford per population.

In 2017 – 627 crimes were committed in the Parish. In 2018 this had fallen to 588.

The Police Crime Commissioner carried out a public consultation seeking public support to increase the police precept by 10%. This represented a small proportion of the overall council tax @ 50p per week. This will enable 100 new police officers to be appointed. Three quarters of the respondents agreed with the proposal.

4. Council Tax – County Council element

Overall the County Council element of the council tax will increase by 2.99%. In this financial year, the County Council has been successful in saving £100m, consequently the Council was not required to call upon its £20m reserves.

In 2019/2020 the County Council is required to save a further £85m.

5. Potential Closure of four smaller Community Recycling Centres (CRC)

The decision to consider closing four smaller CRCs is currently on hold. The Government is currently consulting on the National Waste Recycling Strategy. Rather than close sites now, the County Council has deferred the decision to see if these CRCs can be kept open and if so in what capacity.

6. Rate Support Grant

I previously advised of the Government's proposal to introduce a negative rate support grant, which would have resulted in the County Council paying the Government £17m from council tax.

This was resisted by the County Council and subsequently cancelled by the Government. So the County Council was no worse off.

7. Business Rate Retention Scheme

A Business Rate Retention Pilot Scheme was introduced this financial year. This resulted in a saving of £20m with a further £8m being saved across the 11 borough councils. This will not be the case in 2019/2020.