

Newsletter

Parish Newsletter – w/c 4 March 2019

Budget agreed for 2019/2020

Budget proposals for 2019/20 detailing how Wiltshire Council is planning for a growth in the demand of its services have been agreed by councillors.

Before being discussed at full council on 26 February, the budget was reviewed by overview and scrutiny committee and endorsed by cabinet. As part of the agreed budget, councillors approved a 2.99% rise in council tax, for 2019/20.

A key focus is to ensure a strong sustainable financial base exists in these challenging times for all public sector organisations.

There will be a steady growth in Wiltshire Council's budget of around £10M per year rising from £332m to £371m over the next five years. However, the demand for services continues to grow, especially in social care, at a higher rate than the current budget. This means strong financial planning is vital, as well as a programme of transformation, digitisation and commercialisation.

The budget reflects increasing demand for care for the vulnerable, including adults and children with complex care needs and special educational needs, and the delay in the Government determining a new fairer funding settlement.

Over the next year the council will spend almost £332 million on more than 350 services. Spending plan proposals are aligned to our key priorities; growing the economy, strong communities, protecting those who are most vulnerable, and working with partners as an innovative and effective council.

Among many other services, the budget includes continuing to develop the recently transformed adult social care services to respond to increased demand, the continued devolution of assets and services to local communities, and creating a new local plan for effective and strategic planning to ensure homes, jobs and infrastructure needs of Wiltshire communities can be met.

With investment from both a Government grant and Wiltshire Council, money will be spent to revitalise and support towns and rural communities to deliver a more locally driven street scene service. This will see a 12-month programme to deliver improvements to local highway maintenance including repair of potholes, white lining, weed removal, kerb and pavement improvements, verge work and improved road signage. In addition, the south Wiltshire recovery team will continue to develop and implement a programme of work to ensure the recovery and revitalisation of south Wiltshire.

View the [replay](#) of the full council meeting.

Wiltshire hosts drop in chats for National Apprenticeship Week 2019

School leavers, people wishing to make a career change and employers are being encouraged to join drop in sessions on apprenticeships this week.

[Wiltshire Council employment and skills service](#) and [Wiltshire Careers](#) are hosting 'drop ins' throughout National Apprenticeship Week (4 to 8 March) at County Hall in Trowbridge.



They will be on hand to provide vital information on apprenticeships and the Wiltshire Council apprenticeship programme. There is no need to book. Stands will be manned from 10am to 4:30pm but all materials will be available outside of these hours.

Figures recently released for apprenticeship starts for the quarter 1 2018/19 (August-October) of 1,710 have shown a 21.3% rise on increase in starts across Wiltshire compared to the same period in 2017/18, especially in advanced and higher apprenticeships. These reflect the direction seen nationally.

Wiltshire Council currently has 157 apprentices across 17 different types of apprenticeships.

The Employment and Skills service with colleagues at [Higher Futures](#) support business of all sizes to develop an apprenticeship programme, help with recruitment and upskill existing employees through a series of training programmes and apprenticeship options, many funded through the extensive partnership network.

The [Work Wiltshire website](#) is also a one stop shop for education, employment and skills information and support. You can hear Nathalie and Dexter talking to BBC Wiltshire about apprenticeships at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p070vfr> - 1:11:55 into the programme.

For more information, please email workwilts@wiltshire.gov.uk.

New proposals to build on successful community model for children's centre services

Wiltshire Council is asking for people's views on proposals to expand its successful model of providing children's centre services in local community venues.

More vulnerable families are being reached as many of the services for under 5s are now provided at the heart of communities.

Currently the services are provided in a mix of venues, including dedicated buildings or community sites such as libraries, church halls and community centres. More people are also accessing information online so future provision will have to meet that need.

Latest figures show on average 83% of the activities that children's centre services run are already held in community venues. In Cricklade this is 92% and in Longfield all activities are held in the community or parents' homes.

Now Wiltshire Council is keen to expand the successful model by finding more community spaces including halls, libraries, campuses and leisure centres. People are being consulted on alternative venues so underused buildings can be closed and more sessions can be held for children and families in well-used community sites.

The services for families with under-5s provide a range of support and advice around parenting, home learning environment, domestic abuse support, employment and training opportunities and healthy lifestyles.

Children's centre services would continue to work in collaboration with health visiting and midwifery and other colleagues who support housing and employment. There would also be a greater emphasis on providing help earlier for families before they reach crisis point.

Due to reductions in funding to the council, Wiltshire Council is looking at funding for all services. The council has worked with children's centre services providers The Rise Trust and Spurgeons, to identify underused buildings to ensure that frontline services to families are protected. They have helped provide an overall picture of which centres are best used and where new community venues can be found. The centres which are part of the consultation are: Cricklade, Pewsey, Mere, Salisbury City, Trowbridge Longfield and Westbury White Horse.

The consultation is available [online](http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/education/childrens_centre_proposals) and runs until 20 March 2019.
(http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/education/childrens_centre_proposals)

Clean-up work completed in Salisbury, as area continues its recovery

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced on 1 March that the final site of decontamination in Salisbury is safe, and has been handed to the South Wiltshire Recovery Coordinating Group.

The completion of clean-up work at Christie Miller Road, Salisbury marks a significant milestone in South Wiltshire's return to normality following the sickening novichok nerve agent attack last year.

The property was declared safe following extensive cleaning and testing by specialist teams. Wiltshire Council will shortly begin to coordinate work to refurbish the property, with residents of Christie Miller Road consulted on its future use.

Over the last 11 months, around 190 military personnel from the Royal Air Force and Army, supported by specialist contractors, have undertaken highly specialised decontamination work as part of our precautionary approach to the clean-up across the twelve sites identified in Salisbury and Amesbury. In recognition of their painstaking work, the CBRN Task Force were awarded the 'Hero at Home Unit' at the Sun's The Sun Military Awards ceremony in December.

While decontamination may be complete, government support for the region will not end and we continue to do all we can to help Salisbury and Amesbury thrive.

Earlier this month, [Business Minister Lord Henley was appointed Ministerial Champion for Salisbury](#), providing local leaders with a single point of contact in the heart of Government as the local area focusses on boosting business in the wake of the attack. As Salisbury gets back to business, the Government is working hand-in-hand with local leaders to deliver an ambitious local Industrial Strategy for the area, ensuring Salisbury not only recovers, but leads the way in some of the industries of the future.

We have committed over £13m since March 2018 to support businesses, boost tourism and meet unexpected costs of the incidents. £9.6m of that is special grant police funding.

Council hubs go smokefree next week

Wiltshire Council's three main hubs go smokefree from Wednesday 13 March.

This means that staff and visitors will not be able to smoke on the premises and car parks of County Hall in Trowbridge, Monkton Park in Chippenham and Bourne Hill in Salisbury.



Vaping will be permitted by the public, outside but they are requested to do so away from main entrances, windows and be mindful of other people using the sites. Staff will have designated areas for vaping.

The council's intention is then to make its other sites smokefree during 2019-20.

Smoking remains the primary cause of preventable illness and premature deaths in the UK and is significantly associated with diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), various forms of cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke. Exposure to second-hand smoke is also known to increase the risk of these conditions and contributes to serious illnesses among children, such as asthma. Smoking is the biggest single cause of inequalities in death rates between the rich and poor and it contributes to more 600 premature deaths in Wiltshire per year.

Jerry Wickham, Wiltshire Council cabinet member for public health, said: "As a modern public sector organisation, it's the right time to be make this change. Not only do we want it to help encourage people to quit smoking for good, but we hope it makes our main hubs more welcoming for visitors."

For those who smoke and want to stop for good, Wiltshire Council can provide lots of support, including a dedicated health trainer team. People should visit our [Health Trainer page](#).

Useful information and support can also be found on the council's smoking support pages on the website at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-health-stop-smoking>

Wiltshire Council's hubs going smokefree on 13 March coincides with National No Smoking Day 2019 and this year's theme is 'Today is the day'. More information can be found on the [national non-smoking day website](#).

What's on



If you would like to promote an event in your area to staff and the wider public why not use the [events calendar](#) on our website. You can find the link to the calendar on the home page under ['What's on'](#).

Check what else is on at Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon:

www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk and City Hall in Salisbury: www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk

Quick links

Area Board information - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards.htm

All the latest news releases - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/latestnews.htm

A blog for the heritage community of Wiltshire - <https://heritageinwiltshire.wordpress.com>

Community virtual notice boards - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ourcommunitymattersblogsites.htm

Recycle for Wiltshire - www.recycleforwiltshire.com

Roadworks - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/roadshighwayspavements/roadworks.htm

Tree wardens for Wiltshire - www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk

What's on in Wiltshire - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandrecreation/whatson.htm

What's on at City Hall in Salisbury - www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk

A blog for Wiltshire's arts community - <http://theartsinwiltshire.wordpress.com>

The latest news from the council is available on the [full newslisting](#) pages of the website