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Dear Colleague

## **Budget Consultation 2019/20**

Norfolk County Council helps make the county better for everyone who lives or works here or travels to Norfolk. The many services we run include ensuring children and young people have the best start in life, providing the fire and rescue service, protecting vulnerable people, maintaining a safe road system and helping improve the economy. We spend over a billion pounds every year providing public services.

The use of our services, particularly by those becoming older, is growing every year. Demand is rising but the amount of money we receive from central government is declining; we now receive £204 million less each year, compared to 2011/12, and this is expected to fall to zero by 2020/21.

We have developed a financial strategy to overcome these challenges through these principles:

- Offering our help early to prevent and reduce demand for specialist services
- Joining up our work so that similar activities and services are easily accessible, done well and done once
- Being business-like and making the best use of digital technology to ensure value for money
- Using evidence and data to target our work where it can make the most difference.

Since 2011/12 we have saved the best part of £364 million, including £246 million of efficiency savings. We are proposing to save £79 million, including new saving proposals for 2019/20 to 2021/22, over the next three years and we are also identifying ways of bridging a remaining gap of £45.98 million.

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Even though we are proposing to increase council tax next year, by the minimum required to put our finances on a sound footing, the amount of money we hope to raise wouldn't be enough to balance our budget.

This means we must continue to make some difficult decisions about how we spend your money.

I wanted to alert you to the webpage where we expect consultation proposals to be published on **Monday, 5 November 2018**. You can find out more at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget) and have your say using our online feedback form. Using our online feedback ensures we have a clear record of your response and that your views are accurately recorded.

We appreciate that not everyone has online access and people who are unable to respond online can send us their views in writing to:

Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.

People can request individual consultation documents in other formats, including paper form, by calling 0344 800 8020 or emailing [haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk). We will make all materials as accessible as possible.

Our consultation closes at **midnight on Sunday 23 December 2018**. Please note that if we receive any consultation responses after this date we cannot guarantee that we will be able to take them into account.

I hope this update is helpful to you in giving your organisation the time to plan how to make your views on our consultation proposals known and to schedule any agenda items or special meetings that you may need to put in place.

If you have any questions about the process for consultation, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Mawson, Stakeholder and Consultation Manager, Email: [christine.mawson@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:christine.mawson@norfolk.gov.uk) or telephone 01603 224485.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Wendy Thomson CBE**  
Managing Director