

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

TOWN COUNCIL FREEZES COUNCIL TAX

In 2011/12 Godalming Town Council will maintain all its services to residents without any increase in the tax that those residents contribute to the Council. This is possible because Godalming Town Council does not receive a penny in Government grants and therefore is unaffected by cuts in Government Funding.

The Town Council is mindful of the economic climate and that these are financially difficult times for many of the Town's residents. Therefore, the Council has prioritised its funding for voluntary organisations – the grants budget has been maintained at the 2010/11 level of £60,000. Separately, the Council has identified a fund of £52,000 to support new initiatives within the community to maintain and enhance the Town's vitality. The Council has also frozen its fees and charges for the use of Council services at the 2010/11 level (though the Godalming Joint Burial Committee has increased its charges). The Council has made significant savings elsewhere in its budget to make all this possible.

At a meeting of the Town Council's Policy & Management Committee held on the 6 January 2011 the Committee decided that in 2011 there should be a 0% increase in the Council's share of the Council Tax Bill and it is expected that the Full Council will agree this on 20 January 2011. The charge to the average (Council Band D) household in Godalming remains at £48.44. The Chairman of the Policy & Management Committee said "We considered it important not to add to the financial burden of local people in the current difficult financial climate. At the same time, very careful management of our budget has enabled us to provide additional funds to help support the many exciting new initiatives emerging in our town."

Ends

In case of query please contact:

Louise Goodfellow
Godalming Town Clerk – 01483 523575 or townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk
Release Date: 19 January 2011