

Ward councillor's report (Barby & Onley) December 2024

WNC Draft Budget 2025/26

Next year's draft Budget is now out for public consultation until 21st January. There has been a major drive since July when the projected £38.5m overspend was identified to close the budget gap and deliver a balanced budget. Council tax will again be rising by 4.99%, taking the average charge for band D equivalent property to £1,866.98 per year (an average rise of £1.71 per week on a band D property). The rise is in line with the maximum increase permitted by government without the need for a referendum. Essential services are to be protected and efficiency savings of £26m are anticipated next year. £155m is proposed to be invested in a capital programme in the next four years to improve local land, buildings and equipment. [West Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2025 to 2026 Consultation - West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space](#)

Scrutiny of WNC decisions

It is a statutory requirement that the WNC's executive arrangements have Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These committees are responsible for overseeing and scrutinising the decisions and financial arrangements made by WNC and the performance of the Council, including its budget and accounting processes.

At the meeting of full council last month the annual reports 2023/24 of the four committees – Adult Social Care and Health, Children, Education and Housing, Corporate and Place were presented. The range of topics covered by the committees include international recruitment challenges in adult social care, foster care recruitment and retention, revenue reserves and the Local Plan. [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Council, 28/11/2024 17:00](#)

Draft Local Plan

The next consultation of the Plan has been delayed following the Government's proposals to amend the NPPF and standard method for calculating housing need. WNC will now be required to deliver a further 460 homes in addition to the estimated 2,124 per year necessitating a lot of extra work in revising the Plan to accommodate the increase. It is anticipated that a further call for sites will take place.

Christmas waste and recycling and 2024 collection calendars.

Daventry area collections due to take place on Wednesday 25 December will instead take place on **Saturday 21 December**. Collections due on Wednesday 1 January will take place on **Saturday 4 January**.

With my best wishes for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

12th December 2024

