

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources

9 April 2013

General

Since the last full Council meeting the Resources section of the Council has been working on the implementation of the budget resolutions.

At the recent Cabinet Meeting various Capital schemes were approved. The reasoned statements, now in a different format, are, hopefully easier to follow. The date of completion of these projects has also been carefully considered in order to avoid the rush towards the end of the financial year to complete or to carry forward projects.

The Accounts Section is busy preparing for the year end so that the final turn out figures can be verified. Current projections are for a surplus in excess of £450K. This is very good news because there was some speculation that following the changes to Shared Services, costs would escalate.

New Benefits Scheme

Much work has been undertaken to ensure that all appropriate staff have been trained and ready for the changes that this reform will bring about. It is anticipated that added to all the other Welfare Reform changes that a number of difficulties may arise.

Payment of Council Tax

Normally Council Tax is paid in ten equal instalments from April to January. It is now possible to arrange for payment to be made in twelve equal instalments. If Councillors become aware of anyone with difficulties regarding the payment of Council Tax I suggest that they recommend that the persons with the difficulties contact the Council to discuss their situation in confidence with an Officer to see if an acceptable solution can be found.

Councillor Ron Kirk
Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources