

**Minutes of Consultation with Business Ratepayers and Voluntary sector Representatives about proposed Borough Council Budget Plans for 2023 – 2027 held on Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 4.00 pm in the Remote Meeting Room Zoom**

**PRESENT:**

Pippa May - West Norfolk Befriending

**Borough Council:**

Councillor S Dark - Leader (*left the meeting at 4.15 pm*)

Councillor G Middleton - Deputy Leader (*left the meeting at 4.15 pm*)

Sharon Clifton - Communications Manager (*left the meeting at 4.15 pm*)

Michelle Drewery - Assistant Director - Resources/Section 151 Officer

Lorraine Gore - Chief Executive (*left the meeting at 4.15 pm*)

Wendy Vincent - Democratic Services Officer

The Leader of the Council introduced himself, the Deputy Leader and other officers present and adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes to allow any other attendees to join. At 4.05 pm the Leader invited Pippa May representing West Norfolk Befriending to introduce herself and provide an overview of her role.

The Leader invited Pippa May to attend a follow up meeting with Councillor Sandell and himself and explained that he would leave the meeting and invited the Section 151 Officer to present the budget.

The Assistant Director, Resources/Section 151 Officer gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Council's Budget Plans for 2023 to 2027 (a copy of which is attached to the minutes).

The Assistant Director, Resources responded to questions in relation to:

- 100% rate relief granted to charitable organisations.
- Internal Drainage Board levies.
- Government Funding Settlement in future years and potential impact on local councils.
- Borough Council's proposed increase of £5 Council Tax on a Band D property from £139.37p to £143.87p (which included the precept for special expense areas 50p), so the Council's element of the increase is £4.50p to be approved or rejected by Cabinet on 7 February 2023 and Full Council on 23 February 2023.

The Assistant Director, Resources invited Pippa May to email her with any further questions.

Pippa May commented that West Norfolk Befriending was grateful that the Council continued to support schemes such as Careline and the Lily Services and that personally she valued the free events for residents organised for the Borough Council.

**The meeting closed at 5.00 pm**