

## **Budget Consultation: Have your say on Council Spending**

Stroud District Council would like to hear the views of the business community before setting its forthcoming annual Budget 2011 -12.

At a Special Meeting of Cabinet on 6th January 2011, the Council's administration put forward budget proposals for the forthcoming year. They include reductions in spending due to cuts to the grant the council receives from the Government, and a proposal not to increase Stroud District Council's element of council tax for 2011/12. The possibility of investing to make homes and businesses more energy efficient and renewable energy to generate income for the Council, were also discussed.

Stroud District Council Leader, Frances Roden, said:

*'The proposals we are putting forward are based upon meeting the 28% cut we expected in our Government grant. Unfortunately the provisional funding settlement announced in December, for the next two years, indicates that we will be significantly worse off than anticipated, so we will be revisiting our position and in due course will need to reduce spending further.'*

Following December's Government announcement, between now and 2012/13, the revenue support grant to Stroud District Council will fall from £6.5million to £4.7million.

The Council has already identified £2.7million of budget and efficiency savings over the next four years through efficiency improvements and savings. Savings for next year highlighted in the cabinet papers include:

- a £40,000 projected increase in income at Dursley Pool
- £232,900 on staffing savings via the council's four-year workforce plan, and a policy of not automatically refilling positions that become vacant
- £42,000 savings from the reduction in the number of part-time sports centres (agreed earlier in the year)
- an £86,500 reduction in the council's regeneration budget (mainly comprised of small grants, one-off grants and agreements which have come to an end which will not be continued )
- a £28,500 saving from changes to how the gardening assistance scheme is provided

At the same time the administration is proposing an increase in funding for energy efficiency for households and businesses, money to help community transport initiatives, and funds put aside to help local businesses and the local economy.

To help you comment on these current proposals, it is recommended that you view the following reports:

- **Estimates of Expenditure 2010 -11 (Housing, agenda item 9; General Fund, agenda item 6)**
- **Proposals for Expenditure 2011 -12 (agenda item 8 Supplementary Papers)**
- **Capital Programme (agenda item 7)**
- **Medium Term Financial Plan (agenda item 8)**

These reports can be viewed at:

[http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/democ/meeting\\_details.asp?meet\\_id=1344&com\\_id=CABT](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/democ/meeting_details.asp?meet_id=1344&com_id=CABT)

To put forward your views email: [Business.Consultation@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:Business.Consultation@stroud.gov.uk)  
by 5pm Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

The results of telephone budget surveys with 200 businesses and 300 residents carried out during the autumn of 2010 can be found at [http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/Final\\_2010\\_Report.pdf](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/info/Final_2010_Report.pdf)