



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **FROM**

# **SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

Precept 2013/14

At a meeting on Monday 14 January 2013 Sandy Town Council agreed to set its overall requirement for tax payer funding in the next financial year at a sum of £440,868. This means the average Band D tax payer in Sandy is likely to face an increase of 15p per week taking the Town Council's element of the Council Tax up from £98.03 pa in 12/13 to £105.76 pa in 13/14, an annual increase of £7.73.

The Council takes very seriously its responsibility to provide services and facilities which affect the quality of life for all those who live and work in Sandy and strives to provide the services which residents say they want at the most reasonable cost. However, rising costs have had their impact on the Council budget in recent years. This year has seen an added difficulty imposed by central government. New localised arrangements for supporting people who need help with their council tax has meant a significant reduction in the tax base which is used to calculate the Sandy precept.

Speaking after the meeting Cllr Susan Sutton, Sandy Town Mayor said "The council has had to face especially tough decisions this year. We know that everyone in Sandy is feeling the pinch. However, the services which this council provides such as play facilities, sports pitches, open spaces, CCTV, Tourist Information Centre, footway lighting, the Sandy cemetery and various community events are still very important to local people. The council has set a realistic and balanced budget to enable it to continue to deliver these services. The impact of changes to council tax benefits has hit local government disproportionately and we have had to respond to the decision to pass the major financial impact of these changes to our

sector. The mitigation funding provided by central government to help us with this in the first year does not match the shortfall in income from precept caused by the permanent reduction to our tax bases. We will not even know how much we will receive until 24 January 2013 but we had to set our precept in advance of that date. We are engaged in a strategic review of all our services and their delivery and we expect to make changes during the coming year which will help to keep the council's future operating costs as low as possible."

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