

Facing the cuts

Around £3.5 million pounds. That is the amount of savings we expect to have to make over the next five years.

You may have heard far greater figures bandied about from other, bigger authorities with substantially greater budgets.

But this is a sizeable chunk of a budget which pays for...household bin collections, keeping the streets clean, looking after our parks and open spaces, administering housing and council tax benefits, regulating development, marketing our area to attract new businesses, tackling fly tipping, running leisure centres, historical sites and a theatre – and the list goes on and on.

Remember - we are looking at cuts of at least 30% from the money we get from central government to run our services and I make no apologies for repeating myself when I say there are some very tough decisions to come and it would be foolish to make any guarantees.

Keeping it local

Away from Council cuts, a topic which has returned to the public agenda is the inquiry into the failings of Stafford Hospital.

This is the public inquiry campaigners were calling for and is set to go ahead later this year. The only thing yet to be decided is a venue to hold it in.

One possible venue is our own Civic Centre and the inquiry team has been to look at the building as well as holding talks with senior officers of the council. Whether it is the Civic Centre, or another venue, we will give whatever help is needed to ensure the inquiry takes place in Stafford.

Mike Heenan
Leader of the Council

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