



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 19 January 2010**

### **NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL CONFIRMS BUDGET FOR 2010/11**

At the Town Hall last night Newbury Town Councillors set the precept for the ratepayers of Newbury for the coming financial year.

Leader of the Council Ifor Sheldon said “This year’s budget decision has, once again, been especially hard, particularly as the economic downturn is still affecting all of Newbury’s residents. However, I believe that the Council has set a prudent and forward-looking budget which will maintain our high-quality services at a sustainable and value-for-money cost to local residents. I am especially pleased that the budget this year was passed unanimously by all Councillors.”

“We have been able to maintain the same level of funding as in past years in most areas and this year we have increased our contribution to the Citizens Advice Bureau. However, some tough decisions were made including increasing the annual allotment rental charges to help reduce the subsidy from other Newbury precept payers and to reduce the grant aid. I am please to report, therefore, that the precept has been set at only 6.1 pence per week increase for Band D tax payers.”

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Deputy Leader Julian Swift-Hook added “I’m really pleased that for the first time in a decade, the Town Council’s budget is supported by all Members of the Council from both sides of the chamber.”

**END**

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