



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Newbury Town Council Confirms Budget for 2008 - 2009

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 Ian Grose said "This year's budget decision has been a hard one, taken against the background of significantly rising costs. We have set a prudent and forward-looking budget which will allow us to continue to provide many services at our current level, and to improve some of our services to the people of Newbury. "

"There is funding for the continuation of the successful neighbourhood warden scheme in the north of the town, and we have committed to considering further support for at least three years. We have kept our commitment to Greenham Community Centre, the town centre markets and our civic responsibilities. There is provision to support staffing for the Victoria Park project."

Deputy Leader Gina Houghton said "We are delighted to maintain our level of support for the arts and leisure in Newbury, and we have funded a new produce show and family fun day in Victoria Park in August."

The Council's costs have continued to be managed well despite large increases in external costs (especially in energy), and it has been possible to return some funds to the Council's reserves following the land sale at Western End. The Council's finances remain in excellent shape. The budget takes proper account of the risk of damage to Council facilities such as playgrounds and open spaces, and for looking after the Council's properties, such as the historic and much-loved Town Hall, the allotments, lighting in Digby Road and maintaining the chapel at Newtown Road cemetery."

Councillor Julian Swift-Hook added "This is another prudent, affordable and forward-looking budget, which will enable the Town Council to continue to deliver value for money that is second to none in this area".

END

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