

County Councillor Dr Marie Strong

NCC Budget 2013-2014: I mentioned last month that over the next three years Norfolk County Council has to save an estimated £182 million - £182 million saving from the many services the Council has to provide for us all living in the County. By March 2014 the County will already have saved £140m over the previous three years. To save another £182 million over the following three years will not be done without a diminution of services – services important to us all. So forgive me for nagging but I ask everyone please respond to the consultation and be part of the decision making. The consultation period of 12 weeks commences on 19 September and Town and Parish Councils have already been informed of the time frame but more information will be well publicised.

Prior to the start of the consultation, an online budget simulator, is now live on the council's website and is intended to help set the scene about the financial challenge the council faces over the next three years. It invites residents to put themselves in Councillors' shoes to understand the issues and see what high level priorities they would choose to balance the budget if they had to. You can find the budget simulator by following this link: www.norfolk.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst

County Council Overview and Scrutiny panels in the autumn and in January will also have opportunities to scrutinise the consultation proposals in detail and as usual the public are welcome to attend.