

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR TONY HICKS – REPORT 2013 – 2014 POP'N –GLOUCESTERSHIRE 600,000

County spend £800ml, on schools, Social Care, Fire and Rescue, Environment (incl Roads), Economy, and Waste.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Driven by National Debt to save £114ml over 4 years, we will have achieved some £65ml by the end of March this year.

Principal areas of savings - Recruitment freeze, Pay freeze, Cutting the size of Shire Hall by over 1500 staff, 1 in 3 Managers gone, Reducing Councillors to 53, Cabinet Members down to 8, and selling office buildings.

In addition to these changes we have altered many of the ways we operate :

Frozen Council Tax – Stark contrast to Lib/Lab administration peak of 13% !

Increased the spend on vulnerable and older people - (extra £100,00)

Contributed with Government and other Agencies to £100ml stimulus package to create and protect Gloucestershire jobs. investing in Super fast Broadband, helping young people to buy houses, and encouraging businesses in the Apprenticeship schemes.

Increased recycling and cut waste.

Protected children's centres.

Frozen the cost of meals on wheels.

Have reorganised the bus network.

Have repaired 200,000 potholes.

Have tripled salt stocks

Have protected Special Schools and Grammar Schools.

Have invested £2.3ml in flood protection

I personally chaired a National 1<sup>st</sup> Award winning Scrutiny project which revised significantly the Environment Agency strategic plans to develop the future of the Severn Estuary.

Many local road and Traffic calming measures have been installed locally making our roads safer.

Social Care is working more closely with NHS,

## THIS COMING YEAR – 2013/2014

Our GCC non-school spend in the new financial year is split between Adult Services , Children and Families , Communities and Infrastructure ,

There is a Public Health Grant of £21ml following transfer from NHS to GCC responsibility .

We aim to make further savings of £35ml this year to meet our commitments. The revenue savings we have made together with our property sales have enabled us to reduce debt. We have already repaid £15ml. This will continue. None of our £40ml capital expenditure will be funded by borrowed money. Every £1ml repaid releases £100,000 into the

revenue account for services. We aim to repay £10ml or more by selling redundant assets.

We will continue to change the ways we deliver services by commissioning external cost effective providers who can assure improved quality.

The key pressures this next year are Demographics – more Adults living longer, Landfill Tax escalation, Child protection, and Road maintenance. Additional funding has been allocated to Adult Care, Road repairs, Vulnerable Children, and Flood alleviation. Commitment support introduced to Communities this last year will continue. (Community Offers) We are resolved to continue our strategic direction of improvements in obtaining Value for Money, Protecting the Vulnerable, Maintaining safe Highways, and Stimulating Investment in the growth of employment.