

Perhaps the first things you will be waiting to hear about tonight are the implications of the recent spending review on Ryedale.

To date we know that we shall be approximately 10% worse off although the implications on Ryedale's financial position will not be known in detail for some time. However the bad news is that our New Homes Bonus (NHB) will be topsliced by 35% to fund our Local Economic Partnership (LEP) from 2015/16 which will be a loss of income to this council of approximately £440k each year from then on. So we need to work with the LEP to make sure that this money is not lost to Ryedale residents, but ends up being a benefit, perhaps linked to the schemes which will form part of our Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) program of work, or that the LEP must now do a lot more for housing in our district. There is a meeting of our LEP tomorrow and I am attending that meeting as the substitute member representative for Scarborough and Ryedale.

Increasingly the disparity between the sparse and urban area spending is becoming a problem – as is the divide between North and South spending per head of population. To some extent this is being addressed by the Rural Services Network and a Sparsity differential has been introduced.

Analysis by the Special Interest Group of Metropolitan Authorities (SIGOMA), for example, has shown that the cumulative pressures on local government funding between 2010 and 2012 has already amounted to a cut per person in Yorkshire and Humber of around £140; almost double the average cut per person across England of around £80; and even compares to an *overall funding increase* in London of around £45 per person.

SIGOMA is also forecasting that the cumulative impact by 2017-18, of all these various changes, shows a total funding reduction of £2.7billion across Yorkshire and Humber – or around £502 per head of population. This compares to an equivalent of only £352 per head in London and just £256 per head in the wider South East.

These increased cuts are bound to have the effect of bringing forward plans for collaborative working with existing and new partners and the voluntary and community sector. We are going to have to focus on what is really important to Ryedale. There is a direct link to this on our agenda tonight – the Council Plan which we shall be reaffirming or changing - as the case may be – tonight. I am really pleased with the information in this plan – it is a strong reflection of what can be achieved with dedicated and loyal staff. And they remain just that – dedicated, loyal and hard working – despite all that has been thrown at them and all the difficult times that they know are in front of us. I think it says a lot for member/officer working relationships that we continue to maintain an optimistic outlook for the future for Ryedale.

This is reflected in the items that are on our agenda tonight

1. Investment in our swimming pools
2. Investment in the Tour de France
3. Investment in schemes to support businesses – funded from The Ryedale Development Fund –
 - a. The Milton Rooms

- b. The Livestock Market
- c. Fera

At this point I would like to give you a brief update on where we are with some of our current schemes.

1. Livestock Market – we have two organisations ready to continue the market when the current operation ceases in October – the last piece of the jigsaw is the decision by the Fitzwilliam Estate to grant a short term lease to one of these organisations
2. Ryedale Indoor Bowls Club (RIBC) – the registration of the building as a community asset was completed on the 26th June and we now await an application by a community group to register an interest in purchasing the building/site, that would put the sale on hold to next year.
3. Wentworth Street Car Park (WSCP) – hopefully the re-submitted planning application from GMI Holbeck will be with us soon and we will be able to move on to the next stage

Looking ahead to the forward plan we shall be considering the adoption of our Local Plan, deciding if we want to continue to support our Local Communities through grants and last but not least continuing with our work on making ends meet with an ever decreasing budget!

Unfortunately the Local Plan process has been delayed because of the need to re-consult briefly because of the new statement on renewable energy.