District Councillor's - Report

Thursday, October 12, 2017

6:52 PM

Dorset Waste Partnership looks like underspending against this year's budget by £1 million. This is mainly due to favourable re-cyclate prices, cumulative small savings and lower than expected waste arisings.

The 2018/19 budget is likely to cause problems as DCC in particular are pushing for a standstill budget of this year's projected outcome of £33.1 million against £33.8 million based on household growth and assumptions on future  re-cyclate prices and waste arisings. One way of meeting a standstill budget is to take a more optimistic view of re-cyclate prices and waste arisings. If the actual outcome exceeded the budget the 'equalisation' reserve of £1 million against unexpected events could be drawn on. There is pressure to reduce the number of days household recycling centres are open to save money in order to make the budget. This is being strongly resisted by many councillors.

Natural England, Environment Agency, RSPB and Poole Borough are working on flood prevention/alleviation  and nitrogen mitigation schemes for Wareham by creating more wetland areas. Proposals to extend the earth bunds nearer to Ridge and the Town are being considered. There is some scepticism as to whether or not this will make matters worse or better. Inevitably there will be more problems as sea levels keep on rising. I think LM is safe!

Other PDC items covered in Wendy Meaden's report

P. J. Webb