

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR Richard LEES - COMMUNICATIONS

Although I am the member with responsibility for Communications much of my attention since our last Council meeting has been turned to financial concerns; as have other members of the Executive.

For the first time major consultation events have been held to learn the concerns and interests of the public about the shape of the Council's Budget for the next financial year.

Our corporate publication the Deane Dispatch played a part in this. You will remember that the front page of the December edition explained the context of Council's Budget setting difficulties for the next financial year and invited residents to tell us what they thought our top three priorities should be.

We were delighted to receive from this invitation over 220 replies and every one was read and considered. Many of the slips returned from the Deane Dispatch had letters attached with serious contributions to the debate on budget priorities. Every respondent has received a personal letter thanking them for their involvement.

Another new idea in production is a booklet that will go out with the Council Tax bills at the end of March. The clearly written booklet will set out what can be a mass of information in a coherent and organised way.

This work is directly in line with my determination to ensure the Council communicates early and communicates well to reflect the good work that is done, and also to report at the earliest stage our future plans.

Finally I have been continuing my research about access for all within the Borough of Taunton Deane in this European Year for the Disabled.

Executive Councillor Richard Lees
Communications

