**Report to Great Rissington Parish Council Tuesday 10th March 2020 by Cllr Dr Nigel Moor.**

**On the 12th February 2020 GCC approved a budget of £468million for 2020/21, a net increase of £31million on 2019/20.**

The approved budget ensures the council can go on tackling the effects of climate change, deliver new and improved facilities for children and family and significantly boost funds to help protect some of the most vulnerable in the county.

Key elements of the budget include:

* An initial £1million climate change Action Fund – building on the councils achievement of reducing its Co2 levels by 70% since 2006/07
* £1.325m for councillors to spend on roads and footpaths in their area
* An additional £12.9million going towards protecting the county’s vulnerable children
* Around £73.6m of capital investment for schools and children and family services, bringing the total expected capital investment to around £160m by 2023 and including a £3m expansion at Cotswold School.
* A further £49.8m has been allocated to deliver on the third year of the council’s £150m Your Highways programme
* In the region of £14.5m into Gloucester South West Bypass, Arle Court, M5 Junction 11, Honeybourne cycle route extension, Gloucester to Quedgeley and Cheltenham to Bishop Cleeves cycle tracks
* £1.5m to ensure GFRS’ firefighters have new and improved life saving equipment and to increase the services’ prevention and protection work
* £700k towards flood alleviation work. This forms part of investment of more than £5.3m, which will significantly reduce the risk of flooding to hundreds of homes in the county
* £3.1m to deliver Broadband across the county
* Ongoing investment of almost £5.0m ongoing into upgrade street lights and traffic signals

Additional budgets introduced at council and agreed by councilors were :

* £15,000 ongoing revenue budget for a Think Travel Coordinator.
* £50,000 for suicide prevention work.
* Continuation of one off £1,000 per member for youth work, totalling £53,000
* £10,000 for a one off scheme for period poverty
* £30,000 for the extended scheme for holiday hunger
* £20,000 to be spent on digital connectivity for care leavers.
* £20,000 to be spent on Driving Lessons for Care Leavers.
* A 25% increase to the grant for each of the eight community libraries, to

£12,500