



2. Community provision of family services. North Tyneside have had a good service of Nursery provision in the Borough in the past, now leaving much of it to be privately provided is extremely alarming to many residents who need to access childcare in order to work. Despite the assurances given at a recent Council meeting, there are still doubts as to whether the private section can meet the need.
3. Creation of well being services. £941,000 reduction, these areas have led to support to families in the past and could lead to serious issues of personal risk.
4. Single front door and supporting gateway. £926,000 reduction, this area has already been depleted by reductions in previous years. No evidence that proposed changes will be effective. There are more people needing this service, yet there will be less staff to deal with them.
5. Cashless project. The Council has been trying to achieve this for many years. While every encouragement should be made to persuade residents to use alternative methods of payment. There are still many residents who don't have bank accounts.
6. Increase in charges including Sports and Leisure and Bereavement charges, last year the Council made large increases in these areas, this year the proposed charges are still above the rate of inflation. At a time when the Council should be encouraging residents to participate in healthy pursuits.

Like the Labour Group in 2013, we also believe that a modern Council shouldn't be reliant on increasing fees and charges to generate income especially after the large increases last year.

Once more we would suggest that all parties should be prepared to work together and there should be an all party group to monitor the budget especially any areas of high risk. It is essential to have efficient budgetary control and to maintain financial stability and concentrate on providing the quality services residents expect and deserve.

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