



PRESS RELEASE

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW COUNCIL CASH IS SPENT

The public is to be given a say in how Copeland Borough Council spends some of its money.

People will be able to say how much or how little they want the council to spend on things like concessionary travel schemes, some recycling facilities, play areas, arts development, CCTV cameras and other “discretionary” services.

A series of ten Neighbourhood Forums will be held in community halls, civic halls and other public venues around Copeland between October 10 and November 22 and any member of the public is welcome to attend. They will be asked to fill in a simple questionnaire.

Sue Borwick, Copeland’s Head of Finance and Business Development, said: *“Like every other council, Copeland has to provide certain services by law and that is what most of our annual budget is spent on.*

“But we also a small amount of money every year that we can spend on things we are not legally obliged to provide. A good example is concessionary travel. As a council we are obliged to provide bus passes but we use some of the discretionary, extra money to provide concessionary travel vouchers.”

The council wants local people to look at a list of discretionary services that are currently paid for out of the extra 'pot' and choose the ones they would like to see continued, dropped or changed.

Council leader, Elaine Woodburn, said: ***“The extra money we receive every year is important because it is spent on extra services that the main budget doesn’t provide for at all or doesn’t provide for completely.***

“We know from experience and from what people tell us that these extra or topped up services are important to the people who use them but we want to make sure that we are spending the money where it does the most good. This is a chance for people to have a big say in what we spend the money on.”

People who cannot make it along to the Neighbourhood Forums can still have their say by logging onto the Copeland Borough Council website and clicking on the 'Have Your Say' link. The forms are also available at council offices.

Neighbourhood Forums will be held at the following venues and times: (List to be inserted when all venues known).

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Press Calls to:

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