

MEDIA RELEASE: South Oxfordshire District Council

- \* Council tax frozen for the second year running
- \* More than £1,000,000 in grants available to support community projects
- \* New local lottery scheme to provide further funds for local causes

Last night (16 February) South Oxfordshire District Council agreed to freeze its council tax rate for the second year running. With these freezes, and having also reduced its council tax in previous years, South Oxfordshire remains one of the most cost effective and efficient local authorities in the country.

In setting its budget the council included significant additional investment in car parking, support for the regeneration of Berinsfield and funding to help provide accommodation for rough sleepers.

More than £1,000,000 in grants is being made available to support community projects, such as improvements to village halls and providing new sports areas.

The district council will also invest a further £500,000 over the next two years to help deliver Superfast Broadband to more communities across the district.

To help raise further funds for local voluntary and community groups the council will introduce a new local lottery scheme during 2017 giving residents the opportunity to win while raising money for a chosen cause or general good cause fund. Almost £99,000 will also go towards increasing volunteering and volunteering opportunities across the district.

Cllr Jane Murphy, Cabinet Member for Finance at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "I am very pleased that despite tough budget conditions we are able to continue to offer over a million pounds to help community projects in our towns and villages. We're also launching the new local lottery and working to increase volunteering in order to provide extra support."