

Roger Gash  
County Solicitor

To all Members of the County Council

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Your ref:  
My ref: RG/GM

Date: 11 February 2009  
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Dear Member

## **LOCALITY BUDGETS**

Since it now seems very likely that the County Council elections will take place on 4 June the Procedures Committee earlier this week considered how to ensure that during the intervening period locality budgets are not used in a way that exposes members to criticism, however unfounded, of improper influence.

Accordingly:

- (1) Any member who still has funds available within his or her allocation for the current financial year needs to act quickly so that proposals to spend this money are approved during the next round of County Committees (beginning with South Hams on 13 March and ending with Exeter on 9 April);
- (2) Locality budgets for the coming financial year cannot be tapped until after the elections. Thereafter they can be accessed under the normal arrangements – with the addition of course of any money carried forward from this year.
- (3) During the period 1 April to 4 June 2009 it would be very imprudent for any member to give anything that might appear to be a promise to make a locality budget payment after the elections should he or she be safely returned on 5 June.

I hope the above is clear but I am happy to discuss any doubts which it may raise in members' minds.

Yours sincerely

**COUNTY SOLICITOR**