

## Parish Council Report

Feb 2020

Cllr Nick Bennett

Dear Councillor,

As you know yesterday ESCC considered and approved the 20/21 budget. I want to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the County council's achievements as well as where the money goes within the context of our priorities, which are:

- Driving sustainable economic growth
- Keeping vulnerable people safe
- Helping people help themselves
- Making best use of the resources we have

Plus a new outcome which has been added to the Council Plan on carbon neutrality in our activities by 2050 at the latest.

Our achievements include:

- **Adult Social care** integration with health
- MHCLG has selected us as best in class in this field. They want to use the Council as an exemplar of how we have reduced costs while maintaining high service quality and citizen outcomes including:
  - Health and Social Care Connect
  - Home First - discharging people from hospital
  - High Intensity User services
  - A&E 5 Pathways - preventing A&E admissions
  - Reablement and rehabilitation

- Technology Enabled Care Services – 8,500 clients are using sensors which can detect falls; respond to fire alarms, dispense medication and do welfare checks

Our **sustained investment in roads**, our strategic asset management plan has halted deterioration and shown marked improvement in overall condition. This budget includes provision in the Capital Programme to continue this level of investment and to put some additional funding in for dropped kerbs, lining and patching.

The **Waste** PFI partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council continues to drive efficiencies and improve recycling.

**Back office services** are cost effective . The Orbis partnership has saved £10.5m for the County Council since 2016/17 and a further £1.9m is planned for 20/21- 21/22. We use our spending with suppliers to support local business wherever possible and to encourage social value such as apprenticeship opportunities and facilities offered to local voluntary groups.

Our lobbying with MPs and partners which has led to Government providing some additional funding this year in recognition of the significant pressures we are managing in adults and children's social care; together with a commitment to maintain the additional £1bn social care grant for each year of the term of this Parliament. The budget assumes that the Adult Social Care precept of 2% is taken in 2020/21, together with a Council Tax increase of 1.99%; this will help contribute to the longer term sustainability of the services we provide.

Also that the budget incorporates:

- Revenue investment in activities to reduce future demand, including:

- accommodation and social support - getting more personal support to vulnerable people and families who need help to avoid homelessness;
  - introducing No Wrong Door - an innovative model for helping young people with difficult lives get help which is led by a single keyworker drawing on a range of support services all working together; and
  - expanding Family Group Conferencing - the family-led process of making decision for children at risk to help them thrive without the need for care or protection proceedings;
- Capital Programme Investment in:
    - improving residential homes for children with disabilities; and
    - Highways – patching surfaces, painting lines and creating dropped kerbs to help personal mobility; and

I will add some of the significant Capital plans that we have in the course of the 10 year capital plan on the day
  - Deferring planned savings in:
    - the family keyworker service – this decision was taken by Cabinet in November to prevent unnecessary in-year savings;
    - children’s safeguarding services;
    - Libraries Services; and
    - Trading Standards.