

County Councillor Report July 2025

Sincere apologies for missing another meeting. It is not to avoid more comment on Highways but is our youngest daughter's birthday.

Council Monitoring to Year End

Cabinet considered the report on Tuesday last week. The council sets challenging targets and 43 (of 60) 72% were achieved- 10% carried forward and 11(18%) not achieved although some by a small margin.

The overspend on Children's services was less than the predicted £15.4m at Qtr3 but nevertheless significant at £13.8m for the reasons I have given in previous reports.

Budget

Work has already started on the budget for 26/27. Whilst a 3 year government settlement is welcomed the expectation is that any extra funding local government funding will be allocated away from the south-east. The ageing population and increased complexity of social care needs for adults and children will make the budget process an increasing challenge.

Highways

I have received a couple of comments re the surface dressing on Five Chimneys Lane (completed) and Hastingsford Lane (TBC). Surface dressing is designed to seal the road and reduce the likelihood of potholes. I understand the frustration that there are roads that need re-surfacing such as School Lane.

I questioned highways re Five Chimneys and have chased a reply having been told the officer dealing with it is off sick.

As previously stated, there is not sufficient funding for the works required.

The quality of repairs is a separate issue.

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