

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

County Councillor Graham Butland Annual Report

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report as your County Councillor representing the Three Fields with Great Notley Division for Essex County Council.

The Council's budget this year totals £939.9m in revenue to continue to deliver quality services to Essex residents, and £249m in our capital programme to fund investments to ensure the long-term financial stability of this council.

The budget contains an increase in Council tax of 2.99% and 1% for the Adult Social Care Precept.

Some examples of the things the Council will do in the coming year are:

- invest £117m to improve and maintain our roads – keeping Essex moving.
- invest a further £14m on faster broadband,
- spend an additional £700k to help repair defects in pavements and footways,
- progress the delivery of the meaningful lives programme to improve the outcomes for adults with learning disabilities and autism,
- continue to develop and implement initiatives to promote safer provision of care for elderly residents and drive higher standards of care,
- improve the quality and accessibility of information for carers and vulnerable people,
- invest a sum of £1 million to implement a variety of schemes for both adults and children with mental health issues or who need support,
- deliver the final year of our 5 year flood programme which will mean we have reduced the risk of flooding to 1000 properties.

The scourge of County Lines – which have brought drugs and associated crime to urban and rural areas of Essex alike – is a real and present danger to communities up and down our county.

Essex police have identified this as a priority and our Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is also committed to tackling the issue. Thus in this financial year the County Council will be making £500,000 available to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, for a partnership-based approach which will aim to protect young people at risk from those who may exploit them through County Lines.

On the local front during the year I have attended meetings of all of the nine Parish Councils in my Division. I have dealt with 43 different issues that have been raised by Parish Councils or individuals. The majority of these issues have been Highway matters.

The coming year will be challenging on many fronts for local government. I will continue to do my best for the residents of Three Fields with Great Notley. I can be contacted by email at cllr.graham.butland@essex.gov.uk or by phone on 07768 357571.