

## County council report July 2024

I've had several reports of incidents recently about cycling accidents occurring at the end of the cycle lane from Kingston ending at Spring Barn Farm. I have reported this to the traffic safety team at ESCC and asked for them to investigate and take appropriate measures to prevent further accidents.

I have asked for overgrown vegetation beside the footpath in Ashcombe Lane forcing pedestrians into the road to be cut back.

I have also asked for vegetation in Wellgreen Lane to be cut back.

## Council Budget

The financial outlook remains bleak at ESCC with significant overspending in Adult Social Care, Children's services and home to school transport.

We face ongoing challenges in the labour market, including the impact of workforce shortages in key sectors on our ability to recruit and retain staff, ongoing pay negotiations and the need for our workforce to adapt to service reforms.

We also face increased demand on our services in particular in Adult Social Care where the latest population projections show that the number of over 65s in the county will continue to grow at a much faster rate than our working age population; we are expecting an increase of 9.9% in the 65-84 age group and an increase of 14.2% in the over 85 age group in the next four years. Proportionately we have high numbers of over 65s and over 85s which has an impact on the demand for services and the Council's finances.

We also have a higher rate of people receiving asylum support within the county than the national average. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children made up nearly a quarter of those children who began to be looked after last year.

Unfortunately, economic productivity within the county remains lower than the national average.