

## County Councillor Dave Houseman's Report for the East Goscote Parish Council AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016



I have been a Leicestershire County Councillor since 2005. In 2009 and 2013 I was re-elected as a County Councillor for the Syston Fosse Division. This Division covers 2,471 hectares, 8,414 electors and around 10,600 residents. It includes - Syston (west side), East Goscote, Thrussington, Cossington and Ratcliffe on the Wreake

### **Additional responsibilities**

I am the County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. Cabinet Members have Job Descriptions that include targets and the Leader of the County Council takes a keen interest in these.

This year I would like to concentrate my report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is the key financial plan for the County Council. This is the most challenging MTFs that the Council has faced, probably since it was established over 40 years ago. The funding settlement from Government is very tough and follows five years of funding reductions.

Delivery of the MTFs requires increasing Council Tax by 3.99%. This includes the 2% Council Tax increase allocated for Adult Social Care. Savings of £78m need to be made by 2019/20. This year the MTFs sets out in detail £59m of savings and proposed reviews that will identify further savings to off-set the £19m funding gap. Strong financial control and discipline will be essential in the delivery of the MTFs.

Because we are the second lowest funded comparable Local Authority in England it makes it even more difficult for the Council to continue to deliver the services in the same way as we have the past.

Some people might think the 2% Council Tax increase for Adult Social Care will solve all of the County Council's Adult Social Care funding problems but it only delivers £21.8m over 4 years which helps, but over the same period Leicestershire County Council plans to spend over half a billion pounds on Adult Social Care.

As fast as we make savings in Adult Social Care the costs rise, partly due to a rising population and residents living longer, which we should, and do celebrate.

In 2014/15 47% of the Adult Social Care expenditure went to support adults of working age. We are proud that we commission World Class care and support that can cost well over £100,000 a year for just one person. Some of these service users are only in their 20's.

It's expected that the number people aged 85 years and over, will increase by 190% between 2012 and 2037 and the 2011 Census data for Leicestershire shows that for people aged 85 years and over, only 15% do not have their daily living activities limited by long term health problems, or disability.

The County Council's revenue budget for 2016/17 is £345m and £127m of this will be spent on Adult Social Care. This represents over 51% of Council Tax but as with every department we still have to make savings. The Adult Social Care Department has a savings target of £16.71m over the next 4 years. This will be very challenging but we can only commission services that the Council can fund.

Lastly it's been a privilege to be the County Councillor for the Syston Fosse Division and I would like to take this opportunity to thank residents, all the hard working East Goscote Parish Council staff, Councillors and the police for their help and support over the last year.

*Dave Houseman*