

Cambridgeshire County Council
Annual Report for 2016/17

Report from County Cllr Ian Bates to Hemingford Abbots PC AGM. 'I thought I would provide some facts and figures which I hope might be of use and interest in outlining the workings of the County Council.

The Budget for CCC is: £781m/year with 80% of this going to vulnerable adults/children and 20% going on other issues e.g. roads/footpaths/cycleways maintenance, pot-hole repairs, street lighting, waste disposal, Trading Standards and many other services. The County Council receives income to the value of £120m/year. Some of this money comes in from our Farms Estate, which is £4.2m in rent per year. There are 196 Tenants.

As I am sure you will be aware, District Councils collect waste and CCC dispose of it, this to a value of £680k/week. Most of this is for re-cycling e.g. garden, paper etc. and some, of course, will go to land-fill and we are charged per ton on this.

As I have already said, a large chunk of money goes to caring for the elderly with 7,800 people being cared for in their own homes and this equates to 1.5m hours of care. Of course, some people will be required to be admitted to residential and care homes, this is another cost.

Cambridgeshire, being a very rural community, has very many roads and this equates to 2,800 miles of roadways. As we live in a low-lying County, we have many bridges to look after – this total being 1,500. Local bridges which you will all be aware of: on the Low Road towards Fenstanton, which goes under the A14, is being repaired as I speak, we have struck a problem here as asbestos has been discovered. Bridges here have and are now being repaired or fully replaced at a cost of £900k. Also bricks in the listed arched bridge into St Ives have been repaired over the last few years at a cost of £1.26m.

We also look after 59k streetlights, as well as paying the electricity bill. We provide home to school transport for 15k children and also provide to primary schools an opportunity with training for safer cycling to schools.

On top of all the above, there are 1.5m visitors to our libraries – not just in St Ives but also to the mobile library which visits our rural communities.

As you will be aware, there was the recent election for County Councils, the number of Councillors has now been reduced from 69 to 61, and the new make-up of Councillors is as follows

Conservatives: 36; Labour: 7; Lib Dem: 15; Ind: 3; the biggest change is that the 10 UKIP were all defeated at this election.

County Councillor Ian Bates
31 May 2017