

190909 Cranborne & Alderholt Ward Dorset Councillor Report for Alderholt Parish Council

General

August has been a very quiet month, with few meetings and very little activity. There will be much more activity in September. Among a number of other meetings I will be involved in the Climate Change EAP, on the 13th and the Digital EAP on the 18th. I expect that a meeting of the Local Plan EAP will also be held, though no date has been announced; Im not a member of that body but will attend and follow its progress closely.

Budget Issues

The Council is forecasting that its spend will be over budget by around £7 million at the end of its first year. The main areas of overspend are in Social Care – with a forecast overspend in Adult Care of £2.4 million, and in Children’s Care of just under £7 million – the gap is lessened because there will be £2.7 million received from Central Finance.

At Cabinet on the 3rd Sept decisions were taken to increase the availability of residential care facilities in County, to mitigate the high cost of sending children out of County, and to provide for better outcome for children in care by being nearer to families and local support networks and schools. There will be a consultation with stakeholders and local residents about preferred sites. At the same time the Council will be developing a strategy to reduce the total number of children in care and support ways to help them grow up in a family setting.

Assistive Technology

Cabinet on 30th July approved agreed to move forward with finding an Assistive Technology partner to provide assessment, installation and monitoring equipment, and a Careline and responder service. The intention is that will enable cost savings, delaying the need for more costly interventions and enabling people to be independent for longer.

Superfast Broadband

The Council is enabling Change Controls under the Superfast Dorset Phase 3 Ultrafast Contract to incorporate funding from the DEFRA Rural Broadband Infrastructure Grant award up to the public maximum contribution of £8.9 million

Somerley Tip

A decision on the way forward on this was delayed at the Cabinet Meeting of 30th July pending a meeting between the Dorset Council Leader and Hampshire County Council Leader.