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ESCC report to Etchingam parish council 20th January 2022

I am delighted to report that the drainage work in Church Street was carried out during the week before Christmas. Hopefully this will rectify the problem but the drainage team will be monitoring the site.

The draft budget and council plan for 2022/23 has been published this week. The budget proposes no new savings beyond those already agreed and suggests investing more in key areas to prepare for future pressures.

The proposals include:

- Cancelling savings of £900,000 which were due to be made from the early help service.
- Earmarking an extra £5 million for priority services in the year ahead, especially where new spending will reduce future demand.
- An extra £6m to combat climate change, to be spent between 2023 and 2025
- An extra £31m to be spent on maintaining roads and pavements in a good condition over the next 10 years.

The draft budget will be considered by Cabinet on 25 January before going to Council for approval on 8 February. It would mean allocating £453m for the year ahead.

The report to Cabinet says that demand for our services is more crucial than ever, especially for the most vulnerable residents, following the pandemic. It shows how careful financial management and the hard work of staff over several years has allowed a budget with no additional savings to be put forward. And it sets out how setting aside some resources now will allow ESCC to prepare for growing demand and changes in areas including social care and special educational need.

To help prepare for a future which is still uncertain, the budget includes raising Council Tax by 1.99 per cent and the Adult Social Care precept allowed by Government by 2.5%. If adopted, this rise would see a typical (Band D) household pay an extra £1.33 a week for County Council services.