

## District Council Annual Report

Buses – No 11 continues to be funded by the Mayor and a new route is being planned to go to Addenbrookes via the Wilbrahams and Fulbourn. These are funded through the Mayor's precept, so the funding is secure unless the Mayor decides to cease the funding, rather than being dependent on one-off grants from central government.

Bins are now generally being collected on the advertised dates, but street sweeping remains patchy. The Council owned company ECSS overspent again by up to £200k costs have now risen from £3m in 2022/23 to £4.6m in 2024/25.

Local Plan – ECDC has updated the housing requirement and is now consulting on its guidance to protect hedgehogs - [Hedgehog Recovery Design Guidance SPD Consultation Notice \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk). It is slowing down work on parts of the environment chapter because members had asked for higher standards for building regs than the national standard, but in December government published policy statement to prevent Councils from enforcing higher standards. The fact that ecdc's local plan dates back to 2015 leaves residents vulnerable to inappropriate development.

We continue to get complaints about dangerous and illegal parking. The Police do not have the resources to address this consistently. East Cambs is one of just 3 District Councils who refuse to implement Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). Under CPE, the District Council could employ people to enforce safe parking and could use cameras in some places, which the Police don't have the power to do. John and I, with colleagues, continue to press the Council to take on CPE.

Charlotte has left the Audit Committee for 2 reasons:

1 – after several years of trying to get ECDC to change its terms of reference and procedures it still does not comply with CIPFA guidance – guidance which the government has urged Council's to follow

2 – Audit Committee members cannot be members of Finance & Assets but ECDC gives F&A a very wide remit, including Environment and the Local Plan. Charlotte wants to be able to fully engage with those discussions.