

Hampshire County Councillor Annual Parish Meeting Report 2022

Facts and Figures Hampshire's population is **1,389,200** (2020) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). Hampshire CC maintains **5400** miles of roads, **4300** miles pavements, **474** maintained schools for 138,000 pupils, **52** academy schools for **38,000** pupils, **10** residential homes for children and young people, **18** Older Persons Care Homes and **5** Country Parks.

Budget HCC approves £2.4 billion spending on local services in 2022/2023

Plans for the next financial year focus on the county's ongoing work following the pandemic, support for vulnerable children and adults, investment in Hampshire's roads and infrastructure to support economic recovery, as well as climate change mitigation.

The annual council tax charge has risen by 2.99%, of which 1% is for adults' social care. The budget includes £556.2 million of capital expenditure over the next three years to boost jobs, the quality of the environment and to tackle climate change.

The proposed capital programme includes: • £109 million in new and extended school buildings to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire • £136 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years • £109 million for integrated transport schemes including over £50 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements • £95 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings and land holdings over the next three years following the £33 million for decarbonisation schemes covering solar PV, single to double glazing window replacements, transition from oil to gas and the implementation of heating controls that took place in 2021-2022

Climate Change Hampshire County Council has been taking active steps to ensure Hampshire is resilient to the impacts of a 2% rise in average temperature and in mitigating further changes through carbon reduction measures. HCC's own emissions have reduced by more than 43%, with more than a 50% reduction by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

County Deal

"In line with our level of ambition, we are prepared to work through the details of a Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Leader."

"Pan Hampshire's sub-geography will be reflected through area-based collaboration building on existing partnerships. These will be included in the structure of a Deal – i.e. North, Central, and South Area Groups."

The County Deal will devolve to a Combined Authority the powers to:

- Deliver strategic services
- Support local businesses
- Develop and control local strategic transport
- Make strategic and long-term investments
- Give adults the skills needed by the labour market
- Control local infrastructure decisions
- Keep the public healthy and safe. This includes control over the Police and Crime Commissioner's functions
- Rate taxes and business tax supplements towards funding the above.

Hampshire is proposing a Directly elected Leader, rather than a Mayor, to lead a cabinet of County and District members.

Waste and Recycling

In November I wrote to Kit Malthouse and Cllr Rob Humby about the need for a national or at least regional approach to access to Recycling Centres, so that the current cross-border charging, such as that being made by West Berkshire Hampshire Residents' access to the Newtown Road site, can be resolved.

Last month a government consultation paper was published, which proposes to put greater costs onto waste authorities by allowing DIY waste to be accepted without charge. There was no mention of cross-border charging, so sadly the situation remains the same.

New Leadership

Rob Humby
Roz Chadd

Tom Thacker