

Update from Hampshire County Council – June 2024



Major funding boost to the tune of £2.3 million for Hampshire music education

Hampshire County Council's Music Service has been awarded £2.3 million by Arts Council England as part of a major national investment in high quality music provision for children and young people

The funding will see Hampshire's Music Service become the lead organisation in a hub of local partners including schools, community groups, music organisations, industry representatives and others, all working together to deliver and support music education across Hampshire. This will be one of 43 such 'Music Hubs' working nationally to inspire a love of music.

Of the funding received, £1.7million will support the Music Service to continue providing music education across Hampshire, while £600,000 will be used to invest in musical instruments, equipment and technology to further develop learning opportunities for children and young people.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240507musicHub>

Blood pressure monitors now available from Hampshire libraries

Hampshire residents can now borrow blood pressure monitors from their local library, alongside books and magazines

In a move to help local people to take charge of their own health, the County Council is making devices available for free at all its libraries.

Anyone who is concerned about their own or a loved one's blood pressure should seek advice from a medical professional. For more information about blood pressure and hypertension visit the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/high-blood-pressure-hypertension/

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/240507bloodpressuremonitors>

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County Council's surface dressing programme making Hampshire roads more resilient



Hampshire roads will be given a new lease of life this summer as Hampshire County Council's annual programme of road surface strengthening gets underway at 400 locations

Where surface dressing is being carried out, road closures will usually be in place from 9.30am to 4pm, with a few exceptions. Timings will be flexible, as the process is very weather dependant, but local roadside signage will be updated as promptly as possible to keep people informed

Hampshire residents can find out more about roadworks taking place in Hampshire, including surface dressing schemes

at: <https://one.network/> and <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/plannedmaintenance>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/08052024surfacedressing>

Extra cost of living support for Hampshire households

Hampshire County Council has announced plans for how £7.1million of extra funding will be used to help local households struggling with the cost of food and energy prices. The funding is an extension of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) until September 2024.

The funding allocations include:

Hampshire-wide grants

- £550,000 to develop sustainable food support and grants for the community pantry network;
- £483,569 to Citizens Advice to support households with utility costs;
- £421,250 for services that support unpaid carers and young carers;
- £220,000 to the Environment Centre to provide guidance and support to households on energy-related issues as well as provision of practical household items;
- £57,155 for the Hampshire Library Service to extend and develop its current community offer.

Other support includes; Community grants, Grants to District/Borough Councils, Grants through education settings, Hampshire County Council social care support

The [connect4communities website](https://www.hants.gov.uk/connect4communities) includes information for households seeking help and for organisations looking to deliver support. Information about applying for community grants will be added to the website in the coming weeks.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/240514hsffunding>

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Maintaining vital support for Hampshire’s unpaid carers

A new, single countywide carers support service starting in September is set to offer help to Hampshire carers over the age of 18 looking after someone with a long term health condition, including dementia, and those looking after a person with a physical or learning disability

The new service will provide a wide range of assistance comprising information and advice, direct one-to-one support where carers’ needs are more complex, and contingency and emergency planning, helping carers to prepare plans in the event of an emergency and being unable to look after their loved one.

The 2021 Census identified 111,739 unpaid carers in Hampshire, although according to the Office for National Statistics the numbers are likely to be much higher than the Census figures indicate.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/240517supportforcarers>

Hampshire’s young people vote climate change and environment as top concern

More than 25,000 young people across Hampshire have taken part in Make Your Mark, the UK’s biggest youth consultation, to choose campaign priorities for young politicians to focus on in the coming two years

[Make Your Mark](#) participants, aged between 11 and 18, were asked what issue affects them most from a shortlist of 10 issues. Young people of Hampshire voted Climate Change and the Environment as their top issue for 2024, as it has been in the Hampshire ballot since 2019.

The issue of health and wellbeing was voted a close second in Hampshire while it was the most important topic for young people across the UK. The consultation also showed crime and safety as a major concern for young people both in Hampshire and across the whole country.

Olivia, Member of Youth Parliament for North East Hampshire, said: “The results of Make Your Mark have made the worries and concerns of our youth undoubtedly clear. It is important for the youth to be heard, but so much more important now moving forward to act accordingly to remedy their worries for the future and present.”

Over half a million young people took part in the consultation nationally with Hampshire receiving the second most votes.

Hampshire Youth Parliament is continuing its climate campaign by running its third Hampshire Climate Conference in September in partnership with Winchester College and the [Final Straw Foundation](#). It will bring together pupils from across Hampshire to hear from keynote speakers and learn about environmental issues in a variety of interactive climate-based workshops.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240522youthclimate>

Hampshire County Councillors vote to tackle abuse and intimidation in politics

Hampshire County Council has today joined councils across the country in supporting the Local Government Association's (LGA) Debate Not Hate campaign - which aims to address the growth in abuse received by local councillors

At the Local Authority’s AGM on Thursday 23 May, County Councillors voted unanimously to support a Motion to sign up to the campaign and challenge the normalisation of abusive and aggressive behaviours against councillors, officers and contractors delivering public services for Hampshire residents.

The Local Authority has also committed to work closely with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240523debatenohate>

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New Chairman and Leader for Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council has elected a new Chairman and Leader at its Annual General Meeting held today (Thursday 23 May)

Councillor Keith Mans has been elected as Chairman and Councillor Nick Adams-King has been elected as the new County Council Leader.

“Under my leadership, Hampshire County Council will continue to strive to be an efficient, caring, innovative, business friendly council. One that cares for our environment, tackles the challenge of climate change, and actively promotes the positive and necessary work we do to protect our most vulnerable Hampshire residents.

The full County Council Cabinet has been confirmed as follows:-

- Councillor Nick Adams-King – Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
- Councillor Jan Warwick – Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
- Councillor Liz Fairhurst – Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
- Councillor Zoe Huggins – Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 (Climate Change, Culture and Partnerships) and HR, Communications and Performance
- Councillor Roz Chadd – Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
- Councillor Steve Forster – Executive Member for Education
- Councillor Kirsty North – Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
- Councillor Lulu Bowerman – Executive Member for Highways and Waste

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/23052024NewHCCChairmanandLeader>

Driving economic growth – membership announced for Hampshire’s Prosperity Partnership Board

Hampshire’s new Prosperity Partnership has taken the next steps today towards cementing arrangements to boost economic prosperity, innovation, and skills across the county, with the appointment of new Board members to the new business-led collaboration which aims to build on the legacy of the successful Local Enterprise Partnerships to drive economic growth for the benefit of people and businesses across the county

The functions of Local Enterprise Partnerships moved over to upper tier local authorities, such as county councils, earlier this year. A Government requirement of the transition has been for Hampshire County Council to create the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board – bringing together representatives from local government, education, and business to help inform County Council decisions in relation to economic development and skills to ensure the best outcomes for local people.

Read more about the [Hampshire Prosperity Partnership](#).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/24052024DrivingeconomicgrowthPR>

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Future Services – changes to planned decision-making dates

Following the announcement that a General Election will be held on 4 July 2024, decisions on proposals in relation to the findings of the Future Services Consultation held earlier this year, will be postponed until this autumn

With a General Election also now due this summer, the County Council has considered the circumstances very carefully. Local authorities must adhere to important restrictions on publicity and decision-making activity, especially for key issues, during a pre-election period (the weeks running up to an election). Any decisions and communications activity in relation to the outcome of the Future Services Consultation should be avoided under pre-election rules. In deciding to postpone the dates for final decision-making, the local authority has also reflected on the need for Councillors to be able to fully participate in the process, and the County Council's established practice of ensuring that significant decisions are generally rescheduled to after an election.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/24052024FutureServicesdecisiondates>

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