

1. Winter support

HCC is getting about £14.2 m this year from the household support fund and another £3.3m from the holiday activity and food fund. East Hampshire is about 9% of the Hampshire population, so proportionally our residents will get about £1.5m of this funding.

The website is:

[connect4communities | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://connect4communities.org.uk/Children-and-Families/Hampshire-County-Council-hants.gov.uk)

Household Support Fund – 2022

- Easter holiday food vouchers - £30 worth of food vouchers to spend at their choice of supermarket or community pantry during Easter school holidays, benefitting 25,899 households
- 611 households supported with housing costs through District & Borough Councils
- 79,879 households with pensioners or those in receipt of local council tax support issued with food vouchers
- Network of 19 community pantries and 11 mobile community larders established and funded to provide food to more than 5,000 members (2 community larders in Bordon, others locally are Growing Places in Waterlooville and Dickinson Centre in Havant)
- 69,000 of the most vulnerable families supported with items such as food vouchers, utility support and wider provisions such as cookers or white goods through discretionary grants issued to education settings
- 80 charities and community support associations, supported to deliver a range of projects delivering to more than 11,000 households throughout Hampshire. Many of these beneficiaries were pensioners and children. Support ranged from direct provisions like food parcels, sanitary products, blankets, and carpets, to projects such as teaching families how to grow vegetables and cook on a budget
- 4,590 households supported with utility bill payments through funding to Citizens Advice

The offer for October 2022 to March 2023

School, Colleges and Early Years settings

Discretionary grant based on number on roll

Additional 20p per day for schools per free school meal eligible child

Food vouchers

£500 for foster carers

£100 for care leavers

£100 for families open to Disabled Children's Teams

£20 households eligible for council tax support

£40 for households eligible for housing benefit

Targeted grants

Work with social care teams and organisations delivering direct support to those adults and families open to social care teams, Gateway Card holders and unpaid carers

Support with Gas, Electric & Water Bills

Funding allocated to Citizens Advice to provide support to households with utility bills

Support with Housing Costs

Funding for District and Borough Councils to administer this element

Community Pantries

Access to discounted food at 19 pantries across Hampshire and 11 mobile larders operating in the New Forest (2 in East Hampshire, both in Bordon: Café 1759 and Sacred Heart Catholic Church)

Community Grants

A range of organisations can apply for funding to support schemes in local areas

Food banks

These are not run by HCC. The one in Petersfield is organised by the Petersfield churches (PACT). This relies on voluntary donations and is based on referrals (from: Winton House, CAB, Home Start Butser, GP surgeries, local schools and Housing Associations). Last year they gave out 848 packs, down marginally from 1073 in 2020 but up from 310 packs in 2019.

The Trussell Trust run the Alton foodbank, again based on a similar referral programme.

2. Minerals and Waste Plan update consultation

Hampshire's five minerals and waste planning authorities are asking residents, local groups and businesses to help scrutinise proposed changes to Hampshire's Minerals and Waste Plan to ensure that it will continue to ensure provision of a steady and adequate supply of minerals and sufficient waste infrastructure, as well as maintain communities, protect the local environment and address the impacts of climate change.

The consultation allows residents to comment on local sites that have been identified for minerals extraction and transportation. Sites for waste processing, recycling and disposal facilities are also indicated in the Plan - so that the millions of tonnes of household and commercial waste generated across the county can be dealt with as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

The proposed updated plan and the response form can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update. The consultation will close at 17:00 hours on Tuesday 31 January 2023.

3. Roads update

Hampshire residents' satisfaction with how Hampshire County Council maintains the county's 5,500 miles of highway has improved, following the County Council's decision to provide

additional local funding to try to reduce the impact of the year-on-year reductions in Government funding for local highway maintenance over the past decade.

Hampshire has been rated third out of all 30 English county councils for public satisfaction with highway maintenance and is the highest performing county authority in the South-East region, according to the 2022 National Highways and Transport Survey.

Since the beginning of 2022, Hampshire Highways has repaired around 41,000 carriageway and footway defects, including potholes, and cleared nearly 39,000 gullies and other highway drainage assets to reduce the risk of flooding.

The focus in December was in responding to the cold snap, for example between 1st and 16th December, 26 salting runs were completed, accounting for 5,250 man hours and 5,665 tons of salt being deposited on the county's Priority One routes. More details of Hampshire Highways' winter response can be found at hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather

4. Leader calls on Government to address local government underfunding

Rob Humby, the leader of Hampshire County Council called on the Government to take urgent action to address the looming financial crisis facing upper tier local government over the next few years. In a letter sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Secretary of State, Councillor Humby, and Kent County Council Leader, Councillor Roger Gough, have outlined the drastic budget implications facing the two authorities, and the need for Government's immediate help and a clear plan for long-term financial sustainability, if the two County Councils are to avoid filing bankruptcy notices within the next year or so.

Councillor Humby commented that“ both Hampshire and Kent are high-performing, financially well-run and long respected County Councils. However, we face budget deficits over the next few years of a scale that has never been seen before – but not of our own doing. Our budgets are now at breaking point. We have gone as far as we can to close the budget gaps we have faced to date, and there is nowhere left to go in future without severely impacting some of the most vulnerable people in our society.”

The two leaders have asked the Government to put local councils on a long-term sustainable financial footing. Their request includes more annual funding to keep up with growing demand for adults and children's social care services or legislative changes to reduce the demands on these services; fully funding the social care funding reforms and more money for growth in special educational needs; as well as greater freedom and flexibility around setting council tax and charging for services, alongside legislative changes to help local government help itself.

5. HCC reorganisation

Hampshire County Council is carrying out an internal reorganisation, with some changes in its senior leadership. This has necessitated a change in responsibilities of the Council's Cabinet. With effect from 1 January 2023, there will now be as follows:

Adults 'Health and Care - Cllr Liz Fairhurst (lead member) and Cllr Jan Warwick

Children's Services - Cllr Edward Heron (lead member) and Cllr Steve Forster

Universal Services - Cllr Nick Adams-King (lead member) and Cllr Russell Oppenheimer

Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services - Cllr Rob Humby (leader) and Cllr Ros Chadd (deputy leader)

Cllr Kirsty North will continue as Cabinet Member for HR, Performance, Communications and Inclusion and Diversity.

6. Boundary Commission review of constituencies

The Boundary Commission for England have published their revised proposals for parliamentary constituency boundaries. A final public consultation has commenced which closes on 5 December 2022.

The revised proposals and maps can be viewed here [South East | Boundary Commission for England \(independent.gov.uk\)](https://www.independent.gov.uk/south-east/)