

Romsey Rural Division County Councillor Report –January 2019
Cllr Roy Perry

*Awbridge, Chilworth, East Dean, East Tytherley, Lockerley, Melchet Park and Plaitford,
Michelmersh and Timsbury, Nursling and Rownhams, Romsey Extra, Sherfield English,
Wellow, West Tytherley*

1. Finances

HCC finances remain tight with ongoing pressure of the ageing population and more children coming into care. HCC now receives no Revenue Support Grant at all from central Government. To cope with those extra pressures plus inflation – e.g. the increase in the Living Wage will add £40million to our costs, we are having to plan a further cut of £80million from the budget by 2021

A glimmer of good news is the HCC Council Tax increase 2019/20 will probably only be 2.99% against 5.99% increase last year.

2. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

The whole of Test Valley will now be in the Enterprise M3 LEP area. Previously Romsey area was in Solent LEP

3. Children's Services

Pressure on Children's Services continues, in 2013/14 there were 68,789 initial referrals, by 2017/18 this rose to 106,101. Over the same time the number of children on Child Protection Plans rose to 1293 and the number of looked after children increased by 20%..

Hampshire's work with the Isle of Wight Children's Services has been positively recognised as they have recently received an OFSTED rating of good. Work such as this allows staff at HCC to develop their understanding and improve their practice; the County Council only enters partnerships such as this if there is no negative impact on Hampshire residents.

4. Adult's Services

Chesil Lodge Winchester Extra Care is the model for the development in Romsey to replace Nightingale Lodge; a proportion of the new apartments will be for sale however, the majority will be available to let. Work will start shortly

Many of the former clients of the Master's House Day Care centre, which was based in Nightingale Lodge, are currently receiving respite care services at Abbotswood Court. However, the day care services will be replicated in the new development.