

Hampshire County Councillor report

May 2022

1. Homes for Ukraine update

The County Council continues to work with key local partners to enable the provision of immediate support and assistance to Ukrainians arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. The focus remains on conducting necessary safeguarding and wellbeing checks via home visits, distribution of financial support, in collaboration with public sector partners, and ensuring key information is shared with guests and sponsors efficiently.

The latest available figures for visas issued are that as of 3 May 2022, 45,126 visas have been issued for England, of which 1,685 are for Hampshire.

In addition to the other support available, an initial fund of £100,000 has been made available for local community and voluntary organisations working to help Ukrainian families to apply for financial support through the Leader's Community Grants - details are at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/leaders-community-grants>

Applications will be considered from parish and town councils and local branches of national charities (where the support being provided is delivered specifically in Hampshire) and may be for any amount up to £5,000. Applications will be assessed to ensure that the proposals are appropriate, that necessary levels of safeguarding are in place and that the activity does not unnecessarily duplicate support which is already provided through other channels.

Further details are available by following the link above or by contacting ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk.

Useful information for anyone welcoming Ukrainian guests can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>.

Hampshire County Council has a helpful webpage at www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine which is being regularly updated. This includes a new Welcome Guide webpage <https://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine/guests/welcome-guide>

2. County councillor grant scheme

The opening date for the County Councillor grant scheme for 2022/2023 has been brought forward and is now open for applications from Monday 9th May. This is facilitate any grant applications associated with the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

3. Fostering Hampshire Children nominated for award

Hampshire County Council's 'Fostering Hampshire Children' team has been nominated for a Purpose Award for its winter 2021 'You Can Foster' campaign – which achieved a 300% increase in enquiries about fostering in Hampshire.

This will see the County Council compete with BT, Dove, Vodafone and others to have its campaign named the Best Public Awareness Cause Campaign in the 'Brand Led' category.

The Purpose Awards recognise campaigns that use creative ideas to successfully highlight positive causes. Details of the campaign can be seen at <https://www.purposeawards.co.uk/finalists/you-can-foster-winter-2021-d0003>

4. Streetlighting in Hampshire

Hampshire has 133,952 streetlights which are maintained by a company called Enerveo pursuant to Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract which commenced in 2010 and lasts for 25 years.

The control network for the streetlights is very flexible, allowing the County Council to dim and “part-night” streetlights to reduce our energy consumption and carbon emissions and respond to a variety of requests.

Energy usage has reduced by 66% since the contract began, primarily through LED replacements, dimming and part-night lighting. At the same time, the number of reported faults has fallen to two thirds what it was in 2009. Most faults are detected automatically by the system, but you can also report faults online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight>

5. Consultation on Hampshire’s new Local Transport Plan

The County Council is asking for views on a draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) that aims to support the county’s economic prosperity, decarbonise the transport system, and help people in Hampshire live healthy lives.

The LTP4 will define the future of travel and transport in Hampshire to 2050. If adopted, it would guide the County Council’s transport and travel infrastructure planning and design in favour of improving travel choices for people by transforming and widening the appeal of walking, cycling and use of public transport.

The plan proposes transformational changes which:

- shift away from planning for vehicles, towards planning for people and places
- reduce reliance on private car travel
- support economic development and regeneration
- meet national priorities to decarbonise the transport system
- promote active lifestyles

The consultation runs until 26 June 2022 and people can take part at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan>

Subject to the results of the consultation the new Local Transport Plan is expected to be adopted by early 2023.

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