

# Hampshire County Councillor report

December 2022

## 1. 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 Rob Chadd (deputy leader)

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

## 2. Leader calls on Government to address local government underfunding

Rob Humby, the leader of Hampshire County Council has 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.

### **3. Winter support**

Hampshire's most vulnerable residents will not be left out in the cold this winter, thanks to a range of measures to help people with the costs of food, fuel and other essentials. Using its latest round of Household Support Funding from the Department for Work and Pensions, Hampshire County Council will be investing more than £7 million in a wide variety of schemes and initiatives targeting households facing hardship, between now and March 2023.

The initiatives will expand on what was offered in the previous funding round to include support for foster carers registered with the County Council, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities. It will also widen the support available to reach out to those who may not be eligible for other assistance but are nevertheless in need.

Details can be found by emailing [connect4communities@hants.gov.uk](mailto:connect4communities@hants.gov.uk) or visiting the connect4communities website.

### **4. 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](http://www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update). The consultation will close at 17:00 hours on Tuesday 31 January 2023.

### **5. 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)

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Councillor Hugh Lumby**

**Meon Valley Division**