

Hampshire County Councillor report

November 2023

1. HCC budget reductions

I mentioned in my last report the steps that the county council are considering to ensure it can balance its budget going forward in the face of central government underfunding of local government. A final decision is to be made by the full county council at its meeting on 9 November. I will let you know next month about the decisions taken and further public consultations.

2. Update to Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan latest

Over the next two months, an update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is set to be considered by each of the five authorities that contribute to the plan (Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and South Downs National Park Authority) to determine whether each authority agrees that further consultation can take place prior to the Plan being submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for examination. HCC's decision will be made on 12 December. Once approved by all authorities, an eight week consultation will be launched in January 2024. The responses to the consultation are then submitted together with the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for scrutiny. The local policies contained within the Plan guide the decisions that each of the five minerals and waste planning authorities make when determining planning applications for minerals extraction or waste infrastructure and operations. The impact locally on proposed sites, both for extraction and landfill, is clear.

3. Consultation on proposed changes to school and post-16 transport

Proposed changes to Hampshire County Council's School and Post-16 Transport Policies are the subject of two public consultations which run until Wednesday 6 December.

The proposals have been put forward to provide more flexible transport arrangements that better respond to children's needs, demand and external market pressures, while bringing services in line with the latest statutory guidance from the DfE. The proposals are not part of a savings programme, and do not include any proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for School and Post-16 Transport.

Details of the proposed changes and links to the consultation can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/Post-16-Transport-Policy-for-2024-25> and <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/schooltransport>

4. Useful links for power cuts and flooding

In the aftermath of Storm Ciaran, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks have provided some useful links in the event of future power cuts.

Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can report by dialling 105. You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SSEN's [Power Track Website](#). Their [website](#) also contains advice and information on how to deal with a power cut and there is also a webchat service.

You can read advice online about how to [prepare for flooding](#) and check The Environment Agency web pages for updates relating to [flood alerts](#) for the area. For assistance in the event of flooding call 0345 988 1188 or text 0345 602 6340.

5. County Council renews commitment to Hampshire's Armed Forces

Hampshire County Council has underlined its commitment to the Armed Forces, by renewing its pledge that serving and veteran members of the Forces, and their families, are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged when accessing public services such as education and healthcare. Hampshire has a historic and long-standing close relationship with the Armed Forces and has military facilities from all three services. Some 72,000 households in Hampshire include someone who has served in the UK armed forces.

6. Reporting Highway Problems

A reminder of some useful links

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

7. Silverlake

Silverlake, the vehicle recycling centre on the Botley Road between Shedfield and Curdridge, have just commenced public consultation on potential expansion plans. No application for planning permission has been made yet. Details of the proposals, how to respond to the consultation and how to register for a live webinar can be found at <https://www.silverlakeconsultation.co.uk>

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