

### **Balancing the Budget**

September saw the start of the County Council's budget planning timetable – with Hampshire residents' responses to this summer's Balancing the Budget consultation at the heart of proposals being considered by individual Cabinet members over the coming weeks. Recommendations will then go to the Cabinet later this month, before a final decision in November by the full County Council. Further to ratification by Cabinet and Full Council, some proposals may then be subject to further, more detailed consultation.



If Hampshire is to remain one of the strongest local authorities in the Country, providing good value for money to the County's taxpayers, and consistently delivering some of the best public services to Hampshire's 1.3 million residents, we must receive the right level of financial support, on an ongoing and consistent basis, from Government. Consequently, the County Council will be making further representations to Westminster to feed into the three-year Spending Review due to take place next year.

### **Brexit web page for Hampshire**

To help prepare for Brexit, Hampshire County Council has published easy to find guidance for residents and local businesses on its web site. The new web page has useful links, guidance and information on what the County Council has been doing in the background to make sure Hampshire is as prepared as possible. For example, as one of the organisations in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum, we have prepared a 5km stretch of the A31 as a part in a contingency plan to manage a potential increase in traffic and congestion in South Hampshire, in the event the Port of Portsmouth is affected by a no deal EU exit; and we have well established processes in place to respond to a wide range of scenarios, such as disruption to critical supplies. Useful information for Hampshire residents and local businesses, details of Hampshire's preparations, as well as links to key information from central Government, is available at: [www.hants.gov.uk/business/brexit](http://www.hants.gov.uk/business/brexit)

### **Improving Recycling in Hampshire**

Across the County Council, savings proposals are being developed to bridge the funding gap we face, due to reductions in our funding from Government, rising costs and inflation, and growing demand for Council services. We need to find a further £80 million of savings, on top of the £480 million already taken out of the budget, since 2010, so we are having to look very carefully across our services. As part of the County Council's budget planning, a report into how savings could be made, while improving recycling, is to be considered by Cabinet and full Council. This will include the start of a radical overhaul of how waste is managed in Hampshire.

With approximately 100,000 bin loads being delivered to our facilities for disposal every weekday, it is essential the County Council make every pound we spend on waste and recycling count. Recent Government announcements on changes in the national waste system, and the challenge of improving recycling performance in Hampshire, means we must reassess the way we deal with waste. We know that our household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) achieve a much higher recycling rate than kerbside bins collected by district councils – in the national recycling league tables, not one district council in Hampshire is in the top half. This demonstrates that there is considerable room for improvement. Also by reducing the spend associated with household waste disposal, the County Council can protect the HWRC network - which residents value. Therefore, the County Council will be considering proposals for reducing the financial subsidies currently paid to the district councils. These proposals will include passing on the full cost of rejected loads of recycling to the collection authorities (district councils). If approved by the Cabinet and Full County Council, the changes would not take effect before April 2021.

Read the full report at: <http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=5477>

### **Hampshire's Carers and people living with Dementia**

A new Hampshire-wide service to support people aged 18 years and over who care for another adult, as well as people living with dementia, was launched across the County in September 2019. Jointly commissioned by Hampshire County Council, NHS West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the new Carers' Support and Dementia Advisor Service is provided by Andover Mind and offers a range of support, including:

### ***For carers***

- one-to-one assistance, either over the phone Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, online or face-to-face with a trained carer support worker at a time that is convenient for the individual;
- general information and advice on carer-related topics online and over the phone;
- local carer support groups held across Hampshire.

### ***For those living with a dementia diagnosis or suspected dementia and their loved ones***

- one-to-one assistance, either over the phone Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, online or face-to-face with a trained dementia advisor at a time that is convenient for the person needing assistance;
- general information and advice on dementia-related topics online and over the phone.

We know that people need to be able to access help quickly and easily, so we have brought together the various support services that were previously provided separately by the County Council and our Health partners. By doing this, we are using our collective resources in a much more effective way to support Hampshire's more than 133,000 adult carers and the approximately 12,400 residents known to be diagnosed with dementia. For more information about the Carers' Support and Dementia Advisor Service, visit

[www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/dementia](http://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/dementia) or telephone the service support line on 01264 332297.

### **GCSE and A level Results**

This year saw the final rollout of the three-year implementation of 1 to 9 grade ratings for GCSEs - with 9 being at the very top of the scale and a pass grade being 4 or above. In Hampshire, secondary schools are reporting that 69 per cent of pupils taking the exams achieved a pass at grade 4 in English and mathematics, compared with 67 per cent last year. The 'attainment 8' outcome, which measures the results across the wider curriculum, has also improved from a score of 47.2 in 2018 to 47.6 in 2019. Note: Attainment 8 is a statistical calculation that measures the results of every student across eight subjects. Higher figures reflect better results.

Hard work by the County's students has brought them success with the average A-level grade achieved moving up to a B minus from a C plus in 2018. Point scores (translating to UCAS points) across all types of qualification have also improved to an average of:

- 35.5 at A-level (up from 33.4 in 2018);
- 29.9 for technical qualifications (compared with 28.2 the previous year);
- and 39.6 for vocational qualifications (against 27.8 last year).

Students who sat this year's A-levels were the first to study for new-style exams from Year 12, with 20 new subjects tested for the first time. The qualification was redesigned to focus more on examinations in place of coursework and modules, following concerns from universities that school leavers were insufficiently prepared for the demands of higher education.

### **Public Health partnership with the Isle of Wight**

Under a new arrangement which began in August, the County Council has assumed responsibility for the leadership and delivery of Public Health on the Island, overseeing a wide range of services. These include mandated services such as NHS Health Checks, the National Child Measurement Programme and appropriate access to sexual health assistance, as well as locally commissioned support including smoking cessation and the promotion of healthy weight programmes, drug and substance misuse services, plus mental wellbeing support.

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