

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL report to Boarhunt Parish Council – 6th February 2019

Protecting Services

For some years, the County Council has set and implemented a careful financial strategy designed to cope with rising demand for services. Our aim has been to protect the services on which Hampshire residents depend - particularly those for the most vulnerable in our communities, especially the children in our care and the growing number of elderly residents who need our support.

The rising pressures on services mean that our planned savings programme needs to deliver £140 million by April this year. Nationally, the number of vulnerable children and adults continues to rise, and Hampshire is no exception. The population of over 75 year olds is set to increase by 30 per cent over the next seven years - an extra 5,500 people a year who may well need social care support, to varying degrees. The number of children in care has increased by 372 (28 per cent) in the last three and a half years alone. While we have robust action plans in place to help contain this increase, especially to avoid the need for a child to go into care, there is no doubt this rise in the number of people needing our help is the biggest pressure the County Council faces.

The County Council's Cabinet recently agreed to recommend to full Council a total 2.99 per cent increase in the council tax precept for Hampshire County Council's element of the tax, for the financial year beginning 1 April 2019. This equates to an annual charge of £1,236.87 for a Band D property – an increase of just under £36 per year or 70 pence a week, and will generate an additional £18 million for County Council services.

The proposed 2.99 per cent increase is much lower than last year's increase and will mean Hampshire is likely to levy the second lowest council tax of any county council in the country.

Alongside the revenue budget, Cabinet approved the capital budget for the coming financial year, and proposals for significant investment in Hampshire's economy, jobs and the quality of the environment, with projects totalling just under £500 million over the next three years.

The County Council will be delivering one of the largest capital programmes of any county council. There are planned improvements to roads, bridges, walking and cycling infrastructure and school buildings. The capital programme is a very significant investment in Hampshire's infrastructure, delivering schemes totalling £491.6 million between 2019 and 2022 and providing a big boost for the local economy. It will provide:

- £160 million of investment in new and extended school buildings in Hampshire in the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £122 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £72 million for integrated transport schemes including £9 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements
- £94 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings over the next three years.

Final decisions on the budget will be made by the full County Council on 14 February 2019.

Hampshire 2050 Commission

The Commission has been set up by Hampshire County Council to explore how best to ensure Hampshire's future prosperity. It examines some of the main, inter-related themes that will have an impact on those living and working in Hampshire in the coming years. The focus of the recent hearing on the future of connectivity was on the transport impact of electric powered and autonomous vehicles, the impact of communications and smart technology in homes and workplaces, and future energy issues. Hampshire residents are invited to complete an online questionnaire at <https://etehampshirecc.researchfeedback.net/s.asp> on each of the six key themes about what may happen in the future, what the impact of this will be, and how the County Council and partner organisations need to respond to this.

The Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry has heard evidence on Demographic and societal challenges, the future of the Hampshire economy, Work, Skills and Lifestyle, Environment and Quality of Place, and Mobility, Connectivity

and Energy. The final hearing on the six themes will focus on Rural Hampshire, including how economic, social, technological and environmental changes are likely to affect rural communities and the potential for a rural renaissance

Supporting our Sportsmen and Sportswomen

A total of 215 sportsmen and women across the County have been specially picked to be a part of the Hampshire Talented Athletes Scheme (HTAS), funded by the County Council. The scheme provides athletes with grants for competition and travel costs, physiotherapy and sport science support, free access to leisure centres and bus travel, plus public speaking training to inspire children during school visits. Of the 215 athletes awarded support this year, 123 will receive grant funding worth a total of £34,000 from the County Council.

Community Organisations Funding

A new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund of over £500,000 has been set up by Hampshire County Council to simplify the application process and open it up to a wider range of organisations. Also, for the first-time young people's uniformed organisations such as Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts, as well as sports clubs, will be able to apply for funding.

The new Community Fund will make awards of up to £100,000 and support projects which provide community benefit and/or help organisations become self-supporting, thus reducing reliance on public sector funding in the long term. In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000 to £3,000 will also be awarded to help pump prime community events and activities.

Applicants must support the priorities and outcomes of Hampshire County Council's Serving Hampshire - Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2021. It forms the cornerstone of all strategies and plans across departments and service areas. It features four key aims:

- Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- people in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives
- people in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment
- people in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities

The following organisations are NOT funded under this scheme:

- individuals
- services provided solely within the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth City Council and/or Southampton City Council
- other local authorities, including District, Parish and Town Councils
- commercial/profit making organisations
- schools, including pre-schools and colleges

The following projects are NOT funded under this scheme:

- the purchase of land
- capital works that have already been carried out. We cannot retrospectively fund projects; grants are awarded for works to be carried out in the future
- ongoing staff costs. We may fund a fixed-term member of staff or consultant to carry out a time-limited piece of work
- fund-raising activities
- projects which meet the aims of other Hampshire County Council grant schemes.

The Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Grant is a rolling scheme and applications are welcome at any time. Funding will be available from April 2019. Applications will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis. An application form for the new fund is available at - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/recreation-heritage-community-fund> or phone 01962 845390.

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