

Update from Hampshire County Council – April 2023

County Council welcomes additional money from Government for pothole repairs

Hampshire County Council has welcomed additional funding for pothole repairs confirmed in the Government's Spring Budget on Wednesday 15 March. The Chancellor announced a further £200m for the national Pothole Fund to help local communities to tackle this issue with £5,954,400 confirmed for Hampshire.

Over the winter period, HCC have drafted in extra resources to repair more road defects following a dramatic and sustained increase in reported issues. In total over the last three months, we have repaired 16,748 potholes and other road defects.

The Government's extra funding announcement recognises the significant challenges facing highway authorities across the country and goes some way to help us to bridge the financial gap that we face in managing 5,000 miles of road in Hampshire.

In addition to the annual funding received from the Department for Transport for highway maintenance, the County Council invests an additional £10m each year into proactive structural maintenance through our established Operation Resilience programme, designed to make roads and footways more resilient to the impacts of weather extremes and heavy use, along with an additional £7m each year for day-to-day maintenance.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/17032023AdditionalFundingPotholes>

Community grants made from the Household Support Fund in Hampshire

A clothing bank in Andover, a community farm in the New Forest and a church near Fleet are among the latest recipients of community grants from Hampshire County Council's connect4communities programme, funded by the Government's Household Support Fund

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportorfamilies>

In total, we have approved grants of more than £750,000 in the last six months to local groups, schools and community pantries, who are able to reach those most in need and make a positive difference."

The connect4communities website also includes details of schools and community pantries which have received grants from the Household Support Fund, as well as holiday activity and food clubs for school children (funded by the Department for Education).

The County Council encourages any residents who may be struggling during these difficult times to reach out to their local community groups and charities for support.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230317hsfgrants>

Hampshire County Youth Band to celebrate 60 years of music on a high note

The Hampshire County Youth Band will be taking over The Anvil in Basingstoke for an exciting two-day line-up of performances on 15 and 16 April to celebrate six decades of musical performance and education in Hampshire

The Hampshire Youth Band is part of a network of 60 groups run by the County Council's Hampshire Music Service and brings together over 100 talented young musicians from across Hampshire.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/16032023HampshireYouthBand60Anniversary>

Update from Hampshire County Council – April 2023



Hampshire Youth Band

Keeping up momentum - County Council finances top the agenda in ministerial meeting

The severe financial crisis facing county councils nationally in the next few years has topped the agenda of a key meeting at Hampshire County Council with Minister for Local Government, Lee Rowley MP. At the meeting held on 16 March, Hampshire Leader, Councillor Rob Humby restated the mounting pressures facing upper tier authorities across the country and highlighted the unprecedented challenges faced by Hampshire County Council in future years – with a forecast budget shortfall of £132million by April 2025.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/16032023CountywelcomesLocalGovernmentMinister>

High praise for Hampshire’s social workers following Ofsted visit

Hampshire County Council’s child and family social workers are ‘knowledgeable, confident and child-centred’ and ensure that children have a ‘meaningful voice’ in decisions about their care. This is one of many positive findings highlighted by Ofsted, following a focused visit to Hampshire Children’s Services. Local Authorities are required to undergo Ofsted inspections every three years, with a focused visit or Joint Targeted Area Inspection in the intervening two years. A visit was most recently undertaken to Hampshire Children’s Services on 31 January and 1 February 2023, focusing specifically on children in care.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230310ofsted>

Cllr David Drew
Test Valley Central Division, HCC