

Update from Hampshire County Council – February 2022

Maintaining momentum towards a County Deal

Following publication of Government's Levelling-Up White Paper today (Wednesday 2 February), work continues across Hampshire and the surrounding areas to further explore options for a possible County Deal – with a focus on benefitting local communities, by bringing decisions and powers closer to people and places

On 8 February, Members of Hampshire County Council's Cabinet will receive an update on the ongoing work and direction of travel towards a Pan-Hampshire County Deal – based around options featured in a summary 'prospectus' document published in the autumn. The prospectus sets out the ambition, priorities and options for taking forward a County Deal for the Pan-Hampshire area (covering Hampshire County Council, the 11 district and borough councils within the County Council administrative area, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, Isle of Wight Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council) and has formed the basis of further discussions during November and December with the area's borough, district and unitary authorities, as well as wider engagement with other stakeholders.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/02022022CountyDealupdate>

Further year's funding agreed to keep community transport services on the road

With the COVID-19 pandemic still having an impact on levels of all public and community transport use across the county, Hampshire County Council has agreed to maintain contract payments for community transport operators at 100% from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

The Executive Member for Highways Operations, agreed a [recommendation to continue the policy](#), implemented during the early stage of the pandemic, of paying 100% contract payments to community transport operators. The move will assist those operators in the recovery and operation of their services, supporting them to maintain service levels whilst they experience lower than usual passenger numbers, and user confidence rebuilds during the coming financial year.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20220131CommTrspSupport22-23>

County councillor grants

A reminder that applications for county councillor grants for this financial year need to be submitted by 28 February. The 2022/23 county councillor grant window will open on 1 June. The link for applications is here:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

Apply now for grants to run food and activity clubs during the Easter holidays

Community and voluntary organisations able to deliver holiday activities and food schemes for children and young people are being urged to apply for grants for the Easter school break

The grants are provided through the [connect4communities programme](#), which is led by Hampshire County Council in collaboration with partners and funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

Previous funding from both the DfE and the Department for Work and Pensions has provided around 77,512 spaces to children eligible for benefits-related free school meals during the 2021 school holidays.

The final date for applications is 20 February 2022

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/220128HAFEastergrants>

Hampshire proud to be first Highway Authority to trial low-carbon street furniture

Hampshire County Council is the first Highway Authority in the country to trial plant-based plastic bollards, in an effort to reduce its carbon footprint, improve safety and save money

The trial project aims to install plant-based bio polymer bollards, derived from sugar cane, which are lighter - so easier for Hampshire Highways operatives to install – and cheaper. The 'non-crete' bollards are low carbon because they are not made of concrete and they do not have the associated carbon costs in terms of manufacturing. A key constituent of concrete is cement, and the cement industry is responsible for around 7-8% of global carbon dioxide emissions.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/25012022Noncretebollards>

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County Council to consult on Home to School Transport changes

Changes to Home to School Transport arrangements, being proposed by Hampshire County Council, will be the subject of a public consultation set to open on 31 January 2022

The eight-week online consultation will be open until 27 March 2022. An information pack and questionnaire will be available, from 31 January, on www.hants.gov.uk/consultations People will also be able to request easy read, or other alternative format versions.

Additionally, a number of information events will be held where children, young people, parents and other interested stakeholders will be able to ask any questions they may have about the proposals.

Details about the events will be published also on the consultation webpage.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20220118HtSTConsultationDecision>

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