

Update from Hampshire County Council – January 2024

Household DIY waste charges at Hampshire HWRCs to end from 1 January

From 1 January 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will no longer be charged for disposing their DIY waste - in line with the Government policy changes.

Hampshire residents must have an appointment to visit one of the County Council's HWRCs. From 1 January 2024, customers will be asked to confirm if they are depositing household DIY when making their online booking.

Cement-bonded asbestos is a hazardous material that requires a bespoke environmental permit and therefore is only accepted at five sites – Andover, Basingstoke, Efford, Netley and Portsmouth.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231112HWRCDIYcharges>

Good progress towards tackling Climate Change

Hampshire residents and communities are making a significant difference in the drive to tackle climate change, by taking part in Hampshire County Council backed community initiatives and making changes in their own homes and lifestyle choices.

Over the past two years, through the Solar Together scheme, 2,100 households have purchased competitively priced solar panels, resulting in the installation of 7,400kw of rooftop solar power, which has the capacity to save an estimated 46,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

A further example of residents' activity, set out in the Annual Report, is the way in which communities across the county are being inspired and supported by The Greening Campaign to actively take carbon-saving actions in their own homes, such as reducing energy use and making space for nature.

The County Council's own work to tackle climate change is focused on key areas like reducing emissions from transport, making buildings and homes more energy efficient, generating local renewable energy and protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231212ClimateChgProgress2023>

Hampshire's ongoing commitment to Ukraine

Hampshire County Council has today confirmed that payments to local residents hosting Ukrainian nationals as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme will continue for a third year, from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

More than 1,800 Ukrainian individuals and families are currently residing in Hampshire as part of the national Homes for Ukraine scheme.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231212HomesforUkrainehostpayments>

The results are in! Young people decide the new faces of Hampshire Youth Parliament for 2024-26

The votes have been counted and verified, and Hampshire Youth Parliament now has seven new Members, and Deputies, for the next two years. In total, more than 5,000 11–18-year-olds in Hampshire came forward to vote for their local representatives in the UK Youth Parliament

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Central Hampshire (Eastleigh, Romsey and Winchester)
Member of Youth Parliament - Aryaveer Baljee
Deputy Member of Youth Parliament – Joshua Mulford
North West Hampshire (Andover, Whitchurch, Tadley and Basingstoke)
Member of Youth Parliament - Gabriel Llewellyn-Hyde
Deputy Member of Youth Parliament – Oscar-Bertie Vallance
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231215HampshireYouthParliament>

Ofsted inspection brings ‘Good’ news for learners with Hampshire County Council

Learners and apprentices develop the ‘skills to live successfully’ thanks to teaching and training programmes provided by Hampshire County Council. This is one of many positive findings following a recent Ofsted inspection of the County Council’s ‘Hampshire Achieves’ service, which has been rated ‘Good’ overall and in all aspects of its service, including courses to support families and for learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231218HampshireAchieves>

Clampdown continues on sale of underage vapes by Hampshire Trading Standards

A Hampshire County Council Trading Standards operation has found two shops in the Aldershot and Havant area selling vapes illegally to underage buyers

Trading Standards continue to regularly visit businesses to ensure that retailers are complying with the law and that the correct measures are in place to prevent underage sales of vapes and other age restricted products. If a business is found to be selling to people under the legal age, they will be investigated which could lead to a criminal prosecution.

A recent survey across secondary schools and colleges in Hampshire shows a large increase in the percentage of young people both experimenting with, and using vapes. The survey shows that experimentation with vapes increases from 4% in year 7 to 53% in year 13. Similarly, vape use increases from 7% in year 10, to 18% in year 13.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/21122023VapetestpurchasesPR>

Cllr David Drew
Test Valley Central Division, HCC