

## Update from Hampshire County Council – June 2022

### **Preventing loneliness with Hampshire libraries**

This Loneliness Awareness Week (13 - 17 June 2022), Hampshire County Council is reminding residents about the many activities on offer through the Library Service.

Libraries are about so much more than borrowing books. Our libraries offer a community hub, where people can meet others, relax, or learn in a safe and welcoming environment. There is a wide variety of activities available for people of all ages many of which are completely free. From classes, courses and book clubs, to singing and storytime sessions for babies and toddlers - there is something for everyone. Recently, many libraries have also started groups to help Ukrainian guests and their hosts to connect with one another here in Hampshire.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/220613lonelinessawarenessweek>

### **Adult social care savings proposals**

On 16 June, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health, Councillor Liz Fairhurst, will consider recommendations to save £680,000 from the County Council's Adult Social Care budget to help meet the Local Authority's overall budget shortfall of at least £80million by April 2023

The recommended savings comprise:-

£320,000 by ending the following grants:; 1) the Neighbourhood Care and Support grant scheme, 2) the Community Based Support grant scheme, 3) the Rural Connections grant scheme.

These are provided to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations across Hampshire to support adults to continue to live independently in their communities. The County Council would continue to actively work with the current grant holders to explore ways that their services could be sustained after the current grant award has ceased.

A further saving of £360,000 is also recommended by reducing funding for commissioned non-statutory services.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/10062022adultsocialsavings>

### **Consultation opens on proposed changes to County Council financial support for transport and travel**

Hampshire County Council is seeking views on proposed changes to supported passenger transport services (local bus and community transport services funded by the County Council) and the County Council funded enhancements to the Concessionary Travel scheme in Hampshire

The proposals are made in the light of continued significant pressures on local authority budgets, following year on year substantial reductions in central Government funding, and increasing costs and demand for services such as social care.

People have until midnight on 24 July 2022 to have their say on the proposals – changes which could achieve potential savings of £800,000.

An [information pack](#), setting out the proposals in detail can be viewed online. It is recommended that this is read carefully before completing the [online response form](#)

### **Brand new service for older adults with high support needs opens in Romsey**

The Living Well Centre at Nightingale Lodge in Romsey, a dedicated wellbeing centre for those with dementia and other high support needs was officially opened this week by the newly appointed Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Rob Humby

The Centre, directly run by the Local Authority, offers carers the opportunity to book from a single hour to up to a week of support for their loved ones in a safe and caring environment.

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To find out more about the Living Well Centre and to arrange a trial visit, go to:-  
[www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/care-homes/nightingalelivingwell](http://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/care-homes/nightingalelivingwell)

### Report a road problem - Responsibility of Hampshire County Council

Following various conversations with individuals, in particular cyclists, I thought it would be helpful to remind everyone of the HCC website where road problems, including potholes can be reported. Paving problems plus flooding and trees and hedges can also be reported using the system.

For the speediest response, it is best to use this system as the whole of the Hampshire highways team use it as a reference for future works. This link is here:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>

### County Council invites grant applications to support Ukrainian refugees in Hampshire

Community and voluntary organisations can now apply for grants to help fund projects that will help Ukrainian refugees to settle in Hampshire

More information is available on Hampshire County Council's website [Leaders Community Grants | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://www.hants.gov.uk/leaders-community-grants) or by contacting

[ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk](mailto:ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk).

[Find out more information about the County Council's support for Ukrainian refugees.](#)

In addition, free bus pass travel within the wider Hampshire area will be available for Ukrainian refugees arriving in the county as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme over the summer, following an announcement by Hampshire County Council at today's Annual General Meeting

### New leadership team at Hampshire County Council

Following the retirement of Keith Mans, Councillor Rob Humby has been elected as the new leader of Hampshire County Council with Councillor Rob Chad as his deputy. Rob has been the Hampshire County Councillor for Bishops Waltham since 2013 and the County Council's Deputy Leader since May 2019.

This has led to a reshuffle of the HCC cabinet, which is now as follows:-

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Leader + Policy, Resources & Economic Development | Rob Humby           |
| Deputy Leader + Children's Services               | Roz Chadd           |
| Highways Operations                               | Nick Adams-King     |
| Climate Change & Sustainability                   | Jan Warwick         |
| Transport & Environment (waste/recycling)         | Edward Heron        |
| Commercial Strategy, Estates & Property           | Steve Forster       |
| Performance, HR, Inclusion & Diversity            | Kirsty North        |
| Recreation, Heritage & Rural Affairs              | Russell Oppenheimer |
| Adult Services & Public Health                    | Liz Fairhurst       |

Cllr David Drew  
Test Valley Central Division, HCC