

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT  
TO  
ALL PARISH COUNCILS  
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

**1 OCTOBER 2021**

1. Savings Programme: School crossing patrols and HWRCs protected

Hampshire County Council needs to find savings of £80m from its annual revenue budget by 2023. The pandemic has also delayed progress on our two previous rounds of savings, Transformation to 2019 and Transformation to 2021. We face ongoing increases in social care demand due to the ageing population, with care cost increases due to wage inflation and price inflation. This means that we are facing a severe funding squeeze and tough choices are going to be needed. We have listened carefully to the views expressed during our Serving Hampshire consultation over the Summer. I am pleased to report that funding for school crossing patrols and HWRCs will be retained in the forthcoming spending round.

The necessary savings will instead be met by reducing the forecast for increased waste. This relies on residents generating less waste. That means we all need to consume less and purchase less products with wasteful packaging. We also need to reuse and repurpose items more before disposing of them. Communities can join together to reduce waste, such as through community composting and gifting picnics (a bit like a free jumble sale). I hope Parish Councils will help their communities to rise to this challenge.

2. Funding for lengthsman from 2023

As explained above, we are not currently adequately funded to meet our statutory service obligations such as highways maintenance and home-to-school transport. Inevitably this means that non-statutory services will come under pressure.

I am very conscious that the Lengthsman scheme is greatly valued by Parishes across the Division of Petersfield Hangers. Regrettably, the Lengthsman scheme is a non-statutory service and I have to inform you that HCC funding is now likely to be withdrawn in 2023 following a decision made on Thursday 23 September by the Executive Lead Member for Transport and Environment.

If approved at Cabinet and County Council, the Spending Review for 2023 involves the removal of the Lengthsman funding from 2023. I hope parishes will keep their local clusters going by allocating funding from their precepts. There are two years to prepare and HCC will support Parishes to make the transition.

### 3. Hampshire Reuse Service

HCC has launched an excellent pilot project called the Hampshire Reuse Service. This aims to divert bulky waste away from landfill whilst supporting vulnerable people. Bulky waste will be repaired and repurposed and offered to people on lower incomes. The full report on the pilot scheme is available at this link:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s82071/Report.pdf>

At Hampshire we intend to be the greenest County in the UK and we are well on our way to achieving that.

### 4. HWRC booking policy – restrictions lifted

Hampshire County Council will be lifting the “one visit per week” limit for residents taking waste to one of the county’s 24 household waste recycling centres (HWRCs). This operational decision was confirmed in an announcement made at Full Council on 30 September 2021 by Councillor Rob Humby, the County Council’s Deputy Leader and Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

We have listened to residents and believe that now we are further into the pandemic recovery phase, and entering a time of year when demand for site visits starts to reduce, the time is now right to increase opportunities to access household waste recycling centres.

While the requirement to book visits online will remain in place for the time being, residents will be able to book visits to suit their needs. We would ask residents to make the most of each visit and separate out items for reuse and recycling to help us reduce the amount of waste that has to be disposed of.

The new arrangement will be effective from Monday 4 October. There will be no limit on the number of bookings per week.

5. New Twinstream recycling strategy

Project Integra is the name of the project through which HCC works with Districts and Boroughs on recycling infrastructure. We all want to improve recycling rates in Hampshire. We are also preparing to respond quickly to the measures in the Environment Bill which will hopefully make it onto the statute book by the end of the year.

The plan is to go for a new Twinstream approach. This basically means that residents will put paper and card in a separate recycling bin. Other recyclables will still be mixed and more plastics will be accepted. The strategy paper is available at this link for those who are interested:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s81999/Appendix.pdf>

If the Environment Bill is passed in its current form, food waste will also be collected in the future. Project Integra is also looking at the infrastructure needed to support this including new Anaerobic Digestion facilities.

6. “Walktober” launched by HCC

October is the International Walk to School month. To celebrate, Hampshire County Council is encouraging parents to leave the car at home for all, or part of the school run, and to walk the journey instead - to help build opportunities for exercise in their children’s school day, and to improve air quality around schools

The month-long campaign celebrates the importance of walking to school for health, safety and the environment with more than 140 schools across the county signed up to take part, which equates to 42,953 pupils to date.

Walking to school can help children be more active and arrive at school more alert, improving general health and wellbeing, while at the same time easing congestion at the school gates at busy times. Walking to school can also help teach children life-long road safety skills as they learn from their parents and carers how to cross roads and be aware of cars and cyclists.

The aim of Walktober is to see as many school children and their families as possible try walking to school or work, or at least part of the way, for the month; and afterwards choose to walk more often.

The number of children walking to school in Hampshire over the last 15 years has risen to over 50% of pupils. For more information visit the My Journey website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/13112020Modeshiftawards>

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**