

Hampshire County Councillor report

October 2021

1. Household Waste Recycling Centres

Hampshire County Council is lifting the one visit per week limit for residents taking waste to one of the county's 24 household waste recycling centres (HWRCs), although the requirement to book visits online will remain in place for the time being.

Residents are however asked to make the most of each visit and separate out items for reuse and recycling to help reduce the amount of waste that has to be disposed of. Greater efficiency in recycling will ensure that the service is more cost effective.

The new arrangement will be effective from Monday 4 October. While there will be no limit on the number of bookings per week, the County Council requests any bookings made which later are not required, are cancelled so that they can be available to others.

Residents can visit the County Council's [waste and recycling webpages](#) for further information and to [book an appointment](#).

Separately, Hampshire County Council has agreed to commission Veolia UK to prepare and submit a planning application seeking permission to develop a new materials recovery facility in Eastleigh, at Chickenhall Lane. This will help enable the county's waste collection and disposal authorities to meet potential future legislative requirements and recycle materials that current facilities are unable to, including plastic pots, tubs and trays, glass and cartons.

2. Support for bus services

Hampshire County Council has committed to extend its additional, Covid related support for community transport services – committing to a further six months (1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022) while the country continues its economic recovery from the pandemic.

This means that the Authority will continue the policy of paying 100% contract and concessionary fares payments to Community Transport operators. The move will assist those operators in the recovery and operation of their services, covering them for any loss of service user income which they may continue to experience due to COVID-19 over the winter and into early spring.

3. HCC budget balancing proposals update

Hampshire County Council has begun important financial planning - with feedback from residents to be considered - on options to help the Authority address an anticipated two-year shortfall in its budget of at least £80 million by April 2023. This is necessary if the County Council is to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Councils across England are facing similar budgetary pressures.

The proposals will include Children's Services which aim to achieve savings of £21.3 million over the next two financial years (2022/2023 and 2023/2024). Maintaining good quality education and ensuring safe and effective social care services that are targeted to vulnerable children, young people and their families, are the priorities underpinning these savings proposals.

The resulting proposals from all County Council departments be considered by the County Council's [Cabinet](#) and [full Council](#) at their respective meetings on 12 October and 4 November 2021.

4. Road closures at Parkway South roundabout, Whiteley

As Hampshire County Council's £23 million project to improve the M27 Junction 9 and Parkway South at Whiteley progresses, some planned night works and temporary road closures are required at Parkway South Roundabout this October.

The works include surfacing the new sections of carriageway; diversions will be in place to redirect affected traffic during the closures. The works are weather dependent and may need to be re-arranged at short notice. They are planned from 8pm until 5.30am from 4th to 8th October.

The scheme to upgrade M27 Junction 9 and Parkway South Roundabout aims to increase highway capacity and improve the flow of traffic by widening the roundabouts, adding additional lanes to the motorway slip roads and installing traffic lights at the Parkway South Roundabout as well as adding new pedestrian routes.

For programme updates and further information about this scheme, please visit the project webpage: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/m27junction9>

5. Walktober

October is the International Walk to School month. As part of this, 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. It is one of the County Council's all year round initiatives to promote active travel and good road safety awareness among all those who use the roads.

Another of these initiatives is the [Junior Road Safety Officer \(JRSO\) programme](#) which trains Year 5 and Year 6 children to be ambassadors for road safety at their schools. JRSOs lead by example and share their knowledge with their fellow pupils about the importance of safety when walking to and from school.

The number of children walking to school in Hampshire over the last 15 years has risen to over 50% of pupils.

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