

Hampshire County Councillor report

February 2022

1. HWRCs update

The system of booking to visit Hampshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) is to be made permanent following feedback from users who overwhelmingly supported the approach. It was introduced in June 2020 in response to the pandemic but also helped smooth visits and reduce queuing. The ability to book multiple trips will remain.

2. Support for Community Transport

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.

Community transport operators have reported that around 35% fewer passengers are travelling than before the pandemic. 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.

3. 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. Last month I supported projects in Droxford, Swanmore and Warnford. The link for applications is <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

4. Roads, Transport and Environmental investment

Hampshire County Council is to be asked to approve on 17 February an increased 2021-22 capital programme of investment in countywide highways maintenance, road safety, transport improvements, flood alleviation, waste management, and bridge strengthening, as well as economic development and town centre improvements, amounting to £112.885 million. This includes £7 million additional financial support for highways maintenance.

Planning continues for the next generation of waste infrastructure to support the county's ability to recycle a wider range of materials. As part of the capital programme of work is the continued development of a plan for [a new materials recovery facility in Eastleigh](#).

The proposed [programme and appendices](#) highlight an Integrated Transport Programme of over £100 million in value. Local schemes to enable people to walk and cycle more for local journeys represent a £11.3 million investment.

Separately, Hampshire County Council is the first council in England to trial plastic bollards made from sugar cane on its pavements; these are being installed as a lower carbon alternative to the traditional concrete ones. The plant-based bollards are also lighter, easier to install and cheaper - costing £150 compared with £190 for concrete. They are also just as resilient in the event of a crash and do not splinter if they are hit by a vehicle. The proposal is part of the county's plans to meet its climate change targets to be Carbon Neutral by 2050 and resilient to a two-degrees rise in temperature.

In recognition of the importance of building resilience, the council has declared 2022 the "Year of Climate Resilience". This presents an opportunity for it to increase awareness of the importance of resilience and to develop some showcase projects in partnership with key stakeholders. More information can be found on the Council's Climate Change website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange>

5. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Hampshire County Council is putting plans in place to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. These will provide opportunities for residents across the county to participate, including through schools, libraries, care homes, and outdoor sites. The primary focus is during the extended bank holiday weekend of Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

The plan also have is a significant focus on complementing The Queen's Green Canopy theme, with £0.5 million is to be made available to help organisations and communities plant trees across the county.

The celebrations will be launched on Thursday 10 February at a high-profile event in Winchester attended by HRH The Prince of Wales, who will unveil 'Licoricia of Winchester', a new life-size bronze statue of a prominent medieval Jewish woman, designed by award-winning sculptor Ian Rank-Broadley.

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