

Hampshire County Councillor report

June 2022

1. 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:

Policy, Resources & Economic Development	Rob Humby
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

The new leader says that he is passionate about doing the best for the people, businesses and places that make Hampshire a great county. Following his election, he said:

“My vision for Hampshire is to maintain our county as a successful, prosperous, and attractive place to live, work, study, play and visit - balancing economic success with care for the environment for the benefit of generations to come. I believe that a strong economy is essential to support excellent public services, provide high quality and inclusive employment and business opportunities, and to bringing prosperity to all of Hampshire's communities.”

2. Homes for Ukraine update

The County Council continues to work with key local partners to enable the provision of immediate support and assistance to Ukrainians arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The latest available figures for visas issued are that as of 30 May 2022, 60,977 visas have been issued for England. 2,314 have been issued for Hampshire (from the 2,492 applications received) and 1,431 guests have arrived.

One recent initiative is that free bus pass travel within the wider Hampshire area will be available for Ukrainian refugees arriving in the county. Arrangements are being finalised with the county's three major bus operators - Stagecoach, First Bus and Bluestar – with the scheme due to launch shortly.

A reminder that communities can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to help Ukrainian families arriving - details are at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/leaders-community-grants>

3. Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Celebrations have occurred across the county in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, from communities to care homes and including the lighting of beacons at the start of the four day holiday.

In related news, Hampshire's Record Office in Winchester is one of six landmark sites across the UK that have been awarded listed status by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to commemorate Her Majesty's 70-year reign. The award-winning building, designed by the County Council, was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993.

4. Grants available to help communities in need

Local groups are being urged to apply for grants that will help them support those in most need in their communities. £300,000 is being made available for projects that will help those facing food and fuel poverty, particularly in rural areas, up to September 2022.

The latest community grants are funded by the £7.12million Household Support Fund, provided to Local Authorities by the Department for Work and Pensions to support vulnerable households, especially with the cost of food and energy bills.

The deadline for applying for a community grant is 29 July 2022. Organisations wishing to find out more should go to the [connect4communities website](#) for the full guidance and application form.

5. £0.25 million investment fund for community energy projects

An investment fund, to support community run renewable energy projects in Hampshire, is to be established by Hampshire County Council. The 'Revolving Community Energy Fund' will invest up to £25,000 for any individual community project being launched in Hampshire as part of the Community Energy Pathways project.

The aim of the fund is to stimulate significant community investment in renewable energy across Hampshire. Investment in a share offer will enable a community to operate a renewable energy scheme and earn income. Once a scheme is operational, it should then attract additional shareholders and/or secure borrowing against the assets of the existing scheme, enabling it to be extended to a wider community base. For more information, email climatechange@hants.gov.uk

Councillor Hugh Lumby
Meon Valley Division
hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk