

2023/24 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

With the support and understanding of my HCC colleagues, I cut back on the number of committees and authorities that was a member of during 2023/24 due to my husband, Peter's illness. I stepped down from Southern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (SIFCA) headquartered in Poole and Hants and IoW Fire and Rescue Authority. I continue to be a member of the Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) Select Committee and new Universal Services (incl Highways, Countryside Services, Waste Mgt, Regulatory and Trading Stds) Select Committee. I still represent HCC on the Deadwater Valley Trust, the Bramshott Education Trust, the River Wey Trust, and the South Downs National Park Authority. I thank all my colleagues for their support and understanding over the past few months. Hopefully "normal service" will soon be resumed.

The Council

HCC has 78 elected members, aka Councillors. Each Councillor represents one of the 76 divisions in Hampshire and is elected by the voters on the electoral roll for that division. There are 51 Conservative Councillors, 18 LibDem, 3 Labour and 4 Independent and currently 2 vacancies. The Leader is Cllr Rob Humby, and the Deputy Leader is Cllr Roz Chadd. Councillors act locally to represent, promote, and support the interests of their electoral division and its community and to represent the County Council.

The Chairman of HCC is the civic and ceremonial head of the Authority and represents the County Council at a variety of events and functions. The position of Chairman is held for a period of one year only. The current Chairman of HCC is Cllr Patricia Stallard, and the current Vice Chairman is Cllr Keith Mans.

HCC's four strategic aims are:

- Hampshire maintains strong and resilient economic growth and prosperity.
- People in Hampshire live safe, healthy, and independent lives.
- People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment.
- People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive, resilient communities.

".....we are committed to maintaining the county as a great place for people to live, learn, work, play, visit and do business,...." HCC Leader Cllr Rob Humby

Hampshire County Council Organisation

HCC is the third largest shire council in the country, delivering the majority of Hampshire's public services, to almost 1.42 million residents (excluding people living in the Southampton and Portsmouth unitary council areas).

We are responsible for around 80% of all spend on council services in Hampshire, amounting to £2.6 billion a year.

Hampshire County Council's Cabinet Portfolios for 2023/24 were:

- Adults' Health and Care - Cllr Liz Fairhurst (lead member) and Cllr Jan Warwick
- Children's Services - Cllr Edward Heron (lead member) and Cllr Steve Forster

2023/24 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor

for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

- Universal Services - Cllr Nick Adams-King (lead member) and Cllr Russell Oppenheimer
- Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services - Cllr Rob Humby (leader) and Cllr Rob Chadd (deputy leader)

Cllr Kirsty North will continue as Cabinet Member for HR, Performance, Communications and Inclusion and Diversity.

What Hampshire County Council is responsible for:

Services provided by Hampshire County Council include:

- [Education and Learning](#) including supporting Hampshire schools. (excluding privately run Academy Schools)
- [Services for children and families](#) including adoption and fostering, safeguarding, and support for young people
- [Maintenance of Hampshire's roads](#) (except motorways and trunk roads which are the responsibility of National Highways), [licensing](#) for providers who need to work on the highway, and support for operators of [public transport](#)
- [Planning](#) applications for mineral extraction, waste management and public buildings
- Provision of [social care and health](#) in Hampshire
- The [Hampshire Library Service](#)
- The [Countryside Service](#), looking after [rights of way](#), and many of the county's [important green spaces](#)
- [Household Waste Recycling Centres](#) where residents can dispose of unwanted items. (District, borough or city councils manage kerbside household waste collections)
- [Trading Standards](#), ensuring fair trading in Hampshire, by supporting the county's businesses and protecting Hampshire consumers.

Each year we:

- Support around 10,000 children in need of vital social care.
- Provide 360,000 meals-on-wheels lunches.
- Educate over 138,000 pupils in Hampshire's 463 maintained schools.
- Maintain 5,500 miles of roads and 1,750 bridges and structures.
- Provide long term care and support to over 18,400 adults, 66% of whom are older people.
- Manage 3,600 hectares of land for wildlife, heritage, and public access.
- Protect Hampshire consumers through the work of Trading Standards and prevent £1m of unregulated and unsafe goods entering the county.
- Manage over 600,000 tonnes of household waste and recyclable material – diverting around 95% of this from landfill.
- Support 3,000 victims of domestic abuse
- Help 5,300 people to stop smoking tobacco and live healthier lives.

Hampshire County Council Highlights from 2023/24

NINE OUT OF TEN YEAR 6 PUPILS OFFERED FIRST PREFERENCE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HAMPSHIRE

2023/24 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor

for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

More than 98 per cent of parents in Hampshire (14,312) have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2024

[Nine out of ten Year 6 pupils offered first preference secondary school in Hampshire | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSIDERS CONSOLIDATING OFFICE SPACES ACROSS HAMPSHIRE

Proposals by Hampshire County Council to reduce its office accommodation in towns across the county will be considered next week, as part of efforts by the Local Authority to consolidate staff into fewer buildings and help save money on running costs

[Hampshire County Council considers consolidating office spaces across Hampshire | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

£300,000 OF ILLEGALLY SOLD VAPES AND FAKE TOBACCO SEIZED BY HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Illegal vapes and fake tobacco products valued at £300,000 have been seized by Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards over the last 12 months – in their crackdown on retailers who sell vapes to under 18s

[£300,000 of illegally sold vapes and fake tobacco seized by Hampshire County Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

BOOST FOR 'BOYS NEED BINS' CAMPAIGN AS COUNTY COUNCIL ADDS SANITARY BINS TO ALL MALE TOILETS IN ITS PUBLIC AND OFFICE BUILDINGS

Male toilets in Hampshire County Council's premises, including Country Parks and libraries, will have sanitary bins added to cubicles, in support of Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys Need Bins' campaign. This comes as the County Council confirmed it will install over 200 sanitary bins in male toilets across its buildings used by the public and staff

[Boost for 'Boys Need Bins' campaign as County Council adds sanitary bins to all male toilets in its public and office buildings | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN WATERLOOVILLE, WINCHESTER AND FARNBOROUGH

More children with special educational needs could soon benefit from additional specialist support, as Hampshire County Council seeks to progress proposals for three schools in Waterlooville, Winchester and Farnborough

[Hampshire County Council to consider additional special educational needs support for children in Waterlooville, Winchester and Farnborough | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

NEW HAMPSHIRE AUTISM STRATEGY UNVEILS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BETTER SUPPORT FOR ALL AGES

Issued on behalf of Hampshire Autism Partnership Board

[New Hampshire Autism Strategy unveils recommendations for better support for all ages | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

CHOOSE 'WHAT YOU'LL USE' TO SAVE MONEY AND THE PLANET

2023/24 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

Hampshire County Council is calling on residents to become savvy food shoppers – helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also saving money

[Choose 'what you'll use' to save money and the planet | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

MORE BUS SERVICES SET TO RUN IN HAMPSHIRE

Travelling by bus will soon become even more appealing for Hampshire residents when three bus companies introduce more frequent services on some of their commercially operated routes across the county

[More bus services set to run in Hampshire | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

CREATING A SMOKE-FREE GENERATION COMES A STEP NEARER

Up to £23 million will be spent from April 2025 over the following seven years to support Hampshire smokers to quit, and to help stop people taking up the habit in the first place

[Creating a smoke-free generation comes a step nearer | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TO SELL BUILDINGS IN WINCHESTER

Hampshire County Council will shortly be marketing three sites in Winchester for sale – Three Minsters House, on the High Street, Four Chimneys Family Centre, near the Andover Road, and property on the County Council's Monarch Way site, near the Romsey Road

[Hampshire County Council to sell buildings in Winchester | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

COUNTY COUNCIL INVITES COMMUNITIES TO BID FOR FUNDING TO PLANT DISEASE RESISTANT ELMS

In a boost for nature recovery, communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply for funding to plant disease resistant elm trees. The once abundant species has been decimated by disease in recent decades, but new varieties are now taking root across the county.

[County Council invites communities to bid for funding to plant disease resistant elms | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

NEW FORUM LAUNCHED TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES TO SPEAK UP

Young people across Hampshire with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) have an exciting opportunity to join a new youth forum to voice their opinions and share experiences directly with decision makers from the local authority on topics that directly affect them – such as education, training, and employment opportunities.

[New forum launched to encourage young people with additional needs and disabilities to speak up | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

HCC 2024/25 Budget

Hampshire County Council's expenditure for 2024/25 includes a £2.9bn annual budget and covers all the services delivered by the council for 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults.

2023/24 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor

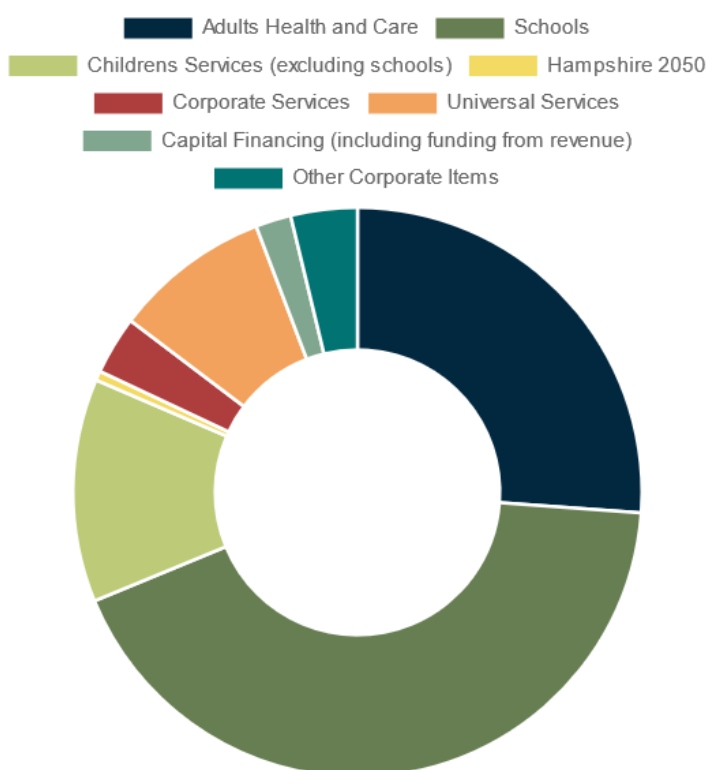
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

Alongside revenue budget plans which relate to the day-to-day delivery of local services to Hampshire residents, the County Council has also approved new capital spending of £880.6 million over the next three years which will boost jobs and the local economy, the quality of the environment and contribute towards the County Council's commitment to tackling climate change. This provision for Hampshire's infrastructure is one of the largest in the country and brings the County Council's four-year total investment in the fabric of Hampshire, to £1.4 billion, providing a huge boost to the local economy through jobs, skills, and construction.

The three-year programme includes:

- £173 million to safeguard the long-term viability of the Older Adult care estate.
- £192 million investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire - delivering a further 5,312 school places and giving a total of 19,989 new school places by September 2027.
- £163 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.
- £73 million of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £43 million of schemes focused around walking and/or cycling improvements.
- £76 million to address condition-based enhancements to schools.

Where the budget will be spent



Universal Services – This department provides a range of services available to everyone in Hampshire, including highways, waste disposal and recreation.

Hampshire 2050 – This department provides services focused on improving Hampshire for the future, such as skills and economic development.

2023/24 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

From 1 April 2024, Hampshire County Council's portion of council tax will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care and supporting the county's higher numbers of older people and adults with complex needs and disabilities - in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,533.24 for a Band D property – an increase of £72.99 per year or approximately £1.40 a week.

Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division Highlights

My inbox is still dominated by Highways and Countryside Services issues – overgrown footpaths and rough BOATs (Byway Open to All Traffic) surfaces; potholes; road resurfacing; flooding, blocked drains, and ditches; requests for traffic calming measures; parking on and damage to footpaths and verges; fallen trees and most concerning the problem with peak time dangerous driving and illegal parking at our local schools.

After many years of lobbying, meetings and co-operation with our District and Parish Councillors, the project to provide a safer walk route for Bohunt students to get to/from Liphook Railway Station to the rear entrance of the school has commenced. Tree work and power cable digs on Portsmouth Road are underway in preparation for the new Toucan (2 can – get it?! 😊) crossing. Hopefully this will relieve the congestion at The Square at peak times.

Following my escalation to PCC Donna Jones, our Neighbourhood Police team have been patrolling the area around Liphook Infants and Junior Schools following reports of inconsiderate and dangerous driving and parking at peak times. Parents were advised of “near misses” involving children. Thankfully no one was hurt. HCC Parking Enforcement officers have also been in attendance offering advice and issuing tickets.

I am very pleased that HCC Highways Traffic Management team have been working with Grayshott Parish Council to approve an HCC designed traffic calming scheme for Headley Road to be funded as Community Funded Initiative (CFI) project.

A Headley resident contacted me, concerned that they could find no information as to when/if CityFibre, who were awarded the Project Gigabit contract for rural broadband in Hampshire by Building Digital UK (BDUK), would provide superfast broadband to their home. I worked with HCC and Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP's staff, to question BDUK on this matter at a meeting in March where BDUK advised they should be able to send this information within the month and create a user-friendly postcode checker for consumers to use which should be available in the next 12 months. Residents should register their interest with CityFibre on [Project Gigabit Hampshire | CityFibre](#). If a large number of 'registers of interest' are received for a particular area than this will at least give the providers a sense of the demand.

Councillor Devolved Grants made in the financial year 23/24

Please see below how I spent my 2023/24 pot.

Applicant	Project	Grant
Grayshott Parish Council	Grayshott Coronation Festival	£1000
Bramshott Open Gardens	Bramshott Coronation Street Party	£913
Liphook Infant School Friends Ass'n	Trim Trail	£1000
Life Education Wessex and Thames Valley	Helping Children Make Healthy Choices – Holme Primary School	£155
FRiends Of The Holme	Outdoor gym	£1000
Twinning Association	Twinning trip	£500

2023/24 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

Grayshott Parish Council	Christmas Lights	£800
Liphook Day Centre	Dish washer	£500
Headley Bowling Club	Refurbishment of machine store	£510
Grayshott Parish Council	10 x Litter Picking kits	£346
St Luke's Church	Activities for children	£414
Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council	D Day 80 th Anniversary Beason	£549
Bramshott Open Gardens	Sunken Lanes project	£313
		£8000

My annual devolved Councillor Grant pot for 2024/2025 will be open for applications in June. Please contact me if you have a project or event that will benefit residents. I've already received 3 enquiries.

Kind regards – Debbie

19 April 2024

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