

Update from Hampshire County Council – November 2024

Cabinet decides on County Council services for the future

With the future of some Hampshire local services in the spotlight, the County Council's Leader and Cabinet have carefully considered proposals relating to Household Waste Recycling Centres, passenger transport services, School Crossing Patrols, and homelessness support services after careful consideration of consultation feedback and examination of every possible option to help balance residents' needs against the Council's future financial pressures.

See also HCC Future Services Q&A which is attached.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241410FutureServicesfinaldecisions>

Don't miss out – sign-up for Holiday Activities and Food this Christmas

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back for Christmas - bringing festive fun and support to families most in need during the school holidays

HAF providers in Hampshire are now taking bookings and families are being encouraged to secure their spot to ensure children don't miss out.

As part of the County Council's [connect4communities programme](#), this Christmas, almost 120 sites across Hampshire will be running HAF schemes, offering free enriching activities and wholesome food each day for those receiving benefits-related free school meals during term time and other vulnerable school-age children. As well as enjoying hot nutritious meals, children are encouraged to be active by participating in sports and spending time outdoors, and to try their hand at a range of activities such as arts and crafts, cooking, games and free play.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/241016HAFChristmas>

Have your say on local cycling and walking plans for the northern Test Valley area



Anyone who lives, works, visits or commutes in the northern Test Valley area is being invited to give their views on new walking and cycling proposals

As part of a consultation by Hampshire County Council, which runs until Sunday 17 November 2024, feedback is being sought on the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the area.

The aim of the LCWIP is to help identify areas which have the greatest potential for improving routes to make cycling and walking easier and more appealing – particularly for local journeys, encouraging people to leave the car at home.

Feedback on the routes and areas proposed in the consultation can be provided via the online survey on the County Council's website. See here:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/ow-northern-testvalley-lcwip>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241021TVBCLCWIPPR>

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National Care Leavers' Week – celebrating 18 months of positive change for Hampshire care leavers

With National Care Leavers' Week (28 October to 3 November) starting today, Hampshire County Council is highlighting the work of the inspiring care leavers helping to make a difference to others like them across the county

In the last 18 months, and in response to feedback from over 230 children and young people in Hampshire's care, the local authority's Care Experienced Adults (CEA) Council has been busy delivering on its key priorities to:

- Reduce the stigma in schools for children in care
- Provide better recognition of children and young people's individual achievements
- Review and improve housing options for young people aged 16 and over
- Improve how the County Council communicates with and responds to young people.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241028careleaversweek>

Help us to make it easier to walk and cycle in Hampshire

Residents are being asked to help Hampshire County Council identify locations where physical barriers make it awkward and challenging to walk, cycle, wheel or scoot

The survey, which is open until Sunday 22 December 2024, seeks feedback to help pinpoint locations where there are obstacles, such as bollards, that make getting around difficult for people who have restricted mobility and need to use a mobility scooter, or for those pushing prams or riding cargo bikes for example.

Feedback can be provided via the online survey on the County Council's website.

We want people to tell us where there are:-

- Crossing points that are difficult to use because they don't have dropped kerbs and tactile paving
- Dropped kerbs which are not level with the road
- Staggered or chicane barriers
- Bollards placed too closely together
- Pavements made narrow by items such as guard railings, lampposts and signposts
- Misleading or unnecessary cycle signs and where new or additional cycle parking may be needed

Responses to the survey will help the County Council to secure the funding to make improvements to roads and pavements by providing evidence to support applications for Government funding, or in negotiating contributions from developers building new housing developments.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241101SurveyWalkCycleBarriers>

Grants available to local organisations to help Hampshire go Smokefree by 2030

As part of Hampshire County Council's drive to reduce the harm caused by smoking in local communities, a series of grants are to be awarded to the county's district and borough councils, as well as to voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations, to help people quit smoking for good

Grants of up to £50,000 each are available from the Local Authority to support action to tackle smoking, from November 2024 to March 2028.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/241101smokinggrants>

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