

County Councillor's June report (Michael Thierry)

New County Leader - Cllr Keith Mans, who represents the Brockenhurst area on the county has been elected the new leader of Hampshire County Council, replacing Cllr Roy Perry who has retired. The county is due to approve a statement on Climate Change.

Ringwood Division - I am currently dealing with a number of highways issues. I have been kept in the 'loop' regarding Milkham enclosure/Broomy plain. Highways are engaged to do the work under instruction from New Forest Verderers. The A338 and West Street both feature. My attention has been drawn to over hanging trees in Gorley Road and possible development without county permission within the division. Today I attended a meeting of the Tarmac Liaison Committee.

Hampshire County Council information - Below some up-to-date information on the county will be of interest to council members.

Background - Hampshire's population is 1,370,700 (2017) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). 123,000 live in the Winchester District. Hampshire CC maintains 5,400 miles of roads, 4,300 miles pavements, 133,000 streetlights, 481 schools, 45 libraries, 16 care homes for older people, 9 residential homes for children and young people, 24 Household Waste Centres and 5 Country Parks. Every year 94% of all household waste is diverted from landfill (40% recycled) and powers 50,000 homes. Hampshire has an 80% employment rate (UKA 73.9%) and 3.5% unemployment rate (UKA 5%).

Budget - The population of over 75 year olds will rise by 30 per cent over the next seven years - an extra 5,500 people a year who may well need social care support, to varying degrees. The 2.99% increase in Hampshire's council tax will generate an additional £18 million. HCC council tax remains the 2nd lowest in England.

HCC's capital programme is a significant investment in Hampshire's infrastructure, delivering schemes totalling £491.6 million between 2019 and 2022 and providing a boost for the local economy:

- £160 million of investment in new and extended school buildings in Hampshire in the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £122 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £72 million for integrated transport schemes including £9 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements
- £94 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings over the next three years.

Road Maintenance and Operation Resilience - Over 5,300 miles of road are maintained by HCC. £10m is invested annually on planned maintenance on top of government funding. The first of Hampshire's brand new Dragon Patchers has arrived to help repair the county's roads, damaged by the winter weather. The County Council has bought two Dragon Patchers for exclusive use in Hampshire

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