

County Councillor Jan Warwick (Winchester Downlands)

Parish Council Report February 2019

Hampshire Highways have responded around the clock to clearing fallen trees and blocked roads following the recent snowfall. The Basingstoke area was particularly badly affected. The Hampshire CC Emergency website gives details and advice on school and road closures during bad weather:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/emergency>

Hampshire County Council's Budget proposal and a summary of comments by Council Leader Roy Perry:

Hampshire County Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to the County Council to increase its council tax by 2.99 per cent at its next meeting on 14th February. This equates to an annual charge of £1,236.87 for a Band D property – an increase of just under £36 per year or 70 pence a week, and will generate an additional £18 million for County Council services.

The proposed 2.99 per cent increase is much lower than last year's increase and will mean Hampshire is likely to levy the second lowest council tax of any county council in the country.

Alongside the **revenue budget**, the County Cabinet approved the **capital budget** for the coming financial year, with proposals for significant investment in Hampshire's economy, jobs and the quality of the environment, with projects totalling just under **£500million** over the next three years.

Councillor Roy Perry said: "For some years, the County Council has set and implemented a careful strategy designed to cope with rising demand for services. Our aim has been, and will continue to be, to protect services on which Hampshire residents depend - particularly those for the most vulnerable in our communities, the children in our care and the growing number of elderly residents needing support.

Nationally, the number of vulnerable children and adults continues to rise, and Hampshire is no exception. The population of over 75 year olds is set to increase 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 number of children in care has increased by 372 (28 per cent) in the last three and a half years alone. While we have robust action plans in place to help contain this increase, especially to avoid the need for a child to come into care, there is no doubt this rise in the number of people needing our help is the biggest pressure the County Council faces.

Over the next three years, the County Council will be delivering one of the largest capital programmes of any county council which will see improvements to roads,

bridges, walking and cycling infrastructure and school buildings. If we are to sustain Hampshire's quality of place, it is vitally important there is extra provision for roads and schools as we see more housing development, and we are doing our level best to make sure this happens in Hampshire.

The capital programme is a very significant investment in Hampshire's infrastructure, delivering schemes totalling £491.6 million between 2019 and 2022 and providing a big boost for the local economy. It will provide

- £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"