

Hampshire County Councillor: Annual Report 2023-2024

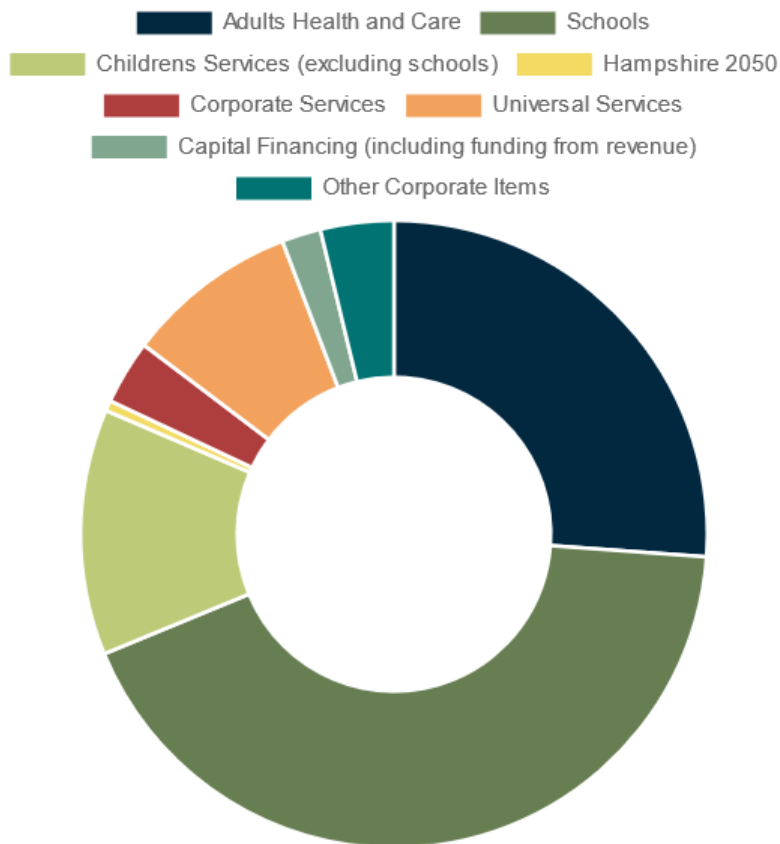
HCC budget 2024-25 The County Council’s budget for the next financial year has been approved by the council. This budget covers £2.6 billion of public spending on the ongoing delivery of important local services to Hampshire’s 1.4 million residents.

The County Council also approved the spending of **£880.6 million** over the next three years on capital programs, to help 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, including more school places, improving roads and bridges and investing in the fabric of Hampshire’s older people’s social care estate, 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.

Transforming in-house care for older people The County Council operates in-house care homes for older people and will invest **£173m** on new specialist nursing and complex dementia care, as well as short term pre-and post-hospital support, to better meet the needs of the county’s ageing population.

It will increase the overall number of beds available to local people from 900 to 1,000, within a network of 13 homes. Approving these plans secures the long-term future of our in-house homes ensuring they remain in the council’s ownership.

Where the budget will be spent



HCC Highlights from 2023/2024

Invitation by Hampshire County Council to bid for funding to plant disease resistant elms Communities across Hampshire are invited to apply for funding to plant disease resistant elm trees. The English countryside was once dominated by elms, but since the 1960s these trees have been ravaged by Dutch elm disease that was accidentally introduced to Europe in the early 20th century. The disease has killed nearly all the mature elms in Britain, an estimated toll of 60-100 million trees. Our planting initiative will be a great opportunity to enhance local spaces and provide essential habitats for wildlife including species of moth and butterfly.

The Hampshire Forest Partnership has already supported 1,205 disease resistant elm trees to be planted across Hampshire's green spaces by farmers, landowners, and local communities. Enquiries are open now for the 2024/25 tree planting season which starts from the autumn. Organisations such as town and parish councils, local groups and landowners can find out more information including how to apply for disease resistant elms by contacting the Hampshire Forest Partnership on treeplanting@hants.gov.uk

Bus Services Hampshire's £7.2 million share of the Department for Transport's (DfT) Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus money and has been awarded to protect existing commercial services (that might otherwise see reduced timetables) and to fund more frequent services from May.

In Winchester the **Bluestar 1** service between Winchester and Southampton will have an additional evening weekday services and new late-night services in each direction on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Service 66 between Romsey and Winchester will improve to every 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.

Government appoints Hampshire County Council to take lead role in local nature recovery Hampshire County Council has been appointed by our government to prepare a '**Local Nature Recovery Strategy**' for Hampshire, including the areas of Portsmouth and Southampton. £388,000 will be provided to coordinate the development of the new strategy in collaboration with key partners.

The Strategy will bring together organisations and residents to restore precious habitats, protect wildlife and combat climate change.

Hampshire County Council is one of 48 individual local authorities across England designated as leads for the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and will work with Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities, the region's two national parks and all eleven district and borough councils across Hampshire.

Improving Recycling and Reuse at the Household Waste Recycling Centres Residents are being asked to separate their waste ahead of a visit to a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to reuse and recycle more, and to reduce the amount of material that goes to costly disposal methods such as landfill. By taking a few moments more to sort our waste material, we could save up to £200,000 of taxpayers' money every year. The HWRC teams will be on hand to answer any questions and offer advice.

Most HWRCs in Hampshire will be able to recycle the following materials:

- Garden and green waste
- Metals

- Wood
- Cardboard
- Electrical equipment and appliances
- Batteries, printer cartridges, and light bulbs
- Furniture
- Clothing and textiles
- Paints, chemicals, engine oil and gas bottles

County Councillor Grant My annual devolved Councillor Grant pot is for projects or events across the Winchester Downlands Division. It was opened on 1st April 2023 for Coronation grants and will open again for other applications on 1st June 2024. Please contact me if you have a project or event that will benefit residents. In the meantime, please see the list of projects that benefitted from my grant funding last year:

My £8000 Councillor Devolved Grant Budget for the financial year 23/2024 was shared amongst the following projects.

Applicant	Project
Compton & Shawford PC	Coronation Event
Otterbourne PC	Coronation Event
Hursley PC	Coronation Event
Oliver's Battery PC	Coronation Event
Chat T Café Badger Farm	Coronation Tea Party
Otterbourne Parish Council	Queen Elizabeth Memorial Garden
Hampshire Garden Projects	Edible Garden Oliver's Battery Primary School
Key Changes	Music Therapy for young people with a disability
Winchester Young Carers	Day Outing for carers
Winchester Go Learning Disability	Day Outing to Theatre
WinACC	Support for Green Week
Hygiene Basics Bank	Start Up grant

Our Hants -the county council's app is available for download to your smart phone. You can report a pothole, book your HWRC visit, find jobs at HCC and in education, apply for a school place, renew a library book, find things to do in Hampshire and much more too!

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