

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – report to Soberton & Newtown Parish Council, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

### **Restrictions Lifted**

Hampshire County Council has lifted the one visit per week limit for residents taking waste to one of the County's 24 household waste recycling centres [HWRCs]. The new arrangement was introduced on Monday 4th October. While there will be no limit on the number of bookings per week, the Council requests any bookings made which later are not required, are cancelled so that they can be available to others. Residents can visit the County Council's waste and recycling website at - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres> for further information and to book an appointment.



### **Balancing the Budget**

This autumn, Hampshire County Council will begin important financial planning - with feedback from residents to be considered on options to help the Authority address an anticipated two-year shortfall in its budget of at least £80 million by April 2023. The Council will be looking at a combination of approaches to help meet the scale of the financial challenge and balance the budget in full, which we must do, by law. We simply cannot spend more than we have coming in, but after 13 years of cost reductions to deliver cumulative savings of over £0.6 billion to date, clearly it is becoming increasingly difficult to find ways of making deeper savings, and so more tough decisions are needed about what the County Council can and cannot do in the future.

The public consultation, Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget, ran from 7th June to the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The consultation sought views from residents and stakeholders on ways the County Council could balance its revenue budget, and any alternatives not yet considered, as well as the potential impact of these approaches - and still deliver core public services. A total of 2,027 consultation responses were received.

Recommendations will go to the Authority's Cabinet later this month before a final decision is made in November by the full County Council. Further to ratification by Cabinet and Full Council, some proposals may then be subject to further, more detailed consultation.

For decades, councils in shire counties have been left behind those in major cities and urban areas – receiving up to 60% less funding, and we have continually stressed to central Government the need for more equitable support. Alongside this, we have long campaigned for Government to develop a sustainable solution to the financial pressures that councils face from growing demands for social care from an ageing population.

### **Expanding Hampshire's Recycling Capability**

The County Council has agreed to commission Veolia UK to prepare and submit a planning application seeking permission to develop a new materials recovery facility in Eastleigh, at Chickenhall Lane. The proposed development will enable the County's waste collection and disposal authorities (district, borough, county and unitary councils) to meet potential future legislative requirements and recycle materials that current facilities are unable to, including plastic pots, tubs and trays, glass and cartons.

The existing two facilities, in Alton and Portsmouth, were designed and built 20 years ago to deal with a set specification that reflected the materials used at that time - plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans, paper and cardboard. Since then there have been huge changes in retail and consumer behaviour and the significant renovation of the facilities that would be needed to increase their scope is neither physically viable, nor cost effective. The new facility would enable a wider range of dry mixed recyclables, collected at the kerbside, to be processed - sorting them into the constituent materials ahead of distribution to market and ensure that Hampshire's waste authorities continue to operate in line with Government expectations and legislation.

The application will be funded by Hampshire County, Portsmouth City and Southampton City Councils who jointly provide and oversee the waste processing and disposal infrastructure to deal with the waste from all three authority areas. The development will also include a Material Analysis facility used to provide data on the quantity and quality of the material that is collected.

## Reminder for parents claiming 30 hours childcare in the Spring Term 2022

All parents who are working, have a 3 or 4 year old and want to claim funded extended hours (30 hours funding), must make sure they have applied to HMRC - <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> -no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 for funding to start from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. All parents with a 30 hours code, need to make sure their details are up to date. They must do this every three months: sign into your childcare account - <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account>.

## Childcare and Early Years

To find out about childcare visit - visit the Family and Information Services Hub [FISH] at <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>. Parents of under-fives may be eligible for government funded childcare, see <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

The Services for Young Children Team at the County Council is available to help parents requiring support to identify childcare provision needed during and outside of usual business hours. Please complete this form - <https://childrenshampshirecc.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=159353789726> - with your requirements if you are having difficulties finding childcare services. If you have a query regarding early years education funding please email [childcare@hants.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@hants.gov.uk).

## UK Youth Parliament

Do you know a budding politician? Perhaps your daughter or son speaks like a future Prime Minister, your young neighbour is passionate about the environment, or you know anyone between the ages of 11 and 18 years who would like to make their voices heard to a wider audience.

The UK Youth Parliament enables young people aged 11 to 18 across the UK to use their elected voice to bring about social change. The elections are **non-party political**, and candidates campaign based on issues about which they are passionate.

Hampshire MYPs are elected in youth elections, held every other year, and organised by Hampshire County Council. Once elected, MYPs organise events and projects, run campaigns and influence decision makers on the issues which matter most to young people. Interest in the Hampshire programme is rapidly growing and there were more than 13,000 young people involved in the last campaign. All MYPs have the opportunity to meet once a year at the UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting (COVID-19 restrictions permitting).

Nominations for the next round of elections are open now and close on 29th October, followed by elections in December. Young people interested in finding out more about the Youth Parliament, and how to get involved, can:

- email [hello@hampshireyp.org.uk](mailto:hello@hampshireyp.org.uk)
- or visit the Hampshire Youth Parliament website [www.hampshireyp.org.uk](http://www.hampshireyp.org.uk).

## First Female Chief Executive

Hampshire County Council has welcomed its first ever female Chief Executive Officer. Carolyn Williamson has taken over the reins from John Coughlan who retired in July. Carolyn is responsible for managing an overall annual budget of over £2.1 billion and a workforce of around 37,000 (including across Hampshire schools), delivering high performing services for 1.4 million people across the county. Prior to becoming Deputy Chief Executive of the County Council in 2017, and Director of Corporate Resources since 2010, Carolyn Williamson was Executive Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive at Southampton City Council. Before that, she was the Director of Corporate Services at Inverclyde Council in Scotland, prior to which her career covered Finance roles in Local Government and the National Health Service. Carolyn qualified in CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) in 1991. Carolyn was President of CIPFA for 2019/20 and has been a Member of CIPFA Council since 2013, having held Chairmanship roles on the Audit Committee and Student & Members Board, as well as attending CIPFA Council and Board.

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