



Savings Programme 2025

Please find attached my October report. I wanted to highlight the fact that you will be seeing a fair bit of coverage about the Savings Programme SP25. The consultation took place earlier this year. I know the retention of HWRCs (household waste recycling centres) and school crossing patrols, maintenance of vital community transport routes and the continued provision of homelessness grants to the end of their planned contract term are important to residents. I am continuing to push for continuation of these vital services.

The Leader Nick Adams-King stated: “Before making any decisions, my cabinet colleagues and I will carefully consider the officers’ recommendations in the context of the consultation responses, the feedback from the select committees and any deputations made to us.”

I will be making these points at the Cabinet meeting on the 14th October.

Winter Fuel Allowance;

The Labour Government has recently made the decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits

HCC in a motion to full council resolved to:

Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.

- Request that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and to encourage all members to sign the petition themselves.
- Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Hampshire are supported in claiming their entitlement.
- Make the commitment that all Hampshire County Council Libraries are designated under the warm spaces scheme for the winter of 2024/2025

Highways Updates: From Cllr Lulu Bowerman, Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste

We know just how important roads, and specifically their condition, are to the people of Hampshire and we're working hard to make them stronger – having invested extra funding so that we can make even more improvements to the 5,500 miles of roads that the County Council is responsible for. The additional £22.5m investment over two years, on top of the £89m we typically spend annually to maintain the roads has so far enabled extra crews, equipment and materials to be brought in to repair even more road defects, like potholes, more quickly, as well as improve the surface quality of many more miles of road. Latest data shows that between April and June this year, we've made good progress - having improved the surface of 345,655 square metres of road and repaired 18,505 road defects. And, with the autumn and winter weather in mind, 43,479 drains and gullies have also been cleared and cleaned, ready to cope with heavy rainfall. We'll soon be starting our winter maintenance season (from 1 October) and, as with previous years, our highways crews will be ready day and night to spread salt on the main routes when freezing road surface temperatures are forecast, in order to keep Hampshire moving. We know that work to make improvements to the roads can sometimes be inconvenient to road users, so we appreciate people's patience as we keep up the momentum on this vital work. We also wish to thank everyone who has reported road defects to us - such as potholes and other issues affecting the condition of the county's roads. Please continue to do so, because when you report a road issue to us, it means we can act more quickly to fix the problem and make our roads stronger. You can do this

via the **OurHants app** (which can be downloaded from the Apple or Google play store) or online via the County Council's website

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you

HCC Flooding Toolkit

I'm delighted that the proposals for a community toolkit to assist Hampshire's residents and communities identify the risk of, prepare for and mitigate the effect of flooding has been taken forward by Hampshire County Council.

We started this work when the exceptional rain last winter threatened flooding in many areas of the County. Great to see it now deliver in time for this autumn's rains.

To help everyone across Hampshire, we've developed an online guide providing you with lots of information about flooding including which organisations have responsibility for flooding, your responsibilities as a property and/or landowner and advice on how to prepare for flood incidents. The new Community Toolkit can be downloaded from our website here <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../envir.../flooding/managing-risk>

Use the links below for flood risk information and to sign up for alerts:



Check your flood risk for the next five days <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>



Sign up for flood warnings by phone, text or email <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>



Check your flood risk over a longer period from rivers, the sea, surface water, reservoirs and groundwater <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>



Call the [Environment Agency](#)'s 24-hour Floodline on 0845 988 1188 to listen to recorded information on the latest warnings and predictions, or to speak to an operator for more general information.

CHECK YOUR FLOOD RISK AHEAD OF WINTER RAINFALL

Around 400,000 households in Hampshire are at risk of flooding and with the potential for increased rainfall because of climate change, particularly during autumn and winter, Hampshire County Council has created a new online tool to help people check their flood risk to help protect homes, land and businesses

[Check your flood risk ahead of winter rainfall | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/flood-risk-checker)