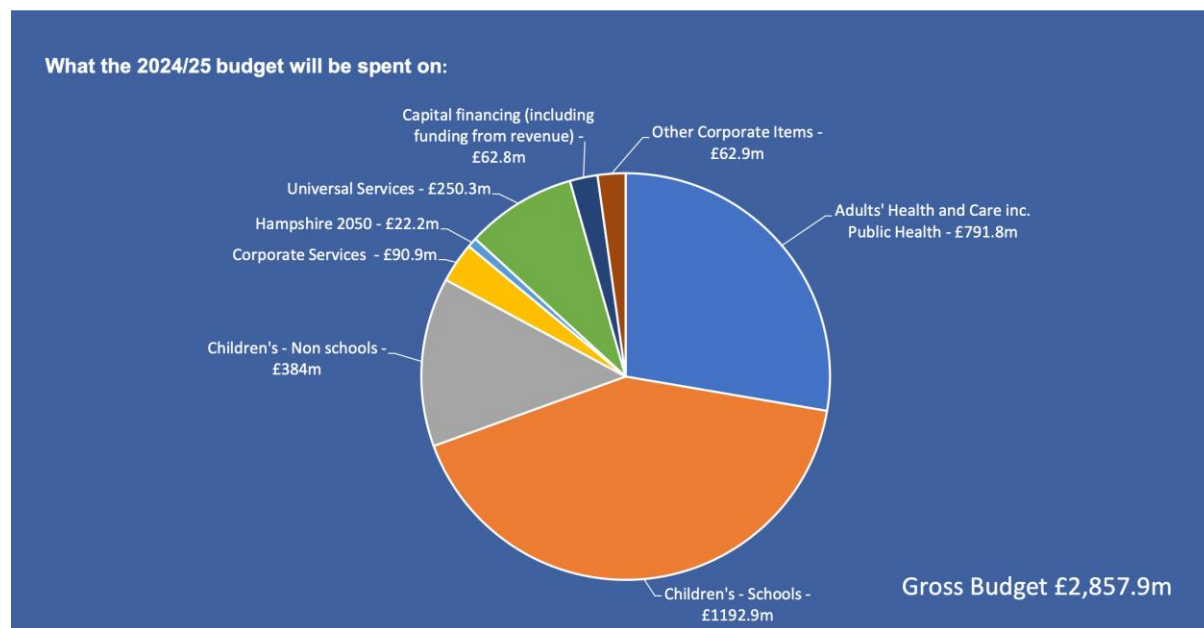


## Hampshire County Councillor: Annual Report 2023-2024

### HCC budget 2024-25/2025-26

#### Revenue budget

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.



Our projections show that while we will be able to balance our budget for the next two years, by 2026 there will be an anticipated shortfall of £132 million. We therefore are looking to find ways to bridge that gap should support from Government not be forthcoming.

HCC has consulted over proposals covering how we would deliver:

1. **Adult social care charges**
2. **Adult social care grant schemes**
3. **Competitive (one-off) grant schemes**
4. **Hampshire Cultural Trust grant**
5. **Highways maintenance**
6. **Highways winter service**
7. **Homelessness Support Services:**
8. **Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)**
9. **Library stock**
10. **Passenger transport**
11. **Rural countryside parking**
12. **School Crossing Patrols**
13. **Street lighting**

#### Timeline:

January – March 2024 Consultation  
June 2024 Select Committee Scrutiny  
July 2024 Consultation

From April 2025 Implementation

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation>

### Capital programme

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 brings the County Council's four-year total investment in the fabric of Hampshire to £1.4 billion.

**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.

### Local matters 2023/2024

#### Highways

Lots of potholes had to be filled.

Surface repairs and patching (as at 12 April 2024)

- **A343, north of Highclere – completed**
- **Whitchurch Town approaches to the railway station - completed**
- **Tufton Lane - patched**
- **Kingclere – planned/in progress**
- **Foxs Lane, Highclere - planned/ in progress**
- **Harroway – planned/ in progress**

**Major road degradation issue on the roads in and around St Mary Bourne** because of the tankers – raised with HCC, whose management have responded that legislation allows a Highway Authority to recharge any costs incurred to repair damage caused as a result of works undertaken by a utility company. Southern Water are aware of this legislation and do work ed with the County Council on covering the costs of highway repairs that can be attributed to their actions. Highway officers will be inspecting the roads in the vicinity and the process outlined used as and when appropriate.

**The Drove, Crux Easton** – repairs have been delayed due to adverse weather. Update requested.

**Carriageway water issues on Harts Lane** – jetting planned for end of May.

**Carriageway water issue on Well St** - further structural work planned for autumn 2024.

#### County Councillor Grants

My annual devolved Councillor Grant pot is for projects or events across the Whitchurch and the Cleres Division. 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 12 projects.

Applicant	Project
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Burghclere Parish Council	Coronation party
Whitchurch parish fete	Whitchurch Parish Fete
Whitchurch In Bloom	Whitchurch In Bloom Infrastructure Upgrade
Whitchurch Conservation Group	Whitchurch Children's Festival 2023 - places for free school meal children
Busy Bees Preschool (Kingsclere)	Busy Bees Recovery and Sustainability Project
North Hampshire Cruse Bereavement Support	Providing specialist 1:1 Bereavement Support to reduce waiting list
Kingsclere Village Club	Updated Electrical Infrastructure Project
Whitchurch In Bloom	Whitchurch in Bloom - Workhorse Truck
Whitchurch Conservation Group	Whitchurch Arts and Crafts Festival website
St Mary Bourne Bowling Club	Training for new Green Maintenance Team
Newtown Parish Council	Jonathan Hill car park repairs
The Westridge Trust	To replace a broken Memorial Bench & install a new Westridge Studio sign

Tom Thacker  
Hampshire County Councillor  
Whitchurch and the Cleres Division