



## **Candovers Oakley and Overton Division – Juliet Henderson June Report**

### **New Leader of Hampshire County Council**

Today was Hampshire County Council's Annual General Meeting, where Cllr Nick Adams -King was voted by colleagues to be the new Leader of the Council.

Cllr Adams King said “I am deeply honoured that they have given me their trust. I will work tirelessly to repay that trust, and will not let them, or you the people whom we serve, down.

Here was the incoming Leader's speech:

**“Hampshire is a wonderful County and I am deeply honoured and humbled to have been selected by my absolutely brilliant colleagues as the Leader of the Conservative Group and, by all of you, as the Leader of the Council.**

**I am fortunate to have an incredible group who have a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm. Amongst these individuals there is no one more talented than Cllr Jan Warwick, whom I am delighted was chosen by my colleagues as our Group Deputy Leader and, whom I today appoint Deputy Leader of the Council.**

**I am fully aware of the immense challenges we face, and I commit to working tirelessly to overcome them. However, we must not let these challenges deter us from promoting the fantastic work the County Council does. We must continue to innovate and find new ways of working, to better serve Hampshire’s 1.4 million residents -making their lives better, their journeys safer, and ensuring they receive the help they need when they need it.**

**Hampshire County Council, in common with most other local authorities, faces an unprecedented financial challenge.**

**Let me say this very clearly though. Hampshire County Council is not ‘going bust’.**

**We have a legal responsibility to provide essential services, and we cannot refuse support when it’s requested. This includes social care for older people, support for those with disabilities, the**

care of vulnerable children and school transport for those who qualify. These services are rightfully provided free of charge to those who need them, but they do come at a significant cost.

We face a recurring budget shortfall of £132million by next financial year. To address this we conducted the 'Future Services' public consultation from January to March this year, asking people from across Hampshire for their views on proposed changes and reductions to some local services. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the 14,400 residents who responded.

We have read all your views. Your feedback, has been invaluable, offering fantastic insights, ideas and challenges.

Before decisions are made, we must follow a thorough democratic process. Member task-and-finish groups will review the consultation documents and high-level findings, reporting to the County Council's select committees.

These committees will then review the results and make recommendations to Cabinet, who will collectively decide the way forward for each proposal.

Let me say clearly to our residents. We have heard you, and we are working hard to ensure your views are reflected in the decisions we make.

To our dedicated employees, I want to say how much we value your commitment and professionalism. You have shown incredible dedication in challenging times, and I am grateful for your continued and excellent service.

I am an optimist, and I am optimistic about the future of Hampshire County Council.

Under my leadership, we will strive to be an efficient, caring, innovative, business friendly council. We will care for our environment, tackle climate change and promote the work we do to protect our most vulnerable residents.

To our residents I promise that we will always remember it is YOUR money we spend.

To our businesses I promise we will support you, recognising you are the backbone of our county.

To our most vulnerable residents accessing our social care services, and to those young people in our care, we will continue to protect and support you.

We can, and will, change this Council for the better. We can and will make it work more effectively for the people of Hampshire. We will find innovative solutions, work efficiently and maximise the contribution from our assets.

Together we will deliver a positive future for Hampshire."

### New County Council Cabinet Portfolios

**Councillor Nick Adams-King**

Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services

**Councillor Jan Warwick**

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing

**Councillor Lulu Bowerman**

Executive Member for Highways and Waste

**Councillor Roz Chadd**

Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

**Councillor Liz Fairhurst**

Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

**Councillor Steve Forster**

Executive Member for Education

**Councillor Zoe Huggins**

Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 (Climate Change, Culture and Partnerships) and HR, Communications and Performance

**Councillor Kirsty North**

Executive Lead Member for Universal Services



**Future Services Consultation – delay to decision making.**

As a result of the General Election and conventions around making significant decisions during an election period, the democratic scrutiny and Cabinet decisions on the County Council's SP25 savings proposals have been postponed until later in the year.

We know that the retention of HWRCs 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 both the public and our partners.

While we will of course consider all the detailed proposals included in the SP25 package, we will also consider what other options may be available so that, should we be minded, we can choose different solutions and timescales at the point of our decision making in the autumn.

If agreed, the proposed changes to services would not commence until April 2025, so there is time for full democratic scrutiny to be undertaken this autumn. The County Council's excellent officer team have been diligent in preparing detailed proposals for the Select Committees to scrutinize and for Cabinet to then consider in due course.

These will only be proposals, while they will be recommended by our officers as part of the package of measures to meet the budget gap faced by the County Council we must, and will, fully take into account their profound impact and the huge public response to the consultation on the proposals that ended on 31st March.



## **COUNTY COUNCIL'S SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME MAKING HAMPSHIRE ROADS MORE RESILIENT**

Hampshire roads will be given a new lease of life this summer as Hampshire County Council's annual programme of road surface strengthening gets underway at 400 locations.

[County Council's surface dressing programme making Hampshire roads more resilient | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes)

### **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**