

Annual Report 2024 – Cllr Kirsty North, Andover North Division, Hampshire County Council

I have been privileged to serve as the Executive Member for Performance, HR, Communications, Inclusion and Diversity in the County Council's Cabinet for the past year. I am delighted to have recently been asked to serve as the Cabinet Member for Countryside and Regulatory Services and am looking forward to getting stuck into a new area of the council for me, supporting its countryside and country parks, registration service, archives and records, property and Trading Standards. I remain hard at work locally and am committed to pursuing the best services for Andover North residents.

Recipients of my Devolved Budget for 2023/24 were as follows:

Andover Mind – Garden for Mind
Andover Trees United – Kitchen for The Cabin at Harmony Woods
Enham Alamein Parish Council – Commemorative Bench
The Farming Community Network – Yarn in a Barn Hurstbourne Tarrant Event
Breakout Youth - youth club Andover
Andover Musical Theatre Company – Priscilla Queen of the Desert costs
Chapel Arts Studios – Harrison Memorial project
Thrive Andover – Andover Armed Forces Day 2023

My budget will reopen in June and I welcome all applications, please do get in touch to discuss.

Over the course of the year I have:

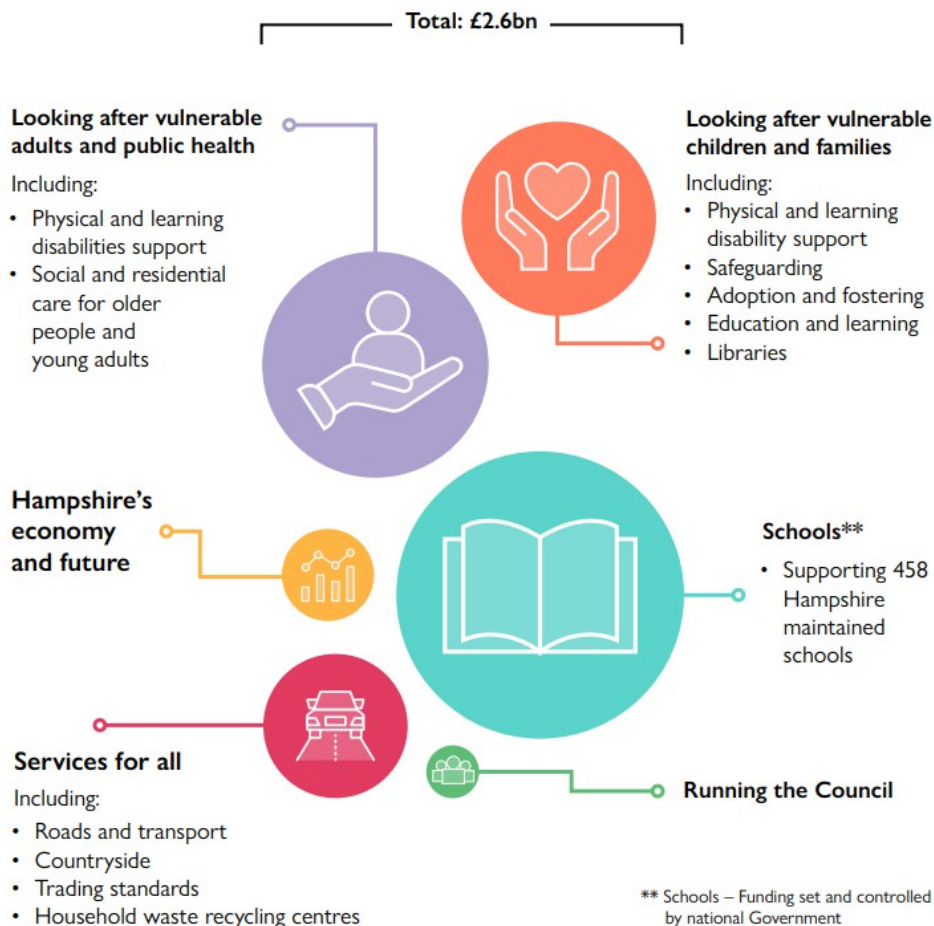
- Attended the opening celebration for The Mark Way Special School's extension and refurbishment which provides an additional 20 moderate special school places.
- Reported and chased up pothole repairs
- Visited Smannell Church of England Primary School
- Attended site visits in Andover with Aster around Roman Way, Viking Way and Cricketers Way
- Held a site visit for HCC Highways and Tangley residents at Pill Heath crossroads
- Raised childrens and adults social care queries on behalf of residents
- Contacted Taylor Wimpey and First Port to discuss snagging issues around Augusta Park
- Visited Roman Way Primary School to celebrate its internal classrooms refurbishment
- Ensured grit bins were replenished throughout the Division
- Visited James' Place to see how they are settling in at the Hatherden School site and to see how vulnerable adults are looked after there.
- Liaised on traffic calming measures and support for parish councils locally
- Had site visits and meetings to discuss risk of flooding in the Bourne Valley
- Held meetings to discuss local school performance
- Attended the HCC Chairman's Apprenticeship Awards and Long Service Awards
- Oversaw the opening of Finkley Arch, Andover
- Met Highways engineers to discuss improvements for walking and cycling in Andover

- Visited Sparsholt College to see the facilities and post-16 training opportunities
- Chased repairs to Icknield Way, Andover leading to a full resurfacing
- Met Andover Mind to discuss the work they do to support vulnerable local residents
- Attended the official opening of The Cabin at Harmony Woods

HCC Budget:

Hampshire's budget includes £2.6billion of spending, covering the hundreds of services delivered by the council to its 1.4million residents. A large proportion of the County Council's budget is spent on providing social care, for both older and younger adults as well as children – like protecting children from harm and neglect, social care for Hampshire's growing older population, supporting adults and children with disabilities and additional needs, school transport for children with special educational needs, as well as maintaining our roads, libraries and HWRCs.

Hampshire County Council's Council Tax for 2024/25 is around £29.49 per week*



Hampshire County Council's council tax is among the lowest of any county council in England. The precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2024 is an annual charge of £1,533.24 (for a Band D property) – This is an increase of around £1.40 per week from last year (+4.99%). The average Band D council tax set by shire county authorities in England for 2024-25 is £1,643.¹

¹ [Council Tax levels set by local authorities in England 2024 to 2025 \(revised\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/council-tax-levels-set-by-local-authorities-in-england-2024-to-2025-revised) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), [Table 2_24-25.ods \(live.com\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/council-tax-levels-set-by-local-authorities-in-england-2024-to-2025-revised)