

District Councillor Report to HPC meeting on 13th March 2023

Cllr D Evans, EHDC Horndean Kings and Blendworth ward

23rd February EHDC Council Budget Meeting

The budget for 2023/24 was explained, debated and agreed. Full details and a link to watch the debate can be found at:

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 23rd February, 2023, 6.00 pm | East Hampshire District Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/Agenda/2023/02/23/23-02-23-6-00-PM-East-Hampshire-District-Council)

From the Budget Report and announcements, I would highlight:

1. The EHDC Council tax will rise by 2% or £2.78 for a Band D property. The EHDC share is 7% of the total Council Tax paid by our residents.
2. The “Shaping East Hampshire’s Future” transformation project has already delivered savings of £500,000 in 2022/23 and is set to deliver more savings in 2023/24
3. Cllr Millard, the Leader of the Council announced the exciting “**Delivering by the dozen**” - our twelve new welfare schemes which are:

1. Cost-of-living outreach

An outreach worker will attend the luncheon clubs, community centres, GP surgeries and other organisations to talk to residents about the help on offer during the rising cost-of-living.

2. Cost of Living initiatives

We will support foodbanks, emergency heating projects, a scheme to provide white goods and promote our support for guests from Ukraine

3. Investing in Planning Enforcement

Following last year's investment in the service the number of enforcement notices we served spiked over the last 12 months. We are building on this great work with further investment into our Planning Enforcement team in 2023/2024.

4. Community Transport

In partnership with Community First we will provide an East Hampshire Health and Wellbeing bus to residents, particularly those in rural areas, to get them to medical appointments or welfare services.

5. Recycling rates

We will drive down contamination in recycling and improving our recycling rates through an education programme in schools.

6. Children's swimming lessons

The cost of lessons means some children don't get the chance to learn to swim properly. With our partners Everyone Active, we will offer up to 500 children free access to a 12-week course of swimming lessons at our fantastic Swimming Pools.

7. Men's Sheds

We will provide a building for Men's Shed, a charity where local men and women can meet, make and mend things, reducing isolation and loneliness.

8. Wheels to Work

We will buy two additional electric mopeds that will give young people living in isolated rural areas the wheels they need to get to work or training.

9. 'Let's Get East Hants Green' campaign

Later this year we plan to launch a campaign to inspire young people to connect with nature and protect and enhance their local environment. This will include a habitat creation kits for schoolchildren to grow food and improve biodiversity.

10. Stock Condition Survey

All local authorities have an obligation to make sure housing conditions in East Hampshire are up to scratch. We will run a stock condition survey to make sure local homes are in good condition.

11. Speedwatch Cameras

Speeding on our roads can be a serious danger to residents. We will buy ten speed cameras for towns and villages in East Hampshire where traffic speeds are a real problem.

12. Riding the Green Loop - Free Bike Hire Scheme

This summer we will launch a free bike hire scheme on the Green Loop in Whitehill & Bordon, giving visitors the chance to enjoy the award-winning 7km green loop through the town. Ten bikes, including a mix of electric and conventional bikes, will be available.