

Report to Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

Cnty Cllr Christian Mitchell
Monday, 3 March 2025, 7:30pm

Co-op car park, the bus gate and Sargent Way

The Parish Council was updated by Mr Reed on 7 February 2025.

Council budget

On 14 February 2025 the Council approved a balanced budget for the year ahead which will provide support for the most vulnerable, without cuts to front-line services. In the coming year, the county council will spend more than £2.2 billion on vital services, including:

- £1,284 million for schools, education, and children's social care
- £553 million to care for adults and keep people healthy
- £98 million to protect the environment, recycling and waste disposal
- £87 million to maintain roads and provide transport
- £65 million for Fire and Rescue services and support for communities
- £5 million to support the local economy

WSCC reported in July last year it was facing a budget gap of £60 million amid increasing demand pressures and the rising cost of services, particularly in social care, special educational needs and disabilities, and home to school transport.

WSCC have allocated an additional £47.4 million for service demand pressures along with a further £22.9 for pay and price inflation, giving a gross total of just over £70m, in the budget as well as continued additional investment in our roads.

Devolution

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Angela Rayner MP announced on Wednesday, 5 February 2025 the six areas onto the Devolution Priority Programme with Mayors to be elected by May 2026 plus four new devolved institutions created. The areas are:

- Cumbria
- Cheshire and Warrington
- Norfolk & Suffolk
- Greater Essex
- Sussex and Brighton
- Hampshire and Solent

HM Government press release [here](#) and WSCC press release [here](#). The Government will soon start a six week consultation on devolution.

Business of the County Council

Full Council last met, to set the budget, on Friday, 14 February 2025 at 10:30am [here](#).

The next meeting of full Council is on Friday, 21 March 2025 at 10:30am [here](#).

ENDS