

Hadlow Down Report November 2024

National Budget

The extra funding for SEND is welcome and necessary as without extra funding money would have to be transferred from the main school budgets into the High Needs. The next few days and possibly weeks will inform us of how much of the funding is heading our way.

NHI

The increase in employers NHI will have a significant negative effect on our finances with a 1% rise costing approx. £3m. The expectation is that the Treasury will allocate funding for the NHI increases for public bodies.

Minimum Living Wage

Again, not clear if this rise will be funded by central government or the council will have to find within current resources.

Road Maintenance

The extra funding on road maintenance is welcomed. Whilst the chancellor talked about potholes, I trust the funding can be used for patching which is longer lasting repair.

ESCC approve plans for the Household Support Fund

Plans for the allocation of funds from the Household Support Fund (HSF) were agreed by the council this month. The Household Support Fund, which supports those who are struggling with bills and essential costs, was extended last month by central government.

East Sussex County Council has been allocated just under £3.9 million over the next six months to support eligible residents.

Funds will be distributed through a variety of partners, including District and Borough

Councils and the voluntary sector, who have helped to administer previous funds. Engaging with the same partners will provide continuity and aid with the effective administration of the fund.

Children's Services

Pupils from across East Sussex have been selected to join a programme which supports young people as they move from school into work, training and further education.

Between September 2024 and August 2026, the Steps to Success programme will work with 315 current year 10 students to develop personal and career development goals to help them with finding opportunities at the end of year 11.

The county council has been awarded over £480,000 for the scheme, which is phase two of a national research programme into supporting young people with their post-16 options.

After phase one nine out of ten participating students in East Sussex progressed to sustained post-16 education, employment or training.

From September, the Phase Two project will work with groups of students who are eligible for free school meals and are either persistently absent from school, or have a special educational need or disability (SEND). Students will receive 1:1 coaching to help develop personal and career development goals.

Bob Nov 24.