Serving Hampshire
Balancing the Budget Consultation
2020 - 2022

Information Pack
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Hampshire County Council</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being careful with money</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Options for balancing the budget</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you think?</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For more information</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

Hampshire County Council provides important services to the people of Hampshire.

It pays for these services with:

- Council Tax paid by local people
- Money from the government
- Charges and rents

Over the last few years:

- Local people have been asking for more services from us
- We have been getting less money from the government
We have been working to make sure our services are the best value for money.

But we do not have enough money to do everything we do now.

We need to make some changes
If we don’t make any changes by 2021, we will be spending £80 million a year more than we have, which we aren’t allowed to do.

This document explains some of the changes that we could make.
We want to know what you think.

Please read this document and then tell us what you think by answering the questions on the Response Form.

Your answers will help the County Council when it makes the final decision.

We need your answers before midnight on Wednesday 17 July 2019.
About Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council provides public services to the 1.4 million people who live in Hampshire.

The services include:

- Schools and colleges
- Building and repairing roads
- Running tips and waste recycling centres
- Running libraries
- Looking after the countryside
- Giving information to help people stay healthy
- Supporting adults and children
We have to do many of these things by law.

The law often tells us how we have to do certain things.

Our aims for the future

We aim to:

- Help people to work, and businesses to set up and grow in Hampshire

- Help people to live safe, healthy and independent lives

- Make sure Hampshire is a great place to live by looking after our countryside areas, history and culture

- Support communities to be strong and to support each other so everyone feels involved
Being careful with money

Where the money comes from

Hampshire County Council gets nearly £2 billion a year.

- £800 million from the government for schools
- £260 million comes from the government for other things
- £680 million comes from Council Tax and business rates
- £260 million comes from charges for services, rents, licenses and other things
How the money is spent
At the moment we spend about:

- £495 million on adult social care and health
- £880 million on schools
- £175 million on children’s services
- £125 million on roads, transport and the environment
- £150 million on helping communities and businesses
- £170 million on other things
Options for balancing the budget

Our budget is a plan which shows where we will get our money from and how we will spend it.

Balancing the budget means trying to make sure that we don’t spend more money than we get.

Managing the budget
Since 2008 the County Council has been changing the way it works. This has reduced the amount that it spends by £480 million.
We have done this by:

- Making sure services are given to people who need them the most

- Making all departments of the County Council find the same savings

- Looking for new ways to provide services

- Using our savings to help us plan ahead

### Charging for services

The County Council already charges people for some local services. We could get more money by:

- Increasing the charges

- Charging for some services that are free at the moment
Asking the government to change some laws

There are many different laws that say what we must do.

Changes to some laws would let us get money in new ways. For example:

- Letting us charge for transport to take some children to school
- Letting us charge people about £1 to use the Household Waste and Recycling Centres
- Letting us charge about £10 for issuing an older person’s bus pass
- Letting us charge a small amount for older people and disabled people to use the bus
- Letting us use some of the money from speeding fines or driver awareness courses
- Letting us charge to be a member of the library or use library services
Getting more money
The County Council does get money by:

- Selling services to businesses

- Buying and selling land and buildings

But we are not allowed to make a profit. So we can only charge enough to cover the costs of the services.

We are not allowed to use money we get from selling land or buildings to pay for day to day services.

There may be other services that we could charge for.
Using the County Council’s reserves

Reserves is money that we have saved up over the years.

Hampshire County Council has over £600 million in reserves.

About £500 million of this is going to be used to build new schools, roads, facilities and better services.

We could use the rest to help pay for services.

But we only have enough in reserves to run services for 27 days.
Reducing and changing services

We have already changed and reduced many services. We could do more.

There are lots of ways that this could be done. Here are some examples:

- Stop some of the work we do to keep people safe from businesses that might harm them
- Reduce the hours that libraries are open. Charge for some library services. Rent out spare space in libraries
- Charge for parking in more countryside areas
- Using better light bulbs or switching off street lights for longer periods at night
- Charge people for getting rid of wood - like old fencing, or sheds
- Reduce the amount of gritting we do on the roads in winter. Give less money to local councils for looking after the roadside
- Find better ways to help children travel to their nearest school
- Reduce money for some short breaks schemes for children and young people with disabilities
- Support more disabled children to live at home
- Provide more help to older people to stay healthy and live at home for longer
- Have more community support schemes to help young people with disabilities, rather than pay for support workers
- Change how many residential homes we have and where they are
- Reduce the work we do to help people stay healthy
Increasing Council Tax

Hampshire has the second lowest Council Tax of any County Council in England.

We are allowed to increase Council Tax by 5%.

If we increased Council Tax by less than 5% we would have to reduce or change some services.

If we increased Council Tax by 5% we would still have to reduce or change some services a bit.

If we increased Council Tax by more than 5% we might not have to reduce services. To do this we would have to ask everyone in Hampshire what they think.
Changing local councils in Hampshire

Hampshire has a county council.

It also has 11 district councils.

It also has many parish councils and town councils.

These all cost money to run.

We have been looking at how we could change the way councils in Hampshire are organised.

This could save money, but we would need the government to agree before we can do this.
What do you think?

We want to know what you think about these options.

Please complete the separate Response Form.

You can also complete the Easy Read Response Form online at: www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget

We need your answers before midnight on Wednesday 17 July 2019.
For more information

If you need more information please contact us by:

Email: insight@hants.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 555 1375

Website: www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget

Post:
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester
SO23 8UJ

Easy read by easy-read-online.co.uk