Budget Consultation Response Form

Consultation on Hampshire County Council's Budget for 2027/28

Introduction

Each year, Hampshire County Council (the County Council) sets a budget that determines how much money can be spent on local services. By law, we must balance our budget, which means we cannot spend more than the funding we have available.

Like many councils, we are facing rising costs and increasing demand for services, particularly for supporting vulnerable children and adults and school transport. This means we expect a funding gap of £198.9million in 2027/28. A funding gap is the difference between the cost of providing services and the money available to pay for them.

We have limited options for addressing this gap. These are summarised in this Response Form and explained in more detail within the consultation Information Pack, which we encourage you to read before responding. It is likely that we would need to use a combination of these options.

As we plan our budget, we want to understand your views and any potential impact our decisions could have on residents, communities, businesses and organisations across Hampshire.

We are also open to other ideas. If you have suggestions for how we could reduce costs, increase income, manage demand for services, or help address the funding gap, we would welcome them as part of this consultation.

If you have any queries about this consultation, or need this Response Form in another language or format, please contact the County Council by emailing insight@hants.gov.uk, or calling 0300 555 1375. Calls from a landline will be charged at the local rate, although mobile phone charges may vary.

Completing the Response Form

Before completing the Response Form, it is strongly advised that you read the Information Pack at www.hants.gov.uk/budgetconsultation, which explains the options available.

This consultation will close at 11:59pm on Sunday 13 December 2026.

This Response Form should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. You will be asked for your views on each of the options proposed to address our funding gap. Towards the end of the form, you will also have the opportunity to share your views in your own words in a free-text box, including any potential impacts of the options and any suggestions for alternative approaches that the County Council could consider.

Please use a black or blue pen and mark your responses by putting a cross within the appropriate box. If you make a mistake, please fill in the entire box and put a cross in the correct box.

Alternatively if you have access to the internet then you can complete this Response Form online at:

www.hants.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

Completing the Response Form online ensures that your response is received instantly and securely, and the online form is simple to use on devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones.

If you require any extra space for your response to any of the questions, please write on an additional page and include it with this form.

This box is for office use only. Please **do not** write in the box.

Your data

Privacy notice

Hampshire County Council is seeking your views, comments and information about you as part of consultation on the County Council's financial strategy for 2027/28. The legal basis for the use of your information is UK GDPR Article 6 1 e 'performance of a task carried out in the public interest in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council'. Responses will inform the County Council's decisions on how to set its budget for 2027/28.

The information you provide in your consultation response is being collected and processed by Hampshire County Council. Raw data will only be shared with other parties where they are undertaking data processing on behalf of Hampshire County Council. All data will remain within the UK/EEA. Your responses will be kept securely for two years, after which they will be deleted or destroyed.

You have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Please see our Data Protection page (www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/strategiesplansandpolicies/dataprotection) for further details. You can contact the County Council's Data Protection Officer at data.protection@hants.gov.uk. If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at https://ico.org.uk/concerns/.

Please be constructive and considerate in your response. All Hampshire County Council staff are entitled to be treated with respect by those they work with or for, and the County Council operates a Zero Tolerance Policy towards harassment, discrimination, bullying and abuse.

About your response

Is this a personal response, or are you responding on behalf of an organisation, group or business or as a democratically Elected Representative? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ I am **responding as an individual**
- ☐ I am providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**
- ☐ I am responding as a **democratically Elected Representative** of a constituency (e.g. as a county, district, borough, parish or town council Member or MP)

If you are **responding as an individual**, please go to **page 4**.

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, please go to **page 3**.

If you are responding as a **democratically Elected Representative** of a constituency, please go to **page 3**.

About your response (continued)

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, please answer the two questions below and then go to **page 5**.

If you are providing the official response of an organisation, group or business, its name may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide details about the organisation, group or business that you represent:

Name of the organisation, group or business:	
Postcode of the organisation, group or business:	
Your name:	
Your position in the organisation, group or business:	

Which of these best describes the function of your organisation, group or business? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Charity, voluntary or local community group
- ☐ Local business or business representative (e.g. BID)
- ☐ Local authority (e.g. county, district, parish, town or borough council)
- ☐ Nursery, school, college or place of education
- ☐ Other public sector organisation (e.g. Police, Fire, Health Authority)
- ☐ Other

For 'other' please specify in the box below:

If you are responding as a **democratically Elected Representative** of a constituency, please answer the two questions below and then go to **page 5**.

If you are responding as a democratically Elected Representative, the name of the constituency you represent may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Which constituency do you represent? *(Please specify in the box below)*

What is your name? *(Please write in the box below. NB: This will only be used if we need to contact you to validate your response)*

The County Council services that you use

Which of the following services, provided by Hampshire County Council, have you or people in your household used in the last 12 months? *(Please select all that apply)*

- ☐ Child social care, including welfare, fostering and adoption and child protection
- ☐ Concessionary bus travel (such as older person's and disabled person's bus pass)
- ☐ Country parks and other outdoor spaces, including public Rights of Way
- ☐ County Archives
- ☐ Economic Development (supporting the local economy and Hampshire businesses)
- ☐ Education and child care (including in nurseries, mainstream schools, and special schools)
- ☐ Highways (including street lighting, highways maintenance, footpaths, and cycleways)
- ☐ Libraries and discovery centres
- ☐ Public health services (including NHS health checks, alcohol and drug misuse services, and weight management)
- ☐ Registration services (births, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths)
- ☐ School meals
- ☐ School Transport or Post-16 Transport provided by the County Council
- ☐ Services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), such as short breaks or respite services
- ☐ Services for older people (including nursing, home, residential and day care)
- ☐ Services for people with a physical disability, learning disability or mental health need
- ☐ Services to prevent flooding in Hampshire
- ☐ Support for carers
- ☐ Support to young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- ☐ Trading Standards
- ☐ Waste services, such as Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)
- ☐ Other services not listed here
- ☐ None of these

For 'other services' please describe:

If you require any extra space for your response to this question, please write on an additional page and include it with this form.

Section One: Our Financial Strategy

Hampshire County Council has a strong track record of managing its finances well and delivering high-quality services.

By 31 March 2027, we will have reduced our annual spending by £767 million over 18 years while continuing to provide services rated as good or outstanding.

We have achieved this by:

- Planning ahead to identify savings early and reduce the impact of service changes.
- Investing in new and more efficient ways of working.
- Keeping tight controls on spending, including senior manager approval for purchases over £500.
- Generating additional income to help fund services.
- Focusing resources on those with the greatest need, including vulnerable children and adults.
- Exploring all other options before reducing or stopping services.
- Learning from savings and efficiencies achieved by other councils.
- Using reserves carefully to manage funding pressures and rising demand.

Despite these measures, we still expect a budget shortfall of around £198.9 million in 2027/28. This would be the largest funding gap the County Council has ever faced.

More information about our proposed Financial Strategy and the changing context in which we are working is available on pages 12 to 16 of the Information Pack.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should continue to apply the County Council's financial strategy as described? *(Please choose one option)*

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget

Delivering efficiencies

Some savings can be made without reducing services by improving how we work. We have been finding efficiencies for many years and identified £5.5 million of annual efficiency savings in 2026/27.

You can read more about this on page 18 of the Information Pack.

We would like to hear your suggestions for other ways we could improve efficiency and reduce costs. There is space to tell us your ideas on page 14 of this Response Form.

Lobbying central government for additional funding and legislative change

The County Council's finances are heavily influenced by Government funding and legislation. In some areas, current rules limit our ability to introduce measures that could help support local services.

We can lobby Government to increase funding for local government, change the way councils are funded and to give councils greater freedom to make local decisions that could help balance budgets.

However, lobbying takes time, and there is no guarantee that it would be successful or be of help within this budget cycle.

Examples of where this could help are outlined on the next page with further detail available on page 19 of the Information Pack.

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (continued)

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the County Council should lobby the Government for legislative change in the following areas in order to help maintain local services? *(Please choose one option per row)*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Working in partnership with councils and local leaders to accelerate public service reform and devolution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing reliable long-term funding and legislation so councils can plan ahead and make improvements with confidence	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Changing how county councils are funded across the country	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increasing Government funding to cover the rising costs of social care	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Accelerating changes to children's social care to reduce the costs of child social care placements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reviewing which statutory functions must currently be carried out by qualified social workers, to allow us to use other qualified staff for some tasks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Letting councils create their own School Transport policies, such as to use means testing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Allowing people who receive care at home (domiciliary care) to defer payments in the same way as those moving into residential care homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Giving councils more flexibility to consider people's personal circumstances when assessing whether someone needs help with adult social care costs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Allowing councils to introduce new small charges for some services, such as a small fee for concessionary travel, issuing bus passes, and using household waste recycling centres	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Removing the legislative cost caps for some services that have not been reviewed for many years (such as the charge for an Ordinary Water Course consent which has been capped at £50 for decades)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Giving councils more freedom to set Council Tax rates	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (continued)

Generating extra income

We are allowed to generate some income to help fund services and overhead costs, for example by providing services to schools, renting out unused buildings, investing cash balances, and selling land or buildings that are no longer needed.

While this income helps reduce the budget gap, it would not be enough to close it on its own.

More details of this can be seen on page 21 of the Information Pack.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the County Council should try to cover service costs by generating income wherever possible? *(Please choose one option)*

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Introducing and increasing charges for some services

Some services could be partly funded through charges paid by the people who use them.

Options could include:

- Increasing entry or parking charges at countryside sites.
- Introducing new on-street parking charges.
- Increasing fees for arranging care and managing payments for people who pay for their own care.
- Increasing fees for ceremonies such as weddings, civil partnerships and naming ceremonies.

If changes to legislation were approved, we could also consider charges for services that councils are currently not allowed to charge for, such as visits to Household Waste Recycling Centres or issuing bus passes.

More examples are provided on page 22 of the Information Pack.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to cover the costs of running some local services by...*(Please choose one option per row)*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Increasing existing charges for services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Introducing new charges for services that are currently free	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (continued)

Review service delivery models

We regularly review services to ensure they provide good value for money and high-quality outcomes.

We could continue to review our in-house services and consider whether alternative models of delivery would be more cost effective. This could include:

- Assessing whether services should continue to be delivered in-house.
- Considering alternative providers where this could be more cost effective.
- Using technology in new and innovative ways to improve services and reduce costs.

Recent examples of how we have done this can be seen on page 23 of the Information Pack.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the County Council should review services for the following purposes? *(Please choose one option per row)*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
To tell us if services that we run should be outsourced or closed to save money	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
To identify ways to reduce costs by using new technology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Reducing and stopping services

Some council services are required by law, while others are discretionary. Even where services are required by law, there may be flexibility in how they are delivered.

Examples of how we have done this in the past are available on page 24 of the Information Pack.

Reducing or stopping services could help save money. However:

- The savings that could be made are now much smaller than in previous years.
- Service reductions alone would not close the budget gap.
- Changes could have a significant impact on residents.

For these reasons, we would always look at other options first where possible.

If changes to specific services are proposed, separate public consultations giving further detail would take place. We would continue to meet our statutory duties.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the County Council should seek to...? *(Please choose one option per row)*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Reduce services in order to contribute to anticipated savings?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stop services in order to contribute to anticipated savings?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (continued)

Delaying spend

To help manage current financial pressures, we could delay some spending that would normally help us avoid higher costs in the future, as explained on page 26 of the Information Pack.

For example, we could delay spending on things such as building maintenance, staff training, and replacing IT equipment.

This could help reduce immediate budget pressures, but may lead to service disruption, skills shortages and increased costs in the longer term.

Which of the following statements is closest to your view about how we should balance short term financial pressures with longer term needs? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ I think that spending should be delayed where possible, even where this could have a longer term impact on services and costs
- ☐ I do **not** think that spending should be delayed where this could have a longer term impact on services and costs
- ☐ Don't know

Increasing Council Tax

Council Tax provides around 76% of the County Council's net budget, and Hampshire residents currently pay less Council Tax than residents in most other county areas.

Each 1% increase in Council Tax would generate around £9.4 million.

We can increase Council Tax by up to 4.99% in 2027/28 without Government approval or a referendum. Our financial forecasts already assume a 4.99% increase, which would generate around £46.8 million.

This would help address the budget gap but would not close it on its own.

Alternatively, the County Council could:

Increase Council Tax by less than 4.99%, which would increase financial pressures.

Seek Government approval or hold a referendum to increase Council Tax by more than 4.99%.

These options are explained on page 27 of the Information Pack.

Which Council Tax band are you in? *(Please choose one option)*

☐ Band A	☐ Band C	☐ Band E	☐ Band G	☐ Don't know
☐ Band B	☐ Band D	☐ Band F	☐ Band H	☐ Prefer not to say

Appendix A on pages 18 to 19 of this form shows how much Council Tax would rise in Hampshire for each Council Tax band, at different levels of increase.

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (continued)

Please indicate which of the following three options is your first, second, and third preference by ticking one box for each option: *(Please choose one option per column)*

Please indicate which of the following three options is your first, second, and third preference:
You can only select each ranking once.

	First choice	Second choice	Third choice
To raise Council Tax by **less than** 4.99% per year	☐	☐	☐
To raise Council Tax by 4.99% per year	☐	☐	☐
To raise Council Tax by **more than** 4.99% per year (which would require a referendum)	☐	☐	☐

If we asked Government for permission to raise Council Tax by more than 4.99%, what should we request? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ **7.49% increase** (this would raise Council Tax by £126.59 per year for a Band D property, and raise £70.2 million)
- ☐ **9.99% increase** (this would raise Council Tax by £168.84 per year for a Band D property, and raise £93.7 million)
- ☐ **14.99% increase** (this would raise Council Tax by £253.35 per year for a Band D property, and raise £140.6 million)
- ☐ **19.99% increase** (this would raise Council Tax by £337.85 per year for a Band D property, and raise £187.5 million)
- ☐ **24.99% increase** (this would raise Council Tax by £422.36 per year for a Band D property, and raise £234.4 million)
- ☐ Don't know

These increases are calculated for all Council Tax bands in Appendix A on pages 18 to 19 of this form.

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (continued)

Using the County Council's reserves or borrowing

Over the years we have set aside funding in reserves (similar to the 'savings' which an individual would put aside), which have helped us to fund the budget shortfall since 2022/23.

We estimate that we will hold £336.8 million of usable reserves on 31 March 2027.

This includes reserves held to mitigate risk (for example, insurance risk) and reserves committed to other priorities, such as our capital development programme (for example, one-off investment in building and improving schools, libraries, highways, country parks, outdoor centres and other community infrastructure), and replacing IT equipment and infrastructure.

We could consider using reserves committed to other priorities (also called 'committed reserves') to fund the budget gap, but this would mean stopping planned capital development or increasing borrowing for these programmes.

Reserves can only be used once, and we would be unable to close the 2027/28 budget gap through use of reserves alone – even if committed reserves were used.

More information about this option is available on page 30 of the Information Pack.

When considering how the County Council should balance its budget, which of the following statements is closest to your view about how reserves should be used? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ I think that reserves should be used to plug the budget gap
- ☐ I do **not** think that reserves should be used to plug the budget gap
- ☐ Don't know

Exceptional Financial Support (EFS)

Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) is a mechanism that the Government can make available to councils facing significant financial pressures.

It can provide short-term flexibility to help balance a budget, including allowing borrowing or use of capital resources (sale proceeds from selling council property or land or capital grants) to fund day-to-day costs. EFS could help the County Council set a balanced budget in 2027/28 and provide time to review, redesign and transform services to reduce long-term costs.

However, it could increase financial pressures in future years because any borrowing would need to be repaid with interest and would mean that the capital resources can only be used once to fund day-to-day spending and couldn't be used for their original purpose. It also does not address the underlying causes of the County Council's budget gap.

Any request for EFS, and the amount requested, would need to be approved by the Government, and there is no guarantee that approval would be granted.

For further information on EFS, please refer to page 32 of the Information Pack.

Which of the following statements best reflects your view on the County Council applying for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to help balance its budget? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ I think that the County Council **should** apply for EFS
- ☐ I do **not** think the County Council should apply for EFS
- ☐ Don't know

Section Three: Reviewing the main options

You have now read through the main options available to the County Council for balancing its budget.

Please rank each of the following options for balancing the County Council's budget by order of preference: *(Please choose one option per row, only choosing one option for 'first choice', one for 'second choice', and so on)*

Please rank each of the following options for balancing the County Council's budget by order of preference:
You can only select each ranking once.

	First choice	Second choice	Third choice	Fourth choice	Fifth choice	Sixth choice	Seventh choice	Eighth choice	Ninth choice	Tenth choice
Deliver smaller scale efficiencies in our spending	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lobbying central government for additional funding and legislative change	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Generating additional income	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Introducing and increasing charges for some services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reviewing service delivery models to understand which services do not offer value for money, and which could benefit from using new technology	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reducing or stopping services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Delaying spend by prioritising savings in the short term	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increasing Council Tax	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Using the County Council's reserves	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Asking the Government for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section Four: Impacts, suggestions, and further comments

Tell us here if you have any:

comments on the options that we have suggested to close our budget gap,

views on how the potential measures we have suggested could **impact** people, groups or businesses in Hampshire, and/or

suggestions for other ways we could meet our financial obligations, such as ways to make efficiencies, change services, reduce costs, or generate income.

Please do not provide any personal details in your comments.

If you require any extra space for your response to this question, please write on an additional page and include it with this Response Form

Section Five: About you

Please answer this section if you are **responding to this consultation as an individual**.

If you are providing the **official response of an organisation, group or business**, or **responding as a democratically Elected Representative of a constituency**, please go to page 17 of this document without answering this section.

Hampshire County Council is committed to improving its services, eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all people. The following questions may feel sensitive but we would be grateful if you could answer as it is important that we understand the views of, and potential impacts on, different types of people within Hampshire.

What was your age on your last birthday? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Under 16
- ☐ 16 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 to 84
- ☐ 85 or over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you are **aged under 16** then please now go to page 17 of this document without answering the rest of this section.

Please provide your postcode:

Providing your postcode is optional. It would help us to understand the impact of proposed changes if you could provide at least the first five digits of your postcode. If you do provide your full postcode it is possible that in rural areas this might identify your property. By providing your postcode you are consenting to the County Council using this information to analyse the response to the consultation from different areas, to understand how views differ by area and to help model data for different types of respondent.

Which of the following best describes your gender? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you prefer to self-describe, please specify in the box below:

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ **No**
- ☐ Yes, but they **do not reduce** my day-to-day activities
- ☐ Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities **a little**
- ☐ Yes, and they reduce my day-to-day activities **a lot**
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Section Five: About you (continued)

Are there any children or young people under the age of 16 living in your household (including yourself)? *(Please choose all that apply)*

- ☐ Yes - aged 0-4
- ☐ Yes - aged 5-8
- ☐ Yes - aged 9-11
- ☐ Yes - aged 12-15
- ☐ No - none up to the age of 16
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group? *(Please choose one option)*

Asian or Asian British ethnic groups

- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Nepalese
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Any other Asian background (please specify below)

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British ethnic groups

- ☐ African
- ☐ British
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Black background (please specify below)

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups ethnic groups

- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Mixed background (please specify below)

White ethnic groups

- ☐ English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Any other White background (please specify below)

Other ethnic group

- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic background (please specify below)

For 'other', please specify below

We recognise that questions about income may feel very sensitive, but within a budget consultation it is important that the Council can understand how views and impacts may vary amongst groups of people with differing financial circumstances.

What is your <u>total annual household income</u>, from all sources, before tax and other deductions? *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ Up to £10,000
- ☐ £10,001 to £20,000
- ☐ £20,001 to £30,000
- ☐ £30,001 to £40,000
- ☐ £40,001 to £50,000
- ☐ £50,001 to £60,000
- ☐ £60,001 to £70,000
- ☐ £70,001 to £80,000
- ☐ £80,001 to £90,000
- ☐ £90,001 to £100,000
- ☐ £100,001 or over
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

And finally...

Finally, to help us improve access to future consultations, please tell us where you first heard about this consultation: *(Please choose one option)*

- ☐ On social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc)
- ☐ Hampshire County Council website
- ☐ Via an email or letter sent to you
- ☐ Via the 'OurHants' App
- ☐ From a place of education, like school or college.
- ☐ In a resident's newsletter (e.g. Your Hampshire or e-newsletter)
- ☐ Through my employer
- ☐ By word of mouth
- ☐ Reported in the news (e.g. TV, radio, newspaper)
- ☐ At a bus stop
- ☐ In a library
- ☐ At a country park or outdoor centre
- ☐ Other

Please specify where you heard about the consultation below:

Thank you for your response. Your feedback will help inform the decisions to be made by Hampshire County Council on the approach to balancing its budget for 2027/28.

Please return your Response Form in the business reply envelope provided **to arrive no later than Sunday 13 December 2026.**

If you do not have a business reply envelope, please put your completed Response Form in another envelope and address to **Freepost HAMPSHIRE**, writing **Budget Consultation, B026R** on the back. You do not need to use a stamp

Appendix A - Changes in Council Tax at different levels of increase for each Council Tax band

For a Council Tax **Band A** property, the following rises would apply for 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £56.22 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £84.39 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £112.56 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £168.90 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £225.24 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £281.57 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)

For a Council Tax **Band B** property, the following rises would apply for 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £65.60 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £98.46 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £131.32 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £197.05 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £262.77 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £328.50 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)

For a Council Tax **Band C** property, the following rises would apply for 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £74.97 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £112.52 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £150.08 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £225.20 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £300.31 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £375.43 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)

For a Council Tax **Band D** property, the following rises would apply in 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £84.33 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £126.59 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £168.84 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £253.35 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £337.85 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £422.36 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)

For a Council Tax **Band E** property, the following rises would apply in 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £103.08 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £154.72 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £206.36 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £309.65 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £412.93 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £516.22 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)

For a Council Tax **Band F** property, the following rises would apply in 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £121.82 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £182.85 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £243.88 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £365.95 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £488.01 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £610.07 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)

Appendix A - Changes in Council Tax at different levels of increase for each Council Tax band (continued)

For a Council Tax **Band G** property, the following rises would apply in 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £140.56 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £210.98 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £281.40 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £422.25 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £563.09 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £703.93 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)

For a Council Tax **Band H** property, the following rises would apply in 2027/28:
4.99% rise = £168.67 increase per year (This is assumed in the budget forecast)
7.49% rise = £253.18 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
9.99% rise = £337.68 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
14.99% rise = £506.69 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
19.99% rise = £675.71 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)
24.99% rise = £844.72 increase per year (referendum or permission from the Government required)