

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee:	Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee
Date:	30 October 2015
Title:	Transformation to 2017 - future consultation plans
Reference:	7031
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Select Committee about the Department's plans to carry out further consultation on revenue savings proposals that are being considered in order to meet its target efficiency savings by April 2017.

2. Contextual Information

- 2.1. On 15 September 2015 the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the outline ['Transformation to 2017' budget savings proposals for the Economy Transport and Environment Department](#). Those proposals were later approved by the Executive Member and, on 22 October went to Full Council.
- 2.2. Members will be aware that each of the Department's savings options that were likely to have an impact on the public underwent an Equalities Impact Assessment and were included in the consultation on the County Council's public spending review. The results from that public consultation were presented to Cabinet on the 21 September and are summarised in Section 3 of this report.
- 2.3. A second stage of public consultation is currently being prepared to enable the public to respond to more detailed savings options that are being explored by the County Council. These consultations will be carried out over two phases. The first phase will start next month and will include a consultation on the Department's highway related proposals. The next phase will be early in the New Year and that will include a consultation on the Department's plans to deliver further savings from the Household Waste Recycling Centres service.

3. Stage 1 Consultation - The County Council's Spending Review

- 3.1. The County Council's Shaping Hampshire Spending Review consultation was carried out between 26 May and 6 July 2015. This involved two methods:
- a) an open consultation - available online and via a paper copy – which was open to all members of the public and any stakeholder; and

- b) a telephone survey - targeted at a representative sample of 1,500 residents.
- 3.2. To ensure independence and objectivity during the process, the national market research company, Ipsos MORI, was commissioned to undertake the consultation and subsequent analysis of results on behalf of the County Council.
- 3.3. Details of this review were presented to [Cabinet on 21st September](#). The associated consultation showed that overall there was a high level of public support for the County Council's current financial strategy. Respondents to the consultation favoured savings being achieved through a combination of increasing council tax, using more of the Council's reserves, and reducing spending on some services. Whilst there was strong opposition to reducing spending on services for children, older people and vulnerable adults, the public ranked household waste recycling, roads maintenance and libraries as important services.
- 3.4. Specifically, in terms of ETE services, the public indicated they would prefer the County Council to make savings through the following:
- Dimming street lights
 - Reviewing the amount of waste produced by households and increasing the proportion that can be recycled
 - Reviewing local traffic management schemes which are not led by safety concerns or legal requirements
- 3.5. The feedback received has since been used to help inform the development of options for Economy, Transport and Environment savings. These will now be subject to a second stage of consultation as summarised below.

4. Stage 2 Consultation on Highway Related Proposals

- 4.1. Taking account of feedback from the Stage 1 consultation process, the Department is now planning to carry out consultation on proposals that would affect some highway environmental and amenity highway operations. Critically these would help deliver an estimated £500,000 savings from the Highways Maintenance budget and enable the Department to protect core maintenance work carried out on highways and footways.
- 4.2. This consultation will go live on the County Council's website on the 2nd November and cover the following:
- Street light dimming:**
- further dimming of lights in urban and rural areas;
 - longer hours for street light dimming; and
 - turning off street lights between certain hours.
- Grass cutting:**
- reducing the number of times per year that the grass is cut along the highway in rural areas;
 - stopping grass cutting in rural areas; and
 - reducing the number of times per year the grass is cut in urban areas.

Weed killing:

- reducing the number of treatments on weeds along the highways per year; or
- stopping all weed killing along the highway.

- 4.3. The highways consultation will remain open for six weeks, enabling the public and representative groups from across Hampshire to outline their preferred options. The consultation will also be highlighted at ETE's parish event on 11th November.
- 4.4. The outcomes from this consultation will be included in a Transformation to 2017 Budget Savings Report, for consideration by the Executive Member in January, following pre-scrutiny of the recommendations by the Select Committee.

5. Stage 2 Consultation on Household Waste Recycling Centre Services

- 5.1. The Department is also planning to consult at the end of January on some aspects of its HWRC Service Efficiencies programme that will support a more efficient service at reduced cost to the County Council.
- 5.2. In developing this consultation the Department is mindful of the outcomes of the Shaping Hampshire Spending Review consultation (Stage 1), in particular the public view of the HWRC service as a high priority, universal service that the County Council should continue to deliver and support. However, this consultation will be carried out on the basis that the County Council must take some very difficult and most likely unpopular decisions, but in doing it wishes to first consult the public about preferred options.
- 5.3. Based on the savings targets that the County Council needs to make, the consultation is expected to consider options that would achieve a further annual saving of £1.2 million, in addition to the £1.2 million that will be achieved through changes to the service delivered through the new HWRC management contract commencing in April 2016.
- 5.4. Despite strong representations by the County Council, the Coalition Government prohibited charging for the deposit of household waste at HWRC sites. However, the forthcoming public consultation provides the Department with an opportunity to present the option of charging to residents in order to gather evidence on whether or not residents view charging as a preferable option to service reductions such as site closures. If this option finds public support, the information could be used to lobby the Government for a change in legislation.
- 5.5. The purpose of the consultation is to identify the preferred options around the following key areas:
- A further reduction in opening hours at HWRC sites
 - Closure of sites on certain days
 - Full closure of HWRC sites
 - Charging for access (which would require legislative change)
- 5.6. The consultation details are currently being developed but the intention is to provide the public with a range of options and include information on the

potential savings that each option could achieve. However, it should be noted that not all areas of the HWRC Service Efficiencies programme will be covered in this consultation process for the following reasons:

- Any measures to prevent non-Hampshire residents from accessing sites or charge them for access (cross-border usage) would not directly affect Hampshire residents.
- Any measures to introduce small charges for non-household waste such as DIY waste have already been consulted upon in 2014 (but not yet implemented).
- Any measures to source 'alternative providers' to manage sites should not impact upon overall provision (and would be dependent upon factors outside the scope of a consultation).

5.7. More detailed information about this specific consultation will be provided to Members at a briefing session for ETE Select Committee on 9th December.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1. The Select Committee will have an opportunity to formally consider the outcomes from both consultations prior to decisions being taken by the Executive Member. As indicated above, recommendations following the highway consultation are expected to be made to the Executive Member on 19 January 2016, following pre-scrutiny by the Select Committee.
- 6.2. Recommendations, following the HWRC service consultation, are expected to be made to the Executive Member in April 2016, following pre-scrutiny by the Select Committee.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

Impact Assessments**1. Equality Duty**

- 1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
 Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This report provides information on current procedures for the Select Committee to consider. No changes are proposed in this report, therefore an impact assessment has not been undertaken. If any changes are recommended by the Select Committee as a result of this item, their impact will be considered when the recommendations go to the decision maker.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. This report provides information on current procedures for the Select Committee to consider. No changes are proposed in this report, therefore an impact assessment has not been undertaken. If any changes are recommended by the Select Committee as a result of this item, their impact will be considered when the recommendations go to the decision maker.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

This report provides information on current procedures for the Select Committee to consider. No changes are proposed in this report, therefore an impact assessment has not been undertaken. If any changes are recommended by the Select Committee as a result of this item, their impact will be considered when the recommendations go to the decision maker