

## BALANCING THE BUDGET CONSULTATION – HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Cabinet note the consultation being undertaken by Hampshire County Council and request that the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services submits a consultation response on behalf of the Cabinet before the deadline on 17 July 2019.

### 2. THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Council has received notification attached at Appendix A of the 'Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget Consultation' covering the options identified by the County Council to address their budget deficit to the period to 2022.
- 2.2 The outcome of the consultation may have implications to service delivery within the district, and may well have an impact to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Unclear until the consultation concludes.

### 4. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none.

### 5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none.

### 6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none

### 7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS

- 7.1 We will work with Hampshire County Council and our partners on any service delivery implications for the District Council and would encourage the wider community to participate in the consultation.

#### For further information contact:

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#### Background Papers:

<http://www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget>



Dear Leader

I am pleased to let you know that Hampshire County Council's consultation, *Balancing the Budget* launches tomorrow (Wednesday 5 June) to understand the views of residents and stakeholders across Hampshire on options to help the Authority deliver a balanced budget up to 2021/22.

By planning ahead and through careful use of reserves, the County Council has successfully found ways to deliver services differently and more efficiently, securing savings of £480 million over the past 11 years. However, due to growing demand for council services, further reductions in Government funding, rising costs and inflation, the County Council faces a further estimated budget shortfall of £80 million by April 2021. This means more decisions will need to be made about what the County Council can and cannot provide in future.

Opportunities for reducing costs are getting harder to find which is why it is important that the County Council hears the views of residents and stakeholders, many of whom are likely to be affected by the outcomes. This consultation presents a range of options that could contribute towards balancing the budget.

The *Balancing the Budget* consultation opens at **midday on Wednesday 5 June 2019** and **closes at 11:59pm on 17 July 2019**. We will be publicising the consultation widely through a variety of channels including local media, social media, advertising and direct communications with key stakeholder groups.

We would like to hear from as many residents and stakeholders as possible to help us understand and consider the potential impact of any changes proposed. Feedback will help to inform areas where the County Council could focus on balancing its budget up to 2021/22. It is important residents and stakeholders are clear that no prior decisions have been made regarding the proposals. People can take part in the consultation via the online response form on the webpage: [www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget](http://www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget), which will be live from midday on Wednesday 5 June. There will also be a full information pack about the proposals in the consultation on this webpage. Paper copies can be requested by emailing [insight@hants.gov.uk](mailto:insight@hants.gov.uk) or calling 0300 555 1375 and will also be available from local Hampshire libraries.

The views submitted through this consultation will be collated and used to inform discussions at Executive Member, Select Committee, Cabinet and Council budget proposal meetings during 2019. I very much hope that you will take the time to respond to this important consultation and would appreciate all you can do to promote participation more widely.

Regards

Keith

**Councillor Keith Mans**

Leader

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