

Balancing the Budget

You will know from my previous reports that, as a result of national austerity measures [combined with demographic and inflationary pressures], the County Council has had to deliver £340 million of savings over the past seven years. By April 2019 the Council will face an anticipated budget shortfall of a further £140 million and this budget gap is going to be more challenging, as opportunities for reducing costs even further are obviously more difficult to find.

The County Council held an open public consultation exercise between 3rd July and 21st August this year and sought the views of residents and stakeholders on seven options for balancing the Council's budget. The consultation findings have helped to inform and shape the final savings proposals that are currently being presented to, and considered by, Executive Members. All options are currently open and no decisions have been made on service specific proposals. The County Council's Cabinet, as a whole, must first consider recommendations [on 16th October] before a final decision is made by the full County Council in November.

Flooding

As the summer gives way to Autumn, highways and drains get blocked with falling leaves, branches, trimmings and other debris. As well as gullies on the roadsides, ditches on private land also need to be clear for water to run off the roads, particularly during periods of heavy and intense rainfall. That's why HCC are asking all residents to make sure ditches on their land are clear in order to help prevent localised flooding this winter. For more information on flood management and prevention visit <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/flood-water-management/HCCFloodRiskManagement-Landowners.pdf> To report a flooding or drainage problem visit <https://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/otherdrainage.aspx>

Driver Skills Scheme 60+

This HCC scheme is for Hampshire residents aged 60 years and over and will help them to:

- update their skills and knowledge
- gain confidence

An experienced assessor will:

- check your licence and your driver vision
- sit with you whilst you drive on roads in your locality
- offer advice, where necessary, on how current safety levels can be enhanced
- fill in a confidential and comprehensive report

The appraisal takes place from the person's home, using their own car on roads they know. Costs £35 and lasts around one and a half hours. To request a driving appraisal, please call 01962 846100 or email road.safety@hants.gov.uk Residents can also pay online for an appraisal [visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=270>] and the Road Safety Team will contact you to book the date and time.

Health & Care for Adults

Do you know someone who might need help now that the winter months are approaching, but they don't know who to ask, or whether or not they would qualify? Why not suggest they ring 0300 555 1386 or email adult.services@hants.gov.uk and find out more.

Helping Families

Not many residents know that the County Council has a Family Information and Services Hub where they will find information and details on how to access services, organisations and activities in Hampshire, and get support and advice. Visit <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page> and browse the categories - *Childcare and Early Years Education – Family Support – Activities, Leisure and Play – Young People – Employment, Training and Learning.*

Supporting Families

Hampshire's Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme is supporting even more families to turn their lives around for the better. The first phase of the Government's Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme was launched in

2012, with the aim of turning around the lives of families with multiple, complex and persistent issues, including unemployment, poor school attendance, involvement in crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as problems with drugs and/or alcohol.

In the first year of Phase 2 (2015/16), the Government's target of 1,223 families was exceeded by over 200 families in Hampshire - with a total of 1,446 families identified or involved. Independent evaluation of the second phase of the Hampshire programme is being carried out by Southampton Solent University. It follows Portsmouth University's assessment of phase one, which found that the programme had achieved:

- Substantial reductions in the prevalence of families with a child persistently absent from school
- Reduced likelihood of children needing to be taken into care or becoming an open case to Children's Social Services
- Avoidance of costs to the public purse of £2.4m per annum (conservative estimate)

By 2020, 5,540 Hampshire families will need to have been supported through the programme - more than double the number supported during the first phase of the scheme.

Safeguarding Children

The Annual Safeguarding Report presented to the County Council Cabinet recently revealed that over 10,000 children and young people in Hampshire have received the appropriate support, care and intervention to safeguard them from harm in 2016/17. The Children's Department at Hampshire County Council is among the top three per cent of the highest performing authorities in the country.

In the financial year ending in March 2017, the number of calls to Hampshire's Children's Services, from people reporting concerns about a child, rose by 11.9 per cent on the previous year (87,235 calls).

If you have any concerns about a child ring 0300 555 1348 [or email: childrens.services@hants.gov.uk] during office hours Monday – Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Out of hours ring 0300 555 1373 but if an emergency ring 999

Become a Countryside Champion?

The County Council is looking for volunteers to become a champion of a specific site or area. Volunteers will walk sites, parks and rights of ways carrying out small scale maintenance and reporting and recording issues found to the site staff. This role could include a wide variety of activities eg carrying out wildlife surveys such as butterfly or hedgerow surveys; inspecting and waymarking rights of way routes; small scale path clearance, reporting and recording, etc. To find out more visit <https://hampshire.firmstep.com/default.aspx>

Funds for the Community

I have a small budget for funding community related projects across the Division. For example, I have funded Lunch Clubs; Parish Council projects; Church groups; trim trail for a school; music stands and theatre equipment for a school, playgroups; youth groups; Christmas party for village children; trips to the theatre for Golden Years; trips to the pantomime for young people, etc. The group must have a Treasurer and a bank account. To find out more visit <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/county-councillor-grants.htm> and discuss the idea with me before making an application. Only one application per year per group. I look forward to hearing from groups in Boarhunt.

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