

Future Services Consultation

We're asking people to provide their views on the future of some local services in Hampshire as the County Council looks to address a £132m budget shortfall by April 2025.

The Future Services Consultation runs from **8 January to 31 March 2024** to help inform plans to ensure we can continue to support people who are most in need in Hampshire, while meeting our legal obligations to deliver a balanced budget in 2025/26.

Hampshire is in a better position than many other councils, with a strong track record of managing public funds well, but rising costs and growing demand for vital local services like social care for vulnerable children and adults continue to put our budgets under huge strain.

Very soon there won't be enough money to pay for all the things we've delivered to residents in the past – a problem faced by councils nationally.

We've been lobbying hard for many years for a long-term national funding solution to address these issues but there won't be a national fix any time soon.

We must now make tough decisions and deeper savings by April 2025 if we're to continue to deliver critical services to the most vulnerable people in Hampshire.

The consultation contains 13 options which could help lower costs in future – by only providing those services that the County Council is legally required to deliver and prioritising 'statutory' areas like protecting children from harm, social care for older people, and supporting adults and children with disabilities and additional needs.

It also provides the opportunity for working more innovatively to maximise, for example, environmental benefits such as encouraging people to reduce their waste through the creation of a more sustainable Household Waste Recycling Centre network and lowering Hampshire's carbon footprint by a more intelligent use of streetlights.

We're inviting feedback on what it might mean to people if we were to do things differently in these 13 areas after April 2025:

- **Adult social care charges**
- **Adult social care grant schemes**
- **Competitive (one-off) grant schemes**
- **Hampshire Cultural Trust grant**
- **Highways maintenance**
- **Highways winter service**
- **Homelessness support services**
- **Household Waste Recycling Centres**
- **Library stock**
- **Passenger transport**
- **Rural countryside parking**
- **School crossing patrols**
- **Street lighting**

How to have your say

You can provide your views on some, or all of the 13 service change proposals.

People can take part via **hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation** – doing it online helps us to save money, in postage and staff time.

Responses can also be emailed directly to Hampshire County Council at **insight@hants.gov.uk** or write to Freepost HAMPSHIRE. Please also write PandO, IEU, FM09 on the back of the envelope.

Each Hampshire library also holds a standard reference copy of the information pack and paper response form.

For queries or to request a paper copy of the information pack or the response form, or a copy in another language or format (like audio, large print or Braille) contact **insight@hants.gov.uk** or call **0300 555 1375**.

The feedback collected from the consultation will shape final decisions by individual Hampshire County Council Cabinet Members later this year.