

Appendix I

County Councillor update

November 2023

1. Budget Matters

The County Council is considering how it can balance its budget in the face of central government's reduced and reducing funding of local government. HCC is awaiting the annual settlement announcement from central government, expected mid-December. Meanwhile, Council still has to approve its Medium-Term Funding Strategy for 2024 to 2026, to be decided at Full Council on 9 November. The papers before council show that that between 2024 and 2026, the Council needs to find £90.4 million in savings over the two years, potentially affecting up to around 278 full time equivalent staff. Furthermore, these savings will leave gaps; in the three years from 2023 to 2026, the Council expects to use an average of about £59 million a year from reserves to plug the gaps.

2. Update to Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan latest

Over the next two months, an update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is set to be considered by each of the five authorities that contribute to the plan (Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and South Downs National Park Authority) to determine whether each authority agrees that further consultation can take place prior to the Plan being submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for examination. HCC's decision will be made on 12 December. Once approved by all authorities, an eight week consultation will be launched in January 2024. The responses to the consultation are then submitted together with the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for scrutiny. The local policies contained within the Plan guide the decisions that each of the five minerals and waste planning authorities make when determining planning applications for minerals extraction or waste infrastructure and operations.

3. Consultation on proposed changes to school and post-16 transport

Proposed changes to Hampshire County Council's School and Post-16 Transport Policies are the subject of two public consultations which run until Wednesday 6 December.

The proposals have been made to provide more flexible transport arrangements that better respond to children's needs, whilst bringing services into line with the latest statutory guidance from the DfE. The proposals are not part of a savings programme, and do not include any proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for School and Post-16 Transport.

Details of the proposed changes and links to the consultation can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/Post-16-Transport-Policy-for-2024-25> and <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/schooltransport>

4. Useful links for power cuts and flooding

In the aftermath of Storm Ciaran, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks have provided some useful links in the event of future power cuts.

Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can report by dialling 105. You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SSEN's [Power Track Website](#). Their [website](#) also contains advice and information on how to deal with a power cut and there is also a webchat service.

You can read advice online about how to [prepare for flooding](#) and check The Environment Agency web pages for updates relating to [flood alerts](#) for the area.

For assistance in the event of flooding call 0345 988 1188 or text 0345 602 6340.

5. Reporting Highway Problems

A reminder of some useful links

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Tom Thacker
Hampshire County Councillor
Whitchurch and the Cleres Division