County councillor November update

Hampshire County Council Funding gap:

Launched 2nd November 2026, is the county council's budget consultation:

The County Council faces a funding gap of almost £199 million in 2027/28. Demand for services continues to rise, particularly for social care and transport for children with additional needs, while costs are increasing faster than the funding available. At the same time, councils have limited options to raise additional income, and Government funding has not kept pace with these growing pressures.

The County Council continues to look for further efficiencies and better ways of working, but these measures alone will not be enough to close a budget gap of this scale and reserves can only be spent once. As a result, support from central Government will be required to help manage the financial challenge ahead.

The consultation asks for feedback on a range of options, including:

- continuing to deliver efficiencies
- lobbying central government for additional funding and changes to legislation
- generating additional income
- introducing and increasing charges for some services
- reviewing service delivery models
- reducing or stopping some services
- delaying spend
- increasing council tax
- one off funding from reserves
- Exceptional Financial Support from Government

Responses can be made at http://www.hants.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

LGR

The government have announced that elections to the shadow authority will take place in 2028 along with the mayoral election.

In 2027 local elections will take place as normal.

M3 works:

Below sets out the planned closures for the planned works:

- Overnight on Thursday 5 November we are closing the M3 northbound between junctions 10 and 8 (8pm to 6am) - For traffic management works
    - Diversion: M3 junction 10 to 8 northbound diversion

- Overnight from Tuesday 10 until Friday 27 November (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) (8pm to 6am) we are closing the M3 southbound exit slip road - Planting works
    - Switch off satnav and follow signed diversion: M3 southbound exit slip road diversion

Remember Bridge Demolition weekend closure

- 9pm Friday 6 November to 6am Monday 9 November 2026 (southern bridge demolition)
    - M3 junction 9 to 8 northbound and southbound diversions

Dates may be subject to change

Please ensure the signed diversion routes are followed, allow extra time and avoid unsuitable local roads.

Long-distance and freight traffic should use an alternative better suited route i.e. A37 to A30 to A34 or A3 to the M25, we ask these are incorporated into route planning.

Botley Bypass:

From Wednesday 28 October to Sunday 8 November, overnight works will be undertaken at the A334/A3051 junction to facilitate the switch-over to the new roundabout layout. The works will require three-way temporary traffic signals, which will be in operation daily from 8pm to 6am.

Following completion of these works, from 6am on Sunday 8 November traffic currently using the mini roundabout will be diverted onto the new main roundabout.

Please be aware that the completed scheme will provide two lanes to and from the A3051. The temporary layout will be a single-lane arrangement while the remaining works are finalised.