

Completing the Response Form

This Response Form should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. You will be asked to provide your views on each of the potential options proposed, and also be given the opportunity to write about the impacts that these may have, and any alternatives that the County Council could consider.

Please use a black or blue pen and mark your responses by putting a cross within the appropriate box. If you make a mistake, please fill in the entire box and put a cross in the correct box, as shown below.

Correct response Incorrect response



Alternatively if you have access to the internet then you can complete this survey online at:

www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget

Completing the survey online ensures that your response is received instantly and securely, and the online form is simple to use on devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones.

Your data

Privacy notice

Hampshire County Council is seeking your views, comments and information about you in order to inform its approach to balancing its budget. The information you provide in this Response Form is being collected for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest in the exercise of official authority vested in the County Council, and for reasons of substantial public interest. We will use the information to understand what people think about, and the perceived impact of, the potential options. All data will remain within the UK, and will not be shared with any third parties. We will keep your personal information securely for one year, after which it will be deleted or destroyed.

You have some legal rights in respect of the personal information we collect from you. Please see our Data Protection page (www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/strategiesplansandpolicies/dataprotection) for further details. You can contact the County Council's Data Protection Officer at data.protection@hants.gov.uk. If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Section One: Managing the budget

Since 2008, the County Council has been changing the way it works in order to respond to continuing reductions in local government funding and has made savings of over £480 million in the last 11 years. The County Council's financial strategy to-date has involved targeting resources on those who need them most, i.e. vulnerable children and adults, planning ahead and securing savings early. This has helped it to invest in new, more efficient ways of working.

Each of the County Council's departments has been required to reduce spending by the same proportion, or to generate income to help sustain services. In addition, the careful use of reserves has helped to address gaps in funding and enabled the County Council to meet the cost of additional pressures in demand for some services (e.g. social care) and support more innovative ways of delivering services (e.g. increasing the use of robotic technology).

For further information about the County Council's financial strategy, please refer to pages 10-12 of the Information Pack.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the County Council continuing its financial strategy as described? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Don't know

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget

Introducing and increasing charges for some services

As outlined on page 13 of the Information Pack, the County Council already charges for some local services but could consider increasing existing charges or introducing new charges for services that are currently free. Any fees and charges would be aimed at recovering the costs of running the services only and not designed to make a profit.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to raise existing charges or introduce new charges to help to cover the costs of running some local services? (Please choose one option)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Don't know

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (contd.)

Lobbying central Government for legislative change

In some circumstances, the County Council would like to introduce a charge to sustain services but is currently unable to do so because of national legislation. The County Council could lobby central Government to change this and allow charging. Examples of where this could help are outlined below with further detail available on page 14 of the Information Pack.

To what extent do you think that the County Council should lobby the Government for legislative change in order to vary the way some services are provided, and enable charging in the following circumstances: (Please choose one option per row)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Allowing means testing/ charging for Home to School Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enabling councils to charge residents £1 per visit to use local Household Waste and Recycling Centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allowing councils to charge £10 for issuing an Older Person's Bus Pass (which lasts for five years)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permitting councils to charge 25% of the per journey fare for concessionary travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diverting some income from speeding fines or driver awareness course fees (that currently go to Police)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allowing charging for library membership and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (contd.)

Generating additional income

The County Council also generates other income to fund services and help offset overall costs, as outlined on page 14 of the Information Pack. This includes: selling support to schools, sharing specialist services with or providing them to other organisations, investment in property and the (one-off) sales of its land and assets. Some functions are entirely funded through this type of income, but the County Council is not legally allowed to make a profit.

If you have any further ideas on how the County Council could generate additional income please share these in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (contd.)

Using the County Council's reserves

The County Council holds reserves to support its Medium-Term Financial Strategy and provide funding to mitigate risks that the County Council faces. 82% of reserves are already committed to fund projects such as building new schools and roads or redesigning services, as illustrated on page 15 of the Information Pack. Of the remaining 18%, the majority is used to plug gaps in the budget that arise from the two-year cycle of savings programmes, or to help fund the delayed delivery of savings in some departments. The County Council could use more reserves to plug the budget gap but reserves can only be spent once, so this would only provide a temporary fix - and at the expense of the areas listed above.

When considering how the County Council should balance its budget, which ONE of the following two statements is closest to your view about how reserves should be used?
(Please choose one option)

- I **disagree** with the County Council's current position - **I think that more reserves should be used** to plug the budget gap, but recognise this is only a short-term solution
- I **agree** with the County Council's current position – **I do not think that reserves should be used** to plug the budget gap, as this only provides a temporary fix
- Don't know

Reducing and changing services

The County Council could choose to reduce and change the way services are delivered in order to support future savings. Examples of possible ways that the County Council could do this are set out on pages 15-33 of the Information Pack.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the County Council should seek to reduce and change services in order to contribute to anticipated savings? *(Please choose one option)*

Strongly
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree
nor disagree

Agree

Strongly
agree

Don't know

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (contd.)

Increasing Council Tax

The County Council could choose to increase Council Tax to help plug the anticipated financial gap. Each 1% rise in Council Tax generates £6.35 million to support services. For the purposes of financial planning, it has been assumed that the Government will permit Council Tax to rise by 4.99% in 2020/21 and this has been taken into account when calculating the estimated £80 million budget shortfall. However, the County Council could decide to increase Council Tax by more or less than these levels - although any rise above 4.99% would require a public referendum at a cost of around £1.7 million.

Please see Appendix One for information about the potential impact that increasing Council Tax could have on each Council Tax band. For further information about other changes to Council Tax, please refer to pages 34-37 of the Information Pack.

Which Council Tax band are you in? *(Please choose one option)*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band A | <input type="checkbox"/> Band F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band B | <input type="checkbox"/> Band G |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band C | <input type="checkbox"/> Band H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band D | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band E | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Please indicate which of the following three options is your first, second, and third preference by ticking one box for each option: *(Please choose one option per column)*

	First choice	Second choice	Third choice
To raise Council Tax by less than 4.99%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To raise Council Tax by 4.99%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To raise Council Tax by more than 4.99% (which would require a referendum)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section Two: Options for balancing the budget (contd.)

Changing local government arrangements in Hampshire

Changing the structure of local government in Hampshire from a two-tier to a one-tier system could generate savings of at least £40 million as outlined on page 38 of the Information Pack. However, this would require further consultation and agreement from all of Hampshire's local authorities and from central Government. Savings would not be realised for a number of years. The County Council would prefer to retain a two-tier system but acknowledges that this may be subject to external factors, such as Government decisions and financial pressures.

To what extent do you agree that the County Council should explore further the possibility of changing local government structures in Hampshire? *(Please choose one option)*

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Don't know

Section Three: Reviewing the main options

You have now read through the main options available to the County Council for balancing its budget.

Please rank each of the following options for balancing the County Council's budget by order of preference: *(Please choose one option per column)*

	First choice	Second choice	Third choice	Fourth choice	Fifth choice	Sixth choice	Seventh choice
Introducing and increasing charges for some services	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Lobbying central Government for legislative change	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Generating additional income	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Using the County Council's reserves	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Reducing and changing services	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Increasing Council Tax	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Changing local government arrangements in Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Section Four: Further comments

Please describe what, if any, impact the County Council's options for balancing its budget could have on you (or your constituency, organisation, group or business). Please summarise your comments in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

If you have any further comments or suggestions as to how the County Council could balance its budget, please summarise these in the box below.

Please do not provide any personal details in your response.

Section Five: About your response

Hampshire County Council is committed to improving its services, eliminating unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for all people. **The following questions are optional** but we would be grateful if you could answer to help us understand the views of, and potential impacts on, different types of people within Hampshire.

Is this a personal response, or are you responding on behalf of an organisation, group or business or as a democratically Elected Representative? *(Please choose one option)*

- I am responding as an individual *(Go to Section Six)*
- I am providing the official response of an organisation, group or business
- I am responding as a democratically Elected Representative of a constituency (e.g. as a county, district, borough, parish or town council Member or MP)

ⓘ *If you are responding officially or as a democratically Elected Representative, the name and details of the constituency, organisation, group or business you represent may appear in the final report, and the information you provide may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure regimes such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

If you are responding as a democratically Elected Representative please complete the following two questions and then go to the end of this form and tell us how you first heard about this consultation.

Which constituency do you represent? *(Please specify in the box below)*

What is your name? *(Please write in the box below. NB: This will only be used if we need to contact you to validate your response)*

Section Five: About your response (contd.)

If you are providing the official response of an organisation, group or business please complete the following questions.

Please provide details about the organisation, group or business that you represent:

The name of the organisation, group or business:

The postcode of the organisation, group or business:

Your name:

Your position in the organisation, group or business:

Which of these best describes the function of your organisation, group or business? (Please choose one option)

Nursery, school, college or place of education

Local business or business representative (e.g. BID)

Local authority (e.g. county, district, parish, town or borough council)

Charity, voluntary or local community group

Other public sector organisation (e.g. Police, Fire, Health Authority)

Other (*Please specify*)

For 'other' please specify in the box below:

Please now go to the end of this form and tell us how you first heard about this consultation.

Section Six: About you

Please complete this section if you are responding as an individual.

Please provide your postcode:

 *Providing your postcode is optional. It would help us to understand the impact of proposed changes if you could provide at least the first five digits of your postcode. If you do provide your full postcode it is possible that in rural areas this might identify your property. By providing your postcode you are consenting to the County Council using this information to analyse the response to the consultation from different areas and to understand how views differ by area.*

What was your age on your last birthday? *(Please choose one option)*

Under 16

16 to 24

25 to 34

35 to 44

45 to 54

55 to 64

65 to 74

75 to 84

85 or over

Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your gender? *(Please choose one option)*

Male

Female

Prefer to self-describe *(Please specify)*

Prefer not to say

If you prefer to self-describe, please specify in the box below:

Section Six: About you (contd.)

What is your ethnic group? *(Please choose one option)*

White

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British | <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other White background |

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Mixed background |

Asian or Asian British

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Nepalese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background |

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> British | <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black background |

Other ethnic group

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arab | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic background |
|-------------------------------|--|

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last at least 12 months? *(Please choose one option)*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a little | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a lot | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Are there any children or young people up to the age of 16 living in your household (including yourself)? *(Please choose all that apply)*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 0-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 12-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> No - none up to the age of 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - aged 9-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Section Six: About you (contd.)

What is your total annual household income, from all sources, before tax and other deductions? *(Please choose one option)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Up to £10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £70,001 to £80,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £10,001 to £20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £80,001 to £90,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £20,001 to £30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £90,001 to £100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £30,001 to £40,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> £100,001 or over |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £40,001 to £50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £50,001 to £60,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> £60,001 to £70,000 | |

Finally, to help us improve access to future consultations, please tell us where you first heard about this consultation: *(Please choose one option)*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Through my employer <i>(Please specify)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online <i>(Please specify)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> By word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Via an email or letter sent to you | <input type="checkbox"/> Reported in the press (e.g. radio, newspaper) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On a consultation poster or leaflet | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Please specify)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In a resident's newsletter (e.g. printed or e-newsletter) | |

Please specify where you heard about the consultation below: *(Please write in)*

Thank you for your response.

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. A consultation report will be produced and published on the www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget webpage.

This consultation will close at 11:59pm on 17 July 2019.

Please return your Response Form in the business reply envelope provided **to arrive no later than 17 July 2019**. If you do not have a business reply envelope, please return to **Freepost HAMPSHIRE**, writing *'I and E Unit'* on the back. You do not need to use a stamp.

Appendix One

The tables below are for **illustration only**. They demonstrate the annual impact on every Council Tax band at each level of Council Tax increase.

Percentage increase in Council Tax for 2020/21	Impact on Band A Council Tax (annual bill)	Impact on Band B Council Tax (annual bill)	Impact on Band C Council Tax (annual bill)	Impact on Band D Council Tax (annual bill)
0%	No change	No change	No change	No change
1.99%	+ £16.41	+ £19.14	+ £21.88	+ £24.61
2.99%	+ £24.65	+ £28.76	+ £32.87	+ £36.98
3.99%	+ £32.90	+ £38.38	+ £43.87	+ £49.35
4.99% (assumed in budget forecasts)	+ £41.15	+ £48.00	+ £54.86	+ £61.72
10% (a referendum would be required)	+ £82.46	+ £96.20	+ £109.95	+ £123.69
17.57% (a referendum would be required)	+ £144.88	+ £169.03	+ £193.17	+ £217.32

Percentage increase in Council Tax for 2020/21	Impact on Band E Council Tax (annual bill)	Impact on Band F Council Tax (annual bill)	Impact on Band G Council Tax (annual bill)	Impact on Band H Council Tax (annual bill)
0%	No change	No change	No change	No change
1.99%	+ £30.08	+ £35.55	+ £41.02	+ £49.22
2.99%	+ £45.20	+ £53.42	+ £61.63	+ £73.96
3.99%	+ £60.32	+ £71.28	+ £82.25	+ £98.70
4.99% (assumed in budget forecasts)	+ £75.44	+ £89.15	+ £102.87	+ £123.44
10% (a referendum would be required)	+ £151.18	+ £178.66	+ £206.15	+ £247.38
17.57% (a referendum would be required)	+ £265.61	+ £313.91	+ £362.20	+ £434.64