

Local Authority Funding

Local authorities are calling for a “significant injection of funding” from the government, after a recent report showed that councils across the country could be facing a £51.8 billion funding black hole over the next six years. Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Southampton City Council (SCC) are asking for certainty over the funding they will receive from government in the future. This comes after a report published by the County Councils Network (CCN) revealed that only “bare minimum” services will be possible in the future unless extra funding is provided. CCN, which represents county and unitary authorities across the country, warned that in some cases even yearly council tax rises and making services more efficient will not be enough.

By April 2021 the county council will be facing a further anticipated budget shortfall of £80 million. This is due to ongoing reductions in government funding, combined with demographic and inflationary pressures. With less money available and growing demand for council services, especially statutory services, tough decisions will need to be made about what the county council can and cannot do in the future. It is required by law to deliver a balanced budget and therefore cannot plan to spend more than is available.

To this end a consultation opened on 5th June and will close on 17th July. The council is asking residents’ and stakeholders’ views on ways it could balance its budget in response to continuing pressure on local government funding and increasing demand for public services. Your feedback will help to inform the approach the county council takes to balance its budget up to 2021/22. These decisions could affect you for example, in terms of how much council tax you pay which council services you may receive in the future and how services are delivered. Please visit the Hampshire County Council’s website:

www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget to complete the survey or you can email insight@hants.gov.uk or call 0300 555 1375 and ask for an information pack. Also please ask your friends and neighbours to take part in the consultation.

Climate Emergency

On Monday, 17th June the council’s cabinet declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ in line with the action taken by many other councils and organisations in the UK and globally and commits to develop an action plan to provide a meaningful and effective set of measures to ensure that Hampshire moves towards carbon neutrality and greater resilience to the effects of climate change.

Hampshire County Council helping communities bid for Armed Forces funding

Examples are a school club set up to support children who have a parent away on military service; a fitness programme to help pupils and the wider community lead a more active lifestyle; and a car garage supporting ex-forces veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder through training. These projects have all been made possible with support from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund and Hampshire County Council.

The County Council provides regular workshops for community organisations to help them in applying for Armed Forces Covenant funding. The £10m a year Covenant Fund aims to help integrate Armed Forces and civilian communities nationally, as well as to deliver valuable local community services. More workshops are scheduled for August, September and October, full details are on the [Armed Forces pages](#)

The next deadline for applications is 9th September 2019, apply via the [Covenant Fund website](#)