

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

**13 NOVEMBER 2018**

1. Budget provides welcome financial support for Local Government and for Rural Communities

The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered a budget on 29 October which contained several positive funding decisions for local government. The items I would like to highlight are as follows:

- An additional £420 million will be made available immediately to local highway authorities to tackle potholes, bridge repairs and other minor works in this financial year. This is likely to be distributed in line with the existing DFT needs formula and the HCC allocation is expected to be £12.7m.
- Building on the additional £240 million for social care winter pressures that was announced at the Conservative Party conference, a further £410 million has been found meaning a total of £650 million of funding for social care will be made available in 2019-2020. This is expected to be distributed in line with the previous adults formula and HCC can expect to get £12.85m.
- A £400 million in-year one-off capital payment directly to schools - averaging £10,000 per primary school and £50,000 per secondary school.
- A £675 million Future High Streets Fund, and one third off business rates for retail premises up to a rateable value of £51,000 in 2019/20 and 2020/21 (costing £450m-£500m a year). Local authorities will receive a grant to compensate them for the lost income from this measure.
- A further £500 million for the Housing Infrastructure Fund to unlock 650,000 homes.
- The allocation of £200 million of previously announced funding to supercharge the rollout of full fibre broadband in rural areas.

## 2. Glover Review issues Call for Evidence

Parish Councillors will recall that the Government asked Julian Glover to undertake a review of Designated Landscapes. The Review has now issued its Call for Evidence.

The terms of reference of the Review rule out anything that could weaken or undermine existing protections or geographic scope. The focus will be on enhancement and working together, examining how designated areas can boost wildlife, support the recovery of natural habitats and connect more people with nature. The Review has also been asked to assess the case for the creation of one or more new National Parks.

(The Full Terms of Reference are available at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review/terms-of-reference>).

I hope Parish Councillors will consider providing evidence to the Review Panel, either individually or collectively. The Review presents an excellent opportunity to stand back and take stock of what is working well and of what the National Park could do better. It also provides a chance for us to participate in the development of some new thinking at national level.

The consultation runs for only just over 8 weeks, with a closing date of 18 December. The consultation document, which can be found at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/landscapes-review-call-for-evidence/> asks 24 questions, 18 of which cover the core areas of policy, with a request to keep each individual answer to no more than 500 words.

## 3. Outcome of Passenger Transport Review and Street Lighting Consultation

As I have reported previously, HCC undertook a consultation on subsidised passenger transport and street lighting over the Summer. Following a report in October, decisions have now been made by the Executive Member.

Some reductions in timetables in East Hampshire have been approved in order to achieve necessary savings. The changes are not enormous and I believe we have actually emerged relatively unscathed in East Hampshire. Mostly the

reductions relate to off-peak schedules. The full list of changes in East Hampshire is attached for information on the next two pages.

On street lighting, it has been agreed that street lights in residential areas will be switched off for three hours between 1am and 4am. This will save around £240,000 per annum and it will also reduce the carbon footprint of HCC. In addition, the South Downs National Park is an International Dark Skies Reserve and this measure will cement that protected dark skies status, and will generally be welcomed by astronomers!

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**

Service	Route	Annual Cost to Hampshire County Council	Revised Contract cost	Savings	Comments
<b>East Hampshire Services</b>					
13	Liphook to Basingstoke (supported Liphook to Alton on Monday to Friday)	£40,428	38,349	£2,079	Route 13 to remain hourly between Basingstoke, Alton & Whitehill Mon- Fri At Whitehill the service will divide, with services running generally every 2hrs to Liphook via current 13 route and every 2hrs to Headley Down & Haslemere as a service 14 (via current 18 route).
18/618	Aldershot to Haslemere (part funded by school transport) (supported Whitehill to Haslemere)	£130,002	£72,510	£57,492	Service 18 would operate commercially between Aldershot and Bordon/Whitehill only (hourly Monday to Saturday daytimes + approx 2-hourly on Sundays). Bordon/Whitehill to Haslemere part of new 13/14. On Saturdays the frequency of the Alton-Whitehill section would be reduced from hourly to 2-hourly.
X17	Bishops Waltham to Petersfield	£7,695	n/a	n/a	No change to this service
28	Bordon Local Service (funded by	£52,134	n/a	n/a	No change to this service as external funding.

	Government Grant)				
38	Alton to Petersfield	£109,095	94,700	£14,395	Removal of two journeys in each direction with a reduced timetable as a result. Some extra journeys which were commercial will cease due to poor use.
71	Froxfield to Petersfield	£5,575	n/a	n/a	No change to this service
94	Buriton to Petersfield	£58,657	n/a	n/a	No change to this service
206	Alton to Bentley	£16,207	n/a	n/a	No change to this service
208	Alton to Medstead		n/a	n/a	No change to this service
240	Ropley to Alresford	£13,954	n/a	n/a	No change to this service
250	Liphook Local Service	£10,828	n/a	n/a	No change to this service

67	Winchester to Petersfield (part funded by school transport) (some school journeys are commercially operated)	£196,200	£165,648	£21,408	Peak time journeys largely as now. Two off peak round trips retimed and reduced to 3 days a week (TWF). Saturday service retained. Savings: revised timetable £11,327 through retendering and £10,081 from timetable revision. The remaining savings from the annual cost to the revised contract cost are related to home to school transport and therefore outside the scope of this report.
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