

July 2016 County Councillor Report:

Adult Services consultation:

Adult Services are to undertake a consultation on some proposed changes to how the Authority charges people for adult social care support.

The consultation will open 15 June and close on 26 August. The analysis of the responses from the consultation, along with recommendations from Adult Services, will be reviewed and decisions made in October 2016.

Adult Services are ensuring that as many people as possible will have the opportunity to respond to the consultation. The department will be writing to approximately 12,000 service users as well as a further 300 stakeholders.

Staff from Adult Services will also be meeting with key stakeholder groups to present information relating to the proposed changes to them and to hear people's views.

Any recommended changes from the department if agreed following consultation, may affect how much some people pay towards their care.

le More cuts are on their way.....

Waste Prevention Survey

Food waste - developing the "Love Food Hate Waste" campaign at a local level, Home composting - increasing the sales and use of home composting bins via the national framework, Bulky waste - increasing the diversion of material for reuse.

The programme, branded as Hampshire's lifestyle and waste prevention initiative, [Smart Living](#) is estimated to have already secured a waste reduction of 4,112 tonnes and avoided over £200,000 of waste disposal fees. Furthermore, specifically in terms of food waste, it is estimated that the average family sized household in the UK can save as much as £60 per month by making sure the food they buy is not wasted and so it is anticipated there will have also been financial benefits at a household level.

In order to help HCC work even better with residents in the future and to help evaluate the impact of our initiative over the past year, HCC have now compiled a waste prevention survey which we would be very grateful if you could spare the time to complete as a Hampshire resident.

The survey, which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is open until the end of July, can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=145794700975>

Potholes:

May 1,039 Potholes repaired in May 2016 across Hampshire.

A new patching machine is being trialled across the county to tackle potholes and edge defects. The 'Roadmaster' is operated by a single person, and can complete an average repair in a short period of time. This means that hundreds of metres of patching can be carried out in a single shift. It can operate successfully in both rural and urban areas, and, because it mixes material to use on site, there is no waste.

Mobile Library Closures impact reduction measures:

I have asked the County to look at what measures they have taken to minimise the impact of the removal of the mobile Library Services.

This is the response I received to the request to make sure we try and assess the impact and also monitor how best we can help those residents who had enjoyed the service.

All Mobile Library Service (MLS) customers have received a letter providing confirmation of the decision and outlining the alternatives which are proposed. We also sought the opportunity to ask customers whether they might be willing to Volunteer as we are actively recruiting to both the Summer Reading Challenge and Home Library Service.

To date we have received 40 applications (from the 2230 letters) from customers who wish to be considered for the Home Library Service. We are quietly confident that this additional load on the service can be accommodated within the existing cohort of volunteers.

A further letter was sent out last week to the 20 Parish Councils (including South Wonston) located within communities which were the largest users of the MLS, offering free learning sessions upon request which could be delivered in any community setting with Wi-Fi, possibly being incorporated to an existing coffee morning/lunch club. The learning session will be similar to the one which was delivered to Select Committee last week providing practical information which will enable customers to download the Library App on to their own device. A short video has also been prepared which is now on our website <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/emagazines> (scroll down to the bottom of the page for the video clip). Also within the letter we have asked Parish Councils to let us know whether they already have any existing or proposed community transport arrangements which have the potential to be harnessed to bring communities in to their local libraries.

In terms of decommissioning the existing mobile vehicles, we have made arrangements to move stock to existing branches and any surplus stock will be offered free to communities for them to collect at end July '16.

The next piece of work will be to complete a gap analysis for communities with limited access to public transport. The outcome of this work will inform the forward strategy around the need for community transport to bring customers into our Libraries.

If you have any problems or you have any parishioners who are having problems do let me know I will take this up with Library Services.

Future traffic management policy

The cost cutting proposals is to concentrate where KSI-killed seriously injured-occur. Any, what HCC call “community led initiatives,” can only go ahead if the parish or district pay for them. So what is a community led initiative essentially it is all the safety work that we put in to prevent accidents where we can see a danger arising. So road humps, lower speed limits, chicanes, pedestrian crossings and so on.

This is another example of cutting central budgets and devolving costs to other bodies.

Devolution

You may have seen some media reports implying that a Solent combined authority and devolution deal has been agreed with the Government. This is not the case; it is a local procedural step, one that HCC have been expecting, and not any kind of confirmation by the Government at this stage.

HCC have been aware for some time that our three unitary neighbours (Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council) have been in discussions about forming a combined authority between themselves. This is because the County Council’s recent confirmation that it is not prepared to join a Combined Authority for the Solent unless and until Hampshire residents are consulted means that it is not possible for county districts to join the proposed deal until a later stage. The unitaries are therefore now preparing to take reports to their Cabinets over the next few weeks authorising their Leaders to approve the results of a local governance review which is now under way. Portsmouth published their Cabinet papers recently, hence the media stories. If the reports are agreed, that will trigger a subsequent consultation on the specific tri-unitary Solent proposal that will run alongside our own planned consultation on a number of different options, including the previous Solent proposal involving five districts.

The Solent governance review could result in a recommendation to establish a combined authority between the three unitaries. If it does, and if a subsequent consultation is favourable, the Secretary of State needs to determine whether it would improve the delivery of statutory functions in the area. If he is satisfied of this, he could then proceed to lay the necessary order in Parliament. If the combined authority were established, theoretically in April 2017, Hampshire districts could be eligible to join, assuming the same statutory tests are met. The press statements indicate that an elected mayor could then be introduced from May 2018.

So as you can see the matter is not clear, not straightforward, and there may well be many twists and turns.

HCC has stated that it would want to do a planned consultation before any decisions were taken, but also recent post Referendum issues may delay matters.

So much more time will be consumed as various bodies and individuals and authorities pitch with their own vested interests, and I suspect will take away time, which should be spent on front line/community issues.