

# Keep services local in Hart



If you believe that decisions on how services are delivered should be made locally, then this guide will help you to make your voice heard.



“ This leaflet is to help you make sense of a Hampshire County Council (HCC) consultation on the arrangements for local government in the county. I believe the consultation is premature, before the information to support it is available, but for their own reasons HCC have decided to rush it and we have to deal with it.

I hope you will make your own views known, and if you do, I very much hope you will emphasise that local government should be local and stay responsive to local needs. ”

Cllr Stephen Parker, Leader of Hart District Council and Chairman of the Heart of Hampshire Leaders' Group

## Hart - The future

In Hart, we are working together with other local authorities across North Hampshire and the New Forest (the “Heart of Hampshire”) to explore ways of continuing to provide services locally.

This includes exploring the possibility of closer working relationships as part of the government’s plans for “devolution”. The Government has said that by agreeing such arrangements we will achieve greater local decision-making powers with funding, currently held by government, being passed down to our communities so we have more control over local issues. Key to our proposals is to bring services as close to communities as possible.

## Hampshire County Council Proposals

Hampshire County Council has however, launched a £150,000 consultation on alternative proposals which include the option to centralise decision-making in Winchester, abolishing all your local District Councils and scrapping all of our plans to work with our neighbours. This would be based around the creation of a huge single “super-sized” Council, Hampshire County Council say that this is its preferred option for the way that your services should be delivered in the future.

The County Council thinks that this arrangement could save money but is not very clear exactly how and our

assessment is that it is more likely to increase significantly costs to local town and parish councils. Importantly, it contains no proposals to ask the government to give us more powers to make decisions locally or allow us to take control of any government money.

## What is Hart’s view?

In our view the consultation is premature and would result in a watering down of local representation. By creating a huge “super-sized” Council based in Winchester, areas such as Hart will become far less important. There would be significantly fewer local Councillors to represent Hart residents. (1 per 18,600 people compared to 1 per 2,800 people at present). This would mean that you would have less influence over decisions on your local services, such as planning, where new homes are built, economic development of the area, or where roads are provided, and even less of a voice if decisions are made centrally to cut services.

## What are we doing?

To help give all of us a more broader and in-depth assessment we have commissioned with our partners further research work which will be ready for the end of September. Hampshire County Council has had an input into this work. This additional piece of work will give you much more information about the choices that are available to you and will explain more clearly how you could be affected. We will publish our work in the autumn and ask you to tell us what you think.

## What do I need to do?

We want to make sure that you are kept updated and further information is available on our web site at [www.hart.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.hart.gov.uk/devolution)

In the meantime, if you want to keep your services local you must respond to Hampshire County Council’s consultation.

- **Hart Councillors and Officers believe that our residents are best served by the**
- **Heart of Hampshire Combined Authority approach as it would keep decisions**
- **being made locally and enable powers and funding from the Government. We**
- **do not support Hampshire County Council’s proposals for the centralisation of**
- **decision making to a ‘super-sized’ Council for the whole of Hampshire based in**
- **Winchester.**



## The services in Hart

**71% of your Council Tax goes to Hampshire County Council. From this it provides about 30% of main services delivered in Hart. These include:**

- Education and library services
- Roads, pavements and pot holes
- Public transport and buses
- Household waste disposal (but not collection)
- Some countryside services
- Social care including children services

**10% of your Council Tax goes to Hart District Council. From this we provide about 70% of main services delivered in Hart. These include:**

- Rubbish collections and dealing with flytipping
- Recycling including garden waste and glass collections
- Planning and building control
- Community safety, including dealing with antisocial behaviour and graffiti
- Helping people get on the housing ladder by delivering affordable homes
- Managing the housing register, housing benefit and preventing homelessness
- Running elections and referendums
- Environmental health including food and health & safety inspections
- Licensing including taxis and entertainment
- Providing car parking and enforcement
- Leisure facilities and the management of countryside sites such as Fleet Pond, Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve, Odiham Common, Hartley Wintney Central Common, Hazeley Heath and Edenbrook Country Park
- Keeping streets clean and providing most bus shelters
- Pest control and dog warden services

Please note that the remaining 19% of Council Tax goes to local Parish and Town Councils, Hampshire Fire and Rescue and the Police.

## How to have your say

It is important that you make your views to the County Council proposals known. You can have your say online by visiting [www3.hants.gov.uk/servinghampshire](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/servinghampshire)

Further information on the discussions between all of the Hampshire local authorities on future changes to service delivery can be found at [www.hart.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.hart.gov.uk/devolution)