

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Committee</b>	Universal Services Select Committee
<b>Date:</b>	27 November 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Task and Finish Working Group Proposal
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Universal Services

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is for the Universal Services Select Committee to consider a Task and Finish Working Group to oversee and scrutinise the County Council's stage 2 consultations relating to specific Universal Services savings proposals.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That the Universal Services Select Committee:
  - a. Set up a Task and Finish Working Group to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the County Council's stage 2 consultation relating to specific Universal Services savings proposals.
  - b. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group as set out in Appendix 1.
  - c. Agree the membership of the Working Group.

### Contextual information

4. In November 2023, as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the County Council approved a number of service-specific savings proposals subject to further consultation.
5. Of these savings proposals, specific stage 2 consultations will be required for the following Universal Services proposals:
  - a. Proposals to reduce planned highways maintenance, with planned maintenance activity continuing at reduced levels until government funding allows it to be reinstated;
  - b. Proposals to reduce the cost of the Highways winter service by reviewing current provision against statutory requirements and seeking innovations which can further reduce costs;

- c. Withdrawal of all remaining funding on non-statutory public transport provision;
- d. Proposals to develop criteria to identify countryside car parks where charging could be introduced;
- e. Proposals to extend the existing dimming and part-night streetlight switch off time in residential streets, where appropriate and based on local evidence;
- f. Proposal to review the School Crossing Patrol service to determine whether alternative safe measure could be put in place; and
- g. Proposals to review the existing 24 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) service provision to inform a revised strategy for service delivery, taking account of best practice across the country and national guidance and enabling the provision of more modern, accessible sites. The revised service could include varying the opening hours of HWRCs, reducing the number of existing HWRCs, building new HWRCs or extending capacity of existing HWRCs, and/or introducing new charges for discretionary services at HWRCs.

### **Proposal**

6. It is proposed that a Task and Finish Working Group be created which would give an opportunity to see the finalised stage 2 consultation documents, receive updates on the consultation process and coverage for engagement of key stakeholders, and provide feedback on the presentation of the findings of the stage 2 consultation process.
7. The Task and Finish Working Group will be able to make independent recommendations to the Select Committee to inform scrutiny of the final savings proposals put forward for consideration by the Executive Members.
8. It is recommended that the Select Committee set up a Task and Finish Working Group for this purpose, review and approve the attached terms of reference, and agree membership.
9. Following confirmed nominations in accordance with the membership set out in the terms of reference, it is proposed that the working group will hold an initial meeting prior to launch of the consultation.