

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Universal Services Select Committee
Date:	19 September 2024
Title:	Pre-Scrutiny of SP25 Savings Proposals
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The County Council undertook an open public consultation called the 'Future Services Consultation' over the 12-week period 8 January to 31 March 2024. The consultation sought to understand the views on, and potential impacts of, 13 proposals which would deliver savings contributing toward the Savings Programme 2025. Following analysis of the consultation responses, final recommendations have been prepared by the Universal Services Directorate in relation to these proposals.
2. The Cabinet is due to consider these recommendations at their meeting on 14 October 2024, alongside the savings proposed by other Directorates. The Universal Services Select Committee has the opportunity to make recommendations to the Cabinet regarding the proposals prepared by the Universal Services Directorate, to be taken into account alongside the advice presented by officers and the evidence provided.
3. The Draft Report to Cabinet and proposals prepared by Officers, which will be scrutinised by the Universal Services Select Committee during this meeting (Cabinet report Appendix 2 – Highways Winter Services and Appendix 3 – Passenger Transport), are attached. This report should be read alongside the report prepared by the Select Committee Working Group, also attached as an appendix.

Recommendations

That the Select Committee:

1. Supports the recommendations made by officers to the Cabinet set out in Appendix 2 – Highways Winter Services of the Draft Report to Cabinet, as detailed below:

- To note the outcome of the 2024 Future Services Consultation in relation to the proposal to reduce the annual budget for Highways Winter Services by £1 million.
- That Hampshire County Council undertakes a review and then updates its Highway Winter Services in consideration of changes to travelling behaviours and recent updates to national guidance. The review and subsequent implementation are predicted to provide annual budget savings of £1 million from April 2025. This would be achieved through the revision and implementation of revised winter service treatment routes developed in accordance with current national guidelines, as well as through operational efficiency savings arising from the changes.
- That authority is delegated to the Director of Universal Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways and Waste to implement these decisions, including to progress and make any necessary arrangements to agree and implement the revisions to Priority One, Priority Two and Community Route treatment networks.

2. Supports the recommendations made by officers to the Cabinet set out in Appendix 3 – Passenger Transport of the Draft Report to Cabinet, as detailed below:

- To note the outcome of the 2024 Future Services Consultation in relation to the proposals on the future of the Passenger Transport provision.
- To note the changes to the proposals that were set out in the Future Services Consultation, as detailed within this report as a result of the responses received.
- To approve the removal of the following County Council revenue funding totalling £587,000 as detailed within this report and based on the results of the Consultation:
 - Connect: Taxi-share services saving £157,000 per annum
 - Supported local bus services saving £262,000 per annum
 - Other passenger transport savings £168,000 per annum
- To approve a revised approach in which both community transport and school transport are jointly commissioned and delivered together, thereby maintaining a level of service to meet the transport needs of older and disabled people whilst reducing the funding required for school transport. This would generate a further approximate saving of £500,000 per annum for the County Council.

- That authority is delegated to the Director of Universal Services to take all necessary steps, including entering into contractual arrangements in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, and fulfilling procurement requirements, to implement the proposed changes to passenger transport services as set out in this report.
- That authority is delegated to the Director of Universal Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways and Waste, when implementing these decisions, to retain services or make minor variations to the services, where it is more cost effective to do so than to withdraw the service.

And/Or:

3. Agrees any alternative or additional recommendations with regards to the proposals set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the Draft Report to Cabinet.