

157/23 County Councillor Tree report

FAO of all Whitehill Town Cllrs and officers, to be shared with all:

This will be my Feb report, but did not think it could wait until then, hence emailing you all now.

Hampshire County Council says it needs to make £132MILLION of savings (AKA cuts) by 2025 to balance the books and avoid 'bankruptcy!'

Please do this survey and share to as many local people as possible, to ensure nobody can say we didn't care: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/08012024FutureServicesConsultation>

The vast majority of our council tax goes to Hampshire County Council as the upper tier authority responsible for roads, Children's Services, Health & Adult Social Care and other important services (think of Bordon Library and Bordon Waste & Recycling Centre, if you respond to consultation!) I have no control over this Conservative-controlled council.

Despite continued increases in council tax, the cuts proposed are staggering and I worry a lot about how Hampshire residents and in particular Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford residents will be adversely affected. Frankly, the system is broken when a council providing vital services has to make £132m of cuts to balance its budget, even if also increasing council tax! The government need to step in as there is a real risk of councils round the country going 'bust', regardless of which political party is in control of them! I can only assure you that as one lone Whitehill & Bordon Community Party voice at Hampshire County Council, I will do my best to represent us.

Please please ensure as many local residents as possible complete the survey, so nobody can say we didn't care! This does not affect the services provided by East Hampshire District Council or Town/Parish Councils.

For anyone who wants to more fully understand what Hampshire County Council spends its money on, please take a look at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/budgetspendingandperformance>

For the avoidance of doubt, I do not want to see Bordon Household Waste & Recycling Centre or Bordon Library closed.

Kind regards,

Andy

Cllr Andy Tree

County Councillor for Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford

Leader of the Independent Group



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