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## **Petition: Save Crawley Open House – Briefing Note**

The County Council's Forward Plan, published on 29 August 2018, sets out a range of budget options that are being considered. These are driven by the scale and challenge of the financial position of the Council in its planning of the budget for 2019/20. The Council's sources of pressure, particularly in the areas of adults' and children's social care, are shared by all other local authorities which carry these statutory responsibilities. These particular pressures are not carried by district and borough councils.

The timing of the Forward Plan was to enable public and stakeholder engagement prior to the taking of these decisions. The critical issue for the County Council is that, if these options are not considered, it must look at other options. The option it does not have is to fail to deliver its statutory duties and so all areas of discretionary spend must be considered. None can reasonably be ruled out.

The Forward Plan included a proposal to consider changes to levels of funding for supported housing - that the Cabinet Member would, during September 2018, lay out the process for consultation and engagement during which representations should be made to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health by the beginning of December, the month in which the decision is due to be taken.

No decisions on future funding of these services have yet been taken.

This proposal was considered, among others, at a meeting of the Council's Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee in September at which representations were made and the concerns and challenges debated. The decision to initiate the consultation and engagement process was then taken and the process is now underway.

The district and borough councils in the county carry statutory housing and homelessness responsibilities. The County Council carries responsibilities for the care and wellbeing of vulnerable adults and children. The County Council remains committed to working with district and borough partners and the voluntary sector to ensure that these responsibilities can be met in a coordinated way but in ways that are financially sustainable in the context of the range of other service responsibilities the councils carry and the pressures they are needing to plan for.

As part of the engagement process the Council's officers will work with a coalition of providers as well as contract holding organisations. If changes need to be made as a result of the eventual decision the Council will take, it will look at how remodelling and different funding options can be used to ensure service sustainability for the longer term.

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