



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

To Laura Taylor, Chief Executive, Winchester City Council  
To John Coughlan, Chief Executive, Hants County Council  
By email

2 April 2020

Dear Laura & John,

I hope you are both well?

You will be very aware of calls, locally and nationally, to bring forward the council tax 'holiday' from Feb/March 2021 to April/May 2020. This is, of course, distinct to simply spreading out payments over 12-months which some constituents have fed back to me as being the offer.

My focus right now is simply to tackle head on – as we have with the mortgage lenders – the **fixed costs** which are so worrying my constituents at this time.

I do however, understand that your focus is different and you have to deliver key services (more important now than ever) for which you need funds.

So please can I understand what **WINCHESTER**, working with Hampshire as it must, is offering in this respect for my constituents at this time?

The Council Tax pages online are very helpful but are all pre-Covid focused at present so I am seeking an urgent update.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/council-tax>

**And, to be crystal clear, I am not saying (as with the mortgage lenders) this should be a blanket move; it should be for those who need this help at this time and apply for it.**

Just to add finally, I am of course aware that as part of its response to Coronavirus, the government announced in the Budget on 11 March that it would provide local authorities in England with £500m of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in the local area. The expectation is that the majority of the hardship fund will be used to provide council tax relief, alongside existing local council tax support schemes.

Your prompt response would be hugely appreciated by me and many thousands of my constituents at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Brine MP

**Steve Brine MP**

Winchester & Chandler's Ford

Tel: 020 7219 7189 □ email: [steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:steve.brine.mp@parliament.uk)

[www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com)