

Hampshire County Councillor Update – June 2025

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk)



Devolution

Elections for Mayor of the new Strategic Authority are planned to be held in May 2026. As well as promoting the interests of the wider region to central Government, the Mayor will work with local council leaders to make strategic decisions for our region in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change.

Local Government Reorganisation

Under national plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), central Government intends to replace Hampshire County Council, 11 district and borough councils across the county, plus the unitary councils of Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight, with a number of unitary local authorities, all delivering the same public services as they do now to help make councils more efficient and effective. All 15 local authorities in the region have been tasked to come up with proposals for how councils should be reorganised from 2028 onwards, evidenced against various criteria. They will then be submitted to central Government this autumn for a final decision.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Nick Adams-King said: “Government has recently provided us with helpful feedback on the interim LGR proposals we collectively submitted earlier this year with our local authority partners across Hampshire and the Solent. Westminster has recognised that councils will have differing views on how new unitary councils should be configured in future, which is understandable as each council Leader will have different responsibilities to their residents. Therefore, recognising that multiple proposals may be submitted for our collective geography, Government has asked that we keep working collaboratively using shared data so we’re all working from the same foundations, but that we use our individual voice where it is required.”

“As council Leaders, we all have an individual and collective responsibility to determine the most effective and sustainable format for local government that will deliver the greatest benefit to our people and local communities. The County Council’s duty is to its 1.4 million residents to whom we deliver 85% of the council services people receive across the Hampshire and Solent region. Our services lie at the heart of local communities, they are delivered at every stage of people’s lives and deliver a lifeline to those most in need. I care deeply that these public services in future are of the best quality possible and are delivered by strong and financially sustainable unitary councils that are equipped to successfully withstand the major budget pressures that will continue to be felt across many parts of local government. This is the lens through which we now focus our dedicated LGR work so that we can be assured an effective plan will be in place for local government reorganisation in future.”

Timeline for Local Government Reorganisation



More details on both devolution and reorganisation can be found at: [Devolution and local government reorganisation](#) | [About the Council](#) | [Hampshire County Council](#)

Consultation on Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The public are being asked for their views on the Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire which sets out a series of biodiversity priorities to help reverse nature's decline.

Produced in conjunction with a wide range of organisations*, the draft strategy maps the most valuable existing habitat for nature, setting out proposals for creating, restoring and enhancing habitats, and suggests priorities and targets for nature's recovery.

The public consultation is open until 23 June.

Among a broad range of suggested priorities and actions, the draft strategy includes proposals that could:

- shape how future funding for farming and land management is used
- help local planning authorities to understand locations important for conserving and restoring biodiversity
- identify the highest priority areas for habitat creation and connectivity
- provide guidance on actions on farmland and woodland to achieve nature recovery and move towards more sustainable farming practices
- help guide local communities with funding applications for nature recovery projects
- suggest potential measures for embedding nature into urban infrastructure, such as stormwater management

Having a Local Nature Recovery Strategy is crucial for preserving Hampshire's rich biodiversity and ensuring a sustainable future for our communities. By working alongside local partner organisations, in a joined-up and co-ordinated way, we stand the very best chance of restoring natural habitats, protecting wildlife, and enhancing the beauty of our countryside for generations to come. We now want to hear from the public and local communities on the range of proposals we are putting forward, so that when the time comes to consider the final recommendations, we can be assured that everyone with an interest in nature recovery has had an opportunity to have their say.

In 2021, the Environment Act required local areas to produce Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Government designated Hampshire County Council as the Responsible Authority for delivering the strategy for the whole of Hampshire, including the areas covered by Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils, as well as the New Forest and South Downs National Parks (that are within Hampshire).

The draft Strategy has been produced following comprehensive engagement with key stakeholders and local communities across Hampshire to understand what was important to them. An online survey was also available to gauge early thoughts from the public.

The final version of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire is expected to be published by the end of this year.

More information about the approach being taken to nature recovery in Hampshire is available of the County Council's website: [Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire | About the Council | Hampshire County Council](#)

**Supporting authorities include the local planning authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, Hampshire's district and borough councils, the New Forest and South Downs National Parks, as well as Natural England.*



Free Advice to Reduce Your Home Energy Bills

The Environment Centre has launched a ground-breaking service to make our homes warmer, greener and cheaper to run.

It's called ***My Home Made Better***, and it offers free and impartial advice on everything from insulation and heating upgrades, to switching to new energy-efficient technologies.

Experienced energy advisers will simplify complex information and dispel myths to guide you through your options and help you find the best ways to keep the heat in, lower your energy bills, and make your home more comfortable.



This is how it works:

1. You call 0800 804 8601 (or email) to chat with one of the friendly advisers. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. You'll be asked about your property and circumstances, following which you will receive tailor-made recommendations and your own personalised plan. This will comprise a summary of everything discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. When you're ready, search the independent directory to find local suppliers and installers.

This should be a fantastic new service, and I encourage everyone to make use of it! For more information go to myhomemadebetter.org

Energy Efficiency Grants

The following offer advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- [Energy Saving Trust](#) – Guidance for the type of insulation for properties
- [Great British Insulation Scheme](#) – Eligible if the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D
- [Warmer Homes](#) – Warmer Homes provides fully funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income households in properties that have EPC energy efficiency ratings from D to G. The previous iteration of this program has now closed, but the Government has just announced a further £26 million of funding has been awarded to our local consortium. Whilst the previous iteration of this scheme only funded measures in off-gas households, the new scheme will be open to all fuel types, including on gas households and off gas households.

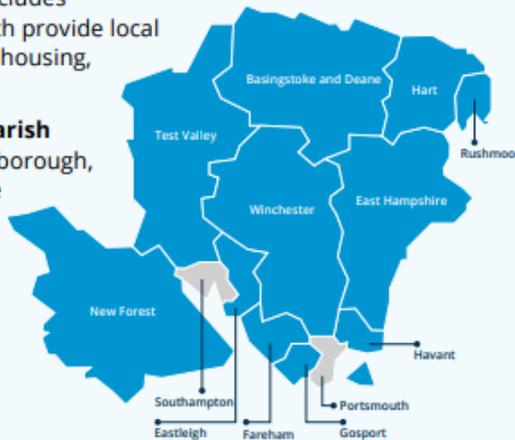
Proudly serving 1.4 million residents

Local government in Hampshire

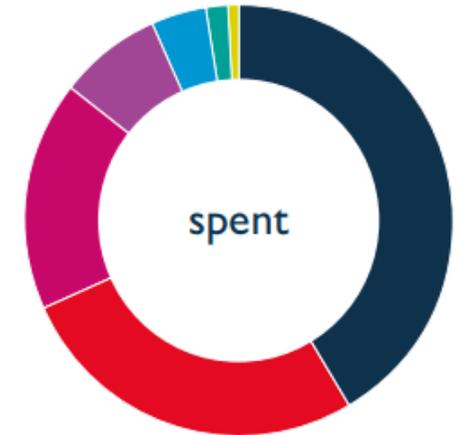
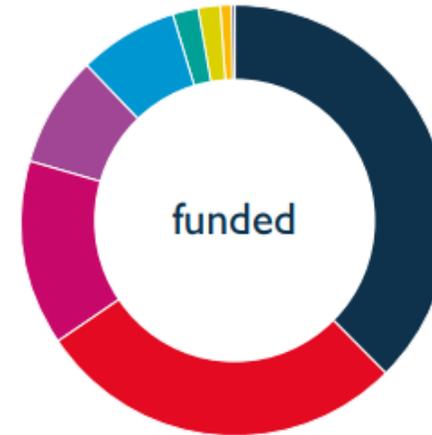
The Hampshire County Council geography includes **11 borough, city and district councils**, which provide local services such as household waste collection, housing, leisure services and council tax collection.

In some areas of Hampshire, **community, parish and town councils** operate at a level below borough, city and district councils. These councils have the power to provide local assets and amenities, such as community facilities and allotments.

Portsmouth and Southampton are **unitary councils**. They are responsible for all local government functions in the two cities. Hampshire County Council's geography does not include Portsmouth and Southampton.



How our 2025-26 budget of £3.13bn is...



Our services

Children's social care
Supporting **12,457 children** with social care.



Public health
Promoting and protecting the population's health.



Waste disposal
Encouraging recycling, diverting **95.6% of our waste** from landfill.



Adults' health and care
Providing long-term support to **20,159 residents** and supporting carers and adults in care.



Transport infrastructure
Managing **5,500 miles of roads** and **1,750 bridges/structures**.



Registration
Registering **20,500 births and deaths**, and **16,000 ceremonies and preliminaries**.



Countryside
Managing **3,658 hectares** of land for people and nature.



Education
Teaching **131,000 pupils** in Hampshire's **448 maintained schools**.



Economic development and skills
Supporting our **58,520 businesses** and enabling further growth in Hampshire's **£49bn economy**.



● **£1,176.5m**
Dedicated schools grant

● **£876.4m**
Council tax requirement

● **£442.9m**
Directorate income

● **£257.9m**
Other specific government grants

● **£230.4m**
General government grants

● **£60.9m**
Contribution from reserves

● **£56.2m**
Business rates

● **£21.4m**
Interest receivable

● **£8.1m**
Surplus on collection funds

● **£1,302.8m**
Schools and Early Years: Funding is provided by Government and ringfenced.

● **£837.6m**
Looking after vulnerable adults and public health

● **£540.7m**
Looking after vulnerable children and families

● **£244.4m**
Services for all (including £43.2m for highways and £74.4m for waste)

● **£132.1m**
Running the County Council and other costs

● **£49.8m**
Capital financing

● **£23.3m**
Hampshire's economy and future