

Hampshire County Councillor Update – May 2025

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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

An initial response to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has been jointly submitted to central Government on behalf of all 15 councils in the Hampshire and Solent area. Government feedback to the response has been delayed.

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

Hampshire Future Services Consultation

Hampshire County Council latest consultation on service changes runs to **7 May 2025**, and is being performed as part of steps by the Authority to help meet a remaining budget shortfall of at least £97.6 million for 2025/26.

The savings proposals being consulted on cover:

- *Planned highway maintenance* – To remove funding provided each year by the Council to supplement Department for Transport (DfT) funding for highway maintenance activities.
- *Older Adults Day Services* – To stop running the older adult day care services at Chesil Lodge (Winchester), and Newman Court (Basingstoke). These day care services provide a range of individual and group activities (e.g. crafts, exercise, singing) together with personal care.
- *Post-16 Transport Only* – To focus resources so that the County Council would only assist with travel for Post-16 students with special educational needs or a disability, and who are from a low-income family.
- *Both School Transport and Post-16 Transport* – Several changes including asking parents to increase their financial contribution towards the cost of transport.



Full details are on the consultation webpage: www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation

Hampshire Celebrates and Remembers on 80th Anniversary of VE Day

On the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 2025, Hampshire County Council will proudly raise the Union Flag outside the Great Hall in Winchester in celebration of the Day in 1945 which brought an end to the nearly six years of World War II.



This year, 80 years of peace and our collective resilience and unity will be celebrated by communities across Hampshire as we also pay tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today. Hampshire Archives has organised a free exhibition, running until 25 June, which explores the role of [The King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Rifle Brigade](#), both historically based in Winchester.

More information and links to [VE Day events](#) in Hampshire, as well as guidance for community celebrations such as street parties, can be found on the County Council's webpages.

Green Light to Boosting Recycling in Hampshire

Plans to construct a new, state of the art recycling facility for Hampshire, have been given the go-ahead enabling residents to recycle a wider range of household materials at the kerbside in future.

Based in Eastleigh, the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is expected to be up and running by the end of 2027, and will support all households across the Hampshire region to recycle:

- a much wider range of plastics, including pots, tubs, trays, cartons, and soft plastic film
- glass
- metal
- paper and cardboard

The £50.5 million proposal has been developed in conjunction with Hampshire's neighbouring waste disposal partners, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, who will jointly fund the project ensuring a consistent service across the region.

The new approach being taken in Hampshire, aligns with Government's Simpler Recycling guidance on residential kerbside recycling – separating dry materials from other waste to reduce contamination – which occurs when dry recyclable material, such as card, is unable to be recycled if it gets wet or stained with food residue or mixed with glass. Managing waste in this way will reduce the cost of sorting 'contaminated' materials and ensure the recyclable materials can be put to be best possible use.

Further details on changes to bin collections will be announced in due course – at the moment, keep following the existing guidance!

Where Does Your Waste Go Currently?



General Waste (black bins) – Most of the non-recyclable waste collected from homes in Hampshire is taken to one of three Energy Recovery Facilities located in Marchwood, Chineham and Portsmouth. These facilities incinerate the waste and use the heat from this process to generate electricity which is fed to the National Grid. Each year these facilities create sufficient electricity to power 53,000 homes.



Recycling (green bins) – All of the recyclable materials from Hampshire's kerbside collections (cans, plastic bottles, paper, card, tins and empty aerosols) are sent to one of two Material Recovery Facilities in the county, in Portsmouth and Alton. The materials are separated using a combination of manual and automatic processes, including magnets, conveyor belts and lasers, before being baled up and sent to private companies for recycling into new products. Together, the two facilities can handle up to 157,000 tonnes of recyclables every year.



Garden Waste (brown bins) – All the green garden waste collected at Hampshire's recycling centres, as well as that from any local collections, is taken to one of two composting sites in the county. The green waste is composted in long heaps called windrows for 20 weeks and turned so it breaks down evenly. The finished product is 'Pro-Grow', a quality soil conditioner that is available to buy. Together, the two sites process over 75,000 tonnes of compost material every year.



Landfill – There is now only one landfill site open in Hampshire for disposing of household waste. Hampshire sends less than 5% of its household waste to landfill.

North Whiteley Secondary School

Planning Permission Granted

The County Council's Regulatory Committee has approved the plans for the school, which is set to open in September 2027, with building work due to commence on site this summer.

The new school is intended to meet the anticipated demand for secondary school places across Whiteley and will provide a vital new amenity for the Whiteley community.



Designed by Hampshire County Council's Property Services team, the new school will include a three-storey main building providing classrooms, drama studio, and assembly and dining halls, with a separate two-storey sports block featuring a four-court sports hall and multi-use activity studio. The main building will also include a dedicated Resourced Provision for 15 children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with its own outdoor area. A Resourced Provision is a specialist environment for children with SEND within a mainstream school.

Outside, the site will provide two all-weather sports pitches, grass playing fields and a multi-use games area. The school's sports facilities and assembly hall will be available for community use outside school hours.

The site will include a range of measures to reduce carbon emissions and ensure resilience to climate change, and links with the local footpath and cycle network to encourage families and staff to walk and cycle to school.

Approval to Relocate Henry Cort Community College in Fareham to North Whiteley

Following a recent decision by Hampshire County Council and consultation with the public, the new school is to be run by The Henry Cort Community College, which will relocate from its current site in Fareham to the new building in North Whiteley from September 2027.

Chris Rice, Principal of The Henry Cort Community College, said: "My Governors and I recognise that this is the right decision for Henry Cort moving forward. While we fully appreciate that change can be challenging, the relocation will enable the school to remain viable, ensuring ongoing good quality education for local children. We will continue to work closely with the County Council to ensure local parents and pupils are fully supported as the transition is made to the new site."

A further public consultation is being planned for later this year on changes to local catchment areas and admissions arrangements.



Home Energy Efficiency Opportunities

My Home Made Better

The Environment Centre has launched a groundbreaking new service for homeowners in Hampshire, offering **free, tailored and impartial advice** to homeowners on making your home warmer, greener and cheaper to run.

[My Home Made Better](#) recognises that widely available, generic information on heat pumps, insulation and solar panels isn't enough, and that householders need relatable guidance unique to their home.



Why make changes to your home?

- ✓ Save money – Reduce your energy bills by making simple upgrades
- ✓ Feel comfortable – A well-insulated home stays warmer in winter and cooler in summer
- ✓ Increase your property's value – Energy-efficient homes are more desirable
- ✓ Do your bit for the planet – Use less energy and lower your carbon footprint

[My Home Made Better](#) 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.

How it works...

1. *Get tailored advice* – Call (or email) for a chat with one of the friendly advisers. During the call, you'll be asked about your unique property and circumstances, and then recommendations can be made **tailored to you**. The number to call is 0800 804 8601. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. *Receive a personalised plan* – You'll get an email summary outlining everything that was discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. *Over to you* – 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!!! Go to myhomemadebetter.org for more information.

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.