

Local Government Reform

Hampshire County Council is inviting residents across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight to help shape the future of local government. With



Your Councils – A Better Future

Have your say on our ideas
for new councils across the
Hampshire and Solent area

Find out more at
hants.gov.uk/LGR

central Government asking all councils to reorganise to become easier to access and more efficient, Hampshire County Council is inviting the public to have their say on a bold new vision for simpler, stronger, and more secure local government in our area for the future.

The proposed changes would see the current 15 councils across the Hampshire and Solent area replaced by four new unitary councils (three on the mainland, and the Isle of Wight remaining a standalone council) – each responsible for delivering all local services.

This would mean fewer layers of bureaucracy, better value for money, and services that are easier to access and more responsive to the needs of local people and communities. The proposed unitary councils would be:

- North and Mid Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester)
- South-West Hampshire and Solent (Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley)
- South-East Hampshire and Solent (Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth)
- Isle of Wight (remaining as a standalone unitary council)

These proposals are based on extensive data analysis, community feedback, and public sector insight – to create a model that is fair, financially sustainable, and fit for the future.

Why this matters - The proposed changes would:

- Save money – fewer councils, costing less to set up and quicker financial returns
- Protect local identity – councils shaped around real communities across rural and urban areas, empowering local voices
- Deliver better value – proven systems, fairer services, and less duplication or disruption
- Strengthen services – one-stop access, faster help, and joined-up support
- Secure the future – stable finances and long-term savings

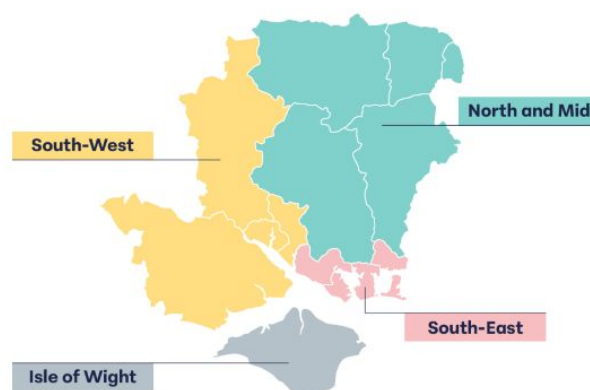
How to have your say - Everyone is encouraged to take part in the public engagement process which runs between **Monday 21 July and Sunday 17 August 2025**.

You can give your views on our ideas for Local Government Reorganisation, including providing suggestions for the name of the new local authorities, by completing the survey at: www.hants.gov.uk/lgr

For a copy of the information or survey in another language or format (e.g. paper, Braille) or if you have any queries, please contact insight@hants.gov.uk or call 0300 555 1375 (Calls from a landline will be charged at the local rate. Mobile phone charges may vary.)

The responses and feedback gathered during this public engagement will be carefully analysed and used to shape Hampshire County Council's final proposal for local government reorganisation. This updated proposal will then be considered by the full County Council and Cabinet in **September 2025**. If approved, it will be submitted to central Government which will then review all submissions and carry out its own public consultation before making a final decision on the future structure of local government in our area.

Proposed new councils



School Meals



From January 2026, the County Council will provide school meals through a new supplier – Chartwells – under a managed contract. This means that the County Council will keep overall responsibility and oversight of the service but the day-to-day running (such as preparing and serving meals) will be carried out by Chartwells. As part of the change, schools and nurseries subscribed to the service, as well as families who pay for the meals provided at those settings, will see the County Council's current price of £3.20 drop to £2.75.

New adventure playground opens at Lepe Country Park

The new play area draws inspiration from Lepe's D-Day heritage and coastal location, offering a range of features including an obstacle course featuring tunnels, climbing frames, and a zip line, alongside swings and a den-building area. It also features a 'Lepe Lighthouse' with a scramble net, 'firefighter's pole' and slide.



Lane closures on A32 Wickham Road for M27 Junction 10 Improvement works



As part of the M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme, 24-hour lane closures will be in place over a 26-day period on a 200-metre section of the A32 Wickham Road. The work will involve alternating closures of the northbound and southbound lanes, enabling traffic to always pass in one direction under the control of temporary traffic lights. Journeys are expected to take longer during this time, and road users are advised to allow extra time for travel.

This work is required to connect a new road layout to the existing network and to deliver drainage improvements, diversion of utility cables, earthworks, resurfacing, and the installation of a new traffic island. The improvements are designed to support the development of Welborne Garden Village.

Traffic management will run as follows:

From 7.00 am on Monday 11th August to 7.00 pm on Friday 5th September 2025. This includes the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Temporary two-way traffic lights will be in place to manage vehicle flow. The works will involve alternating closures of the northbound and southbound lanes. During each phase, only one lane will remain open, allowing traffic to pass in one direction at a time.

The temporary two-way traffic lights will operate as follows:

- Manually controlled between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm
- Automatic sequence between 7.00 pm and 7.00 am

Road users are being advised that while operatives will not be on site during weekends and the Bank Holiday, traffic management measures will remain in place. This is a safety requirement due to the ongoing, unfinished works and ensures the continued protection of all road users.

For the latest information and to sign up for direct e-bulletin updates, visit: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/M27-junction-10. The two-year construction scheme is due to be open to traffic in winter 2026.

Adult Social Care Support

If you need support on any of the following -

- Support with mental health conditions
- Support for those with learning disabilities and for autistic people
- Care and support for those with vision impairment or hearing loss
- Support for adults over 65 years

Please see <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/individuals>

Help with the Cost of Living

The ongoing struggle with the cost of living poses a significant challenge for many Hampshire residents who are having to make difficult choices regarding their household finances. Help and support is available from a number of services. This includes warm spaces in libraries to hot school meals and expert advice on reducing heating bills. We encourage everyone in Hampshire to take full advantage of these resources.

- Food and essentials
- Fuel and energy
- Money and debt
- Staying well and resilient
- Warm spaces
- Support for community organisations assisting the public

To get help visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/costofliving>

Green Flag status

Once again, five of Hampshire County Council's country parks have gained prestigious Green Flag status, recognising they offer the highest standards in visitor experience, park management and environmental care. Lepe, River Hamble, Royal Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, and Staunton Country Parks have all secured Green Flag awards.

In addition, Staunton, Royal Victoria, and Lepe Country Parks have also retained their Green Heritage Site Accreditation, which celebrates sites that actively conserve and promote their unique historic features.



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Winchester Southern Parishes:

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