

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES

June 2025

Andover West



Please find below an outline of current programmes of work and public information from Hampshire County Council. I hope that this is useful.

If you have any further questions, then please don't hesitate to contact me at cllrc.donnelly@hants.gov.uk

Kind regards

Chris

Local Government Reorganisation Update

All the councils across Hampshire are now working on proposals for new council areas across the county. Detailed work is ongoing with KPMG.

Politically, it is becoming clear (and is not unexpected) that not everyone will agree on the new boundaries. There are councils which are minded to merge as entire units, and councils which are advocating for existing districts to be broken up. Gosport has withdrawn from the work entirely.

The final submissions will be submitted at the end of September. You will see over the summer that several councils are going public with their preferences – they will almost certainly conflict with one another.

Who therefore breaks the deadlock? That is the key question which will determine if, how and when this project goes ahead. It will in all likelihood be based on areas which have a sustainable population, such as a good balance between young and old, employment opportunities and logical geography. The reason why we are undertaking the work with KPMG is to try to propose boundaries which are along the same lines as government advisors will work, as this brings the highest chance of synergy between our preferences and theirs.

Ultimately should the government agree to districts being broken up, the matter would likely be referred to the Local Government Boundary Commission which would result in a public inquiry which could delay the process considerably. If they go down the statutory route then it would need to be allocated parliamentary time. We may well be in the position that the timetable slips, or that it is put on ice. I can assure you that we are preparing for all eventualities.

In terms of parishes, there will be a process whereby Test Valley Borough Council considers whether or not to devolve any responsibilities, and whether these are wanted or not by parishes. This piece of work will begin shortly and I will be engaging with each parish separately on it to establish your views.

Draft 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

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250516LNRS>

Employment Training

£7 million has been awarded to Hampshire for another 12 months of fast-track employment training

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250522SkillsBootcamps>

Connect to Support Hampshire

Connect to Support Hampshire is the service which is designed to help people remain living independently in their own homes. HCC have recently updated the Connect to Support Hampshire website to help residents stay independent for longer.

- Modern Design: Enjoy a fresh, contemporary look.
- Improved Navigation: Enhanced homepage navigation with popular search topics. Use keywords for better search results, and get suggestions as you type.
- Expanded Community Directory: Now covering 63 towns and villages across Hampshire, including a new Younger Adults category.
- Marketplace Directory: Find paid services like podiatrists, financial advisers, handypersons, gardeners, and more.
- Home Care Directory: Home care and nursing care agencies in Hampshire.
- Care Home Directory: Care homes and nursing homes in Hampshire.
- Multilingual Support: Translate everything into different languages using Google Translate.

Visit the site here to explore all the new features:
<https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/>

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Missing or damaged signs:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/brokensigns>

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.