

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES

October 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

County Council Updates

Councillor Community Grants

These have now reopened, although my budget has been cut from £8,000 per year to £5,000 per year.

Devolution & Reorganisation

The submissions have now been made to Government from all twelve Hampshire councils. Hampshire has adopted a preference for Test Valley to be merged with Eastleigh, Southampton and New Forest, which I opposed. Test Valley has suggested a merger with New Forest, Winchester and Eastleigh, which I supported.

Of course it would be better leaving things as they are and reforming funding, but the Government has decided to do things this way. We will get their preferred models in March and I imagine that two options will go out for consultation. I will let you know as soon as I do.

The issue has caused a lot of disagreement and grief between councils, colleagues and staff, who have tried to keep delivering good local services in the face of total uncertainty. I salute all of our staff who have done a sterling job keeping the ship on course over the past year.

Whatever the outcome is, we need to accept the result and work with whomever and whatever we are given to get the very best outcome for our communities, and that is my focus. Over the next few months we can return to the bread and butter issues which is very welcome.

Local Plan

You will be aware from your TVBC members that the new Local Plan continues to look at appropriate land to deliver the new housing targets imposed on us by Angela Rayner.

From a HCC point of view, I spoke in the chamber during a debate on the South East Transport Strategy about the concerns of our community around pressure on the A342 and the infrastructure commitments which are essential to accompany any development along this corridor. The Working Group is doing a very important job in looking at an evidence based case for this, including road improvements and the future of the Ludgershall railway line.

You can see my contribution at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzvbrzSQe-0&t=6421s> at 1:46:40. I will be meeting the Leader of TVBC this evening where I will continue to express the concerns the local community have around some aspects of the Plan, especially in Weyhill.

New Schools Open

Thanks to Hampshire County Council, three brand-new primary schools are set to welcome pupils this month — the biggest expansion of school places we've seen in years.

Here's what's coming online in September:

- Hounsme Fields Primary in Basingstoke
- Stanhope Primary in Aldershot
- Newlands Primary west of Waterlooville

These openings kick off the first phase of a three-year, £502 million investment in school buildings, delivering 10 new schools and 3,175 extra places by 2028. Of that, £390 million is ring-fenced for brand-new schools and expansions, adding over 19,000 pupil places since 2014.

What's more, each new primary will include an eight-place SEND unit from 2026, and the programme also funds three special schools, further expansions, and enhancements for children with special educational needs.

These schools aren't just bricks and mortar — they're designed for energy efficiency and modern learning, with Hounsme Fields even meeting Passivhaus standards to keep classrooms comfy all year round.

Despite our financial pressures, Hampshire County Council remains committed to sourcing external funding wherever possible, ensuring our communities get top-quality education close to home. We may not be able to do everything we would like, but that which we can do will be done to the absolute highest standard.

Let's give a warm welcome to the youngest members of our communities and celebrate this huge investment in our children's future!

Adult Social Care Funding in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is under huge financial pressure, and one of the reasons is that the NHS, through the local Integrated Care Board (ICB), is not contributing enough funding to cover the rising costs of adult social care.

What this means is that the Council is being forced to pick up the bill for services that are really the NHS's responsibility – like hospital discharge support, reablement after illness, and specialist mental health placements for younger adults. These are not statutory duties for the Council, but without them, hospitals would struggle even more.

The result? Millions of pounds are being diverted from other vital services, leaving the Council's budget stretched to breaking point. Unless the NHS fully funds the health related care it is responsible for, Hampshire residents will face cuts elsewhere.

Put simply: the Council is paying for NHS services out of local budgets, and that's not sustainable.

Youth Services & Rehabilitation

I recently visited HMP Brixton to see first hand a fantastic project to rehabilitate and train offenders for their life beyond bars. I'm also continuing support our local organisations who work with young people to support them and divert them from a life of crime.

You can read my article in the Advertiser here:
<https://www.andoveradvertiser.co.uk/news/25508450.cllr-chris-donnelly-visits-prison-see-skills-programme/>

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

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