Update from Hampshire County Council – October 2026

Hampshire County Council calls for fairer share of Vehicle Excise Duty to plug highways funding gap

Hampshire County Council is stepping up its call for a fairer share of national transport funding, urging Government to provide long-term, sustainable investment in local roads and give greater flexibility over how funding is spent

The move comes as the County Council has pledged to increase its focus on planned, preventative highway maintenance, building on a programme of works delivered over the spring and summer to repair and strengthen roads.

This week, the County Council's Cabinet agreed to intensify its campaign for a fairer share of Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) revenues for Hampshire, arguing that councils responsible for maintaining local roads should receive a greater proportion of funding raised from motorists. The current maintenance backlog for Hampshire alone is estimated at between £550 million and £600 million. The local authority is responsible for around 5,500 miles of local roads and highway assets valued at around £17 billion making it one of the largest highways networks in the country.

An accelerated programme of highway maintenance has been delivered during spring and summer 2026 to address deterioration caused by the previous wet winter and subsequent periods of hot weather. Combined with the standard annual programme, this has delivered:

- 42 resurfacing schemes delivered since April as part of a total programme of 101 resurfacing schemes planned for 2026/27, with the remaining schemes currently in progress or scheduled for delivery – 26 of these were accelerated for delivery this summer. Resurfacing is one of the most effective forms of planned highway maintenance, replacing worn layers of the road and significantly improving its condition and longevity before more extensive and costly reconstruction is required.
- 122 surface treatment schemes completed, representing the substantial delivery of this year's programme. While resurfacing involves replacing layers of the road, surface dressing is a preventative treatment that seals and protects the existing surface, helping to prevent water ingress, improve skid resistance and prolong the life of the carriageway before more significant intervention is required.
- 17,590 reactive defects, including potholes, repaired between April and July 2026.
- 154 planned patching schemes have been completed across Hampshire as part of the accelerated programme, covering more than 32,000m² of carriageway. Patching involves targeted repairs to sections of road showing signs of deterioration, helping to strengthen the carriageway and prevent more extensive damage from developing. This work has been supported by additional resources and investment.

Residents can play an important role too by acting as extra eyes on the network and reporting potholes or other highway issues through the County Council's website or the OurHants app. This proactive reporting helps us identify problems early, target resources effectively and address issues before they become more serious and expensive to repair.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/25092026VehicleExciseDuty

New support pathway to help Hampshire residents with complex care needs get home sooner after hospital stays

Older people, disabled residents and others who need ongoing care after a hospital stay could return home sooner and receive more coordinated support under a new approach approved by Hampshire County Council

The County Council will lead a specialist discharge service for people who are medically ready to leave hospital but require further assessment and support before longer-term care arrangements can be agreed.

Working in partnership with NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB), the new approach is designed to reduce hospital discharge delays, simplify what can often be a complex process

for patients and families, and help more people recover in a home or community setting as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

The service will support people with complex health and care needs, including those who require consideration for NHS Continuing Healthcare, which provides ongoing care to those with significant, long-term health needs. Around 650 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit from the pathway each year.

Expected benefits include:

- Faster discharge from hospital when medically appropriate.
- A simpler and more coordinated process for patients, families and carers.
- Assessments taking place in home or community settings wherever possible.
- Greater opportunities for people to regain confidence and independence.
- Reduced delays in decisions about ongoing care and support.
- Better integration between health and social care services.
- Improved patient experience and wellbeing.

The service will commence on or after 1 January 2027 for an initial three-year period, with the option to extend for a further two years.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260925discharge

Hampshire partnership powers growth, skills and opportunity across the county

Thousands of Hampshire residents and businesses are benefiting from programmes that are boosting skills, creating jobs and driving economic growth, according to the latest annual report on the work of the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board. By bringing together leaders from business, education and local government, the partnership is unlocking opportunities, attracting investment and building a more prosperous future for communities across the county

The latest report highlights how, over the past year, a wide range of initiatives have been delivered, including support for more than 1,500 businesses through the Hampshire Growth Hub. Alongside this, Government-funded programmes such as Skills Bootcamps - delivering fast-track training in sectors facing skills shortages, helping local people develop new skills and connect with employment opportunities - have been taken up by more than 1,000 Hampshire residents to date.

Connect to Work has also now launched in Hampshire, designed to support people with health conditions and other complex barriers to employment to find long-term and rewarding work, while the Hampshire Careers Hub continues supporting more than 100 schools, colleges and specialist settings, arranging over 1,100 work experience placements across key sectors, helping inspire the next generation.

The annual report also highlights activity across Hampshire's growth sectors, from the launch of the South-Central Regional Defence and Security Cluster, now bringing together around 350 members, alongside initiatives which champion the county's creative and life sciences industries.

The Hampshire Prosperity Partnership brings together leaders from business, education and local government to work collectively to support the local economy. Its priorities include strengthening key industries, supporting businesses, developing skills and careers, and helping create the conditions for long-term prosperity.

Read the full report here

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260917HampshireProsperityPartnership

Update from Hampshire County Council – October 2026

Future of Andover Museum and Museum of the Iron Age secured thanks to funding package

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has approved funding of £100,000 to help secure the future of Andover Museum and the Museum of the Iron Age. The decision was made at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday 23 September and follows approval from Andover Town Council on 9 September to contribute a further £50,000.

The two councils have been working closely with Hampshire Cultural Trust to identify a long-term solution that protects one of Andover's most valued cultural and heritage attractions after concerns about its future funding. The investment will provide time for HCT to explore more financially resilient and sustainable service delivery options and operating models.

As part of the agreement, the two councils will meet regularly with Hampshire Cultural Trust over the next two-and-a-half years to monitor progress towards a longer-term, sustainable future for the museum.

https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/sep/future-of-andover-museum-and-museum-of-the-iron-age-secured-thanks-to-funding-package

Fly-tippers prosecuted after dumping waste in Clatford

Two men have been ordered to pay a total of £2,866 after admitting illegally dumping waste in a fly-tipping incident near Andover.

Aidan Molumby from Andover and Adam Heaver from Newbury appeared before Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on 4 September and pleaded guilty to depositing a large concrete block in Watery Lane, Clatford, in January 2025.

Test Valley Borough Council officers discovered the waste during a routine inspection. The vehicle used to dump the block was spotted on CCTV, and following enquiries with the registered keeper the council was able to identify the two men involved. At court, Molumby was ordered to pay £968, while Heaver was ordered to pay a total of £1,898.

Residents can report fly-tipping on the council's website at www.testvalley.gov.uk/fly-tipping.

https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/sep/fly-tippers-prosecuted-after-dumping-waste-in-clatford

Queen Elizabeth II sculpture unveiled at Romsey Abbey

A new life-size bronze sculpture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been unveiled at Romsey Abbey, providing a lasting tribute to the late monarch and her special connections to the town.

The artwork was officially unveiled on Friday (4 September) by the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire alongside the Countess Mountbatten of Burma during a ceremony attended by residents, community representatives and invited guests.

Hampshire sculptor Amy Goodman created the bronze statue to complete Test Valley Borough Council's Queen Elizabeth II sculpture project, which marked Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. It follows the unveiling of a companion sculpture in Andover in 2024.

The sculpture has been installed in the north churchyard of Romsey Abbey, chosen for its historic links to the Royal Family and the Mountbatten family of Broadlands. The Abbey has played an important role in the story of Queen Elizabeth II and her family.

https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/sep/queen-elizabeth-ii-sculpture-unveiled-at-romsey-abbey

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