

Hampshire County Councillor Update – May 2026

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk)



Hampshire & Solent Combined County Authority

There have been no major new public developments this month in the creation of the Hampshire & Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA). This is largely due to the local authority pre-election period, during which public announcements and decision-making are necessarily limited.

The legislative position remains unchanged following the Order laid before Parliament in March 2026, which confirmed the Government's intention to establish the new Authority and devolve powers relating to transport, skills and economic development.

Work continues largely behind the scenes, with interim officers in place and preparatory work ongoing to ensure the Authority is ready for formal establishment, which is still expected in summer 2026.

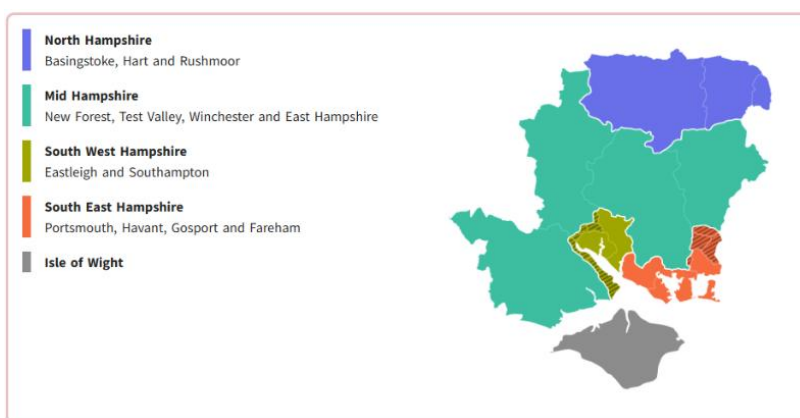
The [HSCCA Website](#) remains the main public source of information during this transition period and includes further detail on the Authority's proposed responsibilities, governance arrangements and the future role of the Mayor.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government plans to replace the existing two-tier council system across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight with five new unitary councils.

Under the proposals, the new authorities would take on all local services currently split between county and district councils, with the new system due to become fully operational from 1 April 2028. No immediate changes to services are planned while transition arrangements continue.

For our area, which sits within Winchester City Council, we would become part of the new Mid Hampshire Unitary Authority, alongside most of East Hampshire, Test Valley and the New Forest.



You can follow updates, view maps, and read further detail at: [Local Government Reorganisation](#)

Judicial Review considerations

Over the past month, two councils have indicated that they are considering legal options in response to the Government's decision:

- New Forest District Council has raised concerns about the proposal to split the New Forest between two new authorities and is considering its next steps.
- Hampshire County Council has also signalled concerns, particularly about how financial impacts and long-term sustainability were assessed during the decision-making process.

At this stage, these discussions are ongoing and no final decision on legal action has been confirmed.

Botley Bypass – Upcoming Road Closures (May Half-Term)

Construction of the Botley Bypass is continuing, and Hampshire County Council has confirmed a series of temporary road closures at the end of May to allow major construction works to take place.

The closures are needed to build a new roundabout at the junction of the A334 and A3051 (Pinkmead junction), which is a key part of connecting the bypass to the existing road network. To do this safely, road levels need to be raised by up to one metre, requiring full closures during a planned period of lower traffic over the May half-term.



Key dates and locations

- **A334 (Sherecroft Way to Hillsons Road) closed 9pm Fri 22 May to 6am Mon 25 May**
Road to reopen on 25 May with temporary traffic lights in place until 1 June.
- **A3051 (YMCA Fairthorne Manor to A334) closed 9pm Fri 22 May to 6am Mon 1 June**

Signed diversion routes suitable for all traffic, including HGVs, will be in place throughout. Pedestrian and cycle access will be maintained at all times.

Local road restrictions

To prevent unsuitable through-traffic on smaller lanes, additional temporary restrictions will operate during the closure period, including:

- Closure of Wangfield Lane / Maddoxford Lane to through traffic
- No northbound access from the A334 to Reading Room Lane, Chapel Lane and Lockhams Road (local access will be maintained)

What residents should expect

- Delays during peak periods are likely, and motorists are advised to plan ahead and allow extra time.
- All local businesses will remain open as usual.
- From 1 June, a new temporary road layout will be in place allowing traffic in all directions at the junction.

Project timeline

The Botley Bypass was approved in January 2025 and remains on track, with the full bypass expected to open in late summer 2027. These closures represent a significant but necessary step towards completing the scheme and easing long-standing congestion in and around Botley.

Further updates, diversion maps and FAQs are available on the **Hampshire County Council Botley Bypass webpages**: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/botleybypass>

Free Advice to Reduce Your Home Energy Bills

The Environment Centre has launched a ground-breaking service to make our homes warmer, greener and cheaper to run.

It's called ***My Home Made Better***, and it 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.



This is how it works:

1. You call 0800 804 8601 (or email) to chat with one of the friendly advisers. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. You'll be asked about your property and circumstances, following which you will receive tailor-made recommendations and your own personalised plan. This will comprise a summary of everything discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. When you're ready, search the independent directory to find local suppliers and installers.

For more information go to myhomemadebetter.org