

Hampshire County Councillor Update 56

Dear All

There at last seems to be an end in sight to the incessant rain. This, plus the warmer weather increasing the road surface temperature means proper road repairs can resume, of which there are very many to be undertaken.

Here's the latest update.

Highways Information

THE BRUTAL TRUTH ABOUT HAMPSHIRE'S POTHOLES — AND WHY WE CAN'T JUST "SPEND MORE"

Hampshire's roads have taken an absolute battering this winter. Weeks of relentless rain and violent freeze-thaw cycles have ripped open the surface across the county. Potholes are appearing faster than crews can fill them.

Here's the blunt truth:

We simply don't have the money to maintain the roads to the standard we all want.

The scale of the problem

Cost to bring roads up to the standard I'd want: £600 million

Highways budget this year: £60 million

£540 million shortfall

No amount of "efficiency" fills a gap like that.

Why the money isn't there

Social care and education costs are exploding — and Hampshire is hit harder than most:

- By 2030, nearly 5% of residents will be over 80
- More children with Special Educational Needs than average
- Rising demand for disability support
- These services are legally required. If someone qualifies, we must provide care.
- And now Government 'Fair Funding' is removing almost £40million from our budgets and sending it to mostly Labour run councils in London and the midlands and north.

Council Tax reality

Band D Council Tax paid to Hampshire: £1,609

Surrey: £1,846

West Sussex: £1,800

Oxfordshire: £1,911

We've had lower Council Tax for years — but that means less money for roads.

You can't run a high-maintenance network on a low-tax budget.

Why repairs feel slow

Here's how the system actually works:

- 1 Every report triggers an inspection — councillors and residents use the same system.
- 2 Safety defects come first — A-roads and B-roads before residential streets and country lanes.
- 3 Temporary repairs are often unavoidable — asphalt won't bond in cold, wet weather.
- 4 Permanent repairs take 7× longer — so crews make more locations safe first.
- 5 Non-safety defects are queued — tackled when weather and resources allow.

And yes — some temporary repairs fail in this weather. If they do, please re-report them.

Why this winter has been so brutal

We've had 156% of our average January rainfall

February's average rainfall was exceeded in the first week alone

Repeated freeze–thaw cycles

Some potholes appear overnight. Others worsen within hours.

The national picture

Hampshire faces a £500m highways funding gap

Government funding this year: £30m

We matched it — still nowhere near enough

Only a tiny fraction of road tax and fuel duty goes to road maintenance

Hampshire's roads are better than many neighbours, but roads across the South East — and even motorways — are in dire condition.

This is a national crisis, not a local failing.

What we're doing right now

We've secured extra resources:

- More Jet/Dragon Patchers
- Extra patching gangs (started 12 Jan, more added end of Jan)
- More drainage jetting machines
- A dedicated flooding response team
- Extra white-lining crews

Temporary infills will be used where needed to keep roads safe. Permanent repairs will follow when conditions improve.

We're funding this by using underspends in other areas.

What's coming next

We're reshaping the 2026/27 budget to move every possible penny into road maintenance — likely £10m extra for summer repairs.

And we've launched plans for a lane-rental disruption charge:

Companies pay a daily fee for roadworks on key routes

Encourages shorter, better-planned works

Could raise up to £5m a year for road maintenance

How you can help

Please report potholes — especially worsening ones — via the official system:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../roadma.../roadproblems/potholes>

Accurate locations and photos help enormously.

Finally, huge thanks to all our highways staff, they are doing an amazing job in really terrible conditions (would you want to stand in driving rain all day assessing or fixing potholes?) Please remember that when you come across them.

And thanks to you for your patience, it's a very difficult situation and we are doing our absolute best.

Southern Water Closure of the A27 - works stopped

Having made a number of representations to HCC Highways permitting, I received confirmation from HCC Highways that the permit for Southern Water's works on the A27 was revoked before work had started.

Unlike previous situations where revoking a permit can lead to lengthy negotiations, Southern Water accepted this decision — likely because no excavation work had actually begun, and they recognise the level of disruption caused.

Once they reapply, a new permit process will begin, and I will work with Highways will look for a more suitable window for the works. Southern Water will also need to improve their community liaison, including with schools, public transport providers, National Highways, Wiltshire Council, and other key stakeholders.

Southern Water agreed to maintain local access at a residents' meeting but did not follow through. This sits outside the formal permit process so can't be verified by Highways, but it has been noted and again I will follow through when the works are rescheduled.

We had a very difficult couple of days as you might imagine given the chaos Southern Water's contractors caused. What they promised did not materialise at all - and as a consequence I am very grateful to my highways colleagues for drawing the line in this case. Southern Water and particularly their contractors need to do MUCH better and I will ensure they do so next time.

I'll continue to share updates as soon as new timings for the rescheduled works are confirmed.

Now onto sorting Dunbridge Lane.

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>

Broken or missing signs: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/brokensigns>

Faulty street lights: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/streetlight>

Faded or missing road markings: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/road-markings>

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.

"Overdevelopment - A Wild West land grab"

This week's Romsey Advertiser highlights exactly what many of us have been warning about for months: a surge of speculative development proposals around our communities — described by me on the front page as a "Wild West land-grab".

 <https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/.../25822506.romsey.../>

The Government's sudden and unjustified hike in housing numbers, imposed without evidence, warning or any transition period, has created a planning free-for-all. Developers are rushing to submit as many applications as possible because national rules now give councils almost no grounds to refuse them. Individually, these schemes may look manageable — but taken together they will have a profound cumulative impact on our communities, our NHS, our roads, our water and sewage systems, and the character of our villages.

We are already seeing the consequences and this week two new sites have been added to the list:

- In Wellow, A site for over 100 homes to the south of Romsey Road, behind the village hall is being promoted. This is on the list of locations being considered for inclusion in the next Test Valley Local Plan. Gladman Homes are promoting the site and have an online consultation portal here: <https://west-wellow-gladman.hub.arcgis.com/...>

- In Timsbury, the Stockbridge Road proposal is entirely speculative — a developer-led attempt to get ahead of the Local Plan process altogether. <https://timsbury.landmaker.co.uk>

- And around Romsey, multiple new applications are coming forward simultaneously, each adding pressure to already stretched services.

This is not plan-led development. It is development dictated by whichever sites happen to be most profitable for landowners and speculators.

No one disputes the need for more homes. But they must be the right homes, in the right places, supported by the right infrastructure.

In this case ‘right’ means those that have been through proper objective assessment and democratic scrutiny — not chosen because they happen to be top of the list of profitable sites for developers.

We are forced into this as a consequence of the Government actively encouraging this situation to occur. Allowing a transition period during which the Local Plan could have been objectively updated, sites debated and democratically scrutinised would have ensured the ‘right’ places came forward.

Building the ‘right’ homes is equally vital — we need smaller homes in our villages, for young people and families who wish to live where they have been brought up and into which older people can downsize. Instead we are seeing proposals that overwhelmingly include large family homes, to be sold for seven figures plus, as that offers the best return to the landowners and developers.

The power to alter this lies with Government, but until it changes we will continue to damage the sustainability of our villages and rural areas.

The Government’s approach has stripped councils of the tools needed to protect communities and plan responsibly. Until that changes, residents, councillors and planning officers will continue to face the consequences of irresponsible, speculative development being forced upon us.

Government’s New Schools White Paper: What It Means for Hampshire’s Children with SEND

The Government has now published its Schools White Paper: Every Child Achieving and Thriving, setting out major reforms to the SEND system and wider education landscape. As Leader of Hampshire County Council, I want to update you on what’s being proposed — and how we, alongside our partners, are responding.

Hampshire County Council, NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and the Hampshire Parent and Carer Network work together as a Local Area Partnership to improve SEND support locally. We have issued a joint response today, and I want to share the key messages with you directly.

What the Government Is Proposing

SEND System Changes

A new tiered system of Targeted and Specialist support, with EHCPs reserved for the most complex needs by 2035.

Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for all children with SEND, extending legal rights and ensuring every school provides personalised support.

Reassessment of EHCPs at key transition points from 2029.
Digitised EHCPs and ISPs, plus national standards and a national library of interventions.

Investment and Support

A new Inclusive Mainstream Fund (£1.6bn) to strengthen SEND support in every school.
An Experts at Hand service (£1.8bn) to ensure every area has access to educational psychologists, speech and language therapists and other specialists.
£200m for SEND outreach in every Best Start Family Hub.
£200m to help local authorities deliver the reforms effectively.
£3.7bn nationally for new special school places and inclusion bases.

School System Reform

All schools expected to join or form high-quality school trusts, including new local-authority established trusts.

Hampshire's Joint Response

Our Local Area Partnership has welcomed several aspects of the White Paper — particularly the focus on early support, inclusion, and collaboration across education, health and care.

We said:

“It is reassuring to see that the Government’s announcements align with the direction of travel that we have already been taking for some time in Hampshire. Our long-held belief is that meeting children’s needs earlier and enabling them to access the right support close to home – in the communities they know and alongside the children they grew up with – is best for children and best for their families.”

This reflects the work we have already been doing:

- expanding specialist provision across Hampshire
- strengthening inclusion in mainstream schools
- training and upskilling school staff
- improving access to health services for children with additional needs

We also welcomed the Government’s commitment to a national training programme for teachers, and the fact that these reforms come with clear financial backing — something we have long argued is essential.

At the same time, we recognise that families will have questions about what this means for their own children. We are working through the detail carefully and will continue to communicate clearly and openly as the reforms progress.

Hampshire County Council's Position

Alongside the joint statement, I want to highlight a few key points from Hampshire County Council’s perspective:

We will strongly defend the rights of children who need EHCPs. Any changes must not reduce support for those who rely on legally enforceable provision today.

We support ISPs in principle, but they must be robust, properly funded, and backed by real specialist capacity.

We welcome investment, but will be making the case that Hampshire's size and rurality must be reflected in how funding is allocated.

We will continue expanding specialist provision, building on the hundreds of new places already created.

We will work closely with parents and carers, ensuring their voices shape how these reforms are implemented locally.

What Happens Next

The Government is consulting on these proposals until 18 May 2026. Hampshire County Council will submit a detailed response, informed by our schools, professionals and parent networks.

Nothing changes immediately for families. The reforms will be phased in gradually from 2026 through to 2035.

We will keep residents updated every step of the way.

Aster Sewerage Charges – update

I've provided this update to residents affected by the issues with sewerage treatment plants managed by Aster.

A short update on Aster sewerage bills.

They seem to have stopped sending out the accounts and associated bills for 2024/25 which had been arriving with some of you last month. This would appear to be as a result of the queries we raised with them having seen the detailed accounts associated with the bills for Glebe Meadow in East Dean and Butlers Close/Oval Road in Lockerley.

In both cases the accounts included large amounts for 'de-sludging' which appears to be their new description of 'tankering' and also significant one of costs for improvement or replacement works to the plants. It seemed clear to Caroline and I that these should be considered capital works and as such should be amortised (the cost spread over the future lifespan of the plant) rather than being added to the account for one financial year.

The response we received to a request for a meeting to discuss the concerns raised by the latest bills was as follows:

"I recognise the concern caused by some of the 2024/25 charges and so we're undertaking a detailed review of those actual charges against budget estimates across the affected sites. We're writing to those customers to confirm that no action is required from them at this stage, and that we'll be back in touch with further detail as soon as this exercise is completed. We'll be prioritising this work and anticipate it will be completed within the next couple of weeks, at which time I'll contact you again with a more detailed response."

[Caroline Nokes](#) and I will continue to press for a meeting and I will let you know as soon as there is any further news.

Tackling fly-tipping: stronger national powers to back up Hampshire's tough approach

As many of you will know, I am infuriated by fly tipping and have championed a no excuses approach to investigation of the crime.

Therefore I very much welcome this week's announcement from Government setting out new guidance to help councils crack down even harder on fly-tipping. With 1.26 million incidents recorded across England last year, this is a crime that damages our countryside, costs taxpayers money, and frustrates communities who take pride in where they live.

Hampshire already has an excellent track record for prosecuting offenders, naming and shaming those responsible, and seizing vehicles used in waste crime. These new national measures will strengthen our hand even further.

The guidance gives councils clear instructions on how to identify, seize and, where appropriate, crush vehicles used to dump waste. It also encourages the use of CCTV, drones and ANPR to catch offenders in the act, and sets out how councils can take stronger cases to court and secure convictions against vehicle owners.

National figures show councils seized 139 vehicles last year and carried out 572,000 enforcement actions — an 8% increase — including 69,000 fixed penalty notices. The direction of travel is clear: tougher enforcement, more prosecutions, and greater transparency about those who blight our communities.

For Hampshire residents, this means even more robust action against those who think they can dump waste and get away with it. Every prosecution, every seized vehicle, and every offender publicly held to account helps protect our countryside and keeps our communities cleaner and safer.

I'll continue to champion strong enforcement and ensure Hampshire remains at the forefront of tackling waste crime.

National Cyber Crime and Fraud website

Cyber crime and fraud now make up around half of all crime in the UK, affecting millions of people and costing the economy billions every year. With scams becoming more sophisticated, it's vital that residents know where to turn if something goes wrong.

The City of London Police has now launched Report Fraud – the new national service for reporting cyber crime and fraud across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This replaces Action Fraud and provides a single, modern gateway for victims, businesses and organisations to get help and ensure reports reach the right place.

If you ever fall victim to cyber crime or fraud, please report it here:

👉 UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud – Report Fraud: <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk>

They'll guide you through what happened and make sure your report goes straight to the police.

The new service includes:

- A 24/7 online reporting tool and dedicated Report Fraud Contact Centre
- A strengthened national intelligence system to help law enforcement respond more effectively
- Clear guidance on how to protect yourself from scams
- Cyber security advice for organisations, helping businesses and community groups reduce their risk
- Cyber crime can affect anyone — individuals, families, small businesses and major organisations alike. Knowing where to report it is the first step in fighting back.

If you need help, or want to learn how to protect yourself, visit the Report Fraud website.

Hampshire's Older Residents Living Independently at Home

Tens of thousands of older people across Hampshire have begun this year exactly where they want to be — safe, supported, and living independently in their own homes. According to the latest figures, over 40,000 residents are now benefiting from tailored support ranging from telecare and Meals on Wheels to respite care and recovery services.

And in a climate where many councils are cutting back or collapsing under financial pressure, Hampshire is delivering the opposite — protecting frontline services for vulnerable older people and expanding the support that helps them stay out of hospital and avoid residential care. This is not happening by accident. It is the direct result of the prudent, disciplined stewardship that the Conservative-led County Council has maintained for years.

Let me spell it out plainly:

While other councils struggle, Hampshire is quietly getting on with the job — and delivering for its residents.

Older people are being supported to live independently because this council has kept its finances stable and its priorities straight.

This is exactly what our campaign pledges are about: protecting the vulnerable, safeguarding essential services, and spending taxpayers' money wisely.

The support now in place includes:

- Telecare and digital monitoring to keep people safe at home
- Meals on Wheels for those who need daily help
- Reablement and recovery services after hospital stays
- Practical support for carers and families

- Tailored care plans that keep people independent for longer

With Hampshire's population of over-75s expected to rise significantly by 2030, this work is more important than ever. Your Conservative County Council is planning ahead, investing sensibly, and protecting the services that matter most — exactly as we've promised.

This is what responsible leadership looks like:

- ✓ Supporting vulnerable older people
- ✓ Keeping people safe in their own homes
- ✓ Protecting essential services
- ✓ Spending public money wisely
- ✓ Delivering on our pledges for Hampshire's future

I'll continue championing this work and ensuring Hampshire remains one of the best places in the country to grow older with dignity, independence, and the right support in place.

Searching for local community groups?

Want information to help stay independent?

Need advice on how to manage your care and support?

ConnectToSupportHampshire.org.uk

Hampshire County Council

Your online one-stop-shop for information, advice and services to help you manage your care, stay independent and connect to your community.

Protecting Hampshire's Vital Services: The Budget Choices Facing Us This Year.

At the end of last month Hampshire County Council considered our budget for 2026/27 — a £3.3 billion plan that keeps essential services running for all 1.45 million residents from April.

This is one of the most difficult budgets we have ever had to prepare. Demand for social care is rising sharply, the cost of school transport for children with special educational needs and disabilities has almost doubled in four years, and Hampshire has been hit hard by the Government's latest funding settlement. Over the next three years, we will lose almost £40 million a year in Government grants — leaving us the lowest-funded shire county in England per head of population.

As I've said:

“By law, councils must balance the books, but every year the task becomes tougher and more brutal. More people need our help, costs keep climbing, and once again support from central Government has dwindled.”

Why the pressure is so severe

Adult Social Care

The cost of residential and nursing care for older people has risen by £20 million in just 12 months. We are supporting an extra 45 older residents every month. As people live longer, more families turn to us when their loved ones’ savings run out.

School Transport for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:

By 2026/27, the cost will have almost doubled in four years, from £43 million to £83 million. This is a statutory service — we cannot reduce it, nor should we.

What we’ve already done

We are leaving no stone unturned.
£95 million in savings delivered this year.
A further £40 million expected before year-end.

Every efficiency, every new way of working, every opportunity to save money is being pursued. This work has already reduced our 2026/27 budget gap by almost £40 million — but reserves cannot continue to prop up essential services indefinitely.

The Choice on Council Tax

This year we have supported a 4.99% increase

This is within the maximum allowed without a referendum. It includes a 2% adult social care precept. It helps stabilise our position while we continue to push for fairer funding and explore every remaining lever — including closer working with the NHS to share the burden of social care more fairly. There are still levers we can pull to reduce both the scale and the need for future increases.

Investing in Hampshire’s future: £971 million capital programme

Alongside the revenue budget, Cabinet will also consider a major capital investment programme — funded largely by developer contributions and Government grants — totalling £971 million from 2026/27.

This programme improves Hampshire’s infrastructure and reduces long-term costs by providing services closer to home.

Key proposals include:

£187 million. New and extended school buildings

£49 million. High Needs SEND provision

£71 million. Children’s social care, including a new secure children’s home

£178 million. Roads and bridges: structural maintenance and improvements

£216 million. Integrated Transport Plan schemes

£124 million. Condition-based improvements to school buildings

£47 million. Waste and recycling facilities - to allow Hampshire to recycle plastics

What happens next

18 February — Cabinet considers the 2026/27 revenue and capital budgets, including the council tax options.

26 February — Full Council makes the final decision.

My commitment to residents

As we move towards local government reorganisation across Hampshire and the Solent in 2028, stable and sustainable finances are essential. Whatever new unitary councils emerge, they will only succeed if the foundations are sound.

Hampshire is well-run, financially disciplined, and focused relentlessly on protecting the most vulnerable. But we cannot continue to absorb rising costs without fairer funding from Government. I will keep fighting for Hampshire — for the services residents rely on, for responsible financial stewardship, and for a funding system that recognises the pressures we face.

Test Valley Association of Town and Parish Councils.

The next meeting of the Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils is being held on Thursday 5 March at [King's Somborne Village Hall](#).

All parish and town councillors and clerks are welcome to attend from 6pm for coffee and cake with a 6.15 start. Please do pass these details onto your parish and town networks and ask them to RSVP to esilverton@testvalley.gov.uk



The session will include an update on the Local Plan from Graham Smith along with a session facilitated by Andy Ferrier building on neighbourhood governance/working at place discussions to explore how we can continue to work together over the coming year or so to influence government and the new unitary.

Please follow this [link](#) for more details about the meeting.

The Association's Facebook Group can be accessed via the following link and is available for all clerks and councillors to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627786958539/>

The Association's website can be accessed here: [Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils | Test Valley Borough Council](#)

County Councillor Grants

The County Councillor Grant scheme is operating once more, with a lesser amount of £5,000, the window has now closed for applications and I'm pleased to say all that amount has been distributed locally.

Grants made to Sherfield English Netball club, Wellow Lunch Club, Nursling and Rownhams May Fayre, Nursling Village Hall, Lockerley School PTA, West Tytherley Village Shop and Community Hub and Lockerley Scouts.

The scheme will reopen again in June, with a further £5,000 to be distributed by either me or whomever is the new County Councillor for Romsey Rural after the election.

Getting About

I've been to Wellow ,Awbridge, Sherfield English, Lockerley, and West Tytherley Parish Councils.


Contact

Do please get in touch if I can ever be of any help. For those of you using social media, I post very regular updates on many local issues including roadworks and planning applications on my Facebook page here: facebook.com/nickadamsking

Contact me:

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CLLR NICK ADAMS-KING

Caring for Romsey Rural



General Updates from HCC:

More than 100,000 illegal vapes and tobacco products seized by Hampshire County Council in 2025, marking record haul

A record 116,000 illegal vapes and tobacco products, valued at £138,000, were seized by Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards team last year – part of ongoing efforts to protect communities from unsafe and unlawful products

[More than 100,000 illegal vapes and tobacco products seized by Hampshire County Council in 2025, marking record haul | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council's prevention first approach is helping residents take positive steps to stay healthy and well

As winter continues to put pressure on people's health and local services, more Hampshire residents are taking positive steps to stay well, active, and independent through prevention-first support in their communities

[Hampshire County Council's prevention first approach is helping residents take positive steps to stay healthy and well | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire headteachers urge teachers to step forward into school leadership

Headteachers across Hampshire are joining forces with Hampshire County Council to encourage more senior teachers to take the next step into school leadership – highlighting the county as a place where headteachers are well supported, connected and able to make a lasting difference

[Hampshire headteachers urge teachers to step forward into school leadership | Hampshire County Council](#)

Grand opening marks new era for education in Waterlooville

Hampshire County Council has celebrated its landmark third new primary school this academic year, as Councillors Roz Chadd and Steve Forster officially opened Newlands Primary Academy near Waterlooville

[Grand opening marks new era for education in Waterlooville | Hampshire County Council](#)

Celebrating Hampshire apprentices with continued investment in local skills, communities and future talent

As organisations across the UK mark National Apprenticeship Week 2026, Hampshire County Council is celebrating the important role apprenticeships play in growing talent and supporting the local economy to thrive

[Celebrating Hampshire apprentices with continued investment in local skills, communities and future talent | Hampshire County Council](#)

Protecting Hampshire's vital services: County Council Cabinet to weigh up careful budget plans for 2026/27

Hampshire County Council's annual budget totalling £3.3 billion for 2026/27 will be considered by the Authority's Cabinet next week, to ensure the continued delivery of essential services to Hampshire's 1.4 million residents from this April

[Protecting Hampshire's vital services: County Council Cabinet to weigh up careful budget plans for 2026/27 | Hampshire County Council](#)

Green & Thrifty Fortnight returns to Hampshire Libraries

Green & Thrifty Fortnight returns to Hampshire Libraries this month, offering residents a wide range of free events and eco-friendly activities designed to support more affordable and sustainable lifestyles

[Green & Thrifty Fortnight returns to Hampshire Libraries | Hampshire County Council](#)

Report highlights the harms from alcohol and the support available

More people in Hampshire are now seeking advice and treatment to reduce their alcohol consumption, according to the latest report from Hampshire County Council's Director of Public Health

[Report highlights the harms from alcohol and the support available | Hampshire County Council](#)

Final decision to be made on proposed merger of Leigh Park primary and secondary schools

A final decision will be made next week on the possible merger of Park Community School (secondary) with the Federation of Riders Infant and Junior Schools in Leigh Park, Havant

[Final decision to be made on proposed merger of Leigh Park primary and secondary schools | Hampshire County Council](#)

Decision to be made on proposed changes to School and Post-16 Transport Policies

Potential changes to Hampshire County Council's School Transport and Post-16 Transport Policies are due to be considered next week, following two public consultations held towards the end of last year

[Decision to be made on proposed changes to School and Post-16 Transport Policies | Hampshire County Council](#)

Get ready to cast your vote in the Hampshire County Council elections

Hampshire residents will go to the polls on Thursday 7 May 2026 to cast their votes in the Hampshire County Council elections

[Get ready to cast your vote in the Hampshire County Council elections | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council set to examine final design and construction plans for upgraded Havant footbridge

Proposals to replace an ageing 79-year-old footbridge in Havant will be considered by Hampshire County Council next month

[Hampshire County Council set to examine final design and construction plans for upgraded Havant footbridge | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council to consider 'Active Travel' improvement scheme for Andover town centre

A scheme to improve walking, wheeling, and cycling between Andover town centre and residential areas to the east of the town is set to be considered by Hampshire County Council at the beginning of March

[Hampshire County Council to consider 'Active Travel' improvement scheme for Andover town centre | Hampshire County Council](#)

Helping Nature - Hampshire County Council set to examine Hampshire's Biodiversity Duty Report

Hampshire County Council has today published its first statutory Biodiversity Duty Report, setting out in detail how the authority has conserved and enhanced biodiversity across Hampshire between January 2023 and December 2025, that will go before the Universal Services Select Committee on 2 March

[Helping Nature - Hampshire County Council set to examine Hampshire's Biodiversity Duty Report | Hampshire County Council](#)

Major bus service improvements proposed setting Hampshire on the road to double passenger journeys

Hampshire could be well on the way to meet ambitious targets to double the number of bus passenger journeys by 2035, according to a report to be considered on 2 March

[Major bus service improvements proposed setting Hampshire on the road to double passenger journeys | Hampshire County Council](#)

Local reaction to major national announcement on special educational needs and disabilities

Local organisations working to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Hampshire have shared their joint response to proposed SEND reforms announced by Government today

[Local reaction to major national announcement on special educational needs and disabilities | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire Youth Parliament launches new term and sets priorities for 2026–2027

Hampshire Youth Parliament (HYP) has officially begun its new two-year term, bringing together Youth Councillors from across the county for their first in-person meeting of the year

[Hampshire Youth Parliament launches new term and sets priorities for 2026–2027 | Hampshire County Council](#)

Final decision made on amalgamation of Leigh Park primary and secondary schools

Three Leigh Park schools are set to merge later this year, creating an all-through school for children aged four to 16

[Final decision made on amalgamation of Leigh Park primary and secondary schools | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council invests in two new special needs projects

More children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Andover and Bramley will soon access the right support closer to home, thanks to two new projects which have received Hampshire County Council's seal of approval

[Hampshire County Council invests in two new special needs projects | Hampshire County Council](#)

Changes agreed to School Transport and Post-16 Transport Policies

Hampshire County Council's School Transport and Post-16 Transport Policies are set to be updated, following changes agreed today (Tuesday, 24 February)

