

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES

September 2026

Andover West

Cllr Chris Donnelly



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

The Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority Board met for the second time on Monday 28 September. The Board considered several items, including the Draft Budget 2027-28 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and the establishment and membership of HSCCA Advisory Boards and Committees. This means that Hampshire County Council's nominees to HSCCA committees, which were agreed at July's Full Council, are now formally appointed as members of those committees.

As a strategic authority, the Combined Authority has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Growth Plan, which will provide a long-term strategic framework for economic growth and productivity across the region of Hampshire and the Solent. A company called MetroDynamics will be working with the Combined Authority as a delivery partner on the Local Growth Plan, and in Monday's meeting the Board heard a presentation by MetroDynamics on the early development of the Plan. Engagement with stakeholders and partners to inform the drafting of the Local Growth Plan will take place during autumn and winter 2026-27.

Health & Social Care

Hampshire 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.

The discharge service, which will be delivered in partnership with NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, will commence on or after 1 January for an initial three-year period, with the option to extend for a further two years. Around 650 Hampshire residents are expected to benefit each year from the service, which will enable them to leave hospital and recover in a home or community setting as soon as it is safe and appropriate for them to do so.

The new service forms part of the County Council's wider commitment to preventative measures that help Hampshire residents live healthy and independent lives, while delaying or reducing the need for complex care. Last week, the County Council published two new strategies – the Public Health Strategy and Adult Social Care Prevention First Strategy – which set out our vision and plans for improving health and preventing more people from becoming unwell and developing care needs.

Calls for greater share of Vehicle Excise Duty (Road Tax) to pay for highway maintenance

We are calling for a fairer share of Vehicle Excise Duty for Hampshire and greater local flexibility over how funding is used, so we can target investment where it is needed most and make the best decisions for our residents and businesses.

As the Government pursues its devolution agenda, there is growing recognition that decisions are often best made closest to the communities they affect. We would welcome the support of residents, businesses, community groups and Hampshire's MPs in making the case for increased investment in Hampshire's highways network and greater local control over how funding is spent locally

Hampshire's local highway network continues to face increasing and unprecedented pressures from inflation, ageing infrastructure, growing traffic demand and more frequent severe weather events. 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.

Andover Museum

I now sit on the Board of the Hampshire Cultural Trust as the HCC representative. I am really pleased that we now have agreement between Test Valley Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and Andover Town Council to financially support the Museum for the next two years.

The Andover Museum is one of the HCT venues which is not financially sustainable, and requires subsidy from the more remunerative attractions. This causes a constant pressure on its viability. The support from the borough and town councils is hugely helpful in recognising its importance to Andover, but also bringing more local voices to the table to discuss its future.

The conversation initially arose from discussions around Local Government Reorganisation, however even though this is currently on ice, it should not stop us looking at how we can do things differently and work collaboratively to ensure that our local priorities are safeguarded.

Over the next two years, all parties will work together to create a viable plan for the museum to allow it to continue and hopefully expand on a more sustainable footing.

Highways maintenance update

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.

In Andover West, we now have all bar two of our resurfacing projects complete. So far we have completed:

- Artists Way
- Saxon Way
- Charlton Road
- Shakespeare Avenue
- Upper Drove
- Milton Avenue (large patching)
- Churchill Way (large patching)
- Monxton Road (large patching)
- Cholderton Road
- A342 Weyhill Road
- Short Lane/Harroway Lane
- A342 Slip Road Eastbound at Thruxton
- Hundred Acre Roundabout
- Penton Lane, Clanville to Penton Grafton

The two outstanding projects are:

- Amesbury Road, Weyhill, which is currently at 17 on the priority list.
- Foxcotte Lane from Charlton to Weyhill Bottom, half of which is due to be resurfaced in the coming weeks.

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.