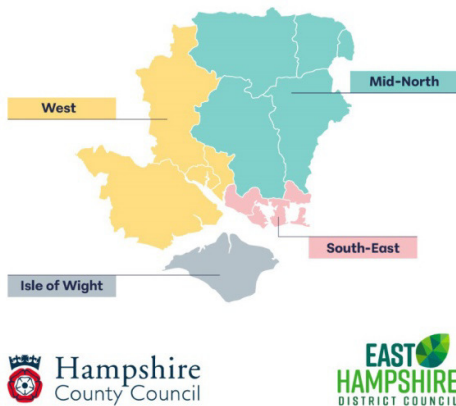


Update from Hampshire County Council – October 2025

Proposed new councils



HCC



TVBC

Shaping a stronger future - transforming local government across Hampshire and the Solent

Hampshire County Council has today submitted an ambitious and carefully-considered proposal to central Government, setting out a new model for local government across Hampshire and the Solent area that delivers better local services and stronger communities

The plan, shaped by extensive engagement and robust evidence, recommends the creation of four new unitary (all-purpose) councils that provide simpler, stronger, more connected, and more efficient services for residents and their families. Government wants all parts of the country with two tiers of local government to reorganise. Across Hampshire and the Solent area, this would involve 15 councils being replaced by a smaller number of unitary councils that deliver all services.

What happens next?

The Government will now review the County Council's four unitary council proposal and launch a public consultation in November before deciding in spring next year, the future structure of local government across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250926LGR_submission_to_Government

Test Valley Borough Council backs historic proposal to join New Forest, Winchester and East Hampshire

Test Valley borough councillors yesterday voted to back a bold plan for local government reorganisation, which would see them join with Winchester, New Forest and East Hampshire to create a new unitary council.

Councillors considered a joint proposal drafted by 12 of the 15 councils in Hampshire, titled 'Close enough to be local, big enough to stay strong'. It puts forward the case to government, supported by extensive evidence, analysis and research, to create four new mainland authorities for the area grouped around the major centres of Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester and Basingstoke. The Isle of Wight would remain its own island unitary authority.

In line with the preferred option selected by local residents, TVBC has thrown its weight behind option one, which would see it join with the three largely rural authorities in mid-Hampshire.

<https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2025/sep/test-valley-borough-council-backs-historic-proposal-to-join-new-forest-winchester-and-east-hampshire>

Update from Hampshire County Council – October 2025

On your marks, get set!... – just a few weeks to go until weekly food waste collections begin in Test Valley

There's just one month to go until Test Valley's new weekly food waste collection service officially starts on Monday 13 October 2025.

Delivery of the food waste caddy packs has begun. These include a five-litre kitchen caddy, a 23-litre kerbside caddy, a roll of compostable liners, and an information leaflet explaining how the service works. Properties with shared bins will have a communal 140-litre grey-lidded wheeled bin.

Residents are being reminded to store their caddy liners in a dry place and keep the information leaflet safe for future reference. Households should keep an eye out for a postcard from the council saying what day their food waste will be collected.

The new weekly service will see food waste taken to an anaerobic digestion facility, where it will be transformed into renewable fuel and nutrient-rich fertiliser.

<https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2025/sep/get-ready-get-set-just-one-month-to-go-until-weekly-food-waste-collections-begin-in-test-valley>

Help to support residents facing barriers to employment

Hampshire County Council has unveiled plans to help more residents across the county into meaningful, sustainable work, especially those who have faced barriers such as long-term health conditions, caring responsibilities, or lack of qualifications

The [Get Hampshire Working Plan](#) brings together local employers, health services, education and training providers, local authorities, housing associations and community organisations to tackle the root causes of unemployment and economic inactivity, and better connect employment, health and skills support, based on local needs.

The Plan, produced in response to the Government's 'Get Britain Working' white paper, which sets out proposals to reform employment, health and skills support to tackle economic inactivity and support people into good work, addresses three urgent labour market challenges locally:

- **Labour market exclusion** – supporting people facing barriers to employment including women, residents impacted by ill-health and disabilities, and older workers.

- **Youth employment** – helping young people to thrive at the start of their careers, through better careers support, work experience opportunities, and skills training.

- **Insecure and low-quality work** – working with employers to create inclusive recruitment practices and match local talent to local, sustainable work opportunities.

More information on the variety of employment support currently available can be found on the County Council's website at: [Employer support | Business and economy | Hampshire County Council](#)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250919GetHampshireWorking>

Don't get spooked by the deadline – apply for your child's secondary school place by 31 October

Parents with children due to start secondary school next year can now apply for their child's school place

Applications are open until 11:59 pm on Friday, 31 October 2025 for pupils moving up to year 7 in September 2026. To improve your chances of getting into a preferred school, remember to name three

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schools on your application and to submit it on time. This gives your child the best chance of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools. Some parents mistakenly believe that naming just one school will increase their child's chance of securing the place they want, but this can in fact mean they miss out on a place in a nearby school altogether, particularly in areas of high demand.

Online applications: [Submit your application online](#). An electronic application form can also be requested by emailing admissions.team@hants.gov.uk. You can log back in to amend your application any time before the closing date on 31 October 2025. Remember to resubmit after making any changes.

Applicants with email address: You'll be notified of the outcome on 2 March 2026. Applicants without email address: You'll receive a letter two to three working days later.

For more guidance visit the [Education and Learning](#) pages on the County Council's website: [hants.gov.uk](https://www.hants.gov.uk).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20251008secondaryapplications>

HCC Members Grants to be reintroduced from 1st October

Following the recent review of County Councillor grants, and consideration of the feedback from the Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Select Committee Working Group and Committee Members, Cabinet has approved the Scheme continuing, but with some changes, to be phased in during 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Reduced annual budget per Councillor by £3000, from £8,000 to £5,000. A maximum limit of £1,000 per application. Organisations cannot apply for grants over multiple years for the same purpose e.g. for the same event. This takes effect immediately when the new grant window opens. Grant awards from the previous two years will need to be taken into account when applications are assessed.

Grants will continue to be available for Parish Councils, however grants should not support normal business operation or projects that can be revenue funded (including through precepts) or funded through alternative sources like the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Grants for time-specific activities, such as seasonal events, must be awarded before the event takes place, otherwise they will be automatically rejected.

All projects supported through the scheme must clearly acknowledge County Council funding in all promotional materials. Appropriate branding is available to organisations to ensure consistent and visible recognition of the Council's contribution. This requirement aligns with the County Council's brand permissions, which states that acknowledging Council support is a condition of receiving grants. Full details of the policy are available at:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/contact/communications/corporatebranding>.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

David Drew

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Harewood ward, TVBC