

July 2025 Update

1) Hampshire County Council plans over 100 transport improvements for 2025/26

Hampshire County Council is planning over 100 transport improvement projects across the county in the coming year to make everyday journeys safer, greener, and easier for everyone.

[Hampshire County Council plans over 100 transport improvements for 2025/26 | Hampshire County Council](#)

The full list is here:

[The Transport Strategy and Scheme Development Programme-2025-06-27-EMH2050 Decision Day](#)

The top scheme in East Hants is the Clanfield Accessibility scheme: *“Scheme to mitigate impact of development traffic. Includes improvements to Drift Road”*.

2) Go-ahead given for introduction of Hampshire-wide food waste recycling

Plans to enable Hampshire residents to recycle household food waste from April 2026 have been confirmed. Hampshire County Council has agreed to progress with arrangements that will see an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes of food waste from Hampshire households recycled through anaerobic digestion – a process where bacteria breaks down organic matter producing valuable by-products such as renewable gas and organic fertilizer.

[Go-ahead given for introduction of Hampshire-wide food waste recycling | Hampshire County Council](#)

3) Hampshire County Council to consider ‘lane rental’ proposals to minimise roadworks disruption

Proposals that could lead to the introduction of a new lane rental scheme aimed at reducing roadworks delays on over 550 miles of Hampshire’s busiest roads during peak times, are set to be considered by Hampshire County Council later this month

[Hampshire County Council to consider ‘lane rental’ proposals to minimise roadworks disruption | Hampshire County Council](#)

4) HCC is appointing a new CEO.

Over 100 people applied, and after longlisting 11 candidates, and short listing 4, the new CEO is the current deputy CEO Gary Westbrook.

[Hampshire County Council to confirm appointment of new Chief Executive | Hampshire County Council](#)

5) Decisions due this summer on future services

From older adults’ day services to school transport and planned road maintenance, this summer will see key decisions made on the future of some important County Council services delivered to Hampshire residents after April 2026

[Decisions due this summer on future services | Hampshire County Council](#)

6) Bookings open for Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food summer programme

Hampshire County Council's popular Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back for the 2025 summer holidays – and eligible families can now browse and book free places for their children at local schemes across the county

[Bookings open for Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food summer programme | Hampshire County Council](#)

7) Upgrades completed on popular Hayling Billy Trail to create 'all weather' surface

People using the Hayling Billy Trail, on Hayling Island in Havant, can now benefit from a brand-new 'all-weather' surface, making it easier for walkers, cyclists, mobility scooter users, and horse riders to use in all seasons throughout the year

[Upgrades completed on popular Hayling Billy Trail to create 'all weather' surface | Hampshire County Council](#)

8) Hampshire County Council reviews early options for simpler, stronger, secure councils of the future

Hampshire County Council is assessing four potential options for local government across Hampshire and the Solent as it closes in on identifying the best way of delivering simpler, stronger and secure councils in the future under Government plans to shake up councils across the country

[Hampshire County Council reviews early options for simpler, stronger, secure councils of the future | Hampshire County Council](#)

9) Hampshire County Council announces £12.5 million support package for vulnerable households

Vulnerable Hampshire households struggling with rising costs can access a range of support thanks to a comprehensive £12.5 million package unveiled by Hampshire County Council

[Hampshire County Council announces £12.5 million support package for vulnerable households | Hampshire County Council](#)

10) More special needs school places for children in Gosport and the New Forest

More children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Gosport and the New Forest will access the right support closer to home, thanks to the addition of new special needs places in two local schools.

[More special needs school places for children in Gosport and the New Forest | Hampshire County Council](#)

11) Festival at The Fort: a vibrant celebration of music and culture comes to Gosport next week

An exciting creative arts festival is coming to Gosport next week, celebrating local heritage and culture and involving more than 700 schoolchildren from the town.

[Festival at The Fort: a vibrant celebration of music and culture comes to Gosport next week | Hampshire County Council](#)

12) Hamble Airfield – Planning Inquiry re-commences

The planning appeal in relation to plans by CEMEX to develop a new quarry at the former Hamble Airfield in Hampshire, re-commences on Tuesday 24 June, lasting for three days.

[Hamble Airfield – Planning Inquiry re-commences | Hampshire County Council](#)

13) New Parent? You're not alone.

If you're adjusting to life with a little one and craving some connection, Hampshire's Libraries are here for you.

Hampshire County Council's free 'New Parents Meet and Connect' events offer a relaxed space to share the highs and lows of parenthood—no pressure, just friendly faces, gentle chat, and maybe a few laughs too.

Harry, a new dad who attends his local session, shared: "It's an informative group for a new Dad. I enjoyed quality time with my baby – we especially enjoyed the sensory play."



No need to book—just drop in when it suits you. ¹⁴ Find your nearest session:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../lib.../services/support-parents>

Simpler. Stronger. Secure (more details)

Last week a consultation was launched by some councils in Hampshire and the Solent about the future shape of local government in our area. Each council is being asked to submit a proposal for how new council areas should be created. The consultation asks respondents to draw on a map their "local" area and to define what localism means to them. There is no back up material to explain the different options available. Neither HCC not EHDC is part of this group of councils.

Hampshire County Council is also reviewing early options for the future shape of local councils across Hampshire and the Solent and will be consulting on our proposal later this summer.

Under Government plans, all two-tier areas must transition to single-tier unitary councils by 2028—meaning changes to how local services are delivered. The aim? To create simpler, more efficient councils that are financially resilient and responsive to residents' needs. I absolutely recognise there is a huge risk this will not be the outcome, which is why HCC are undertaking a rigorous assessment of options before suggesting a solution.

It's vital that any new councils created protect the high-quality services upon which residents rely—and ensure long-term financial strength.

Four possible options are now being assessed, each grouping local authority areas differently. Here's a quick look:



Option 1: Three-unitary model

North: Basingstoke & Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley, Winchester

South: Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth, Southampton

Isle of Wight: Remains as a stand-alone unitary

(Let me be very clear, I do not believe this model should be promoted, the areas are too large, and the risks created by merging the services of so many councils together are too great. This model though should be explored to provide a base line for our deliberation.)



Option 2: Four-unitary model (South split in two)

North: Basingstoke & Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Test Valley, Winchester

South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton

South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth

Isle of Wight: Stand-alone unitary



Option 3: Variant four-unitary model (Test Valley shifted)

North: Basingstoke & Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester

South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley

South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth

Isle of Wight: Stand-alone unitary



Option 4: Five-unitary model (more localised focus)

North-East: Basingstoke & Deane, Hart, Rushmoor

Central: Test Valley, Winchester, East Hampshire

South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton

South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth

Isle of Wight: Stand-alone unitary

What's next? A preferred option will be selected this summer for public feedback. Final proposals will be submitted to Government this autumn, before a further Government led consultation in 2026.