

September Update from Hampshire County Councillor Jan Warwick

Local Government Reform:

Hampshire County Council has put forward a proposal for four unitary authorities, designed to balance financial resilience, service quality, and local identity. The suggested configuration includes a North and Mid Hampshire authority (covering areas like Winchester, Basingstoke and Deane, and East Hampshire), a South-West authority (including Southampton, Test Valley, and New Forest), a South-East authority (encompassing Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport, and Havant), and the Isle of Wight as a standalone unitary.

This model is grounded in rigorous financial analysis and aims to protect vital services—particularly for our most vulnerable residents—while delivering long-term savings and stability. But it's important to acknowledge that this is not the only vision. Other councils have expressed concerns about scale, identity, and democratic accountability. Some fear that larger authorities may feel remote or disconnected from the communities they serve.

There is no single “right” answer. Each proposal has merit. Each reflects a different emphasis—whether on place, efficiency, or local voice. What matters most is that we approach this process with openness, respect, and a shared commitment to doing what's best for our residents.

The Government will decide the outcome, in March 2026.

Hampshire Police warn of Quad Bike Thefts Across Hampshire's Rural Communities

Hampshire Police have seen a sharp rise in the theft of quad bikes across the county. These vehicles are often targeted for use in further crimes.

Hampshire Police's Country Watch Rural Crime Task Force is actively investigating all reports to identify patterns and suspects. We need your help to keep our countryside safe.

How You Can Protect Your Quad Bike

- Take clear photos from all angles, including serial numbers
- Security mark your vehicle with your postcode and property ID
- Register at (<https://www.immobilise.com>)
- Store vehicles in locked outbuildings with CCTV and lighting
- Use wheel clamps, ground anchors, and GPS trackers
- Remove keys when not in use

 Seen suspicious activity? Quad bikes in convoy or late-night driving?

 Call 101 or report online at [[hampshire.police.uk](https://www.hampshire.police.uk)](<https://www.hampshire.police.uk>)

 Or contact Crimestoppers anonymously at 0800 555 111 or [crimestoppers-uk.org](<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>)

 If a crime is in progress, always dial 999

Hampshire County Council to confirm appointment of new Chief Executive

Hampshire County Council is set to confirm the appointment of its next Chief Executive at a meeting of the Full Council on 17 July

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

Could you help change a child's life, one unforgettable moment at a time?

From cosy family movie nights and graduation day, to riding a bike for the very first time – foster carers get to be there for the most precious moments in a child or young person's life

[Could you help change a child's life, one unforgettable moment at a time? | Hampshire County Council](#)

£100,000 funding boost for mental health support in primary schools

More children in Hampshire will now benefit from mental health and wellbeing support thanks to an investment of over £100,000 announced today by Hampshire County Council

[£100,000 funding boost for mental health support in primary schools | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council's country parks regain prestigious Green Flag status

Once again, five of Hampshire County Council's country parks have gained prestigious Green Flag status, recognising they offer the highest standards in visitor experience, park management and environmental care

[Hampshire County Council's country parks regain prestigious Green Flag status | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire and the Solent devolution reaches new milestone

The Government has confirmed that it will be progressing with the creation of a new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Hampshire and the Solent

[Hampshire and the Solent devolution reaches new milestone | Hampshire County Council](#)

New provider announced for Hampshire school meals

Schools, nurseries and families who purchase school meals through Hampshire County Council will pay less from next year, following the appointment of a new catering provider

[New provider announced for Hampshire school meals | Hampshire County Council](#)

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-a-problem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/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-a-problem/brokensigns>

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

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

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