

Hampshire County Councillor Update – August 2025

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk)



Devolution

Elections for the new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Hampshire and the Solent have been confirmed for May 2026. As well as promoting the interests of the wider region to central Government, the Mayor will work with local council leaders to make strategic decisions for our region in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change.

More information can be found at: [Devolution](#) | [About the Council](#) | [Hampshire County Council](#)

Local Government Reorganisation – Hampshire Consultation Open

Under national plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), central Government intends to replace Hampshire County Council, 11 district and borough councils across the county, plus the unitary councils of Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight, with a number of unitary local authorities, all delivering the same public services as they do now to help make councils more efficient and effective. All 15 local authorities in the region have been tasked to come up with proposals for how councils should be reorganised from 2028 onwards, evidenced against various criteria. They will then be submitted to central Government this autumn for a final decision.

Your Councils – A Better Future

Have your say on our ideas
for new councils across the
Hampshire and Solent area

Find out more at
hants.gov.uk/LGR

Hampshire County Council, working in partnership with East Hampshire District Council, has developed a model that would see the current 15 councils in the area replaced by four new unitary councils – three on the mainland and one for the Isle of Wight. The HCC proposal for four unitary authorities has been estimated to save around £50 million a year. Separately to this, a group of district councils (including Winchester) are reviewing alternative options, all based around five unitary authorities.

Hampshire County Council's public engagement on LGR runs from Monday 21 July to Sunday 17 August 2025. Residents, businesses, stakeholders and organisations across the area are all encouraged to share their views. You can find full details of the proposals and the engagement survey at www.hants.gov.uk/lgr

Travel Alert: Lane Closures on A32 Wickham Road for M27 Junction 10 Works

As part of the M27 Junction 10 development scheme, 24-hour lane closures will be in place over a 26-day period on a 200-metre section of the A32 Wickham Road. The work will involve alternating closures of the northbound and southbound lanes, enabling traffic to always pass in one direction under the control of temporary traffic lights. Journeys are expected to take longer during this time, and road users are advised to allow extra time for travel.

This work is required to connect a new road layout to the existing network and to deliver drainage improvements, diversion of utility cables, earthworks, resurfacing, and the installation of a new traffic island. The improvements are designed to support the development of Welborne Garden Village, a new community of up to 6,000 homes, and to provide improved access to the M27.

New Provider Announced for Hampshire School Meals

From January 2026, the County Council will provide school meals through a new supplier – Chartwells – under a managed contract. This means that the County Council will keep overall responsibility and oversight of the service, but the day-to-day running (such as preparing and serving meals) will be carried out by Chartwells. As part of the change, schools and nurseries subscribed to the service, as well as families who pay for the meals provided at those settings, will see the current price of £3.20 drop to £2.75.

Chartwells is the UK's leading provider of catering to schools, academies, colleges and universities and serves millions of meals to students across the nation. Its meals are produced in line with a rigorous quality assurance process, using sustainably sourced fish certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, as well as 100 per cent British beef, milk, sausages and eggs certified by the British Red Tractor Assurance scheme. It has clear processes in place to manage allergies so that all children can enjoy school meals in a safe and inclusive way.

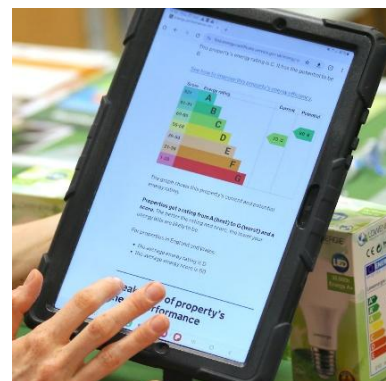
Lisa Priestley, Managing Director, Chartwells Schools, said: "We are delighted to be working with Hampshire County Council to deliver value to its schools, parents and pupils. This is a true partnership, which will see us work collaboratively to deliver positive outcomes for schools and the communities in which they operate.

Free Advice to Reduce Your Home Energy Bills

The Environment Centre has launched a ground-breaking service to make our homes warmer, greener and cheaper to run.

It's called **My Home Made Better**, and it offers free and impartial advice on everything from insulation and heating upgrades, to switching to new energy-efficient technologies.

Experienced energy advisers will simplify complex information and dispel myths to guide you through your options and help you find the best ways to keep the heat in, lower your energy bills, and make your home more comfortable.



This is how it works:

1. You call 0800 804 8601 (or email) to chat with one of the friendly advisers. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. You'll be asked about your property and circumstances, following which you will receive tailor-made recommendations and your own personalised plan. This will comprise a summary of everything discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. When you're ready, search the independent directory to find local suppliers and installers.

This should be a fantastic new service, and I encourage everyone to make use of it! For more information go to **myhomemadebetter.org**

Energy Efficiency Grants

The following offer advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- [Energy Saving Trust](#) – Guidance for the type of insulation for properties
- [Great British Insulation Scheme](#) – Eligible if the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D
- [Warmer Homes](#) – Warmer Homes provides fully funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income

households in properties that have EPC energy efficiency ratings from D to G. The previous iteration of this program has now closed, but the Government has just announced a further £26 million of funding has been awarded to our local consortium. Whilst the previous iteration of this scheme only funded measures in off-gas households, the new scheme will be open to all fuel types, including on gas households and off gas households.