

October 2025 HCC Report Cllr Juliet Henderson Candovers Oakley and Overton Division



New Schools Open

Thanks to Hampshire County Council, three brand-new primary schools are set to welcome the biggest expansion of school places we've seen in years.

Hounsome Fields Primary in Basingstoke
Stanhope Primary in Aldershot
Newlands Primary west of Waterloooville

These openings kick off the first phase of a three-year, £502 million investment in school buildings, delivering 10 new schools and 3,175 extra places by 2028. Of that, £390 million is ring-fenced for brand-new schools and expansions, adding over 19,000 pupil places since 2014.

What's more, each new primary will include an eight-place SEND unit from 2026, and the programme also funds three special schools, further expansions, and enhancements for children with special educational needs.

These schools are designed for energy efficiency and modern learning, with Hounsome Fields even meeting Passivhaus standards to keep classrooms comfy all year round.

Despite financial pressures, Hampshire County Council remains committed to sourcing external funding wherever possible, ensuring our communities get top-quality education close to home.

Adult Social Care Funding in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is under huge financial pressure, and one of the reasons is that the NHS, through the local Integrated Care Board (ICB), is not contributing enough funding to cover the rising costs of adult social care.

What this means is that the Council is being forced to pick up the bill for services that are really the NHS's responsibility – like hospital discharge support, reablement after illness, and specialist mental health placements for younger adults. These are not statutory duties for the Council, but without them, hospitals would struggle even more.

The result? Millions of pounds are being diverted from other vital services, leaving the Council's budget stretched to breaking point. Unless the NHS fully funds the health-related care it is responsible for, Hampshire residents will face cuts elsewhere.

Put simply: the Council is paying for NHS services out of local budgets, and that's not sustainable. We are out of step with other Councils in southern England, who receive much greater support to deliver these services.

Councillor Devolved Budget

It was confirmed that Councillor Grants will again be available from October. The Scheme has been revised following a review and some changes are being implemented, on a phased basis, from 1 October 2025. The County Councillor Grant scheme provides Members with an annual budget of £5,000, which they can allocate to local projects, initiatives or organisations in their Division. Please let me know if you are planning to apply.

[County Councillor grant application notes | 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.

£850 MILLION risk to taxpayers – why Hampshire must be cautious on reorganisation

The BBC's report last week revealed the Government has done no new analysis of the costs of local government reorganisation — relying instead on a 2020 PwC study.

PwC's updated figures show:

- The wrong model could cost £850m over 5 years and deliver no long-term savings.
- Smaller unitary councils (populations ~300,000) risk piling up unsustainable costs.

Leader Cllr Nick Adams-King, said in Hampshire County Council statements and to the press — "these changes aren't just about lines on a map. They affect complex, life-changing services like adult social care, which Hampshire already

delivers to 1.4 million people every day. Fragmenting them risks higher costs, reduced resilience, and disruption for residents.

Yes, reform at the right scale can work. But rushed, poorly-designed reorganisation could leave Hampshire taxpayers paying more for less — and frontline services under greater strain.

We must demand evidence-based decisions, rigorous scrutiny, and a clear plan that protects both services and value for money.”

You can read the BBC report here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj9wxnlrxdo>