



Juliet Henderson January 2026 Hampshire County Council Councillor Report Candovers Oakley and Overton Division

County Councillor Grants

The County Councillor Grant scheme is operating once more, with a lesser amount of £5,000 and new criteria as follows: I have already had a number of applications, but some funding remains.

Hampshire County Councillor Grants – Updated Criteria (September 2025)

Following a comprehensive review, Hampshire County Council has revised its County Councillor Grants Scheme to reflect budget constraints and improve effectiveness. Key changes include:

- **Reduced Allocation:** Each County Councillor now has an annual grant budget of **£5,000**, down from £8,000.
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- **Eligibility Restrictions:**
 - Grants are only available to **organisations**, not individuals.
 - Organisations **cannot apply for the same project** in consecutive years.
 - Applications must demonstrate **community benefit**, especially if from religious or statutory bodies.
- **Funding Limits:**
 - A **maximum of £1,000 per project** is now in place.
 - Grants for **seasonal or time-specific events** must be awarded **before the event date**.
- **Transparency and Branding:**

- All funded projects must **acknowledge County Council support** in promotional materials.
- **Application Assessment:**
 - Previous grant awards (from the last two years) will be considered during evaluation.
 - Preference may be given to organisations without access to other funding sources.

These changes aim to ensure the scheme remains fair, transparent, and aligned with the Council's strategic priorities while managing financial pressures.

Securing a Greener, Healthier Hampshire

Last week we launched Hampshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy — a shared blueprint for restoring and protecting the natural environment that makes our county such a special place to live.

Like the rest of the UK, Hampshire has seen a significant decline in biodiversity over the past 50 years. This strategy brings together the expertise of partners across the region and sets out practical steps to reverse that decline and ensure that at least 30% of our land and sea is secured for nature by 2030.

I'm incredibly grateful to all the organisations, landowners, community groups and residents who helped shape this plan. It reflects the views and ambitions of people right across Hampshire.

As part of our Hampshire Pledge, we're committed to looking after and enhancing our rich natural environment — and making sure our countryside remains open and accessible for everyone to enjoy. But this is something we can only achieve together.

- ✓ Making nature-friendly choices at home
- ✓ Getting involved in local conservation
- ✓ Simply spending time outdoors and valuing the landscapes around us

Every action, big or small, helps build a greener Hampshire.

This strategy will guide land-use decisions, support planning, and encourage investment in nature-based solutions to challenges like climate change and flooding. Most importantly, it gives us a clear, shared path to restoring habitats, reversing wildlife decline, and protecting Hampshire's natural heritage for future generations. If you'd like to read the full strategy, you can find it here: 

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../nature.../hampshire-strategy>

Together, we can make Hampshire a place where nature thrives and people thrive with it.

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.

Election Postponements message From HCC Leader Cllr Nick Adams-King

Two successive reports of election postponements in the last month.

"You may have seen reports suggesting that next year's Mayoral elections will be postponed for two years, until 2028.

It is massively disappointing. It's important to note that this does not affect the County Council and other local elections which will still go ahead on May 7th, 2026.

It is important to separate two distinct issues here. While the election of a Mayor may be delayed, the creation of the Combined Authority — and the transfer of powers and funding from Westminster that comes with it — remains vital.

Hampshire County Council Leader, Nick Adams-King, has been reassured that this process will continue as planned, and that the delay to the Mayoral election will not affect the establishment of the Combined Authority, the commencement of devolution, of Hampshire's ability to begin exercising those powers for the benefit of Hampshire and the Solent.

From the leader Nick Adams-King

"Of course, it is disappointing that the Mayoral election has been postponed — not least for those candidates who have already declared. But the real prize here is devolution, and that must be delivered next year. I therefore await confirmation in the coming days of both the statutory instrument to create the Combined Authority and the announcement of the infrastructure funding that will underpin it."

"Where the delay to the Mayoral election intersects with the creation of the Combined Authority is in our ability to influence national policy. The Mayor would normally sit on the Council of Nations and Regions. Given the size and importance of Hampshire and the Solent, it is vital that whoever chairs the Authority should take that seat until such time as a Mayor is elected."

"Our economy contributes as much to the UK as Wales, and our population is comparable to Northern Ireland. We deserve — and must have — that influence and voice at the national level as soon as possible. While it is deeply regrettable that this role will not initially be exercised by a directly elected Mayor, the council leaders who will form the Combined Authority board are equally capable of representing our area until the election is held.

"And then, the Government suggested Councils should consider whether the local elections scheduled for May should proceed, given Labour's plans for Local Government Reorganisation.

I'm sure you are by now as bored of this merry go round as I am.

For clarity, my statement in response to today's announcement is this:

"I have been clear that County elections are vital for local democracy and accountability. They ensure strong local representation for our 1.4 million residents across Hampshire in how we use over £3 billion of public funds to serve our local communities each year.

The Government have set the timeline for Local Government Reorganisation, it is they who need to decide whether their plans can be delivered to that schedule. I

have not, and will not, ask for an election postponement. We are working towards our elections taking place, as planned, in Hampshire on 7 May 2026."

Cllr Nick Adams-King Leader Hampshire County Council