



March 2026 Candovers Oakley and Overton HCC Councillor report Juliet Henderson

Tackling fly-tipping: stronger national powers to back up Hampshire's tough approach

As many of you will know, I am infuriated by fly tipping and have championed a no excuses approach to investigation of the crime.

Therefore, I very much welcome this week's announcement from Government setting out new guidance to help councils crack down even harder on fly-tipping. With 1.26 million incidents recorded across England last year, this is a crime that damages our countryside, costs taxpayers money, and frustrates communities who take pride in where they live.

Hampshire already has an excellent track record for prosecuting offenders, naming and shaming those responsible, and seizing vehicles used in waste crime. These new national measures will strengthen our hand even further.

The guidance gives councils clear instructions on how to identify, seize and, where appropriate, crush vehicles used to dump waste. It also encourages the use of CCTV, drones and ANPR to catch offenders in the act, and sets out how councils can take stronger cases to court and secure convictions against vehicle owners.

National figures show councils seized 139 vehicles last year and carried out 572,000 enforcement actions — an 8% increase — including 69,000 fixed penalty notices. The direction of travel is clear: tougher enforcement, more prosecutions, and greater transparency about those who blight our communities.

For Hampshire residents, this means even more robust action against those who think they can dump waste and get away with it. Every prosecution, every seized vehicle, and every offender publicly held to account helps protect our countryside and keeps our communities cleaner and safer.

I'll continue to champion strong enforcement and ensure Hampshire remains at the forefront of tackling waste crime.

Residents should report fly tipping using this link

[Reporting fly-tipping issues](#)

Government's New Schools White Paper: What It Means for Hampshire's Children with SEND

The Government has now published its Schools White Paper: Every Child Achieving and Thriving, setting out major reforms to the SEND system and wider education landscape. As Leader of Hampshire County Council, I want to update you on what's being proposed — and how we, alongside our partners, are responding.

Hampshire County Council, NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and the Hampshire Parent and Carer Network work together as a Local Area Partnership to improve SEND support locally. We have issued a joint response today, and I want to share the key messages with you directly.

What the Government Is Proposing

SEND System Changes

A new tiered system of Targeted and Specialist support, with EHCPs reserved for the most complex needs by 2035.

Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for all children with SEND, extending legal rights and ensuring every school provides personalised support.

Reassessment of EHCPs at key transition points from 2029.

Digitised EHCPs and ISPs, plus national standards and a national library of interventions.

Investment and Support

A new Inclusive Mainstream Fund (£1.6bn) to strengthen SEND support in every school.

An Experts at Hand service (£1.8bn) to ensure every area has access to educational psychologists, speech and language therapists and other specialists.

£200m for SEND outreach in every Best Start Family Hub.

£200m to help local authorities deliver the reforms effectively.

£3.7bn nationally for new special school places and inclusion bases.

School System Reform

All schools expected to join or form high-quality school trusts, including new local-authority established trusts.

Hampshire's Joint Response

Our Local Area Partnership has welcomed several aspects of the White Paper — particularly the focus on early support, inclusion, and collaboration across education, health and care.

We said:

“It is reassuring to see that the Government’s announcements align with the direction of travel that we have already been taking for some time in Hampshire. Our long-held belief is that meeting children’s needs earlier and enabling them to access the right support close to home – in the communities they know and alongside the children they grew up with – is best for children and best for their families.”

This reflects the work we have already been doing:

- expanding specialist provision across Hampshire
- strengthening inclusion in mainstream schools
- training and upskilling school staff
- improving access to health services for children with additional needs

We also welcomed the Government’s commitment to a national training programme for teachers, and the fact that these reforms come with clear financial backing — something we have long argued is essential.

At the same time, we recognise that families will have questions about what this means for their own children. We are working through the detail carefully and will continue to communicate clearly and openly as the reforms progress.

Hampshire County Council’s Position

Alongside the joint statement, I want to highlight a few key points from Hampshire County Council’s perspective:

We will strongly defend the rights of children who need EHCPs. Any changes must not reduce support for those who rely on legally enforceable provision today.

We support ISPs in principle, but they must be robust, properly funded, and backed by real specialist capacity.

We welcome investment but will be making the case that Hampshire’s size and rurality must be reflected in how funding is allocated.

We will continue expanding specialist provision, building on the hundreds of new places already created.

We will work closely with parents and carers, ensuring their voices shape how these reforms are implemented locally.

What Happens Next

The Government is consulting on these proposals until 18 May 2026. Hampshire County Council will submit a detailed response, informed by our schools, professionals and parent networks.

Nothing changes immediately for families. The reforms will be phased in gradually from 2026 through to 2035.

We will keep residents updated every step of the way.

Our Roads

There at last seems to be an end in sight to the incessant rain. This, plus the warmer weather increasing the road surface temperature means proper road repairs can resume, of which there are very many to be undertaken.

Here's the latest update.

Highways Information

THE BRUTAL TRUTH ABOUT HAMPSHIRE'S POTHOLES — AND WHY WE CAN'T JUST "SPEND MORE"

Hampshire's roads have taken an absolute battering this winter. Weeks of relentless rain and violent freeze-thaw cycles have ripped open the surface across the county. Potholes are appearing faster than crews can fill them.

Here's the blunt truth:

We simply don't have the money to maintain the roads to the standard we all want.

The scale of the problem

Cost to bring roads up to the standard I'd want: £600 million

Highways budget this year: £60 million

£540 million shortfall

No amount of "efficiency" fills a gap like that.

Why the money isn't there

Social care and education costs are exploding — and Hampshire is hit harder than most:

- By 2030, nearly 5% of residents will be over 80
- More children with Special Educational Needs than average
- Rising demand for disability support

- These services are legally required. If someone qualifies, we must provide care.

- And now Government 'Fair Funding' is removing almost £40million from our budgets and sending it to mostly Labour run councils in London and the midlands and north.

Council Tax reality

Band D Council Tax paid to Hampshire: £1,609

Surrey: £1,846

West Sussex: £1,800

Oxfordshire: £1,911

We've had lower Council Tax for years — but that means less money for roads.

You can't run a high-maintenance network on a low-tax budget.

Why repairs feel slow

Here's how the system actually works:

1 Every report triggers an inspection — councillors and residents use the same system.

2 Safety defects come first — A-roads and B-roads before residential streets and country lanes.

3 Temporary repairs are often unavoidable — asphalt won't bond in cold, wet weather.

4 Permanent repairs take 7× longer — so crews make more locations safe first.

5 Non-safety defects are queued — tackled when weather and resources allow.

And yes — some temporary repairs fail in this weather. If they do, please re-report them.

Why this winter has been so brutal

We've had 156% of our average January rainfall

February's average rainfall was exceeded in the first week alone

Repeated freeze-thaw cycles

Some potholes appear overnight. Others worsen within hours.

The national picture

Hampshire faces a £500m highways funding gap

Government funding this year: £30m

We matched it — still nowhere near enough

Only a tiny fraction of road tax and fuel duty goes to road maintenance

Hampshire's roads are better than many neighbours, but roads across the South East — and even motorways — are in dire condition.

This is a national crisis, not a local failing.

What we're doing right now

We've secured extra resources:

- More Jet/Dragon Patchers
- Extra patching gangs (started 12 Jan, more added end of Jan)
- More drainage jetting machines
- A dedicated flooding response team
- Extra white-lining crews

Temporary infills will be used where needed to keep roads safe. Permanent repairs will follow when conditions improve.

We're funding this by using underspends in other areas.

What's coming next

We're reshaping the 2026/27 budget to move every possible penny into road maintenance — likely £10m extra for summer repairs.

And we've launched plans for a lane-rental disruption charge:

Companies pay a daily fee for roadworks on key routes

Encourages shorter, better-planned works

Could raise up to £5m a year for road maintenance

How you can help

Please report potholes — especially worsening ones — via the official system:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../roadma.../roadproblems/potholes>

Accurate locations and photos help enormously.

And thanks to you for your patience, it's a very difficult situation and we are doing our absolute best.

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.