

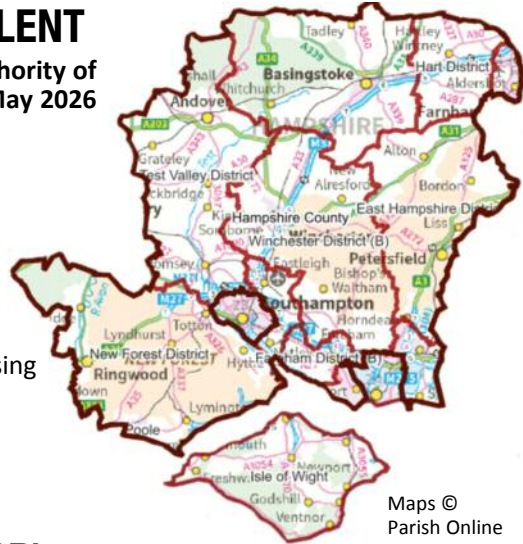
# DEVOLUTION FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE SOLENT

The new regional authority – Combined County Authority of Hampshire and the Solent – with a Mayor to be elected in May 2026

Public consultation to Sunday 13 April  
[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation)

The Mayor and constituent members will have governance of this region which has a population of over two million.

The new Authority will have a seat on the Council of Regions and Nations; will have access to long term strategic funding; will have strategic responsibility for – transport and local infrastructure; housing and strategic planning; economic development and regeneration; environment and climate change; skills and employment support; health and public service reform; public safety, eg Police & Crime Commissioner functions, fire and rescue authority functions.



Maps © Parish Online

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

### THE CURRENT TWO-TIER SYSTEM WITHIN HANTS COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

#### FIRST TIER AUTHORITY COUNTY COUNCIL



County Council responsibilities include (not exclusively) education, social services, libraries, trading standards, public transport, highways, waste disposal and recycling – for the whole County area

#### SECOND TIER AUTHORITIES BOROUGH /DISTRICT



District and Borough Councils' responsibilities within their own authority areas include planning and building control, housing, street cleaning, waste and recycling collection, licensing, leisure facilities, etc

### THE CURRENT UNITARY COUNCILS

Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and the Isle of Wight Council are each separate Unitary authorities within their own right, outside the area of HCC.



The Unitary Authorities are responsible for delivering all services within their area

### PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Government requires that all existing Councils within Hampshire and the Solent be reorganised into Unitary Councils; the existing two-tier system will be abolished and existing smaller unitaries (in most cases) will be expected to join with other councils. Government preference is for unitaries of c50K population.

Not all 15 Councils in Hants & Solent are as yet in agreement re unitary arrangements and so, for Government's deadline for initial proposals of 21 March, they have submitted a joint 'interim plan' to this effect, with 'guiding principles' including on financial viability. Except everyone is in agreement that the Isle of Wight should remain an independent single Unitary.

It seems likely there will be three or four mainland Unitaries and that BDBC will be with Hart with Rushmoor in a 'Northern Hampshire' Unitary. Whether a fourth council will join?

#### Timescales

- 26 Sept 2025 (request for extension to 28 Nov 2025) for full proposal to Government on Hants unitary organisation.
- May 2027 – Shadow elections for new Unitary Councils.
- May 2028 – New Unitary Councils take over.