

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY JUNE 9th 2026

Item 4 – HCC Councillor Report

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE - Reporting Period: 1 May – 31 May 2026

For Parish and Town Councils in the Lyndhurst and Fordingbridge Division

County Council Elections and Annual General Meeting

No political group secured overall control of Hampshire County Council at the elections on 7 May. The Annual General Meeting of the Council was held on 21 May, and Councillor Nick Adams-King was re-elected as Leader with the support of Reform members and an independent.

Cllr King appointed his cabinet, consisting of Conservative members representing divisions in Test Valley, Rushmoor, Gosport, Fareham, Hart, and Basingstoke and Deane, and an independent from East Hampshire. No Cabinet member currently represents a division within New Forest District.

All six major committees will now be chaired by Reform members.

Highways Investment

Following the formation of the new administration, Hampshire County Council announced an additional £15 million investment in highways maintenance and road repairs.

The Council stated that reducing repeat repairs and improving road condition would be a priority during the coming year, these issues being a feature of campaigns throughout the elections.

Local Government Reorganisation

In his Council Leader speech on 21 May, Nick Adams King said “I confirm today that this administration will move immediately to pursue a Judicial Review of the Local Government Reorganisation outcome.”

This might have been more bold than intended. Subsequently, comments made suggest that legal advice is being sought before ‘immediately’ pursuing Judicial Review, which is a similar position to NFDC. HCC’s cabinet meets on June 9th to discuss and agree a way forward. We don’t know if HCC has yet had legal advice on the likelihood of success, but their claim rests on the illegality of creating unitary authorities which will not all be economically viable. HCC estimates the full cost of Judicial Review at £500k, but some estimates are significantly higher.

Ultimately, if a challenge is successful, the Secretary of State would be asked to look at their decision again. Hampshire County Council originally supported creating a unitary with the whole NFDC area joining Southampton and Eastleigh.

Despite the potential challenges, work continues on the implementation, including determining the ward structures for the new Unitary Authorities and how many councillors would sit on each Authority.

Hampshire and Solent Devolution

Although Mayoral elections are not expected until May 2028, work also continued on proposals for the Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Combined County Authority (“HSMCCA”). The proposed arrangements would transfer a number of strategic responsibilities from central government to Hampshire and Solent local authorities, including transport, skills and economic development functions. The HSMCCA is due to be signed off into law imminently. HCC Cabinet will make appointments to the HSMCCA Board on 9 June.

Upcoming Hampshire County Council Meetings

Cabinet

9 June 2026 – HCC Cabinet

County Council

The next full meeting of the County Council is scheduled for **16 July 2026**. Do let me know if you have a question you’d like me to put to cabinet.

Select Committees

12 June 2026 – Universal Services Select Committee

19 June 2026 – Children and Young People Select Committee

26 June 2026 – Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Agendas and reports are published in advance through Hampshire County Council's democracy website.

Cllr David Millar, 1 June 2026