

## **Hampshire County Councillor Report September 2024**

**Cllr Jan Warwick**

### **Local Plan**

Although the local plan is a District responsibility a sudden change in housing allocations has a significant impact on infrastructure planning (roads, schools, flood drainage etc) that would be the responsibility of the county council.

You can comment on the Labour government planning policy changes and new housing targets up until 24<sup>th</sup> September here:

<https://www.gov.uk/.../proposed-reforms-to-the-national...>

The final draft of the Winchester local plan will be open for public comment until 13th October before submission to the inspector here:

<https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/home>

### **Solar Together**

Hampshire's solar energy group-buying scheme, offered by independent experts iChoosr and promoted by Hampshire County Council, enables residents to invest in solar panels for their homes, fitted by pre-vetted installers, to reduce reliance on the national grid and lower their energy bills, as well as boost local renewable energy generation.

Through Solar Together, over 28,400 solar panels have already been installed in Hampshire – it is estimated that these installations alone will reduce carbon emissions by 59,205 tonnes over 25 years – equivalent to taking over 32,600 cars off the road during the same period.

Those interested need to register online at [www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether](http://www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether) by 18 October for a free and without obligation quote.

### **Devolution**

An expression of interest in a regional political agreement (combined authority) was submitted on 30<sup>th</sup> August by Hampshire County Council and the three Solent unitary authorities (Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight). The agreement would respect existing boundaries and could attract additional powers and economic funding.

### **Children's Services**

Hampshire's Children's services were rated outstanding by Ofsted this summer. The timely and robust practice of social workers ensure vulnerable children are kept safe and families receive appropriate and effective support.

**Cllr Jan Warwick**

**Deputy Leader Hampshire County Council**

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