

Winchester City Council January parish report

Devolution and Local Government reorganisation

The publication of the Government's English Devolution White Paper on 16 December sets out proposals for devolution and Local Government reorganisation across England.

The vision outlined by Government is that all parts of England are to be part of regional Strategic Authorities that have a regional Mayor. These Strategic Authorities, working in a similar way to existing Mayoral Combined Authorities will have responsibility for driving growth and shaping public services across wider regional geographies covering strategic leadership of key place shaping responsibilities such as economic regeneration and growth, strategic planning, skills and employment and strategic transport. These Strategic Authorities will consist of Unitary Councils, which the White Paper indicates will ultimately replace the current two-tier local government structure.

If an area wishes to progress at pace and join the Priority Programme, it may ask Government to defer elections in 2025. Hampshire County Council has published a paper to consider this opportunity and WCC members will be receiving a briefing on Monday 6 to discuss the current position for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and the potential impact for the WCC district.

Winchester District Economic Intelligence Dashboard

The latest [Economic Intelligence Dashboard](#) for the Winchester district is now available. The dashboard looks at key indicators for the district's economy, including business activity, jobs and earnings, unemployment, spending and sentiment.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/business/economic-development>

Community Grants

WCC currently has two different community grants schemes that not-for-profits in the district may be able to benefit from – to learn more visit the grants pages at

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations>

| Grant Stream | Amount | Application Opening Date | Application Closing Date |
|--|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| District Small Grant Scheme | Up to £1,000 | OPEN | 28 February 2025 or sooner on full allocation of budget |
| Winchester City Community Grants | £500 - £3,000 | OPEN | 28 February 2025 or sooner on full allocation of budget |