

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
CLLR JAN WARWICK
DECEMBER 2025**

Mayoral Elections

The government have announced that the Mayoral election originally scheduled for May 2026 is now highly likely to be postponed by two years, until May 2028.

The decision to propose a delay has been made solely by central Government; none of the upper tier local authorities (Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and Isle of Wight Council) requested a postponement of the May elections. The rationale given is to allow the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process to be completed first, before Mayors take office. As you know, LGR and devolution are distinct.

What this means for devolution

The Government has confirmed that the creation of the new Strategic Authority and the transfer of powers and funding will continue as planned. Governance will initially rest with Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council, and Isle of Wight Council. However, some timings within the process may shift, and we are seeking clarity on these details and any implications on the expected powers, funding and responsibilities of the new Strategic Authority.

What this means for LGR

At present, the timeline for LGR remains unchanged, with the new councils expected to launch in May 2028. The Government has indicated that it wants LGR completed before Mayors take office.

Have your say on the future of local government across the Hampshire and Solent area

A public consultation has been launched by central Government on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across Hampshire and the Solent area – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help shape how council services are delivered in the future

[Have your say on the future of local government across the Hampshire and Solent area | Hampshire County Council](#)

Is your child starting school in 2026? Make your top three choices count

Parents and carers in Hampshire with children due to start Reception Year (Year R) or move to Year 3 at a junior school in September 2026 can now apply for school places. Applications are open until 15 January 2026

[Is your child starting school in 2026? Make your top three choices count | Hampshire County Council](#)

Holiday Activities and Food programme to bring festive fun and healthy meals to Hampshire families

Children and young people from low-income families across Hampshire can look forward to a winter break filled with exciting activities and nutritious meals, thanks to Hampshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

[Holiday Activities and Food programme to bring festive fun and healthy meals to Hampshire families | Hampshire County Council](#)

Avoid a festive headache – with four weeks to go drivers should plan ahead for the closure of the M27 between Junctions 9 and 11

Four weeks ahead of a major motorway closure on the M27 in Hampshire, drivers are being urged to plan ahead and allow extra time for journeys to avoid severe delays over the Christmas and New Year period

[Avoid a festive headache – with four weeks to go drivers should plan ahead for the closure of the M27 between Junctions 9 and 11 | Hampshire County Council](#)

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