

DC Report for HPC Council Meeting 4th August 2025

Cllr David Evans 4th August 2025

LGR: Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Councils' proposal for Unitary local government across Hampshire and the Solent was discussed at length at our meeting on the 17th July and Council resolved to recommend Option B2, three mainland Unitaries plus the Isle of Wight (existing Unitary)

- North: Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester (pop 655,528)
- South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley (706,519)
- South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth (532,519)
- Isle of Wight (140,906)

As Cllr Millard said at that meeting, it is not the way we would have wished to proceed however the Government has decided that this is to be done and have set out the criteria. With the exception of the Isle of Wight, these proposals are compliant with the criteria, which is crucial. The report detailing the reasons was presented at the meeting and can be found on the EDHC Website.

EHDC Cabinet accepted the recommendation on the 18th as did HCC Cabinet.

A public engagement has been opened and will remain open until the 17th August for people to comment on these proposals and these comments will be used to refine and enhance the proposal ready to be sent to the Minister on 26th September.

HPC may be particularly interested in the Government's proposals for Neighbourhood Empowerment as it's worth noting that not all Districts are 100% "Parished" like East Hants. It is my understanding that Government is not disposed to support a wholesale creation of hundreds of Town and Parish Councils.

23rd July Planning Committee meeting. I spoke in opposition to the application for 38 houses north of Chalk Hill Road. This is a site we successfully opposed in 2014 however, now that the Government has all but doubled our housing number targets, our crucial "Five Year Housing Land Supply" is nowhere near being met which "tilts the balance" in favour of permission which the Committee approved.

It's worth noting that there are likely to be other applications for housing in Horndean coming forward which we may similarly be unable to resist.

Bloor Homes have just presented the 3rd Reserved Matters Application for 159 homes on the LEOH site.

Bloor Homes have also presented an outline application for LEOH Southern Expansion for about 800 dwellings. Although I expect some residents will find this addition unwelcome, it was clearly going to come forward at some time and does raise the intriguing possibility of melding together the community facilities on both sites to the great benefit to Horndean.

Although this site is wholly within the boundary of Rowlands Castle Parish, it raises starkly the issue of the crucial need to change the boundary between Horndean and Rowlands Castle Parishes which is a subject I discussed some time ago with your previous Chairman. A quick look at the map shows that LEOH sites are attached to Horndean and remote from Rowlands Castle which raises serious governance issues such as the fact that there would be a number of Rowlands Castle Parish Councillors who effectively lived in Horndean and the Precept from up to 1,000 dwellings would go to Rowlands Castle PC but the residents would look to Horndean PC for most of their services.

The [Community governance reviews: guidance - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance) explains why this is important to both communities and what role the principle authority (EHDC) should play in resolving the issue. I have been made aware that the current Rowlands Castle Parish Council, unlike a previous one, is not minded to support a change however they do not, of course, have a veto and both communities would need to be consulted.