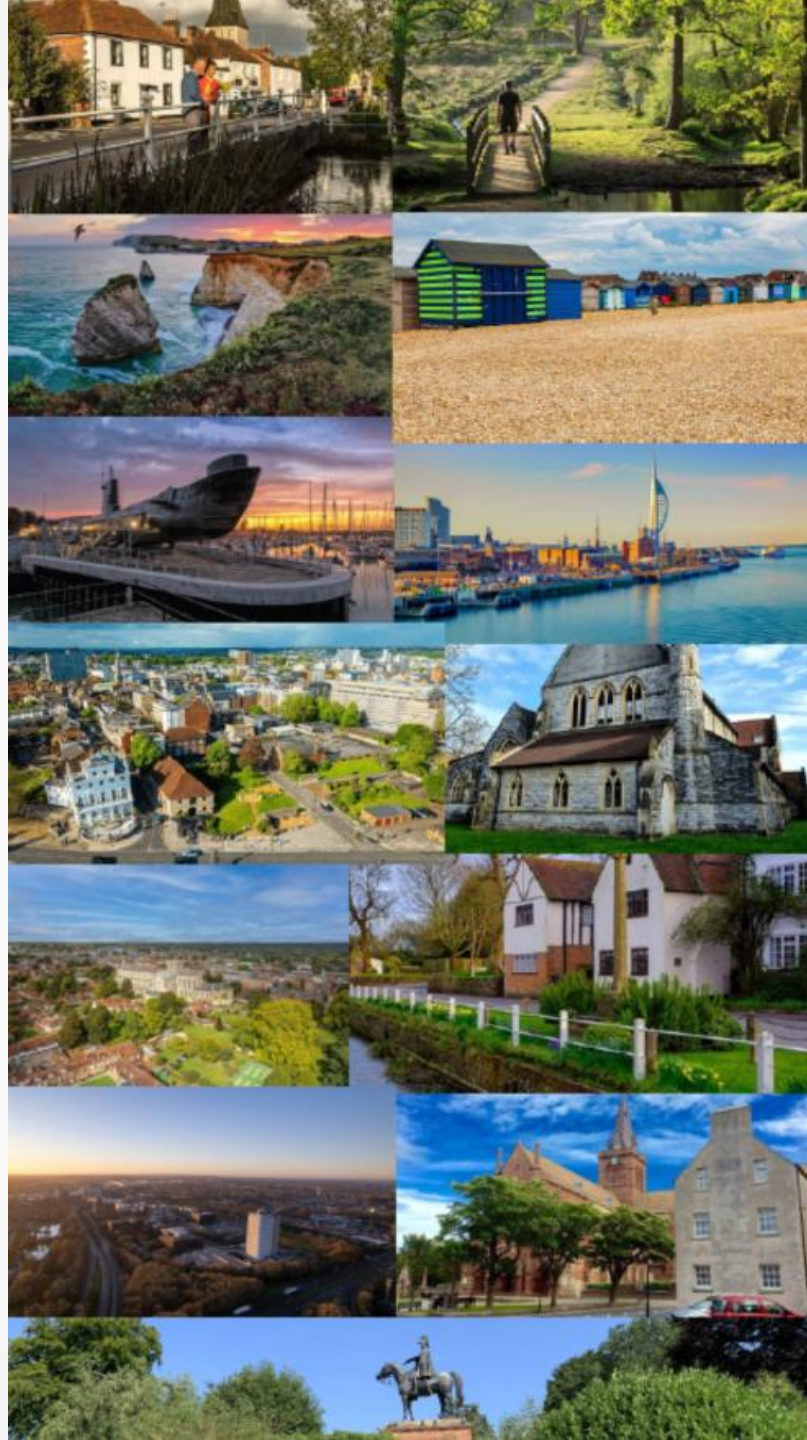
LGR UPDATE
23 SEPTEMBER 2026



Government Announcement

- Secretary of State has withdrawn and will review decision on local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Solent, alongside all other decisions in progress (but not Surrey). Distinction between JR decisions (withdrawn) and others (paused).
- Local elections in May 2027 will go ahead on existing council boundaries
- There will be a ‘rapid review’ by Minister for Local Government:
  - “To take weeks rather than months” – expect update on process after conference recess
- Rewiring the State Devolution White Paper due before Christmas



What does this mean for our Partners



STATEMENT FROM HIOW CEXs

- Meeting with Chief Executives from across HIOW last week where we reflected on the Government's recent announcement and considered our collective next steps.
- All Chief Executives remain committed to working together across Hampshire.
  - **'While the Government's announcement affects the immediate future of the local government reorganisation programme, it does not change our shared commitment to working collaboratively where it benefits residents, communities, partners and businesses across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight'.**



RUSHMOOR'S POSITION

- Maintain dialogue, openness and transparency.
- In many ways a return to BAU: **Primary focus remains on delivering high-quality reliable services to our residents.**
- Recognise this raises questions on funding for many, particularly those jointly funded.
- Consideration for staff as they work through implications of the 'pause' and any future announcements.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

- Keen to capture your questions over the coming weeks so we can coordinate a response.
- Suggest we put in something for early to mid November when we may know more.
- Website for updates, email us with any questions;
  - Local government reorganisation and devolution - Rushmoor Borough Council
  - Email LGR inbox devolutionlgr@rushmoor.gov.uk
  - Via our Community & Partnerships team communitydevelopment@rushmoor.gov.uk

Committed to being open and transparent, sharing information as it becomes available, and keeping partners updated.

Opportunities for Questions from Partners

We welcome your questions