



Save Our Stockbridge

Update

January 2026

At our last AGM we mentioned that the Government has decided to reorganise local authorities in Hampshire making them more centralised and having an elected Mayor. It is now consulting on which of four options you might favour. These options have been suggested by the various councils that make up Hampshire and the IOW. All responses to the consultation have to be in by Sunday 11th January 2026.

The website is:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/hampshire-isle-of-wight-portsmouth-southampton/>

and there is a survey to complete.

Alternatively you can respond by email to:

LGRconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk

or by letter to:

LGR Consultation,

Fry Building 2NE, Ministry of Housing,

Communities and Local Government,

2 Marsham Street,

London SW1P 4DF

- saying which of the 4 options you think is the best and why. You must also say that you live in Hampshire and that you are writing as an individual.

None of this is easy or straightforward. The 4 different options have been put forward by groups of existing Councils in Hampshire. We will try to make things a bit simpler by only referring to the options that include Test Valley:

1. Hants CC put forward the following proposal

West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton and Test Valley.

2. Basingstoke, New Forest and Test valley put forward the following:

Mid: East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester

3. Eastleigh, Fareham, Havant, Southampton and others put forward the following:

Mid: East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester (less 11 parishes of which Stockbridge is not one)

4. Winchester City Council put forward the following:

Mid: East Hampshire, Test Valley, and Winchester.

In our view the best plan for Test Valley is that put forward by Basingstoke, New Forest and Test Valley as it means that the areas involved, namely East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester, all of which understand rural communities, will be working together for the benefit of us all. The next best option seems to us to be that put forward by Eastleigh, Fareham, Havant, Southampton and others. But we are not writing to advise you how to respond, let alone telling you what to do. We are simply writing to urge you to respond so that the consultation does not go unanswered. We do not want to find ourselves with a local authority that does not understand or consider our needs.

If you can fill out the survey please do so - but it is very repetitive as you are asked to consider each of the 4 options and provide 10 or more answers to each option, and also provide further explanations of your views. So you may prefer to respond by email or by letter setting out which option(s) you prefer and why.

It is vital that as many people as possible respond, remember **on or before 11th January 2026**, so that we do not find ourselves with local authorities that do not represent our communities well.

Happy New Year to you all

Jean Boney

Chair

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