East Hampshire District Council report

September 2026

Cllr Rob Mocatta

1) ***Food waste collection***

EHDC is rolling out food waste collection in the next month. Food kitchen caddies and outdoor caddies will be delivered to all households in the next few weeks. EHDC has 7 food waste collection vehicles, and there will be 7 new food waste collection routes as every household will have a weekly food waste collection.

The food waste will be taken to an anaerobic digester in Basingstoke, and will help increase recycling rates and reduce the weight of non-recycled (or residual) waste from the households in EHDC. The latest DEFRA figures (to the end of March 2025) showed that Hampshire households on average produced 440 kg of waste per year – or just over 8kg per week. The government targets in the Environment Act are 333kg per household in 2030 and 287 kg per household in 2042. The recent experience of Winchester City Council is that food waste collection has reduced their residual waste collection by just over 15% to 368 kg per household. This reduction of residual waste is the driver behind food waste collection.

EHDC will put out considerable publicity in the next few weeks to encourage as many residents as possible to use the food waste collection service – it is part of the waste collection charge included in all council tax bills.

2) ***Local Government reorganisation***

Having wasted considerable time and effort over the past year, the national Labour government has shelved/postponed/cancelled the planned local government reorganisation in Hampshire. It is totally unclear which of these is the correct conclusion. EHDC will try to recoup its costs for this government imposed incompetence, but without much expectation of recovering spent costs.

What this means for our residents is that the existing structure of parish/district/ county councils will continue until a decision is made to change them. This will certainly mean an election in May 2027 for a new East Hampshire District Council on the same basis as today, and the responsibilities of the council are unchanged. It will still collect waste, is responsible for planning (outside the SDNP) and provides over 100 other

services to residents. The whole LGR process has been very disruptive for the staff, and it is very difficult to give a clear steer on what happens next.
https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news
The information from the government to the leaders of the County and District councils is that devolution is the highest priority across the country ("good growth in every postcode" in the prime minister's cryptic soundbite). This should mean that the election for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight mayor takes place next year, not in 2028 as currently scheduled. But that is far from certain. The structure below that, the opaque "Mayoral Combined Authority, or MCA" is already established and is hiring staff. It will have a range of statutory responsibilities, including transport, post 18 education and "spatial planning". It is very unclear whether council tax bills will include a charge for the MCA, but I suspect that in time it will.

My guess is that local government reorganisation has merely been postponed, and that a new proposal will come forward, probably on a different basis to the one in March that looks like it was gerrymandered to suit the local Hampshire Labour MPs in the urban areas. But that is very much a guess based on some opaque comments from ministers who do not appear to have a plan, and who ignored the advice of their civil servants last time.

3) EHDC News

EHDC regularly updates all residents on what it doing in the District. I encourage all residents to keep an eye on the District's press releases. The best source is here:

https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news