



COUNCILS FOR
DEVOLUTION

What's happening to your council and why it matters to you



South Hampshire Councils

**East
Hampshire**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

EASTLEIGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



GOSPORT
Borough Council

Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

What is devolution?

Devolution is where selected powers from central government are handed over to an authority, who then manages them. Additional financial resources are provided to the authority, which receives increased power over local taxes (council tax and business rates) and more flexibility around borrowing and financial management.

Devolution can provide the following benefits:

- Securing millions of pounds of additional local investment each year
- More effective and efficient services for residents, meeting their particular local requirements
- Boosting economic growth in the local area through creating new jobs



A Combined Authority versus a Unitary Authority

Devolution would see Government powers passed to a 'Combined Authority' of existing local councils to allow them to provide more services to the residents they know and serve. The Combined Authority currently being proposed includes the Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, as well as the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. This is the only Combined Authority currently being proposed in Hampshire.

Unitary Authority

There is currently another conversation going on in Hampshire about the formation of a Unitary Authority. The Unitary Authority is proposed by Hampshire County Council and would see one large authority governing Hampshire. It would replace all district and borough councils in an area and would aim to save money through providing a set level of services to all 1.3 million residents in Hampshire.

What does your local council think?

East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council and Havant Borough Council have all been involved in the Solent Combined Authority bid process.

Based on their strong local awareness of their residents' needs, they feel a Combined Authority not only provides the best chance for residents to continue accessing the particular services they require, but also the best financial deal possible for the county.

Currently, most decisions about funding for our area are made by central government. Securing the powers and ability to fund things locally will mean councils are able to prioritise funding into areas that will be of greater benefit to the local economy than under the current system.



Why are the councils not part of the Combined Authority bid?

District and borough councils cannot be involved in the negotiations for a Combined Authority at this stage. The law states that no Combined Authority bid can go ahead without the districts receiving approval from their county council. However, Hampshire County Council has chosen not to be part of the Combined Authority bid.

If the Combined Authority is approved, the councils could join the authority if invited to do so. The application would be considered by the Secretary of State.



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