

# Neighbourhood Planning in Hampshire



Hampshire County Council's role in the  
Neighbourhood Planning Process

October 2015



# Introduction

Hampshire County Council (HCC) is fully supportive of neighbourhood planning as a way for local communities to have a greater say in where they live and work. The council will provide appropriate and timely support to Parish / Town Councils as well as Neighbourhood Forums working on Neighbourhood Plans in their areas.

The aim of this guide is to help those interested in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to quickly identify what information, guidance, help and support can be provided by the County Council. It:

- explains the main HCC services that may have to be considered when carrying out neighbourhood planning;
- provides links to the policy guidance and to the webpages of the County Council teams that might be able to provide further advice and information;
- explains the distinction between the role of the County Council compared to that of district, borough, city councils or national parks in neighbourhood planning.

Just as importantly, it explains what the County Council cannot do.

Given the wide range of duties and responsibilities the County Council performs it is important that we are engaged in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans from the outset.

As a starting point, a useful initial point of contact with the County Council will be the County Council's Strategic Planning team via the email address:

[planningconsultations@hants.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultations@hants.gov.uk)

# What is Hampshire County Council's role in Neighbourhood Planning?

The first point of contact for those interested in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is the local planning authority (the relevant district, borough or city council or National Park authority in the area). It is local planning authorities who are charged by statute with the responsibility for supporting Neighbourhood Forums or Town / Parish Councils in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. They can help with approving neighbourhood forums, agreeing neighbourhood planning areas, assisting with the plan preparation process and the referendum.

However, the County Council does have a number of statutory duties and responsibilities which may impact on the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. It is important, therefore, that we are engaged in their preparation.

These roles and responsibilities include ensuring that roads, schools, waste facilities and public transport are provided to support new and existing development. We also play a significant role in securing new, and maintaining existing, infrastructure and services for Hampshire's communities. We are a significant landowner owning large farm estates and hundreds of buildings and properties across the county. As such we can provide useful policy guidance on these matters to those preparing Neighbourhood Plans.

The main functions of the County Council's relevant to Neighbourhood Planning are summarised on the following pages, with more detail on each individual role provided in the annex to this guide.

## Education Authority

As an Education Authority the County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the county to meet current and future demand. It is the role of the County Council to plan, organise and commission places for all maintained schools in Hampshire in a way that raises standards, manages rising and declining pupil numbers and creates a diverse school community.



## Highway Authority

The County Council is Highway Authority for all local roads in Hampshire, with responsibility to maintain and improve a safe highway environment for all road users. Highways England is the Highway Authority for all Motorways and trunk roads. The County Council as Highway Authority is a statutory consultee for all development plans and planning applications in Hampshire and will wish to ensure that proposals are consistent with its policies and standards.



## Lead Local Flood Authority

As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) the County Council has a number of roles in relation to flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary water courses. LLFAs are required to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for their areas which it is recommended should be reflected in Neighbourhood Plans.



## Minerals & Waste Planning

### Authority

As Minerals & Waste Planning Authority the County Council produces minerals and waste plans in partnership with Hampshire's other Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities<sup>1</sup>. This plan forms part of the development plan. It contains policies which must be reflected in Neighbourhood Plans. The County Council also determines all planning applications for minerals and waste development within its administrative area and on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority for that part of its area which lies in Hampshire. As waste disposal authority the County Council is responsible for managing the waste that is collected from households (albeit that the District, Borough and City Councils are the waste collection authorities). It provides this service through waste disposal, recycling and recovery facilities (HWRCs) operated on the County Council's behalf through an external service partner / contractor. The County Council also determines planning applications for new schools and development related to its role as Local Education Authority.



## Provision of Adult & Children's Care Services

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide adult and children's social care and social work support to Hampshire residents. It owns and manages a range of care and support facilities across the county and offers guidance, advice and support to vulnerable individuals, families and groups.

## Statutory responsibility for Public Health & Well-being

As part of the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, unitary and upper tier local authorities such as Hampshire County Council have a new duty to improve health and co-ordinate efforts to protect the public's health and wellbeing. It carries out this duty through the Health and Wellbeing Board which produces the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

1. Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and the New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities.

**All of the previous are statutory responsibilities which the County Council must perform and many of them rely, in part at least, on joint working through the land use planning system. In addition to these statutory duties the County Council also performs a number of other functions (some of which have statutory elements) which are relevant in the context of Neighbourhood Plan preparation. These include:**

## [Countryside, Landscape Ecology & Archaeology advisors](#)

Hampshire has a rich natural heritage and a long tradition of biological recording by both volunteers and professional staff. The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) is a partnership-led initiative, hosted by Hampshire County Council, which has been established to bring together valuable information on Hampshire's wildlife and natural environment, to collate and manage this data, and to disseminate to those who need it. The impacts of new development on Hampshire's landscape must be reflected in plans which guide the use and development of land. This includes Neighbourhood Plans. Management Plans that cover Hampshire's protected landscapes are material planning considerations in the determination of development proposals.



## [Countryside access and rights of way](#)

The County Council is responsible for the management of the 3,000 mile network of public rights of way which criss-cross the county. We also own and manage eight large country parks dotted across the County.



## [Archaeology and Historic Buildings](#)

The Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) is the Historic Environment Record for Hampshire County Council. It is an index to the known archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings, designed and historic landscapes, parks and gardens, and industrial monuments in the county. It is a valuable resource for those preparing land use plans and making decisions about new development.

## [Library Provider](#)

The County Council has a duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to people living, working and studying in Hampshire. It does this through 52 libraries, Discovery Centres and mobile libraries across the county. It also supports 5 community run libraries.

## [Economic Development](#)

The County Council's economic development team provides a range of services to support business investment, tourism, training and skills, and economic regeneration across a range of sectors throughout Hampshire. In conjunction with District Economic Development teams, they hold information about key businesses, available premises and the availability of development sites which may be useful to those preparing Neighbourhood Plans.



## [Energy](#)

In July 2010, the County Council set a carbon reduction strategy which aims to make Hampshire County Council a carbon neutral authority by 2050. In the short term, from 2010-2015, a 20% reduction in carbon emissions has been set. By 2025, carbon emissions will reduce by a further 40%, leading to carbon neutrality by 2050. In 2012 the County Council adopted an Energy Strategy detailing its response to the main energy risks facing Hampshire: security of supply; affordability; and, carbon emissions. The County Council will work with Neighbourhood Plan bodies to deliver initiatives which may contribute to this and other sustainable energy and climate change objectives.



## [Emergency Planning / Local](#)

### [Resilience Forum](#)

The County Council has a statutory role in planning for emergency and extreme events. It liaises with other emergency planning bodies through the Local Resilience Forum. The County Council supports local community groups and town and parish councils in the preparation of community resilience plans which may flow from a Neighbourhood Plan.



## [Gypsies & Travellers](#)

The County Council's Gypsy and Traveller Service deals with and gives advice on Unauthorised Encampments that occur on public-sector owned land throughout Hampshire. The services provided encompass the welfare of Gypsies and Travelers and providing advice, guidance and legal options to private landowners on dealing with these encampments. In addition, staff from the Gypsy and Traveller Service are able to advise more generally on Gypsy and Traveller matters.

## [Commons / Village Green](#)

### [Registration Authority](#)

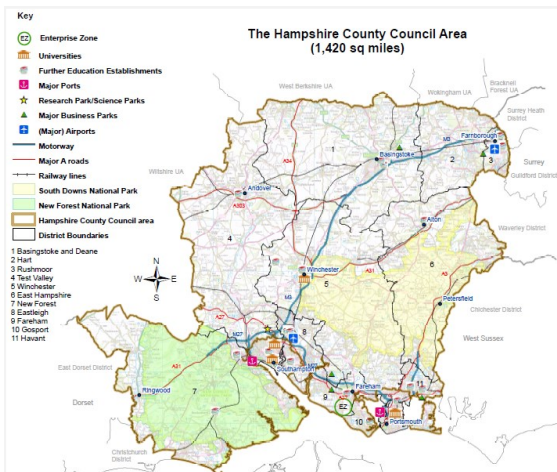
The County Council compiles, maintains and, if appropriate, amend the registers of commons and town and village greens.





## [Significant landowner and estate manager](#)

The County Council is a significant landowner owning around 7,000 buildings on over 1,500 sites including schools, offices and depots as well as the County Farm estate, country parks and other strategic landholdings. Some sites which are surplus to operational requirements may be suitable for allocation for development in Neighbourhood Plans.



## [Research & Information](#)

Hampshire County Council collects and publishes a wide range of data for use by a variety of clients including the County Council itself, other local organizations, business and the community at large. This includes Census and other demographic information, socio-economic profiles and information on the availability of development land (residential and commercial). Much of this information may be of use as evidence in support of Neighbourhood Plan Preparation.



## [General information on infrastructure including supporting broadband](#)

The County Council produces a Strategic Infrastructure Statement which sets out what infrastructure should be provided alongside new development in order for the County Council to successfully deliver its services and meet its statutory obligations. We are also supporting and co-funding a programme to roll-out high speed broadband to parts of Hampshire that are currently poorly served.



## Environmental Impact Assessment

The County Council has a dedicated team of specialists offering an integrated consultancy service around all aspects of Environmental Impact Assessment. The team can provide a high level environmental constraints analysis service to Neighbourhood Planning Groups, advising on areas of higher or lower environmental risk and suitability for certain types of development.

**The services summarised above are important, to a greater or lesser degree in conserving and enhancing the quality of Hampshire's environment and ensuring that the high quality of life of Hampshire residents is maintained. It is important that the Neighbourhood Planning process reflects the objectives and priorities of the different County Council departments delivering these services; particularly where new development is proposed as this can have significant impacts on how the County Council delivers its duties and responsibilities in these areas. The County Council will work with Parish and Town Councils as well as Neighbourhood Forums to ensure that this happens as outlined in the following section of the guide. However, this can only happen if the County Council is engaged in the Neighbourhood Planning process at the outset.**

**Further detail of the roles summarised above can be found in the annex to this guidance note along with links to relevant information on County Council webpages.**

# What the County Council can and can't do

Given the wide range of activities described above and the increasing financial pressure local councils are under the County Council may not be able to engage in detail in each and every Neighbourhood Plan which might be prepared in the county. There are 262 parish councils in Hampshire meaning that resources may have to be prioritised.

While the County Council will always try to help and engage in the neighbourhood planning process as best we can the following table highlights what we might not be able to do at each stage of the preparation process.

| Stage   | What HCC may not be able to do  |
|---|---|
| Designating the neighbourhood area and, if appropriate, the neighbourhood forum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Respond to all area designation consultations</li> </ul>   |
| Preparing a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provide assistance to neighbourhood groups whose plans do not raise issues which affect the County Council</li> <li>◆ Collect large amounts of new evidence or information</li> <li>◆ Write policies or sections of the plan</li> <li>◆ Attend a large number of meetings</li> </ul> |
| Pre-submission publicity and consultation                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Respond to all pre-submission consultations</li> <li>◆ Attend all pre-submission events</li> </ul>   |
| Submission of a Neighbourhood Development Plan to the local planning authority  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Respond to all consultation requests and attend all consultation events</li> <li>◆ Guarantee funding for particular local schemes or projects</li> </ul>   |

It should be noted that, depending on the nature and extent of requests for information and advice on neighbourhood planning, there may be charges for some requests, particularly where they go above and beyond the County Council's statutory duties. The County Council will discuss individual requirements with bodies preparing Neighbourhood Plans on a case by case basis.

# Liaison with your County Councillor

As well as engaging with the County Council as an organisation in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans it is important to ensure that local County Councillors are informed about neighbourhood planning work and engaged in the process. When preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans, it is advisable to:

- notify the relevant local County Councillor(s) that work is about to commence on preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan;
- discuss whether the local County Councillor is aware of any plans the County Council has for infrastructure development in or around the Neighbourhood Plan area, which may impact on its preparation; and
- keep the local County Councillor(s) advised of the preparation of the emerging plan; he or she may be able to help and provide valuable information and advice.

County Council officers will help to keep County Councillors informed of the progress on communities' emerging Neighbourhood Development Plans.

A full list of current County Councillors can be found on the County Council website<sup>2</sup>.

For further information on how the County Council might assist in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and, as an initial point of contact, please contact the County Council's Strategic Planning Team at:

[planningconsultations@hants.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultations@hants.gov.uk).

# **ANNEX**

## **County Council Duties, Responsibilities and Roles in more detail**

## Transport in Hampshire

As the Local Highway Authority, the County Council is responsible for all roads and highways in Hampshire except for:

- motorways and trunk roads<sup>3</sup>;
- roads in Southampton<sup>4</sup>;
- roads in Portsmouth<sup>5</sup>; and
- a small minority of privately-maintained highways.

The Local Highway Authority has a duty to manage the road network so as to ensure, as far as possible, the safe and convenient movement of traffic, which includes pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. The Council has a number of transport related roles. These include:

- undertaking highway management and maintenance;
- developing strategies to ensure that infrastructure has the capacity to support proposed growth;
- delivering transport schemes;
- providing highway responses to planning applications;
- managing on street parking;
- developing public transport improvements and options for encouraging more sustainable transport; and
- planning and maintaining Public Rights of Ways and multi-use trails (including cycle routes).

All new development will have an impact to a greater or lesser degree on the local highway network. The Local Highway Authority must be fully engaged in the Neighbourhood Planning process once the Neighbourhood Forum begins to consider options for site allocations in order that impacts on the highway can be factored into the decision making process.

One of the more significant impacts of a school on its neighbourhood is the school run, potentially resulting in a relatively high level of traffic, and adding to congestion problems in the morning peak during term-times. Achieving greater use of sustainable travel modes for journeys to school is a substantial challenge, but one which should be aspired to. Therefore, the development and implementation of a School Travel Plan for local schools is fundamental in achieving this and must engage the wider school community. The infrastructure outcomes of the travel plans should subsequently feed in to the wider transport and access needs of the neighbourhood with the aim to, where possible, encourage and enable sustainable, healthy and safe travel, and minimize car alone journeys.

3. The responsibility of the Highways Agency

4. The responsibility of Southampton City Council

5. The responsibility of Portsmouth City Council



## Where can I find out more information on transport issues?

The County Council has a webpage for transport and highways in Hampshire<sup>6</sup>. It also has more information on the following areas:

- Public, Community and School Transport<sup>7</sup>
- Up-to-date information on planned Road and transport improvement schemes<sup>8</sup>.

The Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 provides the aspirations of the County Council and the projects that are envisaged over the period<sup>9</sup>. The Council also has a number of policies and guidance documents related to transportation issues<sup>10</sup>.

For more information on School Travel Plans, contact the School Travel Planning Team –

[schooltravelplans@hants.gov.uk](mailto:schooltravelplans@hants.gov.uk)

6. Hampshire County Council webpages on highways: [www.hants.gov.uk/roads/roads-contact-us.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/roads/roads-contact-us.htm)

7. Public, Community and School Transport: [www.hants.gov.uk/passengertransport.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/passengertransport.htm)

8. Road and transport improvement schemes: [www.hants.gov.uk/transport-schemes-index.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport-schemes-index.htm)

9. Hampshire Local Transport Plan (2011-2031): [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/local-transport-plan.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/local-transport-plan.htm)

10. Transport plans and policies in Hampshire: [www.hants.gov.uk/transport-planning.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport-planning.htm)

## Education in Hampshire

As an Education Authority the County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the county to meet current and future demand. It is the role of the County Council to plan, organise and commission places for all maintained schools in Hampshire in a way that raises standards, manages rising and declining pupil numbers and creates a diverse school community.

The County Council maintains over 500 schools, serving approximately 170,000 pupils across the county. The County Council is committed to improving standards in teaching and learning.

The primary school sector is experiencing significant pressure for school places and new housing development will have an impact on local schools. The rise in primary pupil numbers will carry through to the secondary sector in due course and this pressure must also be assessed in relation to any new housing development. These impacts need to be mitigated by those proposing new development and such considerations need to be factored into the Neighbourhood Planning process when Neighbourhood Forums are considering allocating sites for new housing development.

The County Council can advise and provide more detailed information on the capacity of existing schools, any future plans it might be considering for the provision or removal of school places or the impact that policies or

proposed developments may have on educational provision in a local area. It is suggested that early contact is made with the Strategic Development Team within the Children's Services Department to discuss proposals and the impact on school place planning. Officers have a district/borough responsibility and details are given below;

- ◆ Basingstoke and Deane Borough and Gosport Borough – **Glenn Parkinson**  
[glenn.parkinson@hants.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.parkinson@hants.gov.uk)
- ◆ New Forest District, Rushmoor Borough and Winchester District – **Gemma Bowry**  
[gemma.bowry@hants.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.bowry@hants.gov.uk)
- ◆ Eastleigh Borough and Hart District – **Mark Saunders**  
[mark.saunders@hants.gov.uk](mailto:mark.saunders@hants.gov.uk)
- ◆ East Hants District and Test Valley District – **Martin Shefferd**  
[martin.shefferd@hants.gov.uk](mailto:martin.shefferd@hants.gov.uk)
- ◆ Fareham Borough and Havant Borough – **Richard Vaughan**  
[richard.vaughan@hants.gov.uk](mailto:richard.vaughan@hants.gov.uk)

The County Council also determines planning applications for new schools and related development in connection with its role as Local Education Authority.

### Where can I find out more information on education issues?

Hampshire's website includes information on education and learning in the county:

[www.hants.gov.uk/learning](http://www.hants.gov.uk/learning)



## Flooding in Hampshire

As a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) the County Council has a duty to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) providing an overall strategy for managing local flood risk which is defined in the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 as flood risk from groundwater, surface water and 'ordinary watercourses'.

The LFRMS sets out the nature and extent of local flood risk and the measures proposed to address it. The Hampshire LFRMS was adopted in July 2013. It is recommended that the LFRMS is taken into account by local authorities preparing development plans. This also applies to Neighbourhood Forums preparing Neighbourhood Plans.

Government Policy, in the NPPF, encourages the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems

(SuDS) as one means of reducing flood risk. Neighbourhood Plans should take flood risk into account and include appropriate provision for flood risk management and mitigation measures to be introduced when new development is proposed; not just in areas currently identified as at risk from flooding.

Localised flooding can be caused by a number of factors and is dependent on the local situation and circumstances. The Neighbourhood Plan is one of the mechanisms to identify localised flooding hotspots and collate local information on flooding which can then be used to inform decisions and plans to minimise and mitigate local flood risk.

### Where can I find out more information on flooding issues?

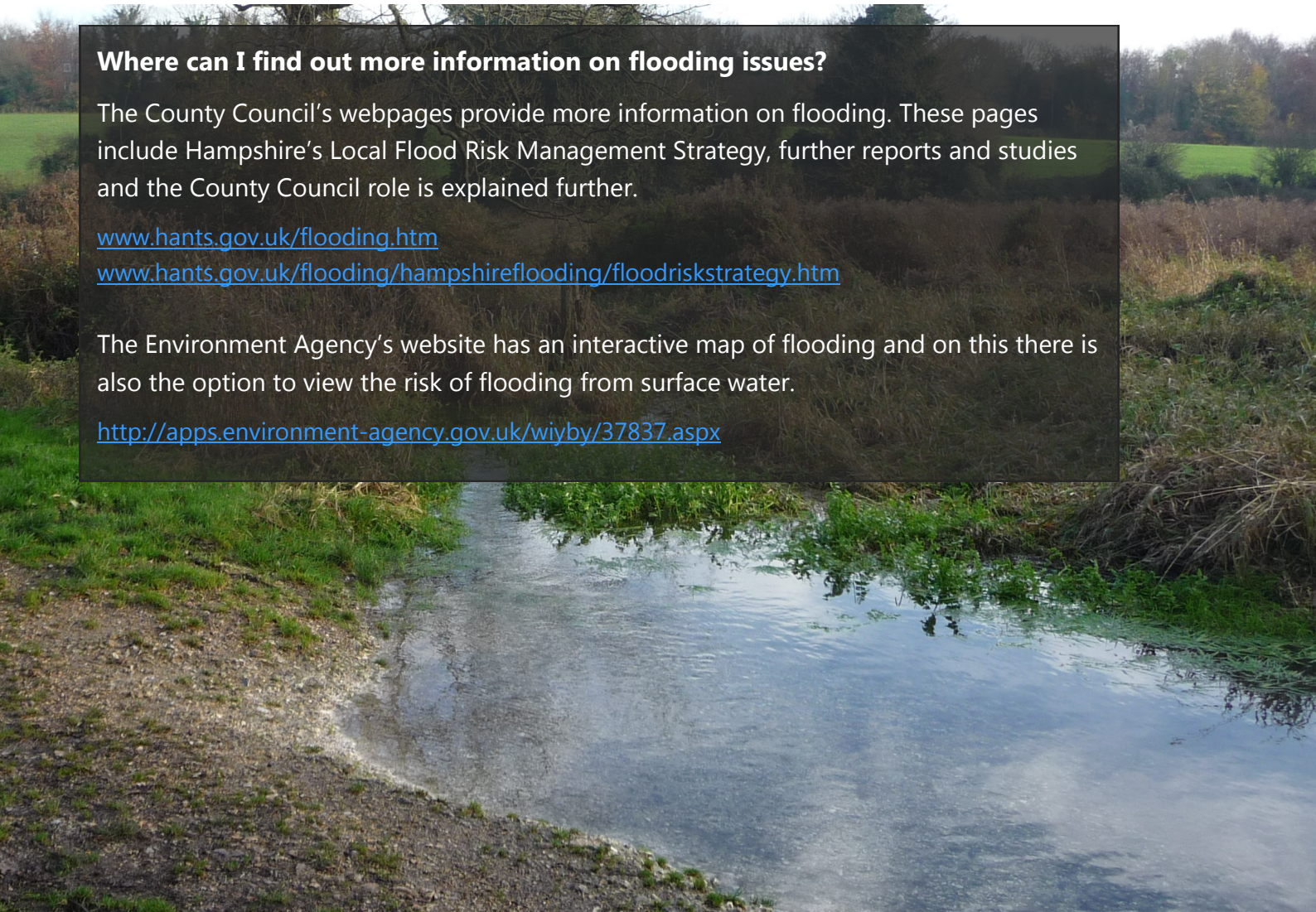
The County Council's webpages provide more information on flooding. These pages include Hampshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, further reports and studies and the County Council role is explained further.

[www.hants.gov.uk/flooding.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/flooding.htm)

[www.hants.gov.uk/flooding/hampshireflooding/floodriskstrategy.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/flooding/hampshireflooding/floodriskstrategy.htm)

The Environment Agency's website has an interactive map of flooding and on this there is also the option to view the risk of flooding from surface water.

<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/37837.aspx>



# Minerals and Waste Planning in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority (MWPA) for the majority of Hampshire<sup>11</sup>. This means the County Council prepares the planning policy for minerals and waste development (in partnership with Hampshire's other MWPA's) and also makes decisions on mineral and waste development within its administrative area.

The Hampshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan (HMWP) is a statutory part of the development plan and a material consideration in the decision-making process on planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans must be consistent with the development plan and the policies and provisions of the HMWP must be fully taken into account in Neighbourhood Plans.

In particular, it is important that Neighbourhood Plans take into account areas identified in the HMWP that are safeguarded because they are underlain by important mineral deposits or contain infrastructure important to the mineral extraction and waste industries, as referred to in policies 15, 16, 26 and 34 of the HMWP.

It is important that Neighbourhood Plans in Hampshire make it clear that minerals and waste are not covered by the plans and that they direct people to the HMWP.

As Waste Disposal Authority the County Council is responsible for managing the waste which is collected from households (albeit that the district, borough and city councils are responsible for collecting that waste). The County Council also runs the network of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

## Where can I find out more information on minerals and waste issues?

The adopted HMWP can be found on the County Council website. The HMWP includes minerals and waste site allocations. The maps of these areas can be found in Appendix B of the adopted Plan.

[www.hants.gov.uk/county-planning](http://www.hants.gov.uk/county-planning)

More information on minerals and waste planning applications considered by the County Council can be found on the County Council website. The County Council's website provides more information on waste management issues and Household Waste Recycling sites in Hampshire.

*Hampshire County Council website (planning applications):*

[www.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/applications-search.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/applications-search.htm)

*Hampshire County Council on waste:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling.htm)

*Household Waste Recycling Centres in Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/hwracs-2.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/hwracs-2.htm)

11. Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and the New Forest and South Downs National Park Authorities are also MWPA's in Hampshire.

## ***Social Care in Hampshire***

The County Council has a duty to provide care for the elderly, vulnerable children, people with disabilities, and people with poor mental health. Whilst the majority of the County Council's assistance is through community based personal care and support services, it also has a commissioning role in respect of residential and nursing care home provision, extra care housing, and various models of supported living or 'housing with care'. The County Council works with the district councils to make sure extra care housing and supported living is delivered through Local Plans.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan could support the needs of vulnerable adults and children in local communities by considering the types of new housing with care that would be required.

### **Where can I find out more information on social care?**

More information on child and adult social care in Hampshire can be found on the County Council website:

[www.hants.gov.uk/health](http://www.hants.gov.uk/health)

More information on youth services can be found on the County Council website:

*Youth Tube Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrenandyoungpeople/youthtube/inmyarea.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrenandyoungpeople/youthtube/inmyarea.htm)

## *Health and well-being in Hampshire*

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required the County Council to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board seeks to improve the lives of local people by making it easier for health, adults and children's social care and wellbeing services to plan and buy better services together. It is also responsible for ensuring that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is developed. The Needs Assessment contains information about the needs of local people that require addressing so that their health and wellbeing is improved.

The Board is also responsible for producing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy that explains how healthcare, health improvement and social care services will be changed to

improve everyone's health and wellbeing. The strategy will be delivered through partnership working with other organisations and the powers they have at their disposal. One such power is the land use planning system which can ensure that policies are drafted and decisions made which reflect the health needs of local communities. This can involve a wide range of considerations including design, layout, sustainable transport, accessible open space, access to local healthy food produce and so on. Neighbourhood Plans have a role to play in aiming to ensure that new development is allocated, designed and built with healthy-living principles in mind.

### **Where can I find out more information on health and wellbeing issues?**

The Hampshire Health and Wellbeing pages on the County Council's website:

[www.hants.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing.htm)

# ***Hampshire's Natural, Built and Historic Environment***

Hampshire's natural and historic environment, its buildings, archaeological sites, nature conservation sites, landscapes and streetscapes, are exceptional in their quality and diversity.

The County Council holds a wealth of information about the natural, built and historic environment. This may be helpful to Neighbourhood Forums in compiling a robust evidence base to underpin Neighbourhood Plans.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan could identify important aspects of the environment and set out in policy how the future of the assets could be managed, particularly when new development is being proposed.

One important resource to help do this is the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR). The AHBR is the Historic Environment Record for Hampshire County Council. It is an index to the known archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings, designed and historic landscapes, parks and gardens, and industrial monuments in the County.

Another is the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC). This is a partnership led initiative, hosted by Hampshire County Council, which has been established to bring together valuable information on Hampshire's wildlife and natural environment, to collate and manage this data, and to disseminate to those who need it.

Finally the Hampshire Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (ILCA). Hampshire's landscape is exceptional in terms of the national significance of its built, natural and historic environment. The ILCA characterises and describes the building blocks of Hampshire's landscape to ensure that the landscape as a whole can be understood and valued for its intrinsic worth when considering management issues or land use change and development.

## **Where can I find out more information on the natural, built and historic environment?**

The County Council's landscape, historic environment, biodiversity and green infrastructure webpages provide various information and guidance:

*Hampshire Landscape webpages:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/planning-the-landscape.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/planning-the-landscape.htm)

*Hampshire Historic Environment webpages:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment.htm)

*Hampshire Biodiversity pages:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/biodiversity.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/biodiversity.htm)

*Hampshire Biodiversity and planning pages:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/hampshirebiodiversity/biodiversity-planning.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshirebiodiversity/biodiversity-planning.htm)

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre is a partnership led initiative, hosted by Hampshire County Council, which has been established to bring together valuable information on Hampshire's wildlife and natural environment, to collate and manage this data, and to disseminate to those who need it:

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/hbic.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/hbic.htm)

The Hampshire Integrated Landscape Character Assessment is available on the County Council's website:

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/hampshire-integrated-character-assessment.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/hampshire-integrated-character-assessment.htm)

Hampshire County Council provides more information on improving its towns and villages on its website:

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/improving-towns.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/improving-towns.htm)

The Historic Environment webpages provide more information on the activities of the team and their current projects:

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment.htm)

The Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record is a useful resource which provides a comprehensive overview of the historic environment in Hampshire. It provides information about archaeological sites, historic buildings, historic landscape and other heritage features in Hampshire:

[www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment/historic-buildings-register.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment/historic-buildings-register.htm)

## Public access in Hampshire

The County Council has a statutory duty to record, maintain and protect the public right of way network (public rights of way are footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways). The County Council manages these rights of way in partnership with farmers, land managers, user groups and local councils.

New development can have impacts on the rights of way network and all changes to public rights of way must be made by legal orders. Impacts on the public rights of way network must be factored in to the Neighbourhood Planning process, particularly where new development is being proposed.

### Where can I find out more information on public access?

More information on Public Rights of Way in Hampshire can be found the County Council website.

Hampshire County Council Rights of Way information: [www.hants.gov.uk/row.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/row.htm)

## Common Land and Village Greens in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is a Commons Registration Authority under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and hold registers for both common land and town and village greens in Hampshire, which can be inspected free of charge at:

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1965/64](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1965/64)

The County Council maintains the registers and processes applications to register 'new' town or village greens.

Anyone can conduct a search to establish whether land in a Neighbourhood Development Plan area is registered common land or town or village green. The County Council can provide specific information on a common or village green including how an existing designation may affect a Neighbourhood Plan's policies. Guidance can also be offered on how an emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan may seek to designate areas as town or village greens.

### Where can I find out more information on common land and village greens?

The County Council's webpage provides information on common land and village greens, on their protection and on registering them.

*Common land in Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/countryside-service/commons-registration.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/countryside-service/commons-registration.htm)

*Village Greens in Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/countryside-service/commons-registration.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/countryside-service/commons-registration.htm)

## ***Gypsies and Travellers in Hampshire***

Hampshire County Council has a duty of care to all Gypsies and Travellers residing on Unauthorised Encampments within the county and will address their welfare, health and educational needs prior to and during any legal process for land repossession.

The County Council can provide advice on the management of Gypsy and Traveller sites and the development of proposals to create new sites, or make amendments to existing Gypsy and Traveller sites within Neighbourhood Plans.

In addition, staff from the Gypsy and Traveller Service are also jointly working with all district councils within Hampshire, and the unitary Authorities of Portsmouth and Southampton, to coordinate plans to provide further sites for Gypsies and Travellers, in line with obligations under the Housing Act 2004.

Neighbourhood Plans may need to take into account the need to provide additional pitches or accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers based on assessments of need in Strategic Housing Market Assessments if this has not been addressed in any local plan for the area.

### **Where can I find out more information on gypsy and travellers?**

More information on gypsy and travellers can be found on the County Council's website.

*Hampshire gypsy and travellers:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/propertyservices/estates/estates-gypsyandtraveller.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/propertyservices/estates/estates-gypsyandtraveller.htm)

## ***Libraries in Hampshire***

The County Council has a duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to people living, working and studying in the local area.

Libraries contribute to the well being of communities by providing access to books, information, learning and social activities. A Neighbourhood Plan can aid the provision of libraries by supporting the retention and use of existing library facilities or taking libraries into consideration when allocating land for the use of community facilities. Impacts on the library service should be taken into account when allocating sites for new residential development.

### **Where can I find out more information on Hampshire libraries?**

More information on Hampshire libraries can be found on the library service webpages.

*Hampshire Libraries:* [www.hants.gov.uk/library](http://www.hants.gov.uk/library)



# Economic Development in Hampshire

The Economic Development team supports sustainable economic growth and job creation throughout Hampshire, including support for appropriate development and diversification within the rural economy.

The County Council prepares an economic assessment of its administrative area produced jointly through its Research & Intelligence and Economic Development teams. The assessment provides local economic information and intelligence covering the economy, labour markets and socio-economics statistics, which may be useful background information to the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. This information can be found on the Facts and Figures section of Hampshire County Council's website (see link below).

The Economic Development team incorporates specialist knowledge, which may be of assistance to Neighbourhood Planning Groups, in all aspects of the economy, covering:

- Tourism, including Film Hampshire
- Enterprise and SME Growth
- Sector Growth
- Regeneration & Development, including information on key commercial and mixed use development sites across the County
- support for the economy in rural Hampshire

The Economic Development team develops relationships and connections with key partners to deliver the shared objective of supporting Hampshire's economy.

Organisations with whom we collaborate include both Solent and Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnerships; Hampshire Chamber of Commerce; Business South; UKTI; Homes & Communities Agency; Central Government; District, Unitary, Town and Parish Councils; Action Hampshire and educational establishments.

## Where can I find out more information on economic development?

More information on economic development in Hampshire can be found on the County Council website. This includes information on an economic assessment of the County.

[www.hants.gov.uk/business](http://www.hants.gov.uk/business)

[www.investinhampshire.co.uk](http://www.investinhampshire.co.uk)

[www.visit-hampshire.co.uk](http://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk)

[www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/figures-economics/hea\\_update .htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/figures-economics/hea_update.htm)

## ***Infrastructure and High Speed Broadband Provision***

Improvement in the availability of high speed broadband is a priority for the County Council and the Council is investing a total of £28.4m of public funds to increase and improve accessibility across the County.

The commercially funded rollout of superfast broadband, conducted by BT and Virgin, will reach around 80% of premises. The Hampshire Superfast Broadband Programme will build on this and extend coverage to 90% of premises by the end of 2015, with plans already in place to ultimately reach at least 95% by 2018.

Neighbourhood Forums are encouraged to require developers to provide improvements in broadband provision when drafting policies which allocate new sites for development.

### **Where can I find out more information on high speed broadband in Hampshire?**

More information on superfast broadband provision in Hampshire is available on the County Councils website.

[www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/](http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/)

[www.hants.gov.uk/broadband\\_signup\\_postcard.pdf](http://www.hants.gov.uk/broadband_signup_postcard.pdf)

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/broadband/2013-09HampshirePhase1Map-Copy.pdf>

The County Council's Strategic Infrastructure Statement can be viewed or downloaded from the County Council's website:

[www.hants.gov.uk/strategic-planning/infrastructure](http://www.hants.gov.uk/strategic-planning/infrastructure)

# ***Energy Efficiency, Carbon Reduction and Sustainability***

Government policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires the planning system to play a key role in helping shape places to secure radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change, and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. This is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Hampshire County Council actively supports communities becoming more energy efficient, promoting resilience to climate change and encouraging sustainable development. It has developed an expertise in a range of matters related to climate change, energy efficiency and carbon reduction and can provide guidance and advice on how these matters might best be addressed in Neighbourhood Plans.

## **Where can I find out more information on energy, carbon reduction and sustainability?**

More information on energy and carbon , climate resilience and sustainability can be found on the County Council's website.

*Energy and carbon in Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/energyandsustainability/environment-climate\\_change-energyandcarbon.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/energyandsustainability/environment-climate_change-energyandcarbon.htm)

*Energy and sustainability in Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/energyandsustainability.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/energyandsustainability.htm)

*Climate resilience in Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/energyandsustainability/environment-climate\\_change-climate\\_resilience.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/energyandsustainability/environment-climate_change-climate_resilience.htm)

*Sustainability in Hampshire:*

[www.hants.gov.uk/sustainability.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/sustainability.htm)

## Property and assets in Hampshire

The County Council holds a wide variety of property and land assets which are essential to service delivery. These include:

- Schools;
- playing fields;
- children's homes;
- adult learning centres;
- homes and day centres for older people;
- gypsy and traveller sites;
- highways depots;
- car parks;
- fire stations;
- museums;
- libraries;
- household waste recycling centres;
- the county farms estate;
- country parks; and
- other strategic landholdings.

At times, some of these assets can be declared surplus to requirements and they can often be in sustainable locations and suitable for allocation for new uses.

The County Council is always keen to work with other bodies to bring surplus sites to the market through the local plan and neighbourhood plan making process.

### Where can I find out more information on property and assets?

The County Council's website provides more information on assets and property's owned by the Council.

Property and assets: [www.hants.gov.uk/propertyservices/estates.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/propertyservices/estates.htm)



## ***Facts and Figures – a profile of Hampshire***

Hampshire County Council collects and publishes a wide range of data for use by a variety of clients including the County Council itself, other local organizations, business and the community at large. This includes information from the Census on demography and the attributes of the Hampshire population as well as planning-related information on housing and employment land supply delivery. It also publishes a wide range of statistical and technical information which may be useful in compiling a robust evidence base on which to build a Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Where can I find out more information research and statistics about Hampshire?**

More information on general facts and figures can be found on the County Councils website including population, land supply. Associated publications and documents are also available to view online.

*Hampshire facts and figures:* [www.hants.gov.uk/planning/factsandfigures](http://www.hants.gov.uk/planning/factsandfigures)

*Information on Hampshire's population:* [www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/population-statistics.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/population-statistics.htm)

*Land Supply information:* [www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/land-supply.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/land-supply.htm)

*Publications:* [www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/othertopics.htm](http://www.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/othertopics.htm)

## ***Environmental Impact Assessment***

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of assessing the environmental impacts of a proposed development.

Developments of a certain type and/or scale are required to undergo EIA under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (as amended). Schedules 1 and 2 of the regulations specify the type and scale of development which trigger the requirement for EIA. Examples include waste disposal installations, construction of motorways or express roads, or industrial estate developments (of more than 5 ha). Where development takes place in a particularly sensitive area, there is a need to determine whether an EIA is required (even if the development does not meet the thresholds specified in the EIA Regulations).

Hampshire County Council has a dedicated EIA Team, offering an integrated consultancy service for EIA developments. The team can provide a high level environmental constraints analysis service to Neighbourhood Planning Groups, advising on areas of higher or lower environmental risk and suitability for certain types of development.

### **Where can I find out more information on HCC's Environmental Impact Assessment services?**

If you are interested in discussing Hampshire County Council's EIA services please email the EIA Team at: [eia.team@hants.gov.uk](mailto:eia.team@hants.gov.uk)