

Your Test Valley.

**Information from
Test Valley Borough Council**

**Spring
2026**

www.testvalley.gov.uk



01264 368000



Your message from the leader.



The start of 2026 saw the close of the government's public consultation on the options for local government reorganisation, and I would like to thank everyone who responded. As I type, the government is reviewing all the options on the table, including our preferred proposal to create five new councils across Hampshire, with Test Valley, New Forest District Council, Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council coming together to create one of those.

The new councils are expected to come into effect from 1 April 2028 and will provide all services in your area that are currently split between Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. While I have said before that we would not have chosen LGR, our commitment to achieving the very best outcome for our residents remains resolute. So, whichever option the government chooses, we will make the very best of it.

But this message certainly isn't about winding down as we head towards LGR. Far from it.

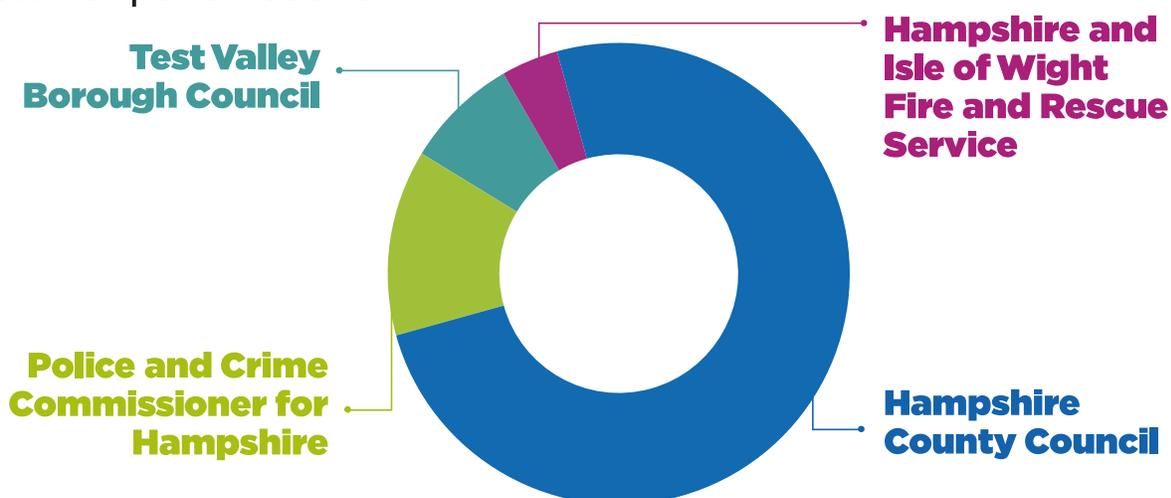
We are driving forward the Romsey and Andover town centre regeneration projects at pace, with architects being sought for a new community facility in Romsey and demolition now complete ready to begin construction of Andover's new theatre later this year. The highway work to create the new Western Avenue riverside park is also due to begin in 2026, opening up views of the beautiful River Test, drawing people into the town centre, and boosting the economy.

And last year, we allocated up to £10M to maintain momentum around delivering key community projects across the borough, backed by residents. This includes improving our parks and open spaces, working alongside the NHS to improve our communities' health and wellbeing, and working with you to improve your community facilities.

Councillor Phil North
Leader of Test Valley Borough Council

Your guide to council tax.

The amount of council tax you pay depends on where you live and your property band. While you pay your council tax to Test Valley Borough Council, it is then shared with Hampshire County Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, and Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, plus your local town or parish council.



At time of printing, the exact charges weren't confirmed, but the chart shows roughly how your council tax is shared.

For those who may need help paying your bill, council tax support is available for households on low incomes. There are slightly different rules for working-age and pension-age households.

For more information about the scheme visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/CouncilTaxSupport or email counciltax@testvalley.gov.uk

Did you know that you can receive your council tax bill by email and manage your account online? You can notify us of a change of address, set up or amend a direct debit and apply for, or cancel, a single person discount.

To register for paperless billing, you will need your account reference and online key, both of which are shown on the front of your latest bill.
www.testvalley.gov.uk/CouncilTaxOnline

Your council services.



We provide a variety of services, including:

- **waste and recycling collections**
- **street cleaning**
- **housing and homelessness support**
- **processing planning applications**
- **supporting communities**
- **green spaces and nature reserves**
- **indoor and outdoor leisure centres**
- **building control**
- **car parks**



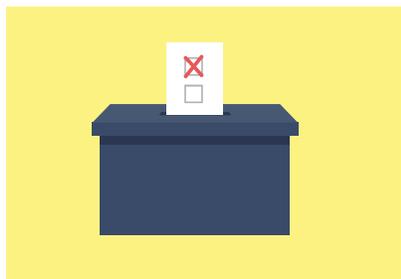
- The money that goes to **Hampshire County Council** helps to pay for services including:
 - **road and highways repairs, including filling potholes**
 - **adult social care**
 - **schools**
 - **public health**
 - **children's services**
 - **libraries**

For more information about all of the services we provide visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/AllServices



Your useful links.

You can find out about our services, report problems and more at www.testvalley.gov.uk



Need to register to vote?

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



Need to pay council tax?

www.testvalley.gov.uk/CouncilTaxOnline



Want to check your bin collection dates?

www.testvalley.gov.uk/Bins



Need to apply for planning permission?

www.testvalley.gov.uk/PlanningApplications



Looking for a career with the council?

www.testvalley.gov.uk/Jobs



Housing and homelessness support

www.testvalley.gov.uk/Homelessness

Sign up for My Test Valley, where you can do all the above in one place: www.testvalley.gov.uk/MyTestValley



Your councillors.



We have 43 Borough councillors who provide a huge range of help and support to their communities including:

- **signposting and applying for grants to help get projects and businesses off the ground**
- **contributing money towards projects through the Councillor Community Grant scheme**
- **responding to community issues**
- **running consultations**
- **sharing local data and information to shape new projects and pieces of work**
- **providing a link to parish and town councils and Hampshire County Council**
- **helping build stronger, more resilient communities by supporting local groups to “do more for themselves”.**

If you haven't already been in touch, to find out who your local councillor is and how to contact them, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/Councillors



Your grants.

We offer a variety of different grants for our residents, businesses and community groups. Here are just a few:

There are several different grant schemes that not-for-profit, charities, community groups and organisations can apply for to help fund a community project in Test Valley. If you are one of these eligible groups and are thinking about applying for some funding, then please get in contact with your local community engagement officer who can help you put together an application.

You can find the details of who your community engagement officer is by going to www.testvalley.gov.uk/CEOfficers

For residents:

- Disabled Facilities Grant - for people with a permanent disability of any sort, to help make changes to their home. This could include installing stair lifts, ramps and level access showers to improve mobility and accessibility.

For businesses:

- Business Incentive Grant – grants of £750 available to new business start-ups.
- Independent Retailer Grant – grants of £1,200 are available to encourage independently-owned retailers to take up vacant premises in Andover or Romsey town centres.
- Discretionary Rate Relief

For more information on these grants visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/CommunityGrants or www.testvalley.gov.uk/BusinessGrants



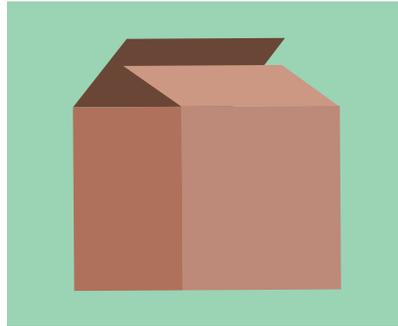
Your waste.

Recycling is easy with Test Valley Borough Council.

You can put the following items in your **brown** recycling bin:



Paper



Cardboard



Plastic bottles



Tins and cans



Aerosol cans



The contents of your brown bin are taken to a local materials recovery facility where they sort the items and send them on for recycling. The contents of your black bin go to an energy recovery facility where they burn the rubbish to produce electricity.

For more information about what you can and can't recycle, our garden waste collection service, and to check when your bins are collected, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/WasteAndRecycling



Recycling other materials.

We also have local recycling centres across the Borough, where you can take:

- **glass bottles and jars**
- **paper-based tubes with metal ends, for example some gravy, hot chocolate and crisp containers**
- **textiles**
- **aluminium foil**
- **cartons**
- **books and media**

Food waste update.

**OVER 1,200 TONNES OF FOOD WASTE
COLLECTED IN FIRST 16 WEEKS.**

THANK YOU!



For more information visit: testvalley.gov.uk/foodwaste

Your housing support services.



Need housing advice?

www.testvalley.gov.uk/HousingAdvice



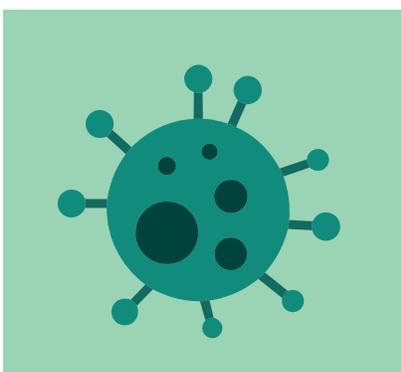
Housing and homelessness support

www.testvalley.gov.uk/Homelessness



Domestic abuse support

www.testvalley.gov.uk/DomesticAbuse



Damp and mould advice

www.testvalley.gov.uk/DampAndMould



Housing advice for former armed forces

www.testvalley.gov.uk/ArmedForcesSupport



Landlord support

www.testvalley.gov.uk/LandlordSupport

Your events.

Look forward to a jam-packed year of events coming up across the Borough in 2026. With regular food and artisan markets, family-friendly events and seasonal festivals, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



Sign up to receive emails about upcoming events at www.testvalley.gov.uk/emails and find out more at www.visittestvalley.org

