





Campaign Update

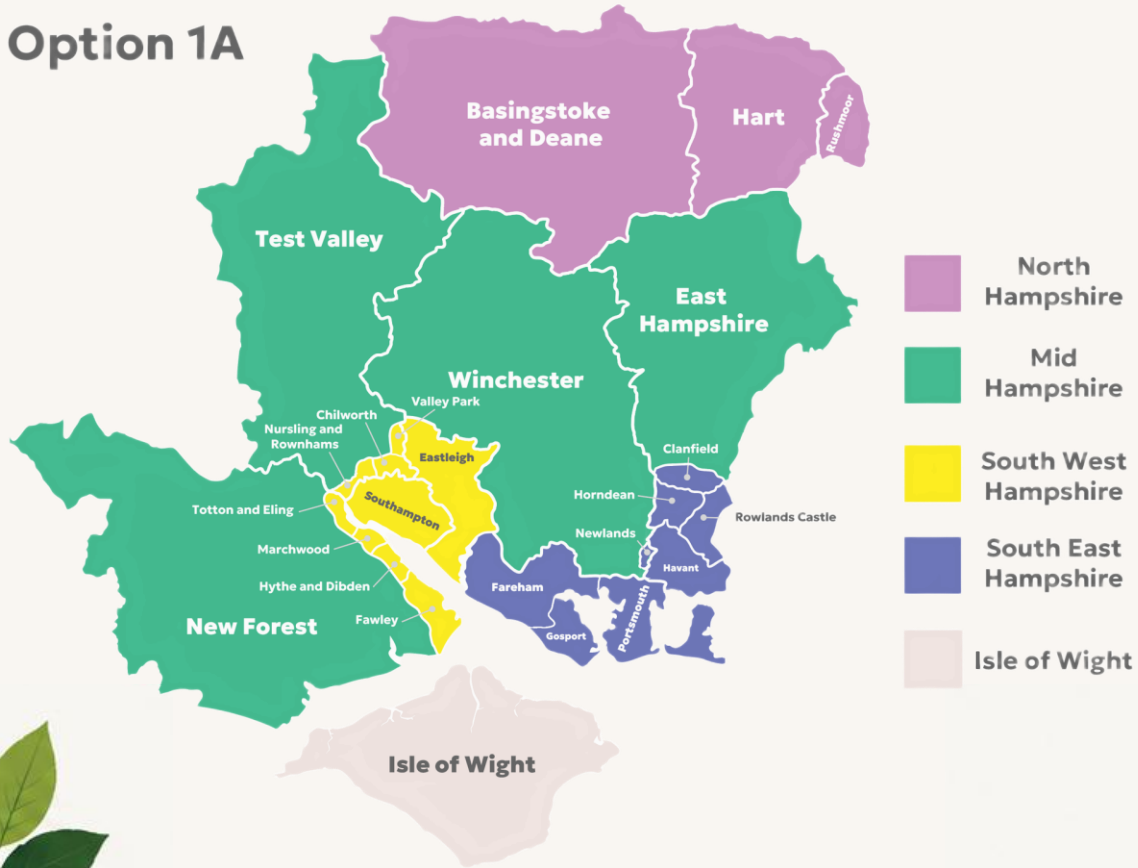
— June 2026 —

One District. One Voice. Our Future.



A quick update: where we are and what happens next

Option 1A



Government selected Option 1A



This would split the New Forest district



Strong public opposition continues

97% of residents and **98%** of businesses surveyed supported keeping the New Forest whole through Option 1, with overwhelming opposition to Option 1A.



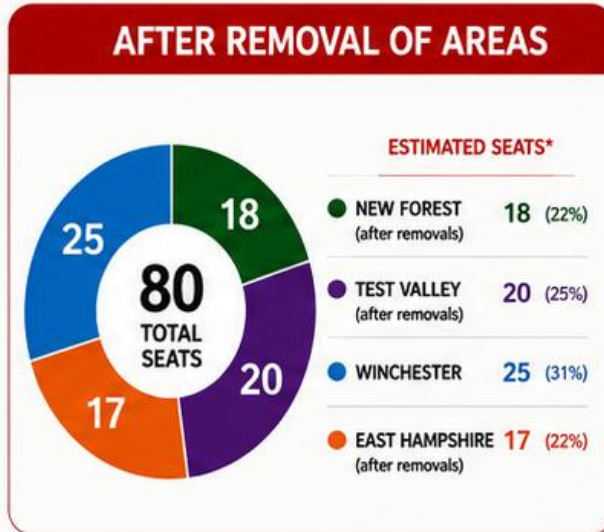
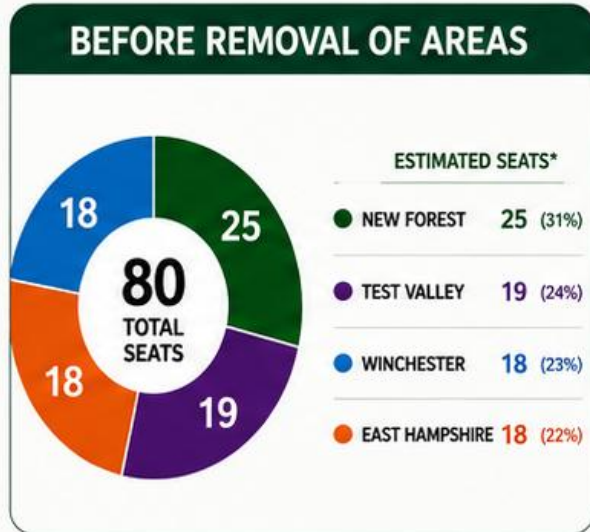
Campaign now focused on:

- ✓ legal challenge
- ✓ political pressure
- ✓ keeping communities informed



What is wrong with Option 1A?

Option 1A removes a significant part of our district and hands it over to urban areas.



● NEW FOREST
 ● TEST VALLEY
 ● WINCHESTER
 ● EAST HAMPSHIRE

*Based on current council seat allocations.



It divides the New Forest Community.
Communities that share services, infrastructure and identity would be separated.



It weakens representation
for The New Forest in separate Unitary Authorities. Our voice becomes a minority voice.



It complicates management of the Forest and National Park for other stakeholders.
Many organisations work across the whole Forest.



It threatens larger scale industrial and port development in The Waterside.
The rationale for Option 1A is growth, not community need.



It leaves the remainder of the New Forest resource and revenue poor.
Mid Hampshire is predominantly rural, with an older population, high social care demand and would have reduced revenue to fund services.



Option 1A affects every part of the New Forest – not just Totton & the Waterside.
It changes the future sustainability, representation and finances of the whole district.



Why New Forest Together was created and is now a Community Interest Company



Community-led • Not for profit • Focused on protecting the New Forest

Why we set up New Forest Together



To give residents a clear independent voice



To keep pressure on decision-makers



To coordinate community response



To ensure every lawful avenue is explored



To represent the Forest as one connected district

New Forest Together is now a CIC



Officially registered Community Interest Company



A formal organisation for community benefit



Provides transparency and accountability



Enables fundraising and sponsorship



Supports the campaign professionally and sustainably



Why New Forest Together was created

Community support, stakeholder support and parish backing continue to expand across the district



We continue to be community-led and independent. Our focus remains on protecting the New Forest and standing up for local people and future generations.



26,000+ signatures and rising

Petition objectives:

- Encourage local authorities to explore the viability of legal challenge
- Support all lawful efforts to challenge or slow implementation
- Demonstrate the strength of feeling locally and the lack of consent for Option 1A



Thousands of leaflets delivered

across the district



Growing backing from parish and town councils

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| • Brockenhurst | • Fawley |
| • Lyndhurst | • Marchwood |
| • Bransgore | • Lymington and Pennington |
| • Netley Marsh | • Fordingbridge |
| • Copythorne | • Hythe and Dibden |
| • Totton & Eling | |

... and other forest stakeholders such as the New Forest Association (NFA) and Commoners Defence Association (CDA)



Local and national media engagement

BBC • ITV • Telegraph • Guardian • Daily Mail • Southern Daily Echo • Hampshire Chronicle



Community events and roadshows

Upcoming roadshows:

- Monday 15 June 2026 – Lyndhurst Community Centre
- Thursday 25 June 2026 – Fordingbridge Town Hall



Taking the case to Westminster



Working with our MPs to secure Westminster Hall debating time

Ensuring the issue receives Parliamentary scrutiny and national attention.



Continuing engagement with MPs

Building support across Hampshire and ensuring local concerns remain visible in Westminster.



Keeping pressure on Ministers

We are seeking a meeting with Ministers through Sir Julian Lewis MP to present the community's concerns directly.



Making clear the impact on local communities

Ensuring Government understands the real impact on residents, services and the future of our communities



Legal position – differing views, challenge continues

New Forest District Council

Counsel's view:



No realistic prospect of a judicial review succeeding



New Forest Together

Independent Counsel's view:



Credible grounds remain to challenge aspects of Option 1A

Focus on:



Financial sustainability – does Option 1A genuinely meet Government's own tests?



Public service delivery – is there robust evidence for a strong long-term service model?



Decision-making process – did ministers have a sufficiently complete evidence base?

Hampshire County Council

Current position:



Continuing to pursue legal action

Focus understood to include:



Financial sustainability



Public service delivery



Government process and evidence



Bottom line



Legal challenge remains active



More than one legal view exists



Government still has power to revisit or amend proposals



Possible outcomes over the coming months

1 Timetable slip



Government timetable is exceptionally tight

Key milestones:



July / August 2026:
secondary legislation



May 2027:
shadow authority elections



April 2028:
implementation

Delays now increase pressure on delivery

2 Legal challenge proceeds



Hampshire County Council continues judicial review

Could lead to:

- Government decision scrutinised in the High Court
- pressure on ministers to justify evidence and process
- wider national pressure as other LGR challenges emerge

3 Pressure builds politically



If delays continue and implementation drifts closer to the next General Election

Then questions grow over:

- whether Government wants a contentious restructure running into an election year
- whether ministers pause or rethink
- whether political priorities change

Time itself can become a major pressure point

4 Government reopens discussions



Secretary of State can revisit proposals

Could include:

- revisions to Option 1A
- negotiated changes
- extra protections for affected communities

Requires Hampshire to be clear and united on alternatives



Bottom line



Option 1A is not yet implemented



Government still has choices



Legal, political and timing pressures can create space for change



Thank you - please stay engaged



Continue raising awareness locally



Share updates with residents

via your parish channels - including noticeboards



Encourage petition support

help residents stay informed and involved



Stay engaged as next steps develop

legal, political and community action continues

Get in touch



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Join us on
Instagram and Facebook



We need your support

Your involvement today helps shape a stronger voice for tomorrow.

Thank you for standing with your community. *Together, we can make a difference.*