



KEEP THE NEW FOREST TOGETHER!

STOP THE GOVERNMENT'S LGR CARVE-UP!

97% SAID NO. TIME IS SHORT – SIGN THE PETITION NOW!



WHY THIS PETITION MATTERS

The Government has announced plans that will break up the New Forest district and move large parts of our community into a new authority dominated by Southampton and Eastleigh. This would permanently change how our area is run and it does not meet the Government's own criteria for local government reform.

Across the Forest, people are deeply concerned.

In the first three weeks of launching our petition, **over 18,000 residents have signed, and support continues to grow rapidly.**

We are opposing the break-up of the New Forest district, which is unnecessary, unjustified, and overwhelmingly rejected by local people. We ask the Government to stop this unwarranted, unjustified and unpopular decision.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

We are calling on New Forest District Council to take three urgent steps:

1. Seek formal legal advice (Counsel's Opinion) ACHIEVED 13/04/2026

Engage an independent public-law barrister to review the Government's decision and assess whether the process followed the rules and criteria it was supposed to.

2. Be ready to pursue a Judicial Review

If that legal advice shows the process was mishandled or the criteria were breached, the Council must be prepared to challenge the decision through the courts.

3. Work with neighbouring councils and MPs

To present a united, cross-party response that reflects residents' views and delays the process toward the 2029 General Election, where the decision could be reconsidered.

WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT

- **97% of residents** who responded to the consultation opposed the plan.
- Their views appear to have been **disregarded**.
- **Businesses were not properly consulted**, and the proposal risks increased red tape for owners operating across the New Forest, who may need to deal with multiple authorities.
- **Parking clocks will no longer work district-wide**, creating confusion for residents and visitors.
- Concerns remain about the impact on **school catchment areas**.
- NFDC estimate the cost at **£2.4 million for breaking up the District** and disaggregation of services, with final costs likely closer to £5–6 million.
- **Hampshire County Council opposes the decision**, stating that a Mid-Hampshire rural authority will not be financially sustainable without the whole New Forest tax base.
- Breaking up the New Forest will create **fragmentation, higher costs, and service disruption**.
- The proposals overlook the Forest's **historic identity and community cohesion**.
- **No evidence has been provided** to show that splitting the district would improve services or deliver savings.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please **add your name** to this petition.

We now need as close to 30,000 signatures as possible for our Members of Parliament to secure a Westminster Hall debate on the issue.

Please return to:

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