flagship

Winter 2026

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL



He's seen it ...have you?

New museum show tells the city's story

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What's on
Your guide to winter events

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Bin collections
Seasonal changes and recycling calendar

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Money crisis?
How we can help you out

flagship

On the cover:
Portsmouth100 exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery.
To buy a tote bag (while stocks last) visit the exhibition or The D-Day Story. Sorry, cuddly P100 lions have sold out. Other merchandise available.

Inside this issue:

8 **Enjoying nature** Spot wildlife in the city

10–11 **Street cleaning** Taking tough action

16 **SEND update** Strengthening support

20 **Ketamine** How to get help

23 **New homes** Progress on housing

Our priorities for Portsmouth

In this edition of Flagship we have organised the articles into themes that reflect the Council's current priorities for the city.

In full, these are to:

1. Work with partners to make our streets, roads, homes and public spaces safer, cleaner and greener.
2. Ensure the city is a welcoming, vibrant and inclusive place in which to live, work and visit.
3. Make sure that when people need additional help to live their lives, it is there for them.
4. Protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the city.
5. Strengthen the city economy, creating jobs and opportunities for residents.
6. Speak up for our city.

Advertisement



Flagship is produced by Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AL
✉ **flagship@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**
search for **Flagship** at **www.portsmouth.gov.uk**

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Contacting us

You may find our website **www.portsmouth.gov.uk** is the quickest and easiest way to get information.

City helpdesk: **023 9283 4092** or **cityhelpdesk@portsmouthcc.gov.uk** or **www.portsmouth.gov.uk/contactonline**

Adult social care: **023 9268 0810** or **ASCoppdAdmin@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**

Children's social care and safeguarding: **023 9283 9111** or **023 9268 8793** or **mash@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**

Council tax: **023 9268 8588** or search **council tax** at **www.portsmouth.gov.uk**

Parking: **023 9268 8310** or **parking@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**

Recycling and rubbish: **023 9284 1105** or search **recycling and rubbish** at **www.portsmouth.gov.uk**

See our **contact directory** under **contact us** at **www.portsmouth.gov.uk**

Payments

You can drop in at the Civic Offices to make a payment: 9am–4pm, Mon–Fri. Cashiers are open 9am–1pm, self-serve payment machines 1pm–4pm.

In-person appointments

The services below can arrange for you to speak to someone in person at the Civic Offices. You need to make an appointment, unless the issue is urgent, for example an emergency homelessness application or other crisis. Before making an appointment, we will try to save you a journey by resolving your enquiry on the phone first. To make an appointment call:

- housing benefit and council tax support: **023 9283 4556**
- council tax and business rates: **023 9268 8588**
- housing needs: **023 9283 4989**
- school admissions and family information: **023 9268 8008**
- children's social care: **023 9283 9111**

All our services are available online and on the phone.

A shining Christmas in Portsmouth



We Shine

Christmas is set to sparkle across the city this year, with magical experiences, festive markets and dazzling light displays.

The countdown begins later this month, with Christmas lights switch-on parties, community carol singing, a citywide light festival and the return of the Guildhall Square ice rink.

The city will glow with stunning light installations, artworks and performances as part of the free **We Shine Community** festival (19–21 November). A highlight will be the much-loved lantern parade in Fratton.

Festive fun will continue with our high street switch-on parties. **Cosham Carols** kicks off on 18 November, followed by the **Southsea Lights Switch On** (19 November) and the **City Centre Switch On** (20 November). Expect appearances from panto stars, performances from local choirs and, of course, a visit from Father Christmas.

Portsmouth Christmas Market is back in Commercial Road from 20 November. And on Small Business Saturday, 5 December, **buses will be free in Portsmouth** to help you shop local and visit the **Small Business Saturday Taster Market** in the city centre, showcasing new independent businesses.

In Southsea, check out the **Love Southsea Christmas Shopping Evening and Carols Singalong** on 3 December in lower Palmerston Road, followed by **Love Southsea Christmas Markets** on weekends from 5 to 20 December. **Southsea Farmers Market** is also on 20 December.

For arts and crafts visit the **Hotwalls Christmas Market** (28–29 November and 5–6 December).



Meanwhile, Portsmouth on Ice returns. Running from 21 November to 3 January in Guildhall Square, the covered ice-rink offers festive fun whatever the weather.

For more event details and shopping ideas: **rediscoverportsmouth.co.uk/christmas**





Discover your city's story at your museum

Our major new museum exhibition celebrates a century of Portsmouth history.

You can visit for free at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, and go on a fascinating journey through 100 years of local life.

The exhibition is called Portsmouth 100: Your Museum. Your Stories. Your City. It celebrates people, places and memories that have shaped Portsmouth since it was granted city status in 1926.

It spans three galleries and more than 20 themed sections, covering a huge range of subjects – including football, music, transport, markets and theatres. Visitors can explore stories of everyday life alongside objects that spark memories for generations of residents.

On these two pages you can see just eight of the fascinating items on show, all of which have their own stories.

What makes the exhibition special is that it has been created with local people. A section about the history of the Dockyard, for example, was co-curated by Mick Huitson and volunteers from Portsmouth Dockyard Historical Trust, including former civilian workers and Royal Navy veterans.

The exhibition is more than a look back at the past. It celebrates what makes Portsmouth special today and offers a chance to see yourself reflected in the city's story.

The exhibition was created with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.





5



6



1 Tricorn sign

A sign from the Tricorn Centre, the landmark building that dominated the city centre before its demolition in 2004.

2 China lion

Souvenirs with crests, like this, first became popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

3 Rope lion

Winston the lion was a good luck mascot on local sailor Sir Alec Rose's voyage around the world from 1967 to 1968.

4 Pompey rattle

Wooden rattles like this used to be common at football matches. When spun, they made a loud noise.

5 Bread bike

This delivery bike brought fresh bread to homes across Southsea. The bakery started in 1903 and closed in 2010.

6 Rollercoaster car

From the Skyways ride (1980–2017) at Clarence Pier. It featured in an episode of the Mr Bean TV comedy.

7 Elephant slide

A favourite of generations of families, this was rescued from the Pyramids Centre in 2020.

8 Empire medal

Awarded to Vernon Harold Sellwood, 15, an Auxiliary Fire Service messenger who undertook fireman duties in the 1941 Blitz.

7



8



out&about

★ NOVEMBER – FEBRUARY ★

All the highlighted events are free



HMS Warrior: A Christmas Ship, 5–6 December

Picture: Royal Navy Museums

Lots more going on...

There isn't room here for all the things to do and places to visit in Portsmouth. You can find out more at **visitportsmouth.co.uk**

To keep in touch with things to do around the city, sign up to our monthly Visit Portsmouth e-newsletter. Go to **bit.ly/2bz13Sn**

Getting there

Walking, cycling, riding a Voi, sharing a taxi or taking the bus can save money, boost your health and help make our air cleaner.

ONGOING

Mondays (term time)
Tots and Toys
Empower Centre, Kingston Road, 9.30am–11am.

Second Monday
Craftabulous
Crafts at Panero Lounge, £12. craftabulous2@gmail.com

Tuesdays
Tech Support
Bradbury Centre Café, Kingston Rd, Age UK, 1pm–3pm, £5 per hour. Book on 023 9286 2121.

First and third Tuesday
Games Club
Bradbury Centre Café, Age UK, 10am–12pm, £3.50, inc cake and refreshments. 023 9286 2121.

First Wednesday
Veterans' Bereavement Café
Bradbury Centre Café, 10.30am–12.30pm. 023 9286 2121.

Alternate Thursdays
Creative Craft Group
Bradbury Centre Café, Age UK, 1pm–3pm. 023 9286 2121.

First and third Friday
Coffee & Company
Bradbury Centre Café, 1.30pm–3pm, £3.50. 023 9286 2121.

Second and last Friday
Veterans' Breakfast Club
Bradbury Centre Café, Age UK, 10am–11.30am, £5–£6.20. 023 9286 2121.

Second and last Sunday
Car Meet
Port Solent, 9am–12pm.

NOVEMBER

18 Messy Church
Empower Centre, Kingston Road, 4pm–5.30pm. Craft, food, fun and creative worship for families.

18 Bill Bailey
Guildhall, 7.30pm, £26.50–£79.40.

18 Cosham Carols

19 Southsea Lights Switch On

20 City Centre Switch On
18–20 – Lights switch-on parties. See page 3.

19–21 We Shine Community Festival
weshineportsmouth.co.uk

20–24 Dec Portsmouth Christmas Market
Commercial Road. See page 3.

21–3 Jan Portsmouth on Ice
See page 3. portsmouthiceskating.uk

21 Christmas Fair
St Luke's, Greetham St, 12pm–3pm.

21 Megson
Square Tower, 7.15pm, £20. squarerootspromotions.co.uk

21 Whitacre and Fauré
Portsmouth Choral Union. Anglican Cathedral, 7.30pm, adults £20, children/students £5.

21–23 PFS Recovery Film Festival
Southsea Cinema and Arts Centre.

23 The Hunna
Guildhall, 7pm, £38.25.

28 Set Sail for Storytime
Historic Dockyard. Free with museum ticket. historicdockyard.co.uk

28–29 Hotwalls Christmas Market
See hotwallsstudios.co.uk

29 Elvis World Tour
Guildhall, 7pm, £29–£47.

DECEMBER

1 East 17
Guildhall, 7pm, £36.10–£67.10.

3 Demi Marriner
Square Tower, 7.15pm, £20. squarerootspromotions.co.uk

3 Squeeze
Guildhall, 7pm, £42–£80.

3 Love Southsea Xmas Shopping and Carols Singalong
Palmerston Road, 5–9pm.

4, 7 & 9 Sleigh Nights
Santa tours Baffins (weather dependent). 5pm from Baffins Pond Assoc community garden.

5 Christmas Fair
Fratton Comm Centre, 10am–2pm.

5 Southsea Beach Clean
10am–11.45am. Meet at Eastney Coffee Cup. Equipment provided.

5 Memories of Charlotte St Market
Talk, Museum and Art Gallery, 10.30am–11.30am.

5 Small Business Saturday Taster Market
See page 3.

5–20 Love Southsea Christmas Market
Saturdays and Sundays. lovesouthseamarkets.co.uk

5–6 A Christmas Ship
HMS Warrior, 10am–1pm or 1pm–4pm. Free with a museum ticket. See royalnavymuseums.org.uk for booking info.

5–6 Festival of Christmas Market
Port Solent, 10am–4pm.

5–6 Hotwalls Christmas Market
See hotwallsstudios.co.uk

6 Christmas Fair
Eastney Community Centre, 10am–2pm. Santa's grotto £5 (booking required on 023 9286 4306).

6 Christmas Concert
Milton Glee Choir with Royal Marines Assoc Concert Band. St Mary's Church, 4pm, £17.50.

6 Rick Wakeman
Guildhall, 7pm, £45–£50.

9 St Agnes Fountain
Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £25.

10–31 Pantomime Adventures of Pinocchio
Groundlings Theatre, times vary. £15–£18. groundlings.co.uk

10 Elf (PG)
Southsea Cinema and Arts Centre, 5pm, £6/£7.

11–14 Christmas Arts & Crafts Market
Southsea Cinema and Arts Centre, 11am–5pm.

12–3 Jan Christmas at the Mary Rose
Mary Rose Museum, 10am–5pm, free with museum ticket.

13 Christmas Concert
Portsmouth Light Orchestra. Buckland Comm Centre, 2.30pm.

13 Family Christmas Service
Empower Centre, Kingston Road, 4pm–5pm.

14 Disney's Muppet Christmas Carol in Concert
Guildhall, 6.30pm, £41.20–£82.35.

14–18 A Christmas Carol
Square Tower, times and prices TBC. squaretower.co.uk/whats-on

16 Messy Church
Empower Centre, Kingston Road, 4pm–5.30pm. Craft, food, fun and creative worship for families.

16 It's a Wonderful Life (PG)
Southsea Cinema and Arts Centre, 6pm, £6/£7.


Milton Glee Choir, 6 December

16 Carol Concert
Port Solent, 6.30pm. portsolent.com

16 Christmas Spectacular
Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines. Guildhall, 7pm, £34.20.

19 St Saëns
Portsmouth Choral Union. St Mary's Church, 7.30pm. Adults £20, children/students £5.

20 Christmas in Britain
Documentary. Southsea Cinema and Arts Centre, 2pm.

20 Christmas Celebration
Portsmouth Academy, 3pm.

20 Southsea Farmers Market
See swsfarmersmarkets.co.uk

21 Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley
Square Tower, 7.15pm, £19. squarerootspromotions.co.uk

21–30 Snow White
Panto. Guildhall, times vary, £24.

22 Surprise family Christmas film
Southsea Cinema and Arts Centre, 2pm, £3/£4.

24 Let it Snow
Relaxed carol service with snow. St Luke's Church, Greetham Street, 4pm.

26 Boxing Day Car Meet
Port Solent, 10am–12pm. See portsolent.com

JANUARY

2 Southsea Beach Clean
10am–11.45am. Meet at Eastney Coffee Cup. Equipment provided.

20 Messy Church
Empower Centre, Kingston Road, 4pm–5.30pm. Craft, food, fun and creative worship for families.

23 Portsmouth Black Voices Project
Talk, Museum and Art Gallery, 10.30am–11.30am.

30 Icebreaker Festival
Music. Various Southsea venues, 12.30pm, £20.

30 Set Sail for Storytime
Historic Dockyard, free with museum ticket. historicdockyard.co.uk

FEBRUARY

4 Cinelli Brothers (blues)
Wedgewood Rooms, 7.30pm, £20.

6 Southsea Beach Clean
10am–11.45am. Meet at Eastney Coffee Cup. Equipment provided.



6 Rock 'n' Roll Night
Eastney Community Centre, 7.30pm–10.30pm. £6 (members £5). BYO drinks and nibbles.

15–19 Practice Makes Portsmouth
Museum and Art Gallery, 10.30am–12.30pm. Creative family activities inspired by Portsmouth artists.

17 Messy Church
Empower Centre, Kingston Road, 4pm–5.30pm. Craft, food, fun and creative worship for families.

18 Kids Club
Port Solent, 11am–4pm. See portsolent.com

19 Amelia Coburn
Square Tower, 7.15pm, £18. squarerootspromotions.co.uk

20 Set Sail for Storytime
HMS Warrior and Victory Gallery, Historic Dockyard. Free with museum ticket. Stories 12.15pm, 1.15pm and 2.15pm, activities 12pm–3pm.

21 D-Day Darlings
Guildhall, 5.30pm, £37–£43.

28 Belinda O'Hooley & Jackie Oates
Square Tower, 7.15pm. £19. squarerootspromotions.co.uk

100 ways to discover nature



Starlings flocking over Portsmouth Harbour

Nature doesn't disappear when summer ends – it just gets a little harder to spot. But now a new leaflet is making it easier to enjoy the natural world all year round.

Called 100 Ways with Nature, it's full of tips to help you discover the wildlife and green spaces on your doorstep, with simple ideas for every season.

We've also helped to create three short films: Hidden but Here, Growing a Stronger City and Neighbours with Nature. They capture conversations with local people and groups about the importance of nature in our city.

The leaflet and films come from Nature Positive Portsmouth, a project led by the Council and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It's part of Nature Towns and Cities – a partnership between the fund, Natural England and the National Trust.

Together, we're aiming to help more people enjoy nature while developing projects that make Portsmouth greener, cooler and more resilient, from tree planting to sustainable drainage schemes.

Pick up the free leaflet from Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery or Portsmouth Natural History Museum.

You can watch the films as part of the Portsmouth100 exhibition at the museum and art gallery, or search **Nature Positive Portsmouth** online.

Holiday fun and food

Looking for ways to keep children active and entertained in the school holidays? HAF Fun Pompey's winter programme is back with a range of fun and creative activities. And a delicious hot meal is provided at every session.

Children and young people aged five to 16 who get benefits-related free school meals can take part for free. Pay-as-you-go places are also available.

To find out more and book, click **HAF** at **pycportsmouth.co.uk**





Museums go festive

Step into the world of A Christmas Carol this festive season at Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum (above). Follow a Christmas-themed trail inspired by Dickens' beloved story, featuring atmospheric soundbites from the book and plenty of fun festive props.

Portsmouth residents get free entry to the museum with proof of address. The trail costs £2 per person, or £1 for Leisure Card holders, and includes a sweet festive treat. See **charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk** for opening times.

Meanwhile, over at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery there are traditional games for families, an exciting trail to explore and a wishing tree. See **portsmouthmuseum.co.uk** for more.

Lido's for winter too

Hilsea Lido is open through the winter, giving residents the opportunity to enjoy outdoor swimming all year round. Wetsuits are welcome in the pool (which is unheated), and there's a sauna for warming up afterwards. Food and drinks are for sale on-site. Pay-as-you-go and membership options are available. See **hilsealido.co.uk** for more information.





Music author Richard Balls talks to University of Portsmouth lecturer Claire Perry at the last BookFest

BookFest 2027 is coming

Portsmouth BookFest is back from 15 February to 7 March, with events for all ages.

It launches with a week for children and families, which includes a tour of local libraries by Julia Donaldson's Highway Rat, alongside comic-making workshops and a chance to meet comic book writer Jamie Smart (Bunny vs Monkey).

It continues with two weeks of talks, workshops and events for adults. Help solve a historic crime, and explore writing topics such as music, mental health, archaeology, travel and local history.

The full programme will be revealed just before Christmas. See **librariesandarchives.portsmouth.gov.uk** for updates.







Getting tough on fly tipping

We're strengthening our approach to tackling fly tipping and environmental crime – including using new powers to publish images, such as CCTV footage, to help identify offenders and support investigations.

After the festive season, it can be tempting to leave unwanted gifts, packaging or old household items outside for collection. But doing so could get you a fixed penalty notice.

If you have big items to get rid of, book a bulky waste collection on **023 9284 1105**, use the household waste and recycling centre, or donate good-quality unwanted gifts to charity.

Help keep Portsmouth clean – report fly tipping on **safecleantidy@portsmouthcc.gov.uk,** the MyPortsmouth app, or **0800 085 3840**.

Cleaner air as ships plug in

The shore power system at Portsmouth International Port, which provides 100 per cent renewable electricity, is now fully operational – meaning ships can switch off their engines while at berth, helping to improve local air quality.

At full capacity three ships – two ferries and a cruise liner – will be able to connect to the system at once.

Two of Brittany Ferries' ships already connect regularly, and cruise ships including Virgin Voyages' Valiant Lady have also plugged in.

The system, funded with £19.8m from the government and £4.6m from the Council, is the first of its kind in the UK.



Valiant Lady plugs in to shore power



How community wardens help

We have a team of community wardens working across the city, seven days a week.

Contact them about problems such as:

- anti-social behaviour
- fly tipping, graffiti or dog fouling
- someone vulnerable who may need support

They'll listen, investigate, and work with police and other local services to help resolve the issue.

You can call the wardens on **0800 085 3840** (10am to 10pm, every day). Or chat to one of the team if you see them out and about.

Find out more at **portsmouth.gov.uk/communitysafety**

If a crime is happening now or there's an emergency, always call **999**.

Portsmouth in your pocket

Stay connected with your city wherever you are, with our free My Portsmouth mobile app. Report local issues, get support, check rubbish and recycling dates, arrange bulky waste collections and keep up to date with the latest council news and jobs.

Keep your garden tidy with us

From just £72 a year, you can enjoy convenient fortnightly garden waste collections from your home.

Sign up to our Leaf it Out scheme and we'll collect grass cuttings, leaves, hedge trimmings and small branches, making it easy to recycle garden waste and keep your garden tidy.

Simply put your brown bin or garden waste sacks out by 6am on collection day.

The waste is used to make compost.

To sign up, search **garden waste** at **portsmouth.gov.uk**

For more information email **leafitout@portsmouthcc.gov.uk** or call **023 9284 1105**.

Help keep our streets clean

We all want to live in a city we can be proud of. That's why our teams work year-round to remove graffiti and clean our streets.

Graffiti is an offence that can result in fixed penalty notices and even court action.

You can help by reporting graffiti and other street-cleaning issues so they can be addressed quickly. Hit the **report** button at **portsmouth.gov.uk**

Your 2026-27 recycling collection dates

Monday Week 1			
December	14	29	
January	11	25	
February	8	22	
March	8	22	
April	5	19	
May	3	17	31
June	14	28	
July	12	26	
August	9	23	
September	6	20	
October	4	18	
November	1	15	29

Monday Week 2			
December	7	21	
January	5	18	
February	1	15	
March	1	15	29
April	12	26	
May	10	24	
June	7	21	
July	5	19	
August	2	16	30
September	13	27	
October	11	25	
November	8	22	

Tuesday Week 1			
December	1	15	30
January	12	26	
February	9	23	
March	9	23	
April	6	20	
May	4	18	
June	1	15	29
July	13	27	
August	10	24	
September	7	21	
October	5	19	
November	2	16	30

Tuesday Week 2			
December	8	22	
January	6	19	
February	2	16	
March	2	16	30
April	13	27	
May	11	25	
June	8	22	
July	6	20	
August	3	17	31
September	14	28	
October	12	26	
November	9	23	

Wednesday Week 1			
December	2	16	31
January	13	27	
February	10	24	
March	10	24	
April	7	21	
May	5	19	
June	2	16	30
July	14	28	
August	11	25	
September	8	22	
October	6	20	
November	3	17	

Wednesday Week 2			
December	9	23	
January	7	20	
February	3	17	
March	3	17	31
April	14	28	
May	12	26	
June	9	23	
July	7	21	
August	4	18	
September	1	15	29
October	13	27	
November	10	24	

Thursday Week 1			
December	3	17	
January	2	14	28
February	11	25	
March	11	25	
April	8	22	
May	6	20	
June	3	17	
July	1	15	29
August	12	26	
September	9	23	
October	7	21	
November	4	18	

Thursday Week 2			
December	10	24	
January	8	21	
February	4	18	
March	4	18	
April	1	15	29
May	13	27	
June	10	24	
July	8	22	
August	5	19	
September	2	16	30
October	14	28	
November	11	25	

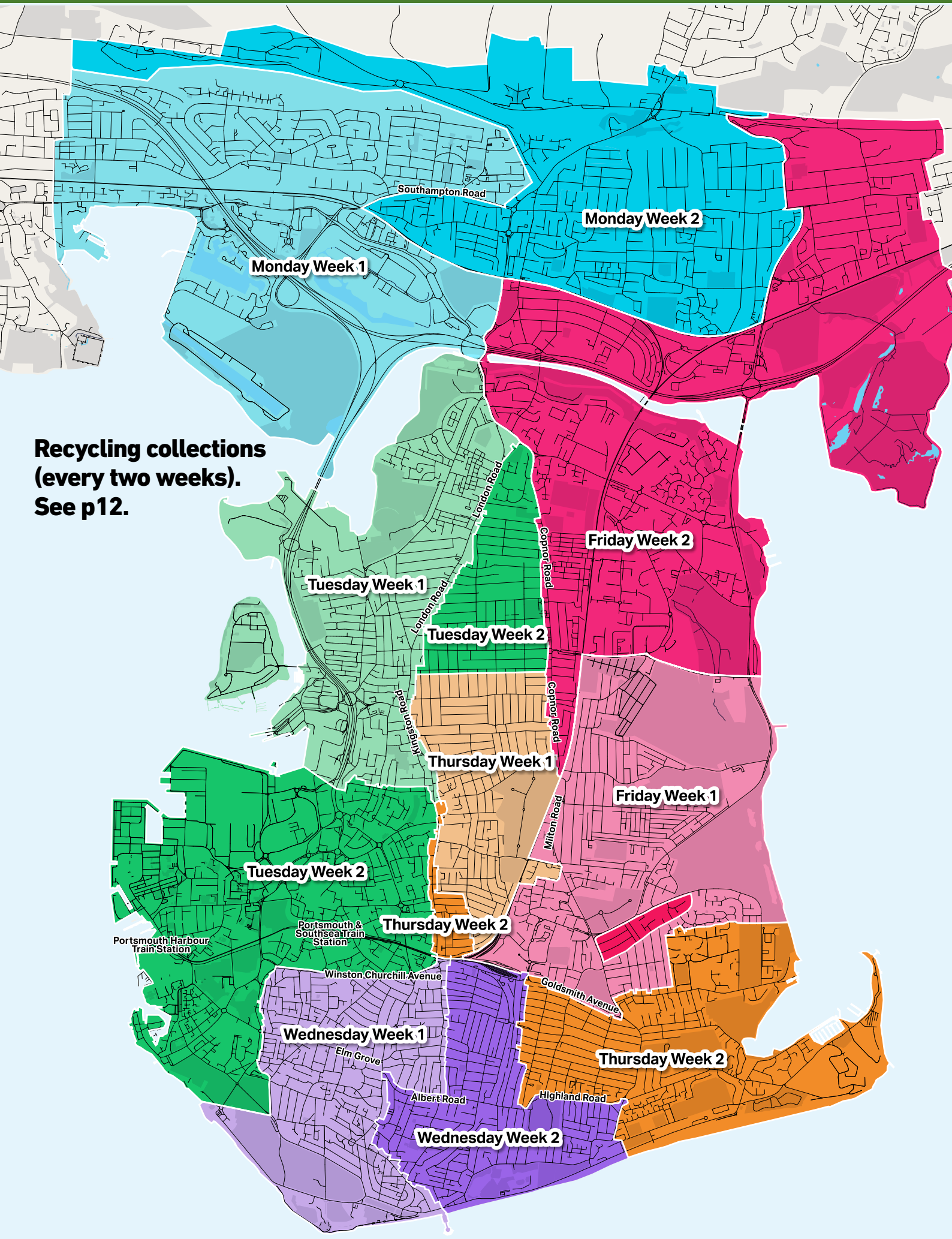
Friday Week 1			
December	4	18	
January	4	15	29
February	12	26	
March	12	26	
April	9	23	
May	7	21	
June	4	18	
July	2	16	30
August	13	27	
September	10	24	
October	8	22	
November	5	19	

Friday Week 2			
December	11	28	
January	9	22	
February	5	19	
March	5	19	
April	2	16	30
May	14	28	
June	11	25	
July	9	23	
August	6	20	
September	3	17	
October	1	15	29
November	12	26	

Your rubbish (black bin/bags) is collected weekly, while your recycling (green bin) is collected every two weeks. You can check collection days at **portsmouth.gov.uk** – just click on **Find your bin collection day**

These two pages can help you keep track of your recycling collections. Use the map opposite to find your recycling collection day and week. Then find your recycling collection calendar on this page, cut it out and keep it. Highlighted dates are changes due to the festive season – see p14. If you live in a flat and use communal bins, collection days may vary.

Please report any missed bin within two working days. Call **023 9284 1105** or click **report** at **portsmouth.gov.uk**


Recycling collections (every two weeks). See p12.
Monday Week 1
Monday Week 2
Southampton Road
Tuesday Week 1
Tuesday Week 2
London Road
Kingston Road
Copnor Road
Friday Week 2
Friday Week 1
Thursday Week 1
Thursday Week 2
Milton Road
Goldsmith Avenue
Wednesday Week 1
Wednesday Week 2
Elm Grove
Albert Road
Highland Road
Winston Churchill Avenue
Portsmouth & Southsea Train Station
Portsmouth Harbour Train Station

Christmas and new year collections

Rubbish and recycling collections run as normal on 24 December, then change as shown below. Food waste will be collected on the same day as rubbish, as usual.

Normal collection day	Changed to
Friday 25 December 2026	Monday 28 December 2026
Monday 28 December 2026	Tuesday 29 December 2026
Tuesday 29 December 2026	Wednesday 30 December 2026
Wednesday 30 December 2026	Thursday 31 December 2026
Thursday 31 December 2026	Saturday 2 January 2027
Friday 1 January 2027	Monday 4 January 2027
Monday 4 January 2027	Tuesday 5 January 2027
Tuesday 5 January 2027	Wednesday 6 January 2027
Wednesday 6 January 2027	Thursday 7 January 2027
Thursday 7 January 2027	Friday 8 January 2027
Friday 8 January 2027	Saturday 9 January 2027

Garden waste: *suspended for two weeks*	
Last collection of 2026: **Friday 18 December**	First collection of 2027: **Monday 4 January**

Bulky waste: *suspended for three weeks*	
Last collection of 2026: **Tuesday 22 December** *(free)* **Wednesday 16 December** *(chargeable)*	First collection of 2027: **Tuesday 12 January** *(free and chargeable)*

Clinical collections: *on-demand service suspended for two weeks. The following collections will still take place:*

Wednesday 23 December *(regular)*	**Thursday 24 December** *(on demand)*	**Wednesday 30 December** *(regular)*	**Wednesday 6 January** *(regular)*

Bin deliveries	
Last deliveries of 2026: **Wednesday 22 December**	First deliveries of 2027: **Monday 11 January**



Free Christmas tree collections

If you have a real Christmas tree, you can have it collected free of charge during January.

We'll give you two possible collection dates. To find your two dates, go to **portsmouth.gov.uk/christmastrees** or call **023 9284 1105** and select option 4. Please note that these dates may not match your usual rubbish and recycling collection day.

Just put your tree outside the front of your property on one of the dates.

Please leave your tree whole and unbagged. If a charity is collecting it, add a note to tell us. And please don't let dogs wee on trees waiting for collection.

Ride your way with Pompey Link

Our on-demand minibus service linking the north of the city just got better.

With the Pompey Link service, you book and ride when you need to travel. And it's now even handier, with longer hours and more destinations.

As well as travelling to Port Solent, Paulsgrove, QA Hospital and Cosham bus and train interchange, it now serves bus stops across Cosham. Plus, it goes to Tesco North Harbour and Hilsea Lido.

There's no timetable to worry about, and you can book up to four days in advance.

Out of 2,500 reviews, 99% gave the service and drivers five out of five. Georgia, from Paulsgrove, told us: "Pompey Link has made such a difference! I don't know what I'd do without it!"

Find out more at **travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/pompey-link**





New super stop

Better trips by bus

Bus journeys continue to get quicker, easier and more comfortable.

A new express X3 service means faster journeys between Fareham, Portsmouth Harbour and Southsea.

Accessibility improvements on local buses include audio and visual next-stop announcements on board. More bus stops are getting live travel information, clearer signs and easier access for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs.

We're installing 29 super stops, with improved seating, better lighting and living roofs.

Work on Kingston Road is helping buses run more reliably and smoothly. We've resurfaced the road, upgraded traffic lights and created a new part-time bus lane.

Find out more about our bus service improvement plan at **travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/bsip**

Christmas time is bus time

Whether you're Christmas shopping or visiting relatives, buses will be running through the festive period. Find out more at **travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/christmas**

If you live in the north of the city then the park and ride is really handy. It operates daily, except Christmas Day.

See **parkandride.portsmouth.gov.uk**



Children with SEND can thrive in their local school

Many parents wonder if a mainstream school can meet their child's additional needs. In Portsmouth, the answer is often yes.

More than six out of seven children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) go to mainstream schools. For many families, this helps their children build confidence, develop independence and feel part of their community.

Schools across Portsmouth continue to strengthen the support they offer. This can include tailored teaching, classroom adaptations and targeted interventions, without a formal diagnosis or an education, health and care plan being necessary.

National SEND reforms are helping Portsmouth offer stronger support. The focus is on making sure children get the right support at the right time: helping more families get support locally and enabling more children to attend their local school.

Find out more at **portsmouthlocaloffer.org**





Travel smart this winter

If you're on foot, cycling or using a mobility scooter, wheelchair or rental e-scooter:

- At night, avoid dark colours and wear reflective clothing if possible.
- Give yourself and others time to stop on dark, wet surfaces.
- Be aware – don't be distracted by your phone or headphones.

On a bike or rental e-scooter:

- Use cycle lanes where possible.
- On the road, follow the Highway Code: move out from the kerb and into drivers' field of vision. Don't weave, and stay away from car doors.

Cyclists:

- Keep your bike well maintained.
- Use reflectors and ensure you have a fully-charged white front light and red rear light.



Volunteers, allotment holders, staff and partners gather at Milton Piece community allotment

Volunteer and change lives

Looking for a way to make new friends, use your skills and make a difference?

You could join our group of volunteers helping local people stay active and connected to their community.

Our volunteers get involved in activities such as gardening, cooking and healthy walks to help people improve their physical and mental wellbeing. They also guide people looking for local services.

Whether you can spare a few hours each month or can volunteer regularly each week, you could have a lasting impact on the lives of others.

No previous experience is needed. We'll provide training and support.

Email our independence and wellbeing team at **iwt@portsmouthcc.gov.uk** or call **023 9284 1762**.

Your ideas for Landport and Paulsgrove

People in two areas of the city can help decide how millions of pounds should be spent to make their communities even better.

Landport and Paulsgrove have each been awarded up to £20m over 10 years under the government's Pride in Place programme. Neighbourhood boards of local people have been set up and are working with residents to decide what lasting changes are needed.

You can have your say by emailing **pipportsmouth@hiveportsmouth.org.uk** Find out more at **portsmouth.gov.uk/prideinplace**



Pride in Place chairs Father Hugo Deadman, left (Paulsgrove) and Father Bob White (Landport)



For Marnie, from Hilsea (above), being independent means having the confidence to enjoy life on her own terms. That's why she relies on Safe at Home, the Council's telecare service.

Through a range of alarms, sensors, and wearable devices, users can quickly get help if they feel unwell, have a fall, or need reassurance.

Marnie says: "The best thing about Safe at Home is just knowing someone's there."

Find out more at **wearesafeathome.co.uk,** call **023 9283 4460** or email **safeathome@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**

Help when a money crisis hits

If you're in a low-income household and you're hit by a financial shock, you could be eligible for a crisis payment from the Council.

Maybe you suddenly lose your income, or have an emergency cost. If you're eligible, we can offer you cash, a voucher or an essential item that you need. Eligibility depends on earnings and other criteria.

We can also offer short-term help with housing costs in certain circumstances.

These payments come from our crisis and resilience fund, paid for by the government. The fund also helps provide advice services, food support, affordable cooking sessions, money guidance, housing and energy advice, and special support for families and older people.

Find out more at **portsmouth.gov.uk/crf** or call **023 9268 8010** if you're not online.

More support

Facing an immediate money crisis? Speak to your housing officer, social worker or another trusted professional. Or contact Advice Portsmouth: **adviceportsmouth.org.uk** or **023 9279 4340**.

Get advice on food, jobs, housing, money and health from our Cost of Living Hub: **portsmouth.gov.uk/costofliving** or **023 9284 1047**.

Free energy-saving advice: **switchedonportsmouth.co.uk** or **0800 260 5907**.

Check you're getting the benefits and financial support you're entitled to: **portsmouth.gov.uk/benefits-calculators**





Earn up to £52K a year fostering

Could you join our Belong team, and become a foster carer for young people who need extra emotional, therapeutic support?

You don't need to have a background in therapy. All the training will be provided, along with continuous professional support. What you do need is professional experience of supporting children or adults.

You might have worked in care, as a teacher, or in early years. Or maybe you have a background in social work or youth work, or the emergency services. We also welcome previous and current foster carers looking to transfer.

This is a professional role which pays a professional fee of £1,000 a week when a child is in your care. Because most carers don't pay tax, this usually means a take-home income of up to £52,000 a year.

Contact our friendly Foster Portsmouth team to help decide if now is the right time for you and your family to foster.

Call Foster Portsmouth on **023 9283 4071** or go to **foster.portsmouth.gov.uk/belong**

Keep damp and mould at bay



As temperatures drop, damp and mould can become more common in our homes. But simple steps can help.

- Leave space behind furniture to let air circulate.
- Open windows daily – even for 10 minutes, to let moisture out.
- Use extractor fans when cooking or showering.
- Dry clothes outside where possible – not on radiators.
- Wipe condensation from windows and sills each morning.

For more tips and advice, see **portsmouth.gov.uk/mould**



I quit and haven't looked back

After years of smoking, Phil was getting a lot of health problems.

He decided to stop. But going cold turkey was a struggle, so he turned to our wellbeing service for help.

Phil (pictured), from Buckland, says: "Within three weeks of regular support, I felt a switch flick and I believed I can really do this. I haven't looked back since."

You're three times more likely to quit with specialist help. Our wellbeing service offers free support, in person and over the phone.

Learn more at **wellbeingportsmouth.co.uk** or call **023 9229 4001**.

Living with persistent pain?

There's a new friendly support group for people living with persistent or long-term pain.

The Shared Pain Group meets at the John Pounds Centre, Portsea on Wednesdays, 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

Come along to meet others, share experiences, and find support in a welcoming space.

For more information, contact Gillian on **07852 153573** or **gillian.norrie@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**

If this group isn't right for you, please still get in touch. We're exploring opportunities to develop similar groups in other areas and would love to hear from you.



Posed by models



The hidden rise of ketamine

When many people think of a drug user, they picture someone whose struggles are obvious.

Ketamine use is challenging that picture. Increasingly, young people can be working, studying, socialising and maintaining active lives while privately battling a serious drug issue.

Ketamine can create feelings of detachment and euphoria, making harmful use difficult to spot. Yet the risks can be serious. Regular use is linked to anxiety, memory problems and dependence, while long-term use can cause significant bladder damage.

In Portsmouth we're seeing more people needing support for ketamine use. The Council and its partners have expanded services to meet this growing need.

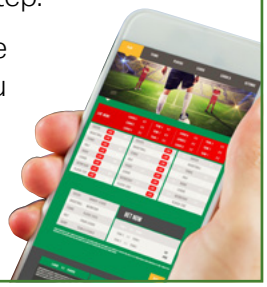
If you're concerned about your ketamine use, or someone else's, get free and confidential support:

- **TalktoFrank.com** for more information
- **portsmouth.gov.uk/dass** for under-25s
- **portsmouthrecovery.org** for over-25s
- **pslcharity.org.uk** for family support

Support with gambling issues

Many people regularly place bets without experiencing harm. But for some, gambling can cause serious impacts. If you or someone you care about is gambling at risky levels, help is available. Asking for support is a positive step.

The GamCare helpline is available 24/7 on **0808 8020 133**. And you can find more support and information by searching **gambling harms** at **portsmouth.gov.uk**





A session where Portsea residents helped to set up their drop-in

New wellbeing drop-ins

Everyone's welcome to our new free drop-in sessions, where you can enjoy a cuppa and a chat and get health and wellbeing support too.

Pop into John Pounds surgery, Portsea from 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays. You can also play board and card games, do puzzles, and get help with computers and phones.

Volunteers run the sessions alongside healthcare professionals.

As Flagship went to press, we were planning drop-ins in Paulsgrove and Spark Community Space, Fratton Way.

See **portsmouth.gov.uk/wellbeing** or call Hayley on **07384 918 431**.

Plans to change councils withdrawn



In September the government withdrew its previous decision to rearrange councils in Hampshire.

The government has said it is still committed to making changes to councils, but as Flagship went to print we were awaiting details of what that might look like for our area.

Portsmouth City Council has consistently opposed Local Government Reorganisation for our city. We believe Portsmouth should be left alone, because we already have a single council that is financially stable and delivers strong local services to residents. This is backed by 82% of residents who responded to a survey we ran last year.

The government's withdrawal of its decision shows we were right to keep challenging it, and we will continue to challenge any future plans if they do not provide the best outcomes for our residents, businesses and communities.

New combined authority brings powers to our area

The movement of powers and funding from national government to our area has taken a step forward with a new Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority being formally established.

This will bring £1.3bn into the region and create economic growth and new opportunities for residents and businesses.

Representatives from Portsmouth, Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight councils sit on the decision-making board.

It will be led by an elected mayor. Elections are currently planned for May 2028 but we are pushing to bring this forward to 2027 so our area can get more powers and funding sooner.



Protecting our coastline: update

Major milestones are being reached on two of the city's biggest flood defence projects.

At Ports Creek, most of the final phase of the North Portsea Coastal Scheme is now open, with new walking and cycling routes, improved habitats and better public spaces.

Some areas around Peronne Road bridge remain closed while SSE completes essential electricity infrastructure work. Finishing work will continue on parts of the scheme ahead of overall completion in 2027. The project will mean improved flood protection along 8.4km of the city's northern shoreline.

Meanwhile, work is progressing well on the Southsea Coastal Scheme between The Briny and South Parade Pier, with construction due to be finished in the spring. The next phase, from the pier to Eastney near the Coffee Cup, will follow – improving flood protection while enhancing the seafront for residents and visitors.

Find out more at **portsmouth.gov.uk/coastaldefences**



Local acts Offbeat Offensive and DJ Garlic Brad back the bid at the Bandstand

Photo: Steve Spurgin

Our cultural journey will continue

Portsmouth hasn't been shortlisted for UK City of Culture 2029. But we're proud of what we've achieved together.

More than 12,000 local people helped shape a bold vision for the future, demonstrating the creativity, pride and ambition that makes Portsmouth special. The relationships, ideas and momentum built through the bid process won't be lost.

We remain committed to using culture to create opportunities, strengthen communities and support positive change across the city. Thank you to everyone who played a part in this remarkable journey.

See **wearepompey2029.co.uk**

A memorial to Her Majesty

As Portsmouth celebrates 100 years as a city, plans are under way to create a memorial to Queen Elizabeth II, recognising her longstanding connection to Portsmouth.

A permanent memorial will provide a lasting place of reflection and remembrance for future generations. Find out more at **portsmouth.gov.uk/qe2memorial**





Impressions of how Somers Orchard will look

More homes that people can afford

We're pushing on with an ambitious programme to build new homes people can afford, on sites the council owns.

The largest project is the first phase of Somers Orchard in Somerstown. Plans are progressing for 175 new council homes for social rent on the former Horatia House and Leamington House sites. The overall development has the potential for 568 new homes. After choosing a contractor we plan to start work next year.

As well as this big project, our social housing landlord service, Portsmouth Homes, is also working on some smaller developments. Earlier this year, the former housing office at Wecock Farm was converted into affordable homes. Work to build new homes at nearby Bunting Gardens is nearing completion, while construction of new affordable homes in Twyford Avenue in Stamshaw is also under way.



New leisure centre and GP surgery under construction

Bransbury Park latest

Work continues at Bransbury Park, where we're making a major investment in the area's leisure and community facilities. The park remains open, and visitors can enjoy the new play area. To find out more about the plans and keep up to date, see **portsmouth.gov.uk/bransburypark**

Change to planning process

New national rules have changed who makes some planning decisions.

Some planning applications that would previously have been decided by a committee of local councillors in a public meeting will now be decided by council officers.

Smaller, more straightforward applications will be decided by officers, while the planning committee will focus on larger developments and applications with a greater impact.

You can still view and comment on applications. The change affects how some decisions are made and by whom, not your right to have your say.

Find out more at **portsmouth.gov.uk/planning-changes**

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PORTSMOUTH 1926 – 2026 100

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Explore 100 years of Portsmouth through the people, places, objects and stories that have shaped our city.

Free exhibition
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Find out more: **portsmouthmuseums.co.uk**