



# 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 would 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 **48 hours of launching our petition, over 4,400 residents 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)**

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 the views of local residents.

## WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT

- **97% of residents** who responded to the public consultation opposed these plans.
- Their views appear to have been **ignored**.
- Breaking up the New Forest would create **fragmentation, higher costs, and 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 save money.

This affects our neighbours too, parts of Test Valley face being absorbed into Southampton. A coordinated response is essential.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

Every signature strengthens the case for a fair, transparent process and helps protect the future of the New Forest.

Together, we can ensure our community's voice is heard.

**Thank you for supporting this important local campaign.**

**The petition is going to be presented, then debated, at full Council on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 6:30pm, Appletree Court.**



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**Please complete in BLOCK capitals – SIGN to stop the **BREAK-UP** of the New Forest District!**

FULL NAME	ADDRESS	POSTCODE	CONTACT DETAILS (OPTIONAL)	SIGNATURE
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