



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2014

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Hiscock

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

“What powers does the Council have to make estate agents remove their signs after the properties have been let or sold? There is a growing tendency to leave signs in place that apply to no particular property and are simply there to advertise the estate agent.”

Reply

“The present rules for estate agent boards are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007, which is similar to the system of permitted development in that subject to certain criteria being met many signs benefit from ‘deemed consent’ i.e. do not require advertisement consent.

Class 3A of the regulations covers advertisements for the sale or letting, for residential, agricultural, industrial or commercial use of for development such use, of the land or premises on which it is displayed. Signs displayed under Class 3A benefit from deemed consent provided that not more than 1 advert is displayed on each premises (consisting of a single board or two joined up) and within 14 days after the completion of a sale or the grant of a tenancy the sign is removed. There is also criteria stipulating the maximum size and height of the sign and how far it can project from a building. Illumination is not permitted.

Estate agents signs which remain in situ more than 14 days following the sale or letting of a property do not therefore benefit from deemed consent and a criminal offence would be being committed.

The Planning Enforcement team occasionally gets complaints about estate agent boards being displayed which do not conform to the criteria set out in Class 3A. Very often it is another competitor who might complain that a board has not been removed after the 14 day deadline. Once it is established that a sign is being displayed without consent and that an offence is being

committed the enforcement team will write to the offending company and request that the sign is removed within 7 days. In the majority of case, this resolves the problem.

The enforcement team does not have the resources to take proactive measures to enforce Section 3A and relies on reports of suspected breaches to them for investigation.

The Enforcement Manager has previously had discussions with the Hampshire Association of Estate Agents, as they are keen to ensure that all of its members are acting within the law when it comes to displaying signs and there have been instances of a proliferation of signs in some areas of Winchester.

The Enforcement Team are hoping to work with the HAEA to provide clear guidance to estate agent firms on how to display signs lawfully and for those who persistently breach the regulations appropriate legal action will be taken in order to make an example of them.”



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QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

“What system does the Council have for reconciling the Council's low carbon policies on buildings as expressed in the Local Plan and the aesthetic judgements of conservation officers on such issues as double-glazing and solar panels?”

Reply

“Many forms of renewable energy technologies, like PV panels, can be installed on domestic buildings without requiring planning permission as they are permitted development.

However, when consent is needed, the Council has regard to national guidance and its planning policies which seek to promote energy efficient buildings and renewable forms of energy generation as well as protecting our heritage assets. These policies are not fundamentally incompatible. It is usually possible to provide new development in an historic setting which is both appropriate in terms of its design and external appearance as well as being energy efficient.

Listed buildings and other older premises in conservation areas can be more challenging where the use of new technologies or modern windows is proposed. This is not simply a case of making aesthetic judgments however; officers need to consider the impact upon the building's architectural and/or historic interest. This can only be carried out effectively on a case by case basis through the application process and, even where there are concerns about installing PV panels on the roof of a building for example, it may be possible for them to be provided in a different way such as siting free-standing panels within the curtilage or on the roof of an outbuilding. Secondary glazing may also provide an alternative to double glazed windows.”



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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor McLean

To: The Leader

“Is the Leader aware of the success of the recent INDIES event in Bishops Waltham organised by Bishops Waltham chamber of trade, and fully supported by Winchester City Council?”

Reply

“I have been closely involved in initiatives to support business in Bishops Waltham and our other market towns since I first joined the Council. This is no exception.

The national Independents Day campaign (promoted by the National Skills Academy for Retail) celebrates the contribution made by independent businesses to the UK. It culminates on 4 July when the public are encouraged to show their support for independent businesses – or ‘indies’.

The Chamber of Trade in Bishops Waltham, working with the Bishop Waltham Town Team and the Council’s Market Towns Development Officer, participated for the second year running. They built on a year of creative events, new promotional strategies and effective collaboration with local community organisations co-ordinated through the Town Team, which was originally inspired by the Government’s Review of High Streets and brought into being in Bishops Waltham with the support of the Council’s Economy and Arts Team.

Shops, cafes and salons remained open until 7pm, giving shoppers plenty of time to show their support for local businesses whilst taking advantage of special one-day offers, prize draws, receptions, tastings and freebies that most outlets were offering. There was also entertainment from local musicians and refreshments, and the Council arranged for free parking from 3pm. The day attracted excellent television and radio coverage.

The Chamber took advantage of the event to launch a new ‘Totally Locally’ campaign to bring together independent shops throughout the town to work together by increasing communication and bringing in new marketing techniques. The campaign aims to tap into an estimated disposable income in the area of £2.5 million.”



Winchester
City Council

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QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Clear

To: The Leader

“Would the Leader agree that Annual appointments to external bodies should be filled by the appropriate ward member, especially if that ward member has the relevant experience and skills?”

Reply

“The majority of annual appointments to external bodies are made at the first Cabinet meeting of the Municipal Year, with some being made at The Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Of the Cabinet appointments, some are restricted to Portfolio Holder appointments (for example, Local Government Association, HIOWA and PUSH). Others have traditionally included a Ward Councillor appointment, such as Friends of Hyde Abbey Gardens (where it is a requirement) and Meadowside Leisure Centre User Forum and Whiteley Community Association where it is discretionary.

Of the other appointments, it is a matter for Cabinet to determine who should be appointed, having regard to relevant experience and skills.”



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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Wright

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

“I asked for and planning officers agreed, along with members and other council officers for a paragraph 1.12 from the CAA CAP 764 Issue 5, the CAA Policy and guidelines on Wind Turbines to be included within the planning officers report for the Bullington Wind Farm application 13/00800/FUL. Can you explain why this paragraph was split into two parts with other items between with a reference note referring to the other part as shown?”

Reply

“The guidance set out in the CAA document was provided in paragraphs 13.16 and 13.17 of the report. 13.16 is a quote from comments made by the CAA received by Basingstoke and Dean in relation to another wind farm proposal but, as they were generic in nature, were included in the Bullington report. 13.17 quotes directly from paragraph 1.12 of the guidance and the text included in the report follows on from that referred to by the CAA at 13.16 above. All of paragraph 1.12 was therefore included in the report and it was for this reason that the guidance was reproduced in this form. I’m satisfied that it was appropriate to deal with the issue in this way.”



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Henry

To: The Leader

"Further to the £27,000 expenditure on the portable event space, could the Portfolio Holder please provide details of the number of bookings received, ease of construction and additional revenue expenditure incurred directly relating to its use?"

Reply

"The Council's new mobile stage – now known as *Your Space* – has now been delivered and enjoyed a very positive reception by around 30 potential users at a training day on the Cathedral Close in early June. These volunteers said that in providing the mobile stage free of charge this year, the Council would be saving them around £800 each in hire costs. They were also extremely positive about the design, which is attractive and flexible.

The stage made its first appearance at a public event in Sutton Scotney on 28 June, although teeming rain sadly brought proceedings to an early end.

However, as a bespoke structure, the stage needs to be tested in a variety of locations in order to make final adjustments which will ensure safety and ease of use. Officers are working closely with Design Engine, who produced the concept, and Maltbury Staging, who have built *Your Space*, as well as colleagues across the Council, to ensure that the finished structure meets all the Council's requirements and also those of Health and Safety legislation.

As a consequence, officers consider this summer to be a test period for the structure and have deliberately limited the number of bookings - although requests are coming in on an almost daily basis from event organisers around the District, and are now reaching into 2015. There are 10 'live' bookings at present, and each one will be supported by a member of Council staff able to advise on construction and dismantling.

The only additional revenue expenditure incurred has been for the production of prototype banners and for the provision of refreshments for the volunteers at the training day in June. These are not significant sums."



Winchester
City Council

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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Transport

“I understand that in the not too distant past the Council has received substantial funds from the European Union Regional Development Fund, to improve bus services and facilities generally in and around the city.

Is my understanding correct, and has any consideration been given to making a similar or new approach to the Regional Development Fund for support to improve current rural bus services such as my own ward of Itchen Valley, indeed, the provision of a bus station.”

Reply

“From mid 2014, the Local Enterprise Partnerships will have the responsibility for the delivery of the new round of European Structural and Investment Funds for 2014 – 2020. The new programme will combine the two structural funds, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. The Solent and Enterprise M3 LEP will have greater flexibility in the way the funding is spent and have both produced an EU Funding Strategy setting out the sort of projects and initiatives that would be eligible for funding.”



Winchester
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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Scott

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

“Can the Portfolio Holder answer which is more important; New homes in the City which reaches Sustainable code level 5 or Affordable Housing?”

Reply

“Both the requirement for affordable housing provision and high levels of sustainable construction are requirements of policies in the adopted Local Plan Part 1 (policies CP3 and CP11 respectively). Policy CP3 (affordable housing) requires 40% of units to be affordable unless this would render the proposal economically unviable, and the requirements of policy CP11 (sustainable construction) are subject to them being practical and viable.

The sustainable construction requirements (CP11) have been applied in the same way as other requirements of construction, such as high quality design (policy CP13) and adequate highways infrastructure (CP10). The viability of the resulting development and its ability to provide affordable housing is then assessed, where this is claimed to be an issue.

The Government is in the process of reviewing the planning standards applied to new housing and this is likely to result in the abolition of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Sustainable construction standards would generally be applied through the Building Regulations, with possible scope for local authorities to apply ‘optional’ standards. It is likely that the Local Plan Part 2 may need to modify or abandon policy CP11, depending on the outcome of this review (currently being progressed through the Deregulation Bill 2014).”



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QUESTION 8a

From: Councillor Jeffs

To: The Portfolio Holder for Communities & Environment

“The on street parking limit in Alresford varies, depending where you are in the town, as either 1 or 2hrs. New Alresford Town Council unanimously passed a resolution on 12 April 2012 to standardise the limit to 2hrs. The City Council were notified of the request for a change to the signage at that time and so far there has been no response. On enquiring when action might be expected, I am informed that works could not be expected until 2015/16 or beyond. A wait of 4 years or more is totally unreasonable. Please could you ensure that this programme brought forward and completed this year?.”

Reply

“The City Council has the resources to carry out about 15 traffic regulation orders every year. Currently there is a list of over 100 traffic regulation order requests. Requests are prioritised using certain criteria. For example, schemes which relate to locations that have an accident or safety history, affect emergency access, school access, hospital access, bus routes or refuse collections are prioritised above all other traffic schemes.

The traffic regulation order programme is approved at a Traffic & Parking Committee every February in agreement with the Portfolio Holder so that the work to be undertaken during the forthcoming year is clear. However, if there is a pressing need for a scheme to be completed for accident or safety reasons for example, it can be moved from the reserve list to the main list with the agreement of the Portfolio Holder.

The on street parking time limit scheme for Alresford is on the reserve TRO list. However, the parking areas are already covered by a TRO and although the time limit change is minor, it still requires significant officer resources.

Changing the time limit from one hour to two hours is not a priority scheme for the reasons I have explained and it will move up the TRO list as and when others are completed.”



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QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Lipscomb

To: The Leader

“Will the Leader please outline for Council what arrangements have been made for the Council to directly promote or otherwise support events to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War?”

Reply

“The City Council is supporting events to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War and promoting them appropriately through its websites, social media, press activity and publications.

This includes: publishing a special *Winchester’s Story* commemorative leaflet; promoting events on the corporate and Visit Winchester websites and social media; supporting and promoting the Hampshire-wide 1914 ‘big theme’ activities including ‘To Honour A Promise’ - the commemoration of the wartime role of Morn Hill - and national centenary events.

The Council is currently working with various partners to mark the outbreak of the Great War as part of the Imperial War Museum’s NOW 14-18 ‘LIGHTS OUT’ initiative. This event, on 4 August between 10 -11pm, references a remark attributed to Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, on the eve of war in 1914: “*The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.*” The Tourism service is liaising with partners to facilitate a critical mass of events locally but would welcome further activity. So far confirmed participants include Winchester Cathedral, Winchester Planetarium and Science Centre, Holiday Inn Winchester, Theatre Royal Winchester, Jewry Street Art Cafe, The Corner House and Winchester Area Tourist Guide Association. For one hour, people will turn out their lights across the country, leaving single light sources on to mark the passing of 100 years since the official declaration of war in 1914. Winchester City Council has commissioned a sculptural light installation, Box 459, based on a response from local Architect firm AR Design, to mark the event. In order to ensure a good spread of activity, approaches have also been made to the BID, market towns and villages, parish councils and churches to encourage further engagement across the District. It is hoped that the national PR campaign will encourage further participation.

The City Council has also organised and promoted through local and social media other initiatives to mark the centenary such as distribution of poppy seeds to schools and parishes and the commemorative planting of the raised flower-bed at the prominent Bar End entrance to Winchester.”



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QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Thompson

To: The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Organisational Development

“Can the Portfolio Holder state what financial benefits would there have been, both to the local community and in business rates to Winchester City Council, had the planning application for a wind farm at Bullington Cross been approved?”

Reply

“Most large scale developments today bring with them benefits to local people, ranging from additional jobs and spend in the local economy to new facilities such as parks, community centres, schools and sports facilities. However, developments must meet the requirements of planning policy before any such benefits can be considered.

The planning application for the wind farm was no exception, and the scheme included the following proposals:

- a) *Community fund*: under the current proposals, EDF Energy Renewables would have paid around £1.75 million into a 'Community Fund' over 25 years. This money will be used to fund projects such as Scout huts, parish hall repairs and support for local playgroups.
- b) *Benefits to the local economy*: it was estimated by EDF Energy Renewables that a £10-£15 million benefit would result from spending during the development, construction, maintenance and decommissioning phases of the project offering skilled engineers and technicians the prospect of long term employment, training and apprenticeships. However, it seems unlikely that much, if any, of the economic benefit coming to Winchester district could be easily assessed.
- c) *National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates)*: provided that the wind farm is used solely or primarily for the generation of electricity it is understood at present that all of the rates raised would be retained by the Council. Further clarification on this point is being sought from Financial experts. The amount of business rates raised is not known.”



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QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Pines

To: The Leader

Following recent Council Questions and Replies supporting the very successful City Council sponsored apprenticeship scheme, could the Portfolio Holder:

1. Indicate what progress has been made to encourage our contractors to follow our lead;
2. At suitable levels of contract value, insist Officers who prepare contracts, insert clauses requiring some apprenticeships;
3. In view of the number of large construction schemes on the horizon, prepare a protocol for prospective contractors/partners to undertake sponsorship for local population apprenticeship schemes;
4. Promote discussions with City wide partners, such as Winchester BID, to encourage wider support for apprenticeship schemes locally, including rural projects?"

Reply

“Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly widespread in the workplace nationally, and there are many examples of employers across the Winchester District who consider them to be the best way to bring on young talent.

The Council commissioned an employer engagement service in 2013, intended to increase the number of workplace opportunities being offered to local jobseekers. Approaches were made to 102 organisations – many of which had not previously worked with the Council – and from these there were 61 potential work experience placements, 24 vacancies and 9 apprenticeships created. As part of the commission, an employer handbook was created (now linked to the Council’s website) to support smaller businesses who were concerned about the management of such positions.

This year’s Portfolio Plan for the Leader sets out the aspiration to sign up to the Construction Industry Training Board’s standards for apprenticeship,

recruitment and development opportunities on major projects. The North of Whiteley development will form the basis for the Council's submission for acceptance by the CITB into its scheme, and a report will be brought forward shortly asking for adoption of these standards for all future large developments. However, in the meantime, officers have already been working with local developers – informally and through the Planning process – to encourage them to provide jobs and apprenticeships for local people. This has been the case at Forest Holidays I Blackwood, with the Premier Inn at Winnall and with the planned Sainsbury's in Bishops Waltham – by way of example.

Contracts and commissions are currently given individual consideration at the time of advertising, in terms of the potential for apprenticeship opportunities. However, this is assessed on a case by case basis, rather than as a blanket procurement requirement, as there may be different 'added value' to be achieved in support of Community Strategy outcomes.

Officers are mindful of the fact that apprenticeships can be hard to fill, locally, especially with a continued fall in youth unemployment which is currently running at 0.8% (90 people). Moreover, work placements are routinely refused by those whom they are intended to help. The commissioning of a brand new Jobseeker Mentoring Service – the contract for which is being awarded at the time of writing – will help to create a stronger interface between jobseekers, training agencies, support organisations and employers and bring about better outcomes for employment.

I would reassure Members that I am working closely with officers to keep the profile of apprenticeships and alternative training schemes high on the agendas of local businesses and business organisations. The Winchester BID has already hosted one apprenticeship, and many of our other partner agencies - such as WinACC, the Theatre Royal and Trinity Winchester and parish councils - routinely offer structured workplace opportunities that lead to improved employment prospects, particularly for local young people."



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QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Learney

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

“What materials are collected at Recycling Banks in other Hampshire districts that are not collected in Winchester – and what plans are there to catch up with our neighbours?”

What materials are collected on the doorstep for recycling in other Hampshire districts that are not collected in Winchester – and what plans are there to catch up with our neighbours?”

Reply

“It is difficult to answer Cllr Learney’s question definitively because I am unclear what she means by ‘recycling banks’. If she means Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) then I am not aware of any differences in the materials which may be brought to those sites across Hampshire save for those associated with specialist items which some sites are equipped for and some not. HWRCs accept a myriad of materials for recycling and do an excellent job.

If she means the banks that the Council provides then we focus on those materials which households are most likely to wish to recycle in viable quantities, such as glass and textiles. Other more specialist recycling opportunities for things such as spectacles, mobile phones and printer cartridges operate successfully through charitable and ‘shop front’ schemes.

So far as our neighbours are concerned, most of them need to catch up with us. We already have higher recycling rates than Test Valley, East Hants or Basingstoke, and we’re about level with Fareham.

Eastleigh Borough Council has the highest recycling rate in Hampshire at just over 40% and would no doubt be Cllr Learney’s exemplar. But for all their extra spending on recycling officers and kerbside collections of food waste and forcing people to have smaller bins, Eastleigh’s recycling rate has been falling not increasing. By comparison Winchester’s rate of recycling is just under 36% - very little different from the so-called class leader.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2014

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QUESTION 13

From: Councillor Ruffell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

"I see that we are about to or have just released the first Council houses in Otterbourne. Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how much land the Council owns for future council house building and do we have enough funds to complete them?"

Reply

"I am delighted to announce that the new Council house scheme at Bourne Close, Otterbourne will be handed over to the Council on the 12 August 2014.

The Council is constantly reviewing its land holdings to ensure they are being used effectively. With regard to land held within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) there are a number of small sites suitable for housing development that are currently being investigated. The key constraint that prevents them being immediately developed is that the funds for building new homes are fully committed until 2017.

There is a reluctance from central government to allow Councils to borrow further capital via an increase in HRA debt headroom, therefore, the Council is reliant on funds being made available from other sources such as Right To Buy sales and developer contributions if it wants to accelerate new housing provision."



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2014

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 14

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

“How many council and social tenants in the Winchester District are going to be affected by Hampshire County Council’s Supporting People cuts?”

Reply

“Older Peoples’ Services

The Hampshire County Council (HCC) funding currently supports two areas of support work for older people.

£321,000 pa is paid to WCC for Floating Support Services. The contract capacity is 850 clients and the funding will end in March 2015.

£85,000 pa is paid towards the cost of delivering Community Alarm Services to the Council’s own tenants and to older people living in other tenures. This contract is to support 2288 alarm customers. The City Council is currently exploring options to retain this service.

HCC has stated recently that it is proposing to set-up a replacement support service to provide support for up to twelve weeks to those clients deemed most at risk from the withdrawal of support. A tendering and commissioning process is expected to commence in August although no indication has been given of the likely capacity of these arrangements.

Officers understand that the HCC Executive Member will be making decisions in relation to these proposals at the end of July 2014.

Socially Excluded Cluster

HCC currently fund services with a contract value of £1,540,000 in Winchester District, and they propose to reduce their annual spend to £1,020,000 from April 2015. Discussions are on-going between HCC, WCC and providers, and WCC officers are engaged in a review of provision so it is difficult at this stage to predict the number of people likely to be affected by these changes. The proposals originally put forward by the County would have affected accommodation-based support for approximately 160 vulnerable single people, but this figure is subject to change.

It is clear that many providers intend to maintain services and officers will update members as soon as more is known about their intentions.”



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QUESTION 15

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Transport

“In a recent discussion with a member of WINAAC, it was brought to my attention that there is a disconnect between the times trains leave and arrive at the Station and the times buses leave and arrive at the forecourt to facilitate connecting journeys.

What can the Council do to assess and then to remedy this apparent flaw in the convenience of public transport services.”

Reply

“The City Council has recently taken steps to combat the disconnection between trains and buses. In April 2012, the City Council changed the Park & Ride timetable to meet London trains in the AM and PM peak to encourage train commuters to use the Park & Ride service. The recent tender for the night bus service, (funded by the town forum) the no.5A and no.3, have also been tweaked to allow a few minutes between the train arriving and the buses departing to local residential areas.

Hampshire County Council, the public transport authority can be asked to investigate changing the timetables as and when a subsidised services come up for re-tender, however slight changes may have knock on effects to other parts of the timetable and other bus services.”



Winchester
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QUESTION 16

From: Councillor Scott

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment

“Can the Portfolio Holder tell me if the Pitt Vale site which Linden Homes are holding Public Consultation Events on, is one of the ‘Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment’ (SHLAA) sites, and if so, is this site considered as part of LPP2 and in line with Winchester City Council policy?”

Reply

“The site which has been subject to a consultation event by Linden Homes is one which has been put forward through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA, site ref: 2394). It is outside the settlement boundary of Winchester and not part of any housing allocation or reserve allocation.

Its development would not therefore, be consistent with the Council’s policies or its approach to considering development needs through the Local Plan Part 2. For Winchester, it is expected that housing needs can be met within the existing settlement boundary and that additional greenfield sites will not be needed.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2014

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QUESTION 17

From: Councillor Pines

To: The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Organisational Development

Following this Council's pledge to pay the Living Wage to all its employees, can the Portfolio Holder indicate what progress has been made to:

1. Request or require City Council contractors to pay at least the living wage to their employees, when contracts are take out or renewed;
2. Indicate what discussions have taken place with Winchester BID or other bodies to promote our policy in Winchester district;
3. What steps have been taken to follow up the proposal to make Winchester a "Living Wage City".

Reply

"Since Cllr Janet Berry raised a question about this subject last October, a corporate project group has been working to establish how the Council will encourage the adoption of the Living Wage in more workplaces across the District and in the Council's procurement practice.

The project group is considering the relevant legislation to establish the extent to which the Council could include a Living Wage clause in all contracts. It is clear from the findings to date that this is a complex issue, given the procurement legislation that the City Council has to comply with.

It has also researched and considered areas of best practice by other councils, and will feed its findings and recommendations back to Members in the coming weeks. In the meantime, as major procurements (such as the cleaning contract) arise, officers are considering how Living Wage clauses can be included in such contracts.

For many businesses, these are challenging times, and making the commitment to increasing wages for any staff can be seen as a potential risk. We have done much to engage with employers over employment issues in recent times – as you will hear in the response to Cllr Pines's question on

apprenticeships – and have been encouraged by their positive attitude towards providing opportunities for those who are suffering most in the current economic climate.

In central Winchester, the Business Improvement District reports that most commercial businesses already pay at least the Living Wage because they are unable to recruit to their lowest-paid roles if they do not. This may not be the same across the District, and officers continue to raise the subject at appropriate times. In the meantime, the corporate project group is also considering the potential for making Winchester a Living Wage City or District.

We will also continue to encourage businesses through network meetings, e-newsletters and other regular communications throughout the months ahead.

This is very much a live issue for the Council, as we strive to ensure that everyone is able to have a decent quality of life in the Winchester District.”



Winchester
City Council

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QUESTION 18

From: Councillor Thompson

To: The Portfolio Holder for Business Services

“Does the Portfolio Holder have any plans to install solar panels on Council owned buildings?”

Reply

“Solar panel technology is becoming more efficient and will be included in new homes developed by the Council where it is cost effective and technically practical to do so. The newly constructed dwellings at Bourne Close will include solar PV and it is proposed to incorporate them into the new flats to be built at Victoria Road, Winchester.

Before considering retrofitting solar panels on existing buildings, there are many more cost effective schemes which can be delivered to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. Recent examples have been the installation of new LED lighting in the City Museum and the Guildhall toilets, draft proofing to the windows in Abbey House and shortly the replacement of the lighting in Chesil MSCP with new LED lighting tubes.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2014

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 19

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Leader

“The public is rightly concerned not just about Silver Hill and River Park, but also about various other developments in the town centre, including Chesil Street, the Cattle Market and around the station itself.

Is there a single document where the public can see the whole master plan for Winchester and the vision behind it?”

Reply

“The ‘Vision for Winchester’ document produced by the Town Forum provides a clear statement of the objectives the Council has for Winchester Town and the kind of place that it wishes to be. This aligns with policy documents such as the Parking Strategy, the Winchester Town Access Plan and, of course, the Local Plan.

There is not a single land use “master plan” document which aims to control or even document all development proposed or planned in and around Winchester. Producing a master plan for the whole town which requires all of the organisations, institutions, private individuals and developers to commit to a detailed set of long term proposals is most unlikely to be feasible or attractive. Where there is merit in looking at particular areas, such as Station Approach, on a more detailed basis, this work is commissioned to help guide any development proposals and to ensure that they contribute positively to the public realm and built environment.

Local Plan Part 1 includes a ‘spatial strategy’ for Winchester which sets out the overall aims for the town in relation to planning and development. Development proposals should be in accordance with this strategy (LPP1 policy WT1). In addition, the Local Plan Part 2 is being developed to add detailed policies and allocate specific sites as necessary.

The various major developments mentioned form part of, or are consistent with, the planning strategy for the town. While the planning system gives control of the spatial planning strategy it cannot dictate in detail the timing of individual developments. However, with many of the developments planned by the Council, or on Council-owned sites, there is an element of control over this available to the Council.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2014

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 20

From: Councillor Pines

To: The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

“Although the City Council maintains a register of mature trees in its open spaces and recreation land, there is no equivalent list for such trees in tenant or leaseholder gardens.

Trees which were planted over forty or fifty years ago have now outgrown a tenant’s ability to care for them, or provide periodic maintenance. However, it is accepted as part of a tenancy agreement that a tenant is responsible for their garden and its contents.

In view of the potential risks (Financial, Risk Management, Physical) to both the Council and tenants/leaseholders, could the Portfolio Holder provide details of the amount of such trees and a likely budget for their maintenance?”

Reply

“Whilst tenancy conditions make it clear that tenants are responsible for all elements of garden maintenance, the City Council has always accepted a responsibility for addressing problems with large trees and regularly undertakes works to address safety concerns. In 2013/14, the Council spent approximately £30,000 on maintenance of trees on Housing land, including those in tenants gardens.

A recent audit undertaken by the Council’s insurers has highlighted the need to take a more pro-active approach to inspection and maintenance of large trees. Work has commenced on creating a register of trees in tenants gardens and officers from the Landscape and Housing teams are working together to complete this task.

The potential cost of taking a more proactive approach is currently being assessed and the impact on the Housing Revenue Account will be reported to Cabinet (Housing) Committee as soon as more information is available.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2014

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 21

From: Councillor Pines

To: The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Transport

“Could the Portfolio Holder:

1. indicate what progress has been made, following the recent survey of residents parking in Winnall, to provide white lines on road junctions, and in front of residents drives;
2. Whether the County Council, as Highway Authority, is being required to re-paint “zig-zag” lines outside local schools (Winnall has a good example of near-invisible lines) as a matter of urgency in view of obvious road safety issues?”

Reply

1. The recent consultation in Winnall related to the possible introduction of waiting and parking restrictions. As a result of the consultation there are proposals to introduce double yellow lines at the majority of junctions in Winnall. These proposals are currently being drafted and will be sent to the local Members by the end of July for their approval to proceed to formal advert as per the usual Traffic Regulation Order procedure. White bar markings are only placed across residents' driveways when directly requested by the respective resident.
2. The request to have the school keep clear zig-zags in Garbett Road repainted has been forwarded to HCC Highways for their attention. It is expected that the markings will be repainted during the school holidays in readiness for the new academic year.