



**Winchester**  
City Council

**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 1**

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Leader

“What future role will People for Places have in the design and building of a new leisure centre at Bar End.”

**Reply**

“Places for People Leisure is the current operator of the River Park Leisure Centre.

The Council has taken no decisions about the procurement process or management arrangements for any new leisure centre that might be built at Bar End. The design of any building will be by suitably qualified and experienced architects.

Those decisions will have to be taken by the Council in due course in conjunction with any other major funding partners, such as the University of Winchester.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 2**

From: Councillor Osborne

To: The Portfolio Holder for Local Economy

“What are the current employment figures for the District? How does this figure compare to similar local authorities in this region?”

**Reply**

“The Winchester District is characterised by a highly qualified workforce and low unemployment.

As at November 2015, the Official Labour Market Statistics for the District record a total of 0.5% of residents (325 people) under pensionable age who are available for work as being in receipt of Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA).

Winchester is among the fifty local authority areas with the lowest JSA claimant figures in the country, the lowest being 0.3% in Stratford on Avon, South Oxfordshire and Harrogate. In the south east region, it is one of nineteen local authority areas with JSA claimants at 5% or below.

Of the total number of JSA claimants, only 0.2% (or 90 people) had been unemployed for six months or more, reflecting very low levels of long term unemployment. For this reason, the Council’s commissioned employment mentoring service focusses on those who are faced with the greatest personal challenges, in terms of entering the workplace. People in receipt of Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefits constitute another 3.1% of working age residents, and often have complex needs to resolve. This takes time, compassion and dedication from the team of local volunteer mentors that is now steadily growing under the management of Sova. Jobcentre Plus in Winchester is highly complimentary about the service, which has just entered its second year.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 3**

From: Councillor Thompson

To: The Leader

“In the light of the decision of the Conservative majority at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to refuse to review the current scrutiny process, does the Leader consider that the current arrangements for the scrutiny process in this Council are entirely satisfactory and effective.”

**Reply**

“I am not a Member of the Committee so, whilst I was present at the debate, it would be wrong for me to second guess the reasons for Committee Members not supporting Cllr Cook’s proposals. However, my impression was that several members of the Committee were keen to see change, but they felt that this important matter was not being given sufficient time for consideration.

Scrutiny is, rightly, independent of the Executive, and it is for Members of The Overview & Scrutiny Committee to decide whether they consider current arrangements are satisfactory.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 4**

From: Councillor Mather

To: The Portfolio Holder for Local Economy

“Can the Portfolio Holder provide an update on changes that have taken place in footfall and consumer spending in Winchester City Centre during recent years?”

**Reply**

“It is difficult to be precise about footfall in the City Centre. Monitors owned by the Business Improvement District (BID) are placed in a number of locations around the shopping streets, but it is not possible to provide a meaningful, aggregated figure. What we do know from studies carried out by Tourism South East, however, is that in the six years from 2008 to 2014 the number of day trips by visitors to our District has increased from 4.1m to 5.6m, or 36.6%, with a further 20% rise in staying visitors to 1.1m in 2014.

The value of visitor spend to local businesses also jumped from £240m in 2008 to £351m – an impressive 46% rise.

Contributory factors range from special events such as the Cathedral’s Christmas market and ice rink, the Winchester Criterium cycle race and Hat Fair to year-round marketing campaigns run by the BID and the Council’s tourism team.

By way of example, the footfall monitor in the lower High Street showed that the Coca Cola Truck - which visited the city on 17 December 2015 - brought an increase in footfall in that part of town of 40.5% increase on the same day in 2014. Using an average spend of £33 per head by each visitor taken from previous similar studies, this amounted to nearly £170,000 of additional spend in the City Centre.

We know that such footfall is not evenly distributed, and we work closely with partners such as the BID – and with our market towns further afield – to ensure that the economic benefits of retail, culture and tourism activity are felt as widely as possible by local businesses of all shapes and sizes.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 5**

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing

“Does the Council support the introduction of district energy heating schemes in the Winchester area?”

**Reply**

“Yes, in principle the Council is supportive of renewable and decentralized energy schemes. This is reflected in Policy CP12 of our adopted Local Plan Part 1 which specifically refers to CHP/district heating/cooling systems and the policy stipulates criteria against which such schemes will be considered.

To this end, the Council actively contributed to the recent study commissioned by Hampshire County Council exploring the feasibility of a District Energy Network (DEN) for the Town area.

A Cabinet paper (CAB2682) endorsed by Members in May 2015 stated that in order to meet the European target of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2020, the District needs to reduce its emissions from around one million tonnes a year to 720,000 tonnes a year. This is approximately 25,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2e</sub> a year from 2016 to 2020.

Based on Winchester Action on Climate Change’s estimates, a District Energy Network could save 500 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum – twice as much as a new, energy-efficient leisure centre. It would be the largest single contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the District.

Clearly, there would be considerations around cost, planning policy, deliverability and air quality but with public interest reinvigorated by the Paris Climate Change Conference last November a scheme of this kind would, I am sure, be of great interest to our residents.”



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**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 6**

From: Councillor Burns

To: The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing confirm what progress has been made in drafting a new Empty Homes Strategy and when it is likely to be issued?”

**Reply**

“A report reviewing key priorities for a formal Empty Homes Strategy will be considered by Cabinet (Housing) Committee at its meeting on 2 February 2016, with a view to a formal commencement of a new Strategy to take effect from April 2016.”



**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 7**

From: Councillor Weir

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health & Wellbeing

“2015 has been the year of the City Council's Great Waste campaign. Can the portfolio holder tell us what substantive progress has been made on waste reduction, recycling and reuse in Winchester District as a consequence of the campaign, and how this will be sustained in the year ahead?”

**Reply**

“The Great Waste campaign continues to April 2016, with a design competition culminating in an exhibition and catwalk display as part of Winchester Fashion Week currently in progress.

The three objectives for the campaign are as follows:

1. To support waste reduction by local residents with a programme of information, education and encouragement;
2. To support waste reduction by local residents with a programme of information, education and encouragement, and
3. To extend the range of recyclables which are collected from kerbside.

Changing the habits and systems of many years is not a quick process, but the Campaign has certainly reached out to people of all ages through initiatives ranging from a colourful ‘Trash to Treasure’ exhibition and a schools’ debate on waste in the Conference Chamber to a ‘Low Cost Christmas’ promotion and a ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ Leftover Lunches challenge.

The Council's waste and recycling pages have been completely updated with an improved, interactive map making it easier for people to find out how to recycle or repurpose a wider range of waste objects. A review of the ‘Bring Sites’ across the District carried out by Winchester Action on Climate Change volunteers will lead to a scheme to improve the user experience at one or two pilot sites to assess the impact on recycling rates.

I believe that the campaign has also made us think more about the opportunities and the challenges associated with waste – as Cllr Tod's question on food waste demonstrates elsewhere in these papers.

A full report on the impact on the year will be made available once the campaign draws to a close. In the meantime, there is still time for my fellow Members to make a positive contribution by organising an event in your own wards, with plenty of advice and information available through the website [www.thegreatwaste.org](http://www.thegreatwaste.org)".





## COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016

### Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

#### QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Gemmell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Local Economy

“Could the PFH tells me what progress has been made with the newest round of Leader Funding?”

#### Reply

“LEADER is the method of delivering Rural Development Programme funding to businesses and communities through Local Action Groups (LAGs). The rural parts of the Winchester District come under the Fieldfare LEADER project, which was one of the most successful in the country under the last LEADER programme. It awarded 134 grants worth £1.4m to 134 projects across rural Winchester and East Hampshire, generating a total investment of £7.5m. 81 of these projects were in the Winchester District.

This second programme will bring £1.6 million to the Fieldfare area, which has now widened to include parts of Eastleigh and Havant. The project opened for business last October, and has been encouraging interest from farmers, foresters, growers, rural businesses and rural communities.

Funding is for capital items only, with grants typically awarded for up to 40% of eligible costs and ranging from £2,500 to £50,000. The LAG looks for projects that will create new jobs and meet one or more of the following aims:

- increasing farm or forestry productivity / efficiency
- creating or develop existing micro and small businesses
- developing new local food and drink markets
- increasing visitor spend
- providing an essential rural service

The three-stage application process has so far seen 638 potential applicants registering for a first stage Information Day; 51 Initial Interest Forms submitted to the LEADER team and 5 Outline Applications completed, with an additional 25 Outline Applications issued. The first announcements about awards will be made on 14 March 2016.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 9**

From: Councillor Green

To: The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

“Can the portfolio holder explain what the protocol is around local members regarding publicity for the promotion of new council homes on council estates?”

**Reply**

“The principal aim of publicity for new homes or any other major project is to ensure that residents, partners and others are aware of the Council’s work and achievements, making best use of the publicity methods at our disposal.

Publicity photographs and press releases usually feature the relevant Portfolio Holder or the Leader as a representative of the City Council with the Mayor or other dignitary sometimes involved at the completion stage.

Local members and wider groups are often featured in photographs at the launch or completion stages. For example, The main New Queen’s Gate launch will be a good opportunity for a photograph involving all those who have supported the project.”



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**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 10**

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Leader

“In view of the flooding that occurred in Winchester only two years ago, and given recent events up north, could the Leader please confirm that the Council is fully prepared to respond to any flooding events, and that our ‘flood operations plan’ is ready to be switched on at a day’s notice.

I know that, if needed, the residents of Itchen Valley will do their valiant best to save Winchester again, but I’d like to reassure them that all the lessons learned of a couple of years’ ago are remembered and have resulted in effective forward planning.”

**Reply**

“The efforts and contributions of residents across the District, including Itchen Valley, were greatly appreciated during the 2013/14 floods and the lessons learned have led to a fundamental review of Hampshire’s response to such events. Both the importance of a multi-agency approach from the emergency and support services and the key role of local communities have been built upon.

The winter flooding demonstrated that greater collaborative working between flood risk management authorities and communities was needed to recognise the complexity of flood risk management in Hampshire and prioritise works to build an effective response. To this effect a Partner Group was established comprising:

Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Winchester City Council, Environment Agency and Local Nature Partnership and other Stakeholders including Water and energy companies, parish councils and Local Flood Action Groups.

This partnership has resulted in practical works being carried out, including the following:

- A new flood wall designed and built by Winchester City Council has significantly improved the flood risk management along Water Lane.
- The substantial engineering works at Hambledon have been partially completed along the B2150.
- The Environment Agency has undertaken engineering works to Lower Chilland bank to help with water connectivity and provide an extra 28 hectares of flood storage north of Winchester.
- Further works are in progress this year to look at the feasibility of creating flood defences to protect properties and assets to the north of Winchester city centre against fluvial flooding from the River Itchen.
- For Winchester town, the Sluice Management Plan has been updated and an implementation regime agreed with all stakeholders – all sluices have been repaired and are now fully operational.
- A demountable flood barrier has been purchased to be deployed as required.

Priority communities have also been identified for ongoing multi agency engagement and joint working to prepare action plans to identify realistic work so that communities can be more resilient. The strategic planning for providing a multi agency flood response has also been refreshed in the light of the lessons learned and the coordination of a response has resulted in the preparation or revision of the following:

- Multi Agency Flood Plan including identifying close working with the Met Office and the Environment Agency to obtain advance notice of severe weather events.
- Warning and Informing Plans and Community Recovery plans
- Direct access to Community Plans and Flood Action Groups via Resilience Direct, which is an electronic emergency planning and response tool.
- A revised Winchester City Council Emergency Response Plan (Version 2015).
- The production of a Winchester City Council Flood Response Handbook as a practical guide for officers involved in long term flood emergency situations to policies and procedures. This includes to the Council's preparations to respond to flooding events at the earliest opportunity.
- Water Management Plans for Kings Worthy, Littleton, Sutton Scotney, Twyford, Wickham and the City area which identify key contacts, the

main issues to be addressed and the requirements of a response as well as works that are planned to mitigate flooding in the future.

A Councillor Training Event was also held on 24 November 2015, which updated Members on Emergency Planning and included guidance on the flooding preparations undertaken to date.

From all of this it can be seen that while it is over simplistic to talk of a single 'flood operations plan' for the District or to believe that the City Council can put any plan into effect in isolation from the other agencies, there is a high degree of forward planning to ensure that a coordinated response is made to any event. It is important to recognise that multi agency working is the only effective strategy to respond to emergencies of any scale because the City Council does not hold large stocks of materials, vehicles or indeed personnel to manage any incident in isolation."



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 11**

From: Councillor Scott

To: The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

“With the success of Woolford Close estate improvements and the extra parking spaces at Airlie Corner and the layby's in Fox Lane / Minden Way and also the foot paths in Somers Close Recreation area, can the Portfolio Holder please let me know what other estates improvements are planned for Stanmore especially with further new housing developments planned in Bailey Close and the Valley in the next few years. ie how these estate improvements will off set the loss of garages in Bailey Close and open green space in the Valley?”

**Reply**

“I would like to thank Cllr Scott for highlighting the success of the recent estate improvements carried in Stanmore. I can confirm that there are no further improvements planned from this programme in the Stanmore area at the current time.

With regard to possible new Council housing developments at Bailey Close and the Valley, the appropriate mitigation measures will be discussed as part of the planning application. This will involve advice from the Council's Highways, Landscapes and Planning Officers as well as the views of local residents.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 12**

From: Councillor J Berry

To: The Leader

“In order to enable citizens of Winchester to ask questions in person about Council issues at full Council meetings can the leader consider amendments to the Council’s Constitution to enable this to happen as soon as possible?”

**Reply**

“The Council’s Constitution already has provision for public participation at Cabinet and Committees. This provides a mechanism for the public to raise issues before a full Council Meeting. The reports or minutes can then provide information on any points raised before Members consider any matters referred by those bodies to full Council for decision.

The Constitution also provides the public with an opportunity to bring issues before full Council itself, if the necessary number of signatures are obtained under the Petition Scheme.

Both of these provisions are regularly used by the public.

I believe that these measures provide suitable opportunities for public participation at meetings and do not propose to put forward any changes to the Constitution.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 13**

From: Councillor Hiscock

To: The Leader

“Has there Hampshire Community Bank obtained its Banking licence yet? Has it drawn down any of the money committed to it by Winchester City Council?”

**Reply**

“Along with the other investors we are in the final stages of agreeing the legal documentation for the share subscriptions in Hampshire Community Bank Holding Ltd. It is proposed that payments will be made in 4 equal tranches at various stages of the development of the bank, in order that it can obtain its banking licence. The four stages are:

- 1 When the Company notifies the Investors that it has received a defined amount of applications for shares in the Company – estimated January 2016.
- 2 Upon 3rd party confirmation to Investors that materials prepared for the Challenge Session are nearing completion and Authorisation can be achieved - estimated April 2016.
- 3 Upon 3rd party confirmation to Investors that the Challenge Session has been attended and Authorisation can be achieved – estimated August 2016.
- 4 The confirmation that Authorisation or Restricted Authorisation (Authorisation subject to conditions) has been obtained or will be obtained shortly or that the appropriate EEA Banking Regulator has confirmed that Authorisation or Restricted Authorisation will be obtained shortly - estimated February 2017.”





**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 14**

From: Councillor Tait

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health & Wellbeing

“Further to my questions asked at Full Council on the 15th July 2015 and 4th November 2015 and my address to Cabinet on the 2nd December 2015, I would be grateful if the Portfolio Holder could bring me up to date with progress on addressing the issues of commercial refuse bins left permanently on the public highway across the centre of Winchester with particular reference to Hammonds Passage, Parchment Street and Market Lane.”

**Reply**

“Winchester City enjoys a vibrant restaurant culture, which is greatly enjoyed by local residents and attracts many visitors from the wider region. However a consequence of such popularity is the generation of considerable volumes of waste the storage of which is a challenge here and in other places.

All business is responsible for own waste management practices which can vary considerably. Restaurant businesses in wishing to maximize their covers, place additional pressures on internal space resulting in waste being stored outside, which in an historic town centre is also limited. The result in some locations is conflict with and obstruction of pedestrian routes.

As with previous responses to earlier questions seeking to address the matter of poor commercial waste and bin management, officers from Neighbourhood Services have been undertaking regular surveys of the town centre. They have been working with Environment Health and Hampshire County Council, as highway authority, to address any waste management concerns arising from particular businesses with some success. Such efforts have focused on dealing with waste that either exceeds the capacity of the bins provided under the terms of the businesses' contract, or as can also be the case, from inadequate waste management practices by staff. So City Council Officers will take the lead role in circumstances where the poor management of the waste causes a public health issue i.e. where such waste is not correctly contained within suitable containers.

In addition the Public Realm group has been looking into the matter of siting bins on the highway. The siting of commercial bins on the pavement is commonplace in many towns and is in no way unique to Winchester. However the Highways Act 1980 does provide the basis for the highway authority to take action where bins cause an obstruction.

This provision is enforced by the County Council's Highways Authority, an officer of which recently attended the Public Realm group. They confirmed that they will take action against businesses whose bins are causing a demonstrable obstruction to the highway, which will be taken to mean bins which necessitate pedestrians and/or wheel chair users to access the road, or in the case of an alley way, where the obstruction sufficiently constricts reasonable access . The recent involvement of the County Council in addressing this issue is welcomed and their enforcement approach is pragmatic in striking a balance between the needs of businesses and public access.

Other control measures include the use of planning conditions to ensure new business provide sufficient waste storage capacity and similarly commercial bin provision is being considered as part redesign brief for St Maurice's Covert.

City Council Officers continue to work with our Hampshire County Council colleagues and the BID, who are looking to go out to tender on a dry mixed waste recycling contract in the next month, to tackle issues of poor waste management and to address particular problems which arise on a case by case basis. However, the fact remains that external waste storage is a tricky issue and is not likely to be fully resolved despite our best efforts using the tools available to us."



**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 15**

From: Councillor Prowse

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health & Wellbeing

“Following the implementation of the TRO parking restrictions in Mid to Lower Stanmore Lane. The portfolio holder previously stated,

'the impact of all new TROs are always monitored upon their completion.'

Therefore, What impact has there been, how has this been monitored and what impact will this have on the escalation in timings of the further TRO's in the adjacent roads?”

**Reply**

“It is too early to say because the restrictions have only just been introduced having come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015. However their implementation was delayed due to inclement weather preventing the lines being painted by Hampshire County Council’s contractor.

The Traffic Engineer dealing with the scheme has visited the site on numerous occasions during December to check on progress. They have also visited site since the markings were completed.

The area will be inspected on a regular basis in January and February to assess what impact the new restrictions are having in terms of displaced traffic and the like.

The Parking Office Team Leaders are also contacted on a daily basis during the first few weeks after the introduction of any new restrictions.

In addition to the above any issues arising from the new restrictions will inevitably be reported by the public, and via the Ward Members, and will be investigated accordingly by officers.”



**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 16**

From: Councillor Lipscomb

To: The Leader

"INDEPENDENT SILVER HILL ENQUIRY

Will the Leader:

- 1 Recognise the concern of Members and public that Ms Lloyd-Jones has yet to publish her report or a firm date for so doing.
- 2 Recognise that, notwithstanding the free rein given to Ms Lloyd-Jones, it is the Council which has commissioned the report and which has the ultimate responsibility for its delivery.
- 3 Publish a firm date now for the publication of the report.
- 4 Assure Members that the report will be published in its entirety, without redaction.
- 5 Remind Members of the full costs associated with the Enquiry, identifying any changes which may have taken place since the original contract with Ms Lloyd-Jones."

**Reply**

"I, like Cllr Lipscomb and many others, would like to see Ms Lloyd-Jones's report published as soon as possible. However, Members made quite clear when it was commissioned that it was to be independent, and that the timetable was a matter for the Reviewer. Neither I nor Officers have any control over it.

The report will be published as soon as possible after it is received. I hope that will be without redactions, but that rather depends on its content.

I will ensure all Members are advised of the full cost of the review as soon as those costs are clear."



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**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 17**

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Leader

“Will the Leader confirm whether or not the Lloyd-Jones Independent Review Report has been received and will he also confirm the arrangements for its distribution to all Councillors?”

**Reply**

“I understand the Chief Executive has been asked by Ms Lloyd-Jones to provide factual comments on a draft of her report. It is for her to decide when she is ready to submit the final version. It will be made available to all Councillors as soon as possible thereafter.”



**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 18**

From: Councillor Susan Cook

To: The Leader

"Can the Leader please confirm that whether Henderson should Win, Lose or draw the Appeal to the Judicial Review which they chose to pursue, no part of the cost of the Appeal will be charged directly to the Council or to the Development Account?"

**Reply**

"The Council is a party to the appeal (as the defendant to the original claim) but has not participated in the appeal process. As the appeal has been brought by Silverhill Winchester No. 1 Limited (SW1), and the Council has not taken part in the appeal, there would be no basis for the Court to order the Council to pay any costs which relate to the appeal.

Whether [Henderson] SW1 could charge to the Development Account any costs it incurs in connection with the appeal will depend on the terms of the Development Agreement. It is possible that SW1 could successfully argue that such costs would fall within the definition of Development Costs in the Development Agreement, and should therefore be charged to the development account, because they relate to the development scheme.

However, the development account is a mechanism for recording SW1's costs in carrying out the scheme, and ensuring that these are taken into account a) in determining whether the scheme is viable (the Financial Viability Condition) and b) before any share of profits from the scheme is made between the Council and SW1. Whether or not the costs can be included in the development account, SW1 will still be responsible for paying these, but if they are included in the development account, they would reduce the viability of the scheme, and also reduce the scope for the Council to share in the profits if the scheme gets built."



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**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 19**

From: Councillor J Berry

To: The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services

“In December 2015 the Local Government Association launched a Housing Commission “to explore new routes to housebuilding so councils can enable the building of more desperately- needed homes.” Will Winchester City Council be submitting evidence to this commission?”

**Reply**

“I will certainly be meeting with Housing teams to review our own good practice as well as barriers to building more homes. The Commission has asked for contributions by 26 February to allow it to report in the June 2016. The experiences of the City Council’s own enablement programmes will be similar to many other south east authorities and I will discuss with officers whether a specific City Council response or a joint response with other partners is most appropriate.”



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**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 20**

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health & Wellbeing

“Why doesn't the City Council support doorstep collection of food waste for recycling?”

**Reply**

“Food waste forms part of the residual waste stream managed through Project Integra. Unlike other areas, Hampshire does not send residual waste to landfill (except for a very small quantity of material which can be disposed of in no other way) but converts it to energy by way of incineration. The food waste component in the waste stream helps to regulate the calorific value and balance of waste treated through energy recovery. Where food waste is collected separately it is processed through anaerobic digestion which also produces energy. The marginal environmental benefits of separate anaerobic digestion over incineration as part of a total residual waste stream are not clear cut when all of the other impacts are taken into account.

The affordability of any scheme is also an unavoidable consideration in current circumstances. A food waste collection service would require specialist vehicles, disposal infrastructure contracts, and equipment for householders.

Previous estimates were that a district wide scheme would require funding in excess of £1 million per annum revenue including vehicle leasing costs. In addition, £700-800k of capital funding would be required to purchase and distribute storage bins/caddies to each household and promote the scheme. These estimates are consistent with press reports of costs for a food waste collection service considered last year by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. It should be noted that under current arrangements there would be no additional income from the collection of food waste as a recyclable material to off set the ongoing revenue costs. As such, I consider that the option is not affordable nor would represent value for money within the current economic climate.



The situation will be kept under review and there may be future developments as a result of Project Integra Partnership work on future infrastructure requirements and an analysis of the relationship of whole system costs which may impact upon the business case.”



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**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 January 2016**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 21**

From: Councillor J Berry

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health & Wellbeing

“Will the leader be joining the leaders of more than fifty other councils in Britain who have signed a pledge stating that they have the ambition that their towns and cities will be run entirely on green energy by 2050?”

Reply

“Cllr Berry refers to a Labour initiative announced last November in the run-up to the Paris Climate Change Conference. I wholly applaud the ambition, although I note the difference in scale between many of these cities and our own, rather smaller, greener District.

Whilst I would hesitate to sign a pledge of this kind without any clear plan to deliver on it at the current time, Members may remember that Cabinet approved a Report last spring with the following recommendation:

*“That it be recognised that at least 15% of the energy used in the Winchester District should come from renewable sources by the end of 2020, in order to meet European Union targets.”*

([CAB2682](#), Working Towards a Lower Carbon District, 15 April 2015 refers)

We are already encouraging the development of renewables, through our planning powers, our grants programmes and our own asset management. Furthermore, last December we adopted Twelve Actions for a Lower Carbon Council (Appendix 2 of Portfolio Holder Decision Notice [PHD660A](#) refers) which make further provision for green energy initiatives. Winchester Town Forum is also pursuing a ‘Solar City’ project to encourage greater take-up of solar power on the City’s largest, non-residential buildings.

Whilst there are many demands on the public purse, and investment in green energy must be weighed against these, I will do all I can to ensure that we meet the target for 2020 above.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 22**

From: Councillor J Berry

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health & Wellbeing

“Has an evaluation been carried out regarding the 20mph schemes that have been implemented in the town centre and parts of the town wards?”

Reply

“Before and after speed data has been recorded for the roads included in the various 20 mph speed limits recently introduced in Winchester by the City Council on behalf of Hampshire County Council.

The results for the roads covered by the city centre scheme showed minor reductions in speeds. The majority of sites in Highcliffe also showed minor decrease in speeds, whilst there has been no effective change in the overall speeds recorded in Winnall.

The speed data recorded shows the mean average speeds are compliant with the 20 mph speed limits.

The speed limit in Stanmore was introduced directly by HCC and the City Council has not carried out any independent checks in this area.”



**Winchester**  
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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 23**

From: Councillor Simon Cook

To: Leader

“When the recommendations made in Report PER275 were agreed by Cabinet at their meeting on 21 October and subsequently endorsed by Council, were you aware that there was a possibility that neither of the two senior officers listed for redundancy would apply for the new post of Corporate Director (Professional Services)?

Was an assumption made in the presentation to both Cabinet and Council that redundancy costs would not be required for one of these two senior officers, which would have significantly reduced the cost of the re-organisation?

What has been the financial consequence of the fact that neither of these officers has applied for this important appointment, having regard the necessary recruitment costs and the possible need for an Interim Appointment?”

**Reply**

“When changes are made and posts put at risk it is always a matter for the individual affected how they wish to proceed. PER275 made this quite clear, and the financial implications set out the ‘worst case’ scenario of both individuals choosing not to apply for the role, and so the Council incurring redundancy costs accordingly.

The new Corporate Director role will be advertised shortly, and as yet no plans have been made for an interim appointment to this post. It is, however, likely that the Council will make an interim appointment to the role of Head of Finance, who reports to the Corporate Director.”