



Meeting	Council
Date and Time	Wednesday, 18th September, 2024 at 6.30 pm.
Venue	Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y A G E N D A

Agenda Item.

9. Questions from Members of Council (Pages 3 - 18)

The total time for questions and the answer and supplementaries thereto shall not exceed 40 minutes.

City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester
SO23 9LJ

Laura Taylor
Chief Executive



13 September 2024

Agenda Contact: David Blakemore, Democratic Services Team Manager
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COUNCIL MEETING – 18 September 2024

Questions by Councillors under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question.
- If a questioner who has submitted a question is unable to be present, the Mayor may ask the question on their behalf, or invite another Councillor to do so, or indicate that a written reply will be given and published on the website following the meeting. or decide, in the absence of the questioner, that the question will not be dealt with.
- Please note that following the response given by the Leader, a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for Councillor questions will normally be limited to 40 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting.

	From Cllr:
1	Batho
2	Lee 1
3	Clear
4	White
5	Power
6	Godfrey
7	Wallace
8	Horrill
9	Tippett-Cooper
10	Bolton
11	Brook
12	Miller
13	Langford-Smith
14	Lee 2
15	Lee 3



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Batho

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Kelsie Learney)

“How do the recent decisions to invest in food waste trucks and converting Park and Ride buses to run on HVO help Winchester City Council to achieve the plan to go Greener Faster?”

Reply



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QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Lee (1)

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Kelsie Learney)

“The Council recognizes the importance of expanding renewable energy alongside energy efficiency improvements. There is significant value in community and locally owned energy to reduce grid pressure and accelerate decarbonization to the District and Council.

With Government commitments to double onshore wind capacity by 2030 and the Council’s ambition for development of a Local Area Energy Plans, it is crucial to explore opportunities for community energy ownership and regulatory changes to maximize local benefits for wind and community energy opportunities.

Does the Council agree we need to urgently pursue options for a fast-track approach for the development of onshore wind and increased community-owned energy project opportunities in the district, including lobbying for regulatory changes, exploring more council investment opportunities, and consulting with potential community energy partners to ensure direct local benefits?”

Reply



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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Clear

To: The Cabinet Member for Kelsie Learney (Cllr Kelsie Learney)

“May I ask when are the new parking machines in Wickham Square to be installed as the current ones are continually out of order?”.

Reply



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QUESTION 4

From: Councillor White

To: The Cabinet Member for Business and Culture (Cllr Lucille Thompson)

“Access to arts and culture has many benefits for our rural villages, not only in improving well-being but also in providing a sense of community and preventing social isolation. The Council’s Draft Cultural Strategy acknowledges the value of our community buildings, such as village halls, school halls and faith buildings, as places where much of the cultural activity (e.g. classes, workshops and performances) takes place in rural areas.

In what practical ways will the Council’s revised Cultural strategy help our rural community buildings improve access to arts and culture, especially for young people?”

Reply



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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Power

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Kelsie Learney)

“Would the Cabinet Member kindly advise on the performance of the garden waste collection service from inception, in terms of bins paid for and tonnage collected?”

Reply



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Godfrey

To: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance (Cllr Neil Cutler)

“If the Government do remove Single Person Discount for Council Tax at the Autumn Statement on 30th October, how many Winchester pensioners would probably be affected?”.

Reply



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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Wallace

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Jackie Porter)

“Please can you advise on the Winchester City Council's plan for supporting the North Whiteley development going forward, in particular how long the Council plans to retain a North Whiteley Implementation Officer? As you know, North Whiteley recently passed the milestone of 1,500 properties occupied of 3,500 total.”

Reply



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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Horrill

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing (Cllr Chris Westwood)

“Does the council have a policy to enforce the retrofitting of council properties to improve their energy efficiency?”

Reply



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QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Tippett-Cooper

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing (Cllr Chris Westwood)

“This summer saw disruption caused by antisocial behaviour in The Hyde area of St Bartholomew’s ward and, following concerns being raised by residents in the area, a decision by A2Dominion to close West View House (around which the ASB issues were most acute). Council officers worked really hard to address ASB issues at the time alongside the police and I now understand that WCC Housing officers are working hard to plan for the withdrawal of A2D’s service.

I would be grateful if the Council could confirm whether progress has been made to explore options to support those affected in West View to appropriate accommodation.”

Reply



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QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Bolton

To: The Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement (Cllr Kathleen Becker)

“Just weeks after the election, the new Labour Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, has announced a cut to the Winter Fuel Payment which will reduce it by between £100 and £300, money that would usually have helped pensioners with their heating bills during the winter.

Only those people on pension credit will receive the Winter Fuel Payment, meaning pensioners with an income of just £13,000 a year will lose out.

The new Labour Government has chosen to remove the Winter Fuel Payment from around 27,000 pensioners in the Winchester district and this will have a devastating impact on vulnerable people this winter.

As a result of this, what will the administration do to support our most vulnerable pensioners through the winter months ahead?”

Reply



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QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Brook

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Jackie Porter)

“Now the decision has been made to speed up the local plan process to prevent us being in a situation in June where we have no land supply and open ourselves up to unplanned building across the district, could the portfolio please advise of the cost to continuing and recommencing the data for the new housing numbers straight after, vs pausing and including those numbers in this iteration?”

Reply



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QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Miller

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Jackie Porter)

“At the meeting of the Council held on 28th August, the submission of the Local Plan regulation 19 was approved. It included the site at Tollgate Mill in Bishops Waltham as a possible site for a doctors’ surgery. Something that is very much needed and welcomed by many residents.

However, I understand that this must have been included without the consent of the landowner, as at present, it seems it has not been possible to establish who does own this land. Does inclusion of that site, which it seems is unlikely to be deliverable, mean that part of the plan is unsound?”

Reply



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QUESTION 13

From: Councillor Langford-Smith

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Kelsie Learney)

“There is a lot of public disquiet about the cleanliness of Public Toilets and the provision of facilities for disabled people therein. There is a public expectation of good quality facilities and a refurbishment programme has been mentioned with some toilets in central Winchester already having been refurbished. Can the administration advise when we might expect the toilets in Denmead to be refurbished?”

Reply



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QUESTION 14

From: Councillor Lee (2)

To: The Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement (Cllr Kathleen Becker)

“Many residents are facing increasing cost-of-living pressures, particularly vulnerable households and those in financial hardship. The Government’s extension of the Household Support Fund (HSF) to March next year is a crucial support measure for financially stressed families and individuals. Of real concern, are the forthcoming energy price rises (13% in two phases) and changes to winter fuel payment eligibility, which now excludes many who are not in receipt of pension credit or other means-tested benefits.

An early update to our Council Webpage – ‘Money, Benefits and Bills’ with additional information might be useful for vulnerable residents’ peace of mind - [Money, benefits & bills - Winchester City Council](#)

How does the Council plan to target the extended Household Support Fund to effectively address specific needs, especially for households that may be unaware of their entitlement to Pension Credit, and are there any new or creative methods being considered to maximize support through collaboration with local agencies?”

Reply



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QUESTION 15

From: Councillor Lee (3)

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Kelsie Learney)

“In England, too many healthy trees without a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) are frequently cut down having been labelled as a (i) nuisance and/or for (ii) safety reasons and/or to (ii) facilitate development projects.

The absence of comprehensive national or local data on the exact numbers and reasons for the removal of these viable trees in these three categories is a critical gap in our understanding of the resulting ecological/biodiversity and carbon sequestration losses and any mitigation counter measures. This gap in our District knowledge undermines efforts to address the climate and nature crises, including our ability to implement effective Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

Since Winchester declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and a Nature Emergency in 2023, how many trees, including those under TPOs, have been removed in our District within the three categories above? And, what measures can we implement to reduce tree loss and avoid undermining our climate and nature emergency actions, as well as the benefits of NbS?”

Reply