



Meeting	Council
Date and Time	Wednesday, 16th January, 2019 at 7.00 pm.
Venue	King Alfred Conference Chamber, Guildhall, Winchester

COUNCIL QUESTIONS

5. **To answer questions (if any) under Council Procedure Rule 14. (Pages 3 - 30)**

LAURA TAYLOR
Chief Executive

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Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Cutler

To: The Leader (Cllr Horrill)

“What contingency plans has the Council made for the effects on the district of the UK leaving the EU without a deal?”

Reply

“The Council is closely following developments relating to Brexit and assessing the potential impacts of ‘no deal’ exit from the European Union on 29 March.

Each Corporate Head of Service has completed an assessed of the potential impacts of a no-deal exit on their services; including the possible effects on key contracts and contractors.

The Council is also engaging with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) who are examining the local implications from a ‘no deal’ Brexit in March.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Cllr Ashton)

“What is the likely impact on Winchester City Council of the Local Government Finance Settlement announced in December?”

Reply

“The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announcement in December provides details on funding for 2019/20, the final year of the current four year settlement.

The provisional settlement gave details of a number of positive impacts for Winchester City Council, most notably:

- 1) Confirmation there would be no negative revenue support grant in 2019/20. Projections from last year showed a possible negative impact of £410k.
- 2) Total New Homes Bonus for 2019/20 of £2.353m which is £434k above the previous projection of £1.919m. This was due to a large increase in the new homes bonus awarded specifically for 2019/20.
- 3) The Rural Services Delivery Grant funding pot was maintained, with the share for Winchester retained at £46k.
- 4) A Share of Levy Surplus of £34k, relating to left over funding from the levy payments made by councils generating a business rates surplus (such as Winchester City Council) and the use of this levy to support the current safety net payments to councils in a deficit position.

Unfortunately due to the high number of bids for the 2019/20 business rates pilot, the Hampshire bid was not successful on this occasion.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Rutter

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“How much money has been spent on the naming of the new leisure centre, and who came up with the dire trio of suggested names, which included the name of a Cabinet member’s pop group?”

Reply

“Cabinet members spent their own time researching names based on local history and knowledge of the area. It was decided to test these with local people prior to making any decisions. No money was spent on this exercise.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Cook

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“Can the Portfolio Holder inform the Councillors what the outcome is of the engagement on the naming of the New Sport and Leisure Centre at Bar End?”

Reply

“In late November/early December 2018 the Council invited members of the public to comment on potential names for the forthcoming Sport & Leisure Centre. More than 1,650 responses were completed and there was a lot of additional engagement across social media.

Feedback suggested that none of the names were overwhelmingly popular. The name is currently being considered by members of the cross-party Informal Cabinet (Leisure Centre) and will formally be agreed by the Cabinet (Leisure Centre) Committee in February.

All responses and comments have been distributed to the informal S&L Cabinet to enable them to use this resident feedback to assist with the naming and branding process.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“When can the council expect to see the full review of the Leisure centre facilities as set out in the motion that was passed by the full council last year?”

Reply

“A full report covering all aspects of the Motion was considered by the Leisure Centre Cabinet Committee on 25TH July. CAB3066(LC)”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Burns

To: The Leader (Cllr Horrill)

“Please could the Portfolio Holder update Council on the latest position regarding the introduction of Universal Credit locally?”

Reply

“Universal Credit, in which the largest part of the full service rollout across Winchester took effect from July 2018, may be claimed in all Job Centre’s throughout the district. This means that the majority of working-age people who need to make a new claim for one of the existing legacy benefits (Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit) now claim Universal Credit.

The breakdown of the 471 Housing Benefit and / or Council Tax Reduction claims that are also in receipt of Universal Credit is:

- 41 - Housing Benefit only
- 412 - Council Tax Reduction only
- 18 - both Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction.

The Council still provides a free service to help residents with personal budgeting and digital support when making and maintaining a claim for Universal Credit. The Citizens Advice is now piloting a personal budgeting scheme to provide a service for private household tenants from this month.

The Council through the HRA budget has committed £100,000 to underpin Discretionary Housing Payments to residents following the local introduction of Universal Credit. Despite low demands to date a further £100,000 has been committed for Discretionary Housing Payments within the 2019/20 HRA budget. In addition, a Money and Benefits officer was recruited last year to provide extra personal budgeting and money advice to tenants and this resource will be double in April 2019.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Prince

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

Re: New Sport and Leisure Park

“What is the current capital cost estimate and is this a fixed price contract or could it be subject to change through the delivery phase?”

What are the current confirmed capital (i.e. cash up front) contributions to the project?

How much will need to be borrowed by the council to cover its share of the capital cost?”

Reply

“The Construction contract cost will be based upon an agreed cost and can only change due to unforeseen circumstances.

All of your other points are currently being worked on and will be contained within the Full Business case report to be considered by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2019 and the Cabinet (Leisure Centre) Committee on 11 February 2019.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Mather

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Please can the Portfolio Holder update us on plans to clean the High Street?”

Reply

“The High Street already benefits from a daily mechanical sweep and has two manual cleaners on site during the day. The Winchester BID also carries out low pressure washing every fortnight of the streets around the high street.

This year the Council and the Winchester BID have agreed to share the £10,000 cost to provide an extra deep clean of the High Street which will bring back the original colour of the paving.

A specialist company will begin works on 4 February and it will take a couple of weeks to complete.”



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Weir

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Persistent problems with the poor state of pavements and footways in Winchester have been highlighted in reports of a recent spate of bad falls in the town. What action is the City Council taking to repair areas under its own control and pressure Hampshire County Council to repair those it maintains? What more will the City Council do to protect the health of our residents – particularly older people – for whom the deteriorating state of pavements and footways is becoming a barrier to movement and access across the district?”

Reply

“The City Council proactively inspects public areas under its control to identify defects in surfaced areas and remedy them before they have the potential to become a problem. The minor works team responds to urgent reports or emergencies, either by repairing the defect immediately, or protecting members of the public by erecting barriers until the defect can be repaired at a later date.

County Council Highway Inspectors oversee the condition of the 3500 miles of footpaths and 5,500 miles of highway across the County. The public can play a role in helping the County Council manage the highway by reporting any defects they identify to the County Council via the HCC website.

The City Council is working with the County Council to explore options for repaving the lower end of the High Street.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Weston

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Will Winchester City Council be supporting Parishes across the District as well as local litter picking organisations to participate in the Great British Spring Clean Event?”

Reply

“I am pleased to inform Councillors that this Council in partnership with our cleansing contractor Id Verde will once again be supporting the Great British Spring Clean promoted by Keep Britain Tidy.

This year’s national event will run from 22 March to 23 April and this Council will shortly be inviting Parishes and other litter picking groups to take part.

Id Verde will provide litter picks, sacks, high visibility waist coats and safety guidance and will arrange for the collection of the sacks following the litter picks.

The Council does have a Special Maintenance Team and along with Id Verde they are able to provide a rapid response to litter problems in both urban and rural areas.

However it is vital that the community is encouraged to take part in events such as this to help highlight the issue and resolve local litter problems.”



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Murphy

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Could the Portfolio Holder please tell us how many trees have been felled and how many trees have been planted by Winchester City Council in each of the calendar years 2017 and 2018?”

Reply

“Thank you for the question.

Winchester City Council has a strong commitment to trees and recognises their value and importance for people and the environment, including helping reduce pollution particulates, reducing the impacts of rainfall and as a habitat for wildlife.

Trees are identified as important within the WCC High Quality Places Supplementary Planning Document adopted in March 2015 and will comprise a key component of the Biodiversity Action Plan which the Council will be updating in 2019.

Consequently we have a robust process in place for the management of trees owned and managed by the City Council, including felling and planting. The work is undertaken by specialist tree officers and the Council strives to have a healthy and robust tree population with a diverse range of species and age, to help enhance landscape and biodiversity and to reduce the impact of pests and diseases.

As part of this robust process, the City Council operates a survey programme for its trees. If a tree is identified as at risk, a full tree assessment is carried out. Where possible the Council undertakes remedial works to help prolong the life of its trees and minimise the number which need to be felled. Where a tree represents an unacceptable risk to the public or property and/or there is a clear arboricultural reason for the tree to be removed (ie disease, damage or overcrowding), the tree will be felled.

Out of a total of c16,000 trees on Council owned land, (which equates to 35% of land under tree canopy), 173 trees were felled in 2017 and 112 in 2018.

Where appropriate the Council seeks to replant any trees lost. However, it is essential that the right tree is planted in the right location, and that sufficient consultation is undertaken. The City Council planted 18 trees in 2017 and 2 in 2018. However, we are currently reviewing our tree planting programme and it is anticipated this figure will rise in the winter of 2019/20. In addition to this the Council seeks opportunities to secure tree planting through both Council and private sector development.

The Government is currently consulting on Protecting and enhancing England's trees and woodlands. This may require the City Council to undertake some additional consultation and retain additional records, which the Council is well placed to deliver."



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Berry

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (Cllr Brook)

“Can you tell me the situation within St Maurice’s Covert in regards to the bicycle racks? It’s becoming quite confusing.”

Reply

“St Maurices Covert is a special place in our High Street and the enhancement works aim to make the space more attractive and improve the link from the High Street to the Cathedral.

These proposals include relocating the cycle parking to another nearby location and several options have been shared with representatives of the local cycling community.

We very much want to press on with the overall enhancement works and we will call a meeting of the Steering Group in due course to finalise the proposals.”



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 13

From: Councillor Evans

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (Cllr Brook)

“Could the Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment please update me on the progress of adopting the current draft Gypsy and Traveller SPD and when enforcement investigations into the status of current occupants of nominated sites will begin?”

Reply

“Following the examination of the Traveller DPD by an independent inspector in September 2018, a six week consultation was held on the proposed modifications to reflect on matters raised before and during the examination. The consultation period closed in November.

All representations received were forwarded to the inspector for consideration. We are currently awaiting the inspector’s report which is anticipated very shortly. It is therefore the intention that the DPD will be considered at Cabinet and Council in February for adoption.

Once adopted the Council will be in a strong position to carryout further enforcement action in relation to unauthorised sites which are contrary to our policies.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 14

From: Councillor Ruffell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships (Cllr Humby)

“Please could the Portfolio Holder update the Council on how the relocation of Businesses at Bury Farm is progressing?”

Reply

“We have been working with the Bury Farm businesses over the last three years. More recently the Leader invited all Bury Farm businesses to a meeting held in Botley on 6 November. Approximately 20 businesses attended and discussed their individual needs on a business by business basis with elected members and officers. Following this a Bury Farm advisor was appointed and has been working with the businesses since the end of November. Crest, the developer, is contributing towards this position.

The Bury Farm Business Advisor has been acting as a liaison point between the Council, Crest and Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and has helped businesses to look for alternative premises, access funding and business support. The priority has been to meet with businesses who are affected by phase one of the development. So far 12 out of the 17 businesses in phase one of the development have found alternative premises.

We are continuing to work with the businesses to see how we can support them on an individual basis through finding premises and solutions for the next two phases of development.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 15

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“Can the Portfolio Holder kindly confirm that the Council will not enter into any contract, however conditional, for the construction or operation of the proposed new sports centre in advance of all members having an opportunity to examine and to debate the business case for the project?”

Reply

“Final contracts will not be entered into before the Full Business Case has been considered and agreed.

The Full Business case report is to be considered by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2019 and the Cabinet (Leisure Centre) Committee on 11 February 2019.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 16

From: Councillor Learney

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment

“What is the current annual revenue cost of waste collection in the Winchester District?”

What is the annual cost of the years waste contract extension
a) excluding and b) including glass collection?”

Reply

“The current annual contractor budget for household waste, recycling and garden waste collection is £2.260 million

The further financial information requested is known to Councillors and was included in the exempt appendices of report CAB 3108 on the kerbside Glass Collection and Contract Strategy, considered by both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 December 2018 and Cabinet on 18 December 2018.

The figures remain commercial in confidence at this stage as the contracts will not be signed until after the Councils budget is approved in February.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 17

From: Councillor Porter

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“On how many days has either of the swimming pools at River Park Leisure Centre been closed in this financial year, either for whole or part of the day?”

Reply

“One or both of the pools have been closed for a part of the day on 30 occasions between 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2018.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 18

From: Councillor Prince

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

Re: New Sport and Leisure Park

“How much has been spent already from this overall capital cost estimate (e.g. on design and engineering fees)?

What else has been spent on the project as a whole (e.g. on consultants, studies, land)?”

Reply

“Updates on capital spend are regularly reported to the Cabinet (Leisure Centre) Committee, but in summary:

- a. £1,598,000 to 13 January 2019
- b. £2,321,500 in 2016/17 for purchase of the Garrison Ground.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 19

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“I have repeatedly asked on many separate occasions how we are keeping the life time running cost of the new Leisure centre to a minimum. The Sub Committee has visited some other centres and the World Wild Life Centre which show innovative ways to reduce running costs. These also have the effect of reducing the carbon foot print so that everybody benefits. It is essential that these designed into the building from day one. Why have none of these been incorporated in the design?”

Reply

“Throughout the building’s design progression there has been a strong focus on the reduction of running costs and ensuring that energy efficiency is taken into account. This has been a focus for not only the mechanical and electrical designers but the full project design team to ensure that there is a balance between the cost of energy efficient measures and their overall output and benefit.

On review of the WWF Living Planet Centre, although it is a very different type of building with differing functions to those of the leisure centre, it is interesting to see that many of the principle technologies and features are synonymous. A commentary outlining the key features of the WWF Centre and the comparison with the Leisure Centre is below:-

Building and Interior:

- The Living Planet Centre incorporates large amounts of glazing to increase natural light, which is supplemented by brise soleil and blinds to provide natural shading when required. Many areas of the leisure centre have similarly benefited from this.
- Passive Design principles were adopted, focusing on trying to incorporate natural ventilation, effective insulation and low energy consumption. WWF had to supplement their lightweight construction for the building with Energain Tiles to assist in providing thermal mass.

Thermal mass is easily achieved through solid concrete, stone and brick constructions which the leisure centre benefits from, where possible.

- Swales were integrated into the surrounding landscape at the WWF Centre, used to act in their instance as a filtration pond and to reduce surface run-off. The Leisure Centre also utilises swales to enhance the bio-diversity within the surrounding landscape and to offer a natural mechanism for managing rainwater and surface water run-off.

Energy, Heating and Cooling:

- The WWF Centre utilises ground source heat pumps and earth ducts to warm and cool air for the building. At WS&LP, we were unable to use this technology, given the complexity of the systems required, the space required for both the GSHPs and potential gas back up and the impact of all year round heat demand on the ground temperature that is likely to reduce the efficiency of the system over time. Instead, we've pursued a Combined Heat and Power unit which offers high levels of thermal and electrical efficiency. Heat recovery units are also included within the design to maximise thermal efficiency.
- PVs are utilised to assist in energy production for the WWF Centre and similarly, at the Leisure Centre we have 482m² of PV panels.
- The WWF Centre also focuses on trying to use natural ventilation through their use of wind cowls on the roof. The cowls are quite visually intrusive, standing 4m tall above the building and therefore were not considered acceptable here. Wind catchers are however utilised in key areas within the Leisure Centre design, including within the reception space to allow natural air flow both in and out of the building.

The above is a summary of the key features in both buildings and whilst it is clear that the two buildings are very different, the Leisure Centre has encompassed as many sustainable technologies and passive design principles as possible. These efforts have meant that we are achieving a high level of performance whilst also ensuring that running costs are kept to a minimum; this has similarly been scored and recognised by Arup in the pursuit of BREEAM Excellent.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 20

From: Councillor Murphy

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Could the Portfolio Holder please tell us how many fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and how many fixed penalty notices for littering Winchester City Council have issued in the last three years?”

Reply

“Neighbourhood Service Officers have issued 3 FPN’s for littering within the last three years. As uniformed officers the team has delegated authority to issue a fixed penalty notice if they witness an individual littering.

In witnessing a potential offence the Neighbourhood Officer has to provide the perpetrator with the opportunity to pick up the litter and dispose of it in a bin. In the majority of cases the desired outcome is achieved.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 21

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships (Cllr Humby)

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Estates please advise of the volume of office space within central Winchester, expressed as a net internal area, and how much of it is currently let or vacant? Please separate out and identify the volume of space occupied by the City and County Councils.”

Reply

“There are no accurate figures available as to the extent of total office floor space in Winchester City Centre. The Economic Development team have identified that 72,278 sq ft of office space is advertised as being available in Winchester City Centre. 52,499 sq ft of this space is comprised within two 1970’s buildings, (one of which is Friarsgate) and a Grade II listed building, all of which would require extensive refurbishment before anything other than short term lettings could be secured.

The balance of the remaining office accommodation which is being advertised as available for letting is between 942 sq ft and 5186 sq ft, of which only 1063 sq ft is categorised as being grade A accommodation.

The information demonstrates that there are no medium sized or large modern offices available for letting in the City, which is having the impact of preventing existing businesses expanding or new ones developing in the City

The County Council have advised that they occupy approximately 326,150 sq ft of offices in the Winchester. The City Council occupy 48,136 sq ft of space in the City Offices, Annexe and West Wing, of which 3,226 sq ft is let to the NHS. Further space within the City Offices is under negotiation with a third party.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 22

From: Councillor Prince

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

Re: New Sport and Leisure Park

“What is the cost per square metre of the building as currently designed?

How does this compare to the national cost range and its average?”

Reply

“The Full Business case report is to be considered by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2019 and the Cabinet (Leisure Centre) Committee on 11 February 2019. Financial matters such as this will be available at that time.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 23

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (Cllr Brook)

“Since the floods of 2014, when Itchen Valley saved the city, has the Council carried out a comprehensive assessment of any buildings, listed or otherwise, other than Winchester City Mill, and highways that are at risk of collapse or material damage as a result of potential future flooding or changes to the water courses through the city centre? Please identify all buildings or structures at such risk, if any.”

Reply

“Following the events of the winter of 2013/14 flood modelling work relating to Winchester has been led by the Environment Agency and this is currently being up-dated.

This being the case the Council has not needed to carry out its own individual flood risk assessments in relation to individual buildings although the events of 13/14 illustrated that Council assets like the Leisure Centre, Abbey Mill and Abby House were at risk of flooding. The research undertaken by the Environment Agency has informed plans to provide flood alleviation measures aimed at reducing the future risk of flooding of the city.

The first phase of the North Winchester flood alleviation scheme was completed in 2017 which is designed to avoid a repeat of the flooding which affected the areas around St. Bede’s school, River Park and the School of Art. This project was a collaborative effort with funding provided by the Environment Agency, University of Southampton (Winchester School of Art) Hampshire County Council and City Council.

The City Council has recently approved further funding (£500k) in addition to previous funding agreed (£300k) to deliver the second phase of the North Winchester scheme which will provide additional protection to property and infrastructure in this part of the city.

Consequently this Council, in conjunction with various partner organizations, has made significant investment in schemes which will reduce the risk of future flooding events and which will provide greater protection for both Council premises and other properties in the city as well as infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

Any changes proposed to water courses in Winchester would need to be carefully considered to assess whether they would be likely to affect the probability of future flooding of the city.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 January 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 24

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“There is an article in the current The Week magazine which describes how after the English team won Commonwealth gold last year, 130,000 women signed up to play the sport. It also describes how the sport will be given another boost by the World Cup being held in the UK later this year. In describing the sports funding difficulties, the article closes by saying “netball deserves better.”

Given how neither of Winchester’s two excellent netball clubs presently use River Park, nor expect to be accommodated at Bar End, does the Leader not agree that ‘netball [does] deserves better’ and that there is still time to increase sport hall capacity at Bar End for the benefit of all the women and girls who currently play, or would like to play, in the Winchester district?”

Reply

“The detailed Sport England assessment undertaken to determine the level of sports hall provision in the District has shown that there will be capacity to accommodate netball based on the agreed facility mix for the proposed Winchester Sport and Leisure Centre.

The facility mix at the new leisure is frozen and has acquired planning permission. It is also good news for the city that Winchester College has planning permission for an 8 court sports hall which will be available for community use and is due to open early 2022.”

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