

Meeting	Council
Date and Time	Wednesday, 6th July, 2022 at 7.00 pm.
Venue	Asburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

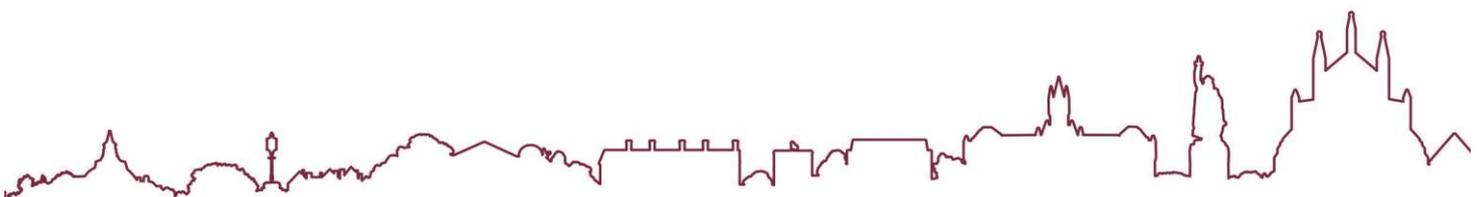
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 6th July, 2022 in Asburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ and all Members of the Council are summoned to attend.

Note: *This meeting is being held in person at the location specified above. In line with relevant legislation and public health guidance the following arrangements apply. Members of the public should note that a live audio feed of the meeting will be available from the council's website (www.winchester.gov.uk) and the video recording will be publicly available on the council's You Tube channel shortly after the meeting*

For members of the public who are unable to utilise this facility a limited number of seats will be made available at the above named location however attendance must be notified to the council at least 3 working days before the meeting. Please note that priority will be given to those having registered to speak during the Public Question session over those wishing to attend and observe.

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2022 & Minutes of Mayor Making and the Annual Meeting of Council held on 18 May 2022 (Pages 7 - 28)**
- 2. Disclosure of Interests**
To receive any disclosure of interests from Members or Officers in matters to be discussed.
Note: Councillors are reminded of their obligations to declare disclosable pecuniary interests, personal and/or prejudicial interests in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 3. Announcements from the Mayor, Leader and Chief Executive.**



4. **Questions from Members of the Public**

To receive and answer and questions from the public.

(Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services –

democracy@winchester.gov.uk – no later than noon on Wednesday 29 June)

5. **Independent Members' Remuneration Panel (CL163)** (Pages 29 - 36)

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the council establishes a new Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to act from 7 July 2022 which will exercise the functions specified in Regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).
2. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director: Resources & Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, to finalise the membership of the IRP to be made up of a professional advisor from South East Employers (SEE) and two lay members.
3. That the IRP be requested to produce a report recommending a scheme of allowances and an annual index that could be applied to such a scheme for the period of four years from April 2023, for the council's consideration.
4. That the council considers the report of the IRP at its meeting of 2 November 2022, decides whether (if at all) the existing scheme be amended, and in any event reviews the annual inflation allowance.

6. **To consider and determine the following Recommended Minute of the Scrutiny Committee held 14 June 2022 - Annual Scrutiny Report - Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2021/22 (SC066)** (Pages 37 - 56)

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

That Council note the annual scrutiny report for 2021/22.

7. **Notice of Motion**

To consider the following Motion to be proposed by Councillor Malcolm Wallace -

TO PROTECT OUR LOCAL RIVERS & WATERWAYS BY TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF POLLUTION INCLUDING SEWAGE DISCHARGE

This Council notes:

The Government's Environmental Audit Select Committee 'Fourth Report on Water Quality in Rivers', published on 13th January 2022 states:

"Getting a complete overview of the health of our rivers and the pollution affecting them is hampered by outdated, underfunded and inadequate monitoring regimes. It is clear, however, that rivers in England are in a mess. A 'chemical cocktail' of sewage, agricultural waste, and plastic is polluting the waters of many of the country's rivers. Water companies appear to be dumping untreated or partially treated sewage in rivers on a regular basis, often breaching the terms of permits that on paper only allow them to do this in exceptional circumstances. Farm slurry and fertiliser runoff is choking rivers with damaging algal blooms. Single use plastic sanitary products—often coated with chemicals that can harm aquatic life—are clogging up drains and sewage works and creating 'wet wipe reefs' in rivers. Revolting 'fatbergs' as big as blue whales are being removed from sewers, costing companies and their customers in the region of £100 million a year. Not a single river in England has received a clean bill of health for chemical contamination. Disturbing evidence suggests they are becoming breeding grounds for antimicrobial resistance."

Winchester district residents are deeply concerned about water quality, including the impact of nitrates, phosphates and regular wastewater discharge (which includes untreated sewage) into our local rivers and the impact this has on wildlife and on human health.

Here in the Winchester district, Southern Water discharged sewage into local rivers and waterways over 250 times in 2021 totalling over 3,500 hours of sewage discharge in just one year. Releasing sewage into rivers is no longer an emergency-only situation occurring as a result of severe storms, but an everyday occurrence even in 'normal' rainfall, and that we are in a situation of cumulative overload on the sewage and wastewater system. Whilst there are long term commitments, there are no plans in place which will address the immediate unacceptable situation either locally by Southern Water or by national government.

Both the local and national planning policy requires a robust approach to both water quality and pollution and a recent legal opinion from the Environmental Law Firm confirms the need to consider cumulative impact. Yet planning consultation documents show that it has not been the practice of council planners to ask Water Companies to report on cumulative impact e.g. whether or not development may lead to any potential increase in 'emergency' discharge into rivers and waterways.

This Council resolves to:

1. Recognise this Council's policy aim to protect its rivers as far as possible from the cumulative impacts of pollution, including in line with its local planning policy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. Be aware that there is evidence of deterioration of water quality due to the cumulative impact of nitrates, phosphates and multiple sewage discharge events, and seek to better understand the impact on our local rivers, wildlife and the health of our residents.

3. Draw on relevant evidence that assesses the cumulative impact of pollution so that this is appropriately factored into the local plan, including the overall level of future development.

4. Ask the relevant committee to invite senior representatives from Southern Water, the Environment Agency, and Natural England to attend a meeting to allow for a better understanding of the current levels of pollution and remedial action being taken in this regard.

5. Ask Southern Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major developments, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers or seas, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required).

6. Request that planning assessments, from now onwards, include in all reports on major developments appropriate coverage of the impact on watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses, so that this information is clearly and transparently set out.

8. **Changes to Committee Memberships**

To receive any resignations from committees and to make any necessary re-appointments.

9. **Questions from Members of Council**

The total time for questions and the answer and supplementaries thereto shall not exceed 30 minutes.

LAURA TAYLOR
Chief Executive

All of the Council's publicly available agendas, reports and minutes are available to view and download from the Council's [Website](#) and are also open to inspection at the offices of the council. As part of our drive to minimise our use of paper we do not provide paper copies of the full agenda pack at meetings. We do however, provide a number of copies of the agenda front sheet at the meeting which contains the QR Code opposite. Scanning this code enables members of the public to easily access all of the meeting papers on their own electronic device. Please hold your device's camera or QR code App over the QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your screen and you will be redirected to the agenda pack.



28 June 2022

Agenda Contact: David Blakemore, Democratic Services Team Manager
Tel: 01962 848217 Email: dblakemore@winchester.gov.uk

Quorum = 15 members

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs at Ordinary Meetings of the Council. The total time allocated for questions by the public shall normally be limited to 20 minutes.

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing to Democratic Services no later than 5 working days preceding the Council meeting. For example, if the Council meeting is being held at 7pm on a Wednesday then the question would need to be received by noon on the preceding Wednesday. Please email to democracy@winchester.gov.uk.

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting will be recorded and broadcast live on the Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution for further information, which is available to view on the [Council's website](#).

DISABLED ACCESS:

Disabled access is normally available, but please phone Democratic Services on 01962 848 264 or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place.