



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

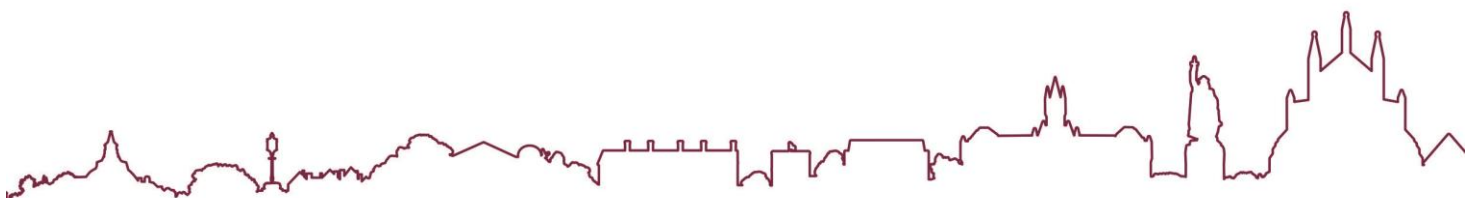
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 6th July, 2022 in Asburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ and all Members of the Council are summoned to attend.

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.

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 23 February 2022

Attendance:

Councillors Present

Bentote	Kurn
Bronk	Laming
Brook	Learney
Clear	Lumby
Clementson	Miller
Cook	Pearson
Cramoysan	Power
Craske	Prince
Cunningham	Read
Cutler	Ruffell
Edwards	Rutter
Evans	Scott
Fern	Thompson
Gemmell	Tippett-Cooper
Godfrey	Tod
Gordon-Smith	Warwick
Green	Weir
Horrill	Westwood
Isaacs	Williams

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Achwal, Becker, Ferguson, McLean, Radcliffe and Weston

[Audio and video recording](#)

1. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2022**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 January 2022 be approved and adopted.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Lumby, Tod and Warwick declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in relation to agenda items which may relate to Hampshire County Council matters due to their role as County Councillors.

Councillor Tod also declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest regarding his response to a question from a member of the public (agenda item 4), as he was a member of the County Council's 20mph Review Working Group and had been previously involved in 2013/14 with the implementation of 20mph zones in Winchester.

Councillors Green and Scott declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in respect of agenda item 6 (Report CAB3334 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23), as were both tenants of the Council.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE.**

The Deputy Mayor firstly reported on Madam Mayor's apologies for not being able to chair this particular meeting of the Council.

The Deputy Mayor then confirmed arrangements for a service of thanksgiving for former Mayor of Winchester, Major Dougie Covill MBE DCM. Mr Covill was Mayor of Winchester 1987- 88 and was elected to the council 1984 - 1996 to represent the New Alresford ward.

The Deputy Mayor then advised that former member of the council, Lord David Chidgey passed away earlier in the week. Lord Chidgey was elected to the council 1987 – 1991 to represent the New Alresford ward and was former Member of Parliament for Eastleigh.

Council stood in silent tribute to their memory.

The Deputy Mayor announced forthcoming Mayor's charity events and also the arrangements for the Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards ceremony which was to take place later in the month.

Finally, the Deputy Mayor thanked Members for supporting the forthcoming event at Worthy Down regarding the signing of the council's refreshed Armed Forces Community Covenant.

The Leader announced that she was very pleased to report on the successes of the council's Strategic Planning team at the recent Royal Town Planning Institute for the South East's award ceremony. The team won two awards for their work on the Local Plan, which were for 'Excellence in Plan Making' and also an overall award for 'Planning Excellence'. The team would be automatically entered in to the national awards for 2022. On behalf of the council the Leader congratulated the Strategic Planning team for their achievements and success.

The Chief Executive announced apologies for the meeting.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Three written questions had been received from members of the public, who were in attendance at the meeting to present their questions, along with

associated supplementary questions. The questions and response were subsequently set out on the [council's website](#).

5. **TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, a petition was submitted by 'Save Our Skate Park in Winchester River Park'. The details of the petition are set out on the agenda.

The organiser of the petition was unable to attend the meeting and Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management) responded to the matters in the petition and in summary, raised the following points:

- The skate park was used by a community of young people from across the district and beyond.
- A recent meeting with skate park users had discussed proposals to integrate the skate park with the School of Art's new facilities, which were seen as complementary.
- Having taken account of public feedback, the proposed arrangements with Southampton University now included provision for the council to take a leaseback of the skate park. This would secure the continuation of the skate park under the council's management

Council then proceeded to debate the petition and matters therein and in summary, the following matters were raised:

- The skate park first opened in 2014 and the council had worked closely with relevant groups regarding its design and for the upgrade of some other facilities. The announcement by the cabinet member provided reassurance that the council remained committed to the skate park.
- The petitioners had highlighted one of Winchester's best community facilities and it served users across a wide range of ages and was a free and accessible space and provided much social value. Existing language in the heads of terms for the lease of the site could subjectively have indicated some potential risk to the skate park and the proposals announced by the cabinet member and the Leader therefore provided guarantees for its future.
- The debate regarding the skate park had been 'mixed up' due to a lack of openness by the university regarding its intention for the site, and a lack of urgency by the council for public consultation regarding the proposals.
- Skate boarding was a valuable part of our culture and young people need more outdoor recreational facilities. A new skate park at King George V recreation ground was being designed in conjunction with users and would not lessen the need for the facility at River Park.
- The detail within the leaseback arrangements needed to be carefully checked.

At conclusion of debate, Councillor Learney once again thanked the petitioners for bringing the matter forward and reiterated that the council would continue to retain full control of the skate park at the River Park site as a result of changes to

the heads of terms, as well as supporting the expansion of skate parks elsewhere in the district.

RESOLVED:

That the petitioner be thanked for bringing the matter forward and that the petition be further considered at Cabinet on 9 March 2022 alongside the land transaction report for the River Park Leisure Centre site.

6. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTE OF CABINET HELD 17 FEBRUARY 2022 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2022/23 (CAB3334)**

Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by the Leader, Councillor Thompson).

Council noted that that the corresponding recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 was included with the supplementary agenda after the statutory deadline. The Deputy Mayor agreed to accept the recommended minute onto the agenda, because of the urgent need for Council to consider this alongside Report CAB3334.

Council proceeded to ask questions on the matters in the recommended minute and the report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

That Council:

1. Approves the 2022/23 Housing Revenue Account budget as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to Report CAB3334.
2. Approves the 10 Year indicative HRA capital programme as set out in appendices 3 and 4 to Report CAB3334.
3. Approves capital expenditure in 2022/23 of £9.289m for the Maintenance, Improvement and Renewal programme as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.4.
4. Approves the proposed indicative funding for the HRA Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 5 to Report CAB3334.
5. Notes the HRA Financial Plan operating account extract, including annual working balances, as detailed in Appendix 6 to Report CAB3334.
6. Agrees to support the proposal to fund £0.300m new initiatives around the Housing White Paper – “The charter for social housing residents” and

invest additional resources in the capacity of the new homes delivery team, the decent homes team and Neighbourhood/Estate Management.

7. Agrees to support the proposal to increase the revenue funding for planned and reactive repairs by £0.500m to reflect both increased budget pressures and the cost of delivering an improved void standard to properties prior to letting.
8. Approves a rent increase of 3.1% from April 4th 2022 for Social and Affordable housing within the HRA.
9. Approves a cap on service charges for 2022/23 for all tenants at £5.00 per week.

7. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTE OF CABINET HELD 17 FEBRUARY 2022 - GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2022/23 (CAB3335)**

Councillor Cutler (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Quality) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management)).

Council noted that that the corresponding recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 was included with the supplementary agenda after the statutory deadline. The Deputy Mayor agreed to accept the recommended minute onto the agenda, because of the urgent need for Council to consider this alongside Report CAB3335.

Council proceeded to ask questions on the matters in the recommended minute and the report.

AMENDMENT – Moved by Councillor Godfrey and seconded by Councillor Horrill:

A. Delete Recommended Minute 5a-h and replace with:

- 5 That the additional year of New Homes Bonus Allocation be used to fund the following proposals:
 - a) £250k to fund planting of trees in accordance with the Council's Carbon Neutrality plans and as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.
 - b) £1,050k to the Major Investment Reserve.

B. Delete Recommended Minute 6a-e and replace with:

- 6 Support the following investment proposals:
 - a) To remove charges for car parks after 6pm and on Sundays

- b) Increasing the annual staffing budget by £250k per annum from 2022/23 to create additional capacity for planning and environmental enforcement
- c) Increasing the annual staffing budget by £175k per annum from 2022/23 to create additional capacity in the Legal Services, Communications and Economic Development teams as set out in section 13.4 of this report
- d) Increasing the annual staffing budget by £60k per annum from 2023/24 to create additional capacity in the Strategic Planning team as set out in section 13.4 of this report.
- e) An increase in the budget for annual audit fees of £30,000 as set out in section 13.4 of this report.

C. Delete Appendices A, B and C to Report CAB3335 and insert new Appendices A, B and C.

Subject to the approval of the amendment, an alternative Council Tax Resolution that takes account of these changes is also proposed.

The Deputy Mayor called for an adjournment to the meeting to allow for informal discussion of the Amendment to take place within the groups.

Upon its reconvening, Council proceeded to ask questions on the matters in the Amendment.

MOTION – Moved by Councillor Lumby and seconded by Councillor Tod

Council Procedure Rule 11 (15) – That the question now be put.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Cutler firstly exercised his right of reply and a recorded vote was then taken on the Amendment.

Division Lists

The following Members voted in favour of the amendment to the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillors: Brook, Clementson, Cook, Cunningham, Gemmell, Godfrey, Horrill, Isaacs, Kurn, Lumby, Miller, Pearson, Read, Ruffell, Warwick.

The following Members voted against the amendment to the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillors: Bentote, Bronk, Clear, Cramoysan, Craske, Cutler, Edwards, Evans, Fern, Gordon-Smith, Green, Laming, Learney, Power, Prince, Rutter, Thompson, Tippet-Cooper, Tod, Weir, Westwood, Williams.

The following Members abstained from voting on the amendment to the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillor Scott

AMENDMENT LOST

Following summing up by the proposer and seconder of the substantive motion (Councillors Cutler and Learney, respectively) in accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget Meetings, a recorded vote was first taken with regard to Recommendations 4 – 8 of the recommended minute of Cabinet.

Councillors Lumby and Ruffell left the meeting before the recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted in favour of Recommendations 4 – 8 of the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillors: Bentote, Bronk, Clear, Cramoysan, Craske, Cutler, Edwards, Evans, Fern, Gordon-Smith, Green, Laming, Learney, Power, Prince, Rutter, Thompson, Tippett-Cooper, Tod, Weir, Westwood, Williams.

The following Members against Recommendations 4 – 8 of the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillors: Brook, Cook, Cunningham, Gemmell, Godfrey, Horrill, Isaacs, Kurn, Miller, Pearson, Read, Warwick.

The following Members abstained from voting on Recommendations 4 – 8 of the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillors: Councillors Clementson and Scott.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

That Council:

- 4 Agree the level of General Fund Budget for 2022/23, and recommend the summary as shown in Appendix A to Report CAB3335.
- 5 That the additional year of New Homes Bonus Allocation be used to fund the following proposals:
 - a) Increased provision for Local Council Tax Support, with £100,000 additional one off provision to the Council's Hardship Fund
 - b) £450k to fund essential maintenance work to Monuments and Historic Assets
 - c) Low Carbon Transport - £250k to fund trials of low carbon bin lorries and/or buses operating existing Council services

- d) £40k to fund the installation of bike storage and other measures to support the promotion of cycling and walking
 - e) £150k to fund feasibility work to prepare for the implementation of a food waste trial collection system in 2023.
 - f) £185k to fund the cost of additional city and market town centre cleansing, the maintenance and replacement of street furniture (litter bins, seats, bollards bin stores etc) and also to fund an increased emphasis on fly tipping (additional clearance, surveillance and promotion)
 - g) £25k to support work to embed the principles of the Council's "City of Sanctuary" commitments and to review the diverse needs of communities across the district.
 - h) £100k to fund fixed term IT staff to develop council systems to meet the requirements of flexible/agile working
- 6 Support the investment proposals set out in section 13.4 of Report CAB3335, including:
- a) To reinstate the annual contribution of £250k to the Asset and Property reserve to support future investment and maintenance of council assets
 - b) To increase the annual revenue contribution to the Parking and Access reserve by £200k per annum to support the implementation works set out in the annual Parking investment programme
 - c) Increasing the annual staffing budget by £175k per annum from 2022/23 to create additional capacity in the Legal Services, Communications and Economic Development teams
 - d) Increasing the annual staffing budget by £60k per annum from 2023/24 to create additional capacity in the Strategic Planning team
 - e) An increase in the budget for annual audit fees of £30,000
- 7 Approve the 2022 Council Tax Hardship Scheme allocation of £100,000 and the distribution of this funding as set out in Appendix F to Report CAB3335; to be administered by the Revenues & Benefits teams under the Service Lead for Revenues & Benefits.
- 8 That the sum of £1,061,591 be treated as Special Expenses under Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in respect of the Winchester Town area as set out in section 16 and Appendix D to Report CAB3335.

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget Meetings, a recorded vote was then taken with regard to Recommendations 9 – 11 of the recommended minute of Cabinet

The following Members voted in favour of Recommendations 9 – 11 of the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillors: Bentote, Bronk, Clear, Cramoysan, Craske, Cutler, Edwards, Evans, Fern, Gordon-Smith, Green, Laming, Learney, Power, Prince, Rutter, Thompson, Tippet-Cooper, Tod, Weir, Westwood, Williams.

The following Members against Recommendations 9 – 11 of the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillors: Brook, Clementson, Cook, Cunningham, Gemmell, Godfrey, Horrill, Isaacs, Kurn, Miller, Pearson, Read, Warwick.

The following Members abstained from voting on Recommendations 9 – 11 of the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillor Scott.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

That Council agree:

- 9 That the Council Tax for the Special Expenses in the Winchester Town area at Band D for 2022/23 be increased by 4.5% to £76.71, an increase of £3.30.
- 10 That the surplus balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund for distribution to this Council, calculated in January 2022 of £24,315, be approved.
- 11 That the level of Council Tax at Band D for City Council services for 2022/23 be increased to £151.29, an increase of £3.95 reflecting an average Council tax increase of 2.7%

Council Tax for the City of Winchester for the year commencing 1 April 2022.

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget Meetings, a recorded vote was taken with regard to the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7) as set out on pages 79 – 85 of the agenda pack.

The following Members voted in favour of the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7):

Councillors: Bentote, Bronk, Clear, Cook, Cramoysan, Craske, Cutler, Edwards, Evans, Fern, Gordon-Smith, Green, Laming, Learney, Power, Prince, Rutter, Thompson, Tippet-Cooper, Tod, Weir, Westwood, Williams.

The following Members against the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7):

Councillors: Brook, Clementson, Cunningham, Gemmell, Godfrey, Horrill, Isaacs, Kurn, Miller, Pearson, Read, Warwick.

The following Members abstained from voting on Recommendations 4 – 8 of the recommended minute of Cabinet:

Councillor Scott.

RESOLVED:

1. That any expenses incurred by the Council in performing in a part of its area a function performed elsewhere in its area by a Parish Council/Town Council/Parish Meeting shall not be treated as special expenses for the purposes of Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, except

in the case of the following special items relating to the non-parished area the aggregate amount of which is £1,103,623 (Appendix D to report CAB3335 refers) and which is shown within the total of special items at paragraph 4(e) below:-

- (a) Magdalen Hill and West Hill Cemeteries;
- (b) Allotments;
- (c) Town centre Christmas lighting;
- (d) Footway lighting;
- (e) Bus shelter maintenance;
- (f) Grants for community facilities in the Town and Vision Delivery (“parish” element);
- (g) Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces (except Abbey Gardens, Riverside Walks, the Weirs and St Giles Hill);
- (h) Neighbourhood Services;
- (i) Public Conveniences
- (j) Theatre Royal
- (k) Maintenance work to Council Owned Bridges
- (l) Community Speed Watch
- (m) Night Bus Contribution
- (n) St Maurice’s Covert
- (o) Neighbourhood Plans
- (p) Community Infrastructure
- (q) Administration of the Town Forum

2. That it be noted that the Head of Revenues, in consultation with the Strategic Director (Resources) calculated the Council Tax Base for 2022/23 at
 - (a) 51,554.09being the amount calculated by the Council for the whole Council area, in accordance with Section 31B(1) (Item T) of the Local Government Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”), as its Council Tax base for the year.
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish/Town precept relates as in Annex 1 to the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7) as set out on page 83 of the agenda pack.
3. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £8,903,241.
4. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £111,545,636

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

(b) £98,865,983

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) £12,679,653

being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

(d) 245.95

being the amount at 4(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).

(e) £4,880,035

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the Annex 2 to the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7) as set out on page 85 of the agenda pack)

(f) £151.29

being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by Item T (2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

5. That it be noted for the year 2022/23, Hampshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner - Hampshire have stated, and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority has recommended the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<u>Precepting Authority</u>	<u>Precept Amount</u>
Hampshire County Council (HCC)	£63,254,291
Police and Crime Commissioner – Hampshire (PCCH)	£12,190,480

Hampshire Fire and
Rescue Authority (HFRA)

£3,888,725

<u>Valuation</u>	<u>HCC</u>	<u>PCCH</u>	<u>HFRA</u>
<u>Bands</u>			
A	927.24	157.64	50.29
B	1,081.78	183.91	58.67
C	1,236.32	210.19	67.05
D	1,390.86	236.46	75.43
E	1,699.94	289.01	92.19
F	2,009.02	341.55	108.95
G	2,318.10	394.10	125.72
H	2,781.72	472.92	150.86

6. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in columns 2-9 of Annex 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

7. That the Council determines that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

8. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTE OF CABINET HELD 17 FEBRUARY 2022 - CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022-2032 (CAB3332)**

Councillors Fern and Isaacs left the meeting before consideration of the item.

Councillor Cutler (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Quality) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Learney, Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management).

Council noted that that the corresponding recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 was included with the supplementary agenda after the statutory deadline. The Deputy Mayor agreed to accept the recommended minute onto the agenda, because of the urgent need for Council to consider this alongside Report CAB3332.

Council proceeded to ask questions on the matters in the recommended minute and the report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

The Capital Investment Strategy be approved including:

- the Capital Programme and Capital Programme Financing (Appendices A and B to the report);
- the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (Appendix E to the report);
- the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy (Appendix G to the report); and
- the prudential indicators detailed in the report and its appendices

9. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTE OF CABINET HELD 17 FEBRUARY 2022 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022/23 (CAB3333)**

Councillor Cutler (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Quality) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Weir).

Council noted that that the corresponding recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 was included with the supplementary agenda after the statutory deadline. The Deputy Mayor agreed to accept the recommended minute onto the agenda, because of the urgent need for Council to consider this alongside Report CAB3333.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 17 February 2022 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement which includes the Annual Treasury Investment Strategy for 2022/23 (and the remainder of 2021/22) is approved;
2. That authority is delegated to the Section 151 Officer to manage the council's high yielding investments portfolio and long term borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate; and
3. That authority is delegated to the Section 151 Officer, who in turn discharges this function to Hampshire County Council's Director of Corporate Operations, as agreed in the Service Level Agreement, to manage all council investments (other than the high yield portfolio) and

short term borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate

10. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

RESOLVED:

1. For the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Godfrey replace Councillor Lumby as a full member of the committee and Councillor Kurn replace Councillor Godfrey as a deputy.
2. For the Business and Housing Policy Committee, Councillor Horrill replace Councillor Lumby as a full member of the committee and Councillor Kurn replace Councillor Horrill as a deputy.

11. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

19 written questions had been received which were all heard at the meeting along with any supplementary questions. All questions are set out in full on the [council's website](#), together with responses from the relevant Cabinet Member.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm, adjourned between 8.45pm and 8.55pm and between 9.40pm and 10.05pm and concluded at 12.25 am.

The Deputy Mayor

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

Attendance:

Councillors Present

Achwal (Chairperson)

Becker	Laming
Bronk	Learney
Bolton	Lumby
Brook	McLean
Clear	Pearson
Cook	Power
Cramoysan	Radcliffe
Craske	Reach
Cunningham	Read
Cutler	Rutter
Edwards	Scott
Evans	Small
Ferguson	Thompson
Fern	Tippett-Cooper
Godfrey	Tod
Gordon-Smith	Wallace
Green	Warwick
Horrill	Weston
Isaacs	Westwood
Kurn	Williams

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Clementson, Miller, Batho and Porter

[Full audio and video recording](#)

1. **APOLOGIES.**

Apologies for the meeting were noted as above.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.**

None.

3. **TO ELECT FROM AMONGST THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL A PERSON TO BE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

Proposed by Councillor Tod.

Seconded by Councillor Thompson and unanimously resolved that Councillor Derek Green be elected the 823rd Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 18 May 2022.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Derek Green be elected the 823rd Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 18 May 2022.

4. **TO MOVE A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR.**

Proposed by Councillor Evans.

Seconded by Councillor Thompson and unanimously resolved that the best thanks of the council be accorded to Councillor Vivian Achwal for her service to the council during the past year.

RESOLVED:

That the best thanks of the council be accorded to Councillor Vivian Achwal for her service to the council during the past year.

5. **TO ELECT FROM AMONGST THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL A PERSON TO BE DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

Proposed by Councillor Evans.

Seconded by Councillor Cutler and unanimously resolved that Councillor Angela Clear be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 18 May 2022.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Angela Clear be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 18 May 2022.

6. **TO CONFIRM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

Council noted that Councillor Thompson had formally resigned as Leader of the Council and the Mayor asked for nominations.

Councillor Thompson proposed Councillor Tod to be Leader (Chairperson of Cabinet) and was seconded by Councillor Ferguson.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Tod be appointed Leader of the Council (Chairperson of Cabinet).

7. **THE LEADER TO CONFIRM THE DEPUTY LEADER (VICE CHAIRPERSON OF CABINET) AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF CABINET.**

The Leader, Councillor Tod, confirmed the Deputy Leader (Vice Chairperson of Cabinet) and other members of Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ferguson be appointed as Deputy Leader (Vice Chairperson of Cabinet) and Councillors Learney, Power, Gordon-Smith, Porter and Thompson as remaining members of Cabinet.

8. **TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE ALLOCATED TO EACH GROUP AND TO CONFIRM THE MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES (OR OTHER BODIES AS COUNCIL MAY DETERMINE) FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:-**

With the exception of Cabinet, the Council reviewed the political representation on Committees in accordance with the provisions of Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The number of seats to be allocated to each group and members and deputy members of each body were confirmed as set out in the appendix to these minutes and as set out below.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any minor consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to the decisions made.

2. That allocation of seats to political groups and memberships of the following bodies be confirmed be as follows:

Scrutiny Committee (8) – Councillors Becker, Craske, Laming, Cutler, Westwood (Liberal Democrats 5) and Councillors Brook, Horrill, Cook (Conservatives 3) plus deputies – Councillors Rutter, Edwards (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Bolton, Godfrey (Conservatives 2)

Audit and Governance Committee (8) – Councillors Cutler, Craske, Bronk, Laming, Achwal (Liberal Democrats 5) and Councillors Godfrey, Miller, Bolton (Conservatives 3) plus deputies – Councillors Radcliffe, Batho (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Cunningham, Lumby (Conservatives 2)

Licensing and Regulation Committee (11) – Councillors Williams, Laming, Reach, Small, Achwal, Westwood, Batho (Liberal Democrats 7) and Councillors Cunningham, Kurn, McLean, Isaacs (Conservatives 4) plus deputies – Councillors Clear, Cramoysan (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Pearson, Read (Conservatives 2)

Planning Committee (9) – Councillors Evans, Rutter, Laming, Clear, Edwards, Westwood (Liberal Democrats 6) and Councillors Pearson, Read, McLean (Conservatives 3) plus deputies – Councillors Small, Achwal (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Cunningham, Cook (Conservatives 2)

Business and Housing Policy Committee (8) – Councillors Bronk, Cramoyson, Radcliffe, Fern, Small (Liberal Democrats 5) and Councillors Isaacs, Scott, Miller (Conservatives 3) plus deputies – Councillors Edwards, Batho (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Horrill, Brook (Conservatives 2)

Health and Environment Policy Committee (8) – Councillors Laming, Batho, Clear, Achwal, Tippet-Cooper (Liberal Democrats 5) and Councillors Pearson, Warwick, Cook (Conservatives 3) plus deputies – Councillors Williams, Becker (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Kurn, Brook (Conservatives 2)

Housing Appeals Committee (3) - Councillors Rutter, Edwards (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillor Scott (Conservatives 1) plus deputies – Councillor Horrill (Conservatives 1)

Joint West of Waterlooville Planning Committee (5) – Councillors Evans, Laming, Clear (Liberal Democrats 3) and Councillors Read, McLean (Conservatives 2) plus deputies – Councillors Rutter, Edwards (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillor Pearson (Conservatives 1)

Further to the above, and pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Chief Executive served notice on each of the leaders of the two political groups on the Council as to the allocation of seats as indicated above.

9. **TO ELECT THE CHAIRPERSONS OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES (OR OTHER BODIES AS COUNCIL MAY DETERMINE) FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:-**

RESOLVED:

That chairpersons of the following bodies be confirmed be as follows:

Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Brook

Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Cutler

Licensing and Regulation Committee – Councillor Williams

Planning Committee– Councillor Evans

Business and Housing Policy Committee – Councillor Bronk

Health and Environment Policy Committee – Councillor Laming

Housing Appeals Committee - Councillor Rutter

Joint West of Waterlooville Planning Committee – Councillor Evans

10. **TO PASS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION IN RESPECT OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM:-**

Proposed by The Leader, Councillor Tod and seconded by Councillor Ferguson.

RESOLVED:

That the Winchester Town Forum be established for 2022/23 with membership consisting of all Members who represent the five Winchester Town Wards.

11. **TO PASS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION IN RESPECT OF THE HOUSING (APPEALS) COMMITTEE:-**

Proposed by The Leader, Councillor Tod and seconded by Councillor Ferguson.

RESOLVED:

That alternative arrangements other than proportional representation be agreed in respect of the Housing (Appeals) Committee.

12. **PRESENTATIONS TO FORMER COUNCILLORS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AS PREVIOUS MEMBERS OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL.**

The Mayor firstly presented a certificate to former councillor Roger Bentote in recognition of his service to the communities of the Whiteley & Shedfield ward where he was ward member between 2016 and 2022.

The Mayor then presented a certificate to former councillor Lawrence Ruffell in recognition of his service to the communities of the previous Owslebury & Curdrige ward (until 2016) and the Upper Meon Valley ward between 2006 and 2022.

The Mayor then acknowledged the service of other retired members of the Council who had been unable to attend the meeting:

Former councillor Anne Weir, in recognition of her service to the communities of the St Barnabas ward where she was ward member between 2012 and 2022 and was also a member of Cabinet between 2019 and 2020.

Former councillor Malcolm Prince, in recognition of his service to the communities of the Worthys ward where he was ward member between 2016 and 2022 and was also a member of Cabinet between 2019 and 2021.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 8.10 pm

The Mayor

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS AND CHAIRPERSONS 2022/23 (APPROVED)

The Scrutiny Committee	Audit and Governance Committee	Licensing and Regulation Committee	Planning Committee	Business and Housing Policy Committee	Health and Environment policy committee	Housing Appeals Committee *1	Joint West of Waterlooville Planning Committee *4
COMMITTEE SIZE 8	COMMITTEE SIZE 8	COMMITTEE SIZE 11	COMMITTEE SIZE 9	COMMITTEE SIZE 8	COMMITTEE SIZE 8	COMMITTEE SIZE 3	COMMITTEE SIZE 5

Main Committee Members *2

Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats
Cllr Becker	Cllr Cutler	Cllr Williams	Cllr Evans	Cllr Bronk	Cllr Laming	Cllr Rutter	Cllr Evans
Cllr Craske	Cllr Craske	Cllr Laming	Cllr Rutter	Cllr Cramoysan	Cllr Batho	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Laming
Cllr Laming	Cllr Bronk	Cllr Reach	Cllr Laming	Cllr Radcliffe	Cllr Clear		Cllr Clear
Cllr Cutler	Cllr Laming	Cllr Small	Cllr Clear	Cllr Fern	Cllr Achwal		
Cllr Westwood	Cllr Achwal	Cllr Achwal	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Small	Cllr Tippett-Cooper		
		Cllr Westwood	Cllr Westwood				
		Cllr Batho					

Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives
Cllr Brook	Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Cunningham	Cllr Pearson	Cllr Isaacs	Cllr Pearson	Cllr Scott	Cllr Read
Cllr Horrill	Cllr Miller	Cllr Kurn	Cllr Read	Cllr Scott	Cllr Warwick		Cllr McLean
Cllr Cook	Cllr Bolton	Cllr McLean	Cllr McLean	Cllr Miller	Cllr Cook		
		Cllr Isaacs					

Deputy Members *3

The Scrutiny Committee	Audit and Governance Committee	Licensing and Regulation Committee	Planning Committee	Business and Housing Policy Committee	Health and Environment Policy Committee	Housing Appeals Committee *1	Joint West of Waterlooville Planning Committee *4
Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Democrats
Cllr Rutter	Cllr Radcliffe	Cllr Clear	Cllr Small	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Williams		Cllr Rutter
Cllr Edwards	Cllr Batho	Cllr Cramoysan	Cllr Achwal	Cllr Batho	Cllr Becker		Cllr Edwards
Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	Conservatives	
Cllr Bolton	Cllr Cunningham	Cllr Pearson	Cllr Cunningham	Cllr Horrill	Cllr Kurn	Cllr Horrill	Cllr Pearson
Cllr Godfrey	Cllr Lumby	Cllr Read	Cllr Cook	Cllr Brook	Cllr Brook		

*1 For the Housing Appeals Committee, as in previous years, alternative, non-proportional arrangements are proposed.

* 2 Committee Chairpersons are indicated in bold.

* 3 Groups can appoint fewer deputy members to committees than those specified above if they choose.

*4 The Chairperson of the Joint West of Waterlooville Planning Committee is , by default the Chairperson of the Planning Committee

NB. In approving the above (including any amendments) it will be taken that Council is authorising the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to the decisions made.

Committees Political Balance (in accordance with Act) 2022/23

	Committee Size	Allocation of Seats to Groups							
		Total	Conservative	Un grouped	Liberal Democrat	Vacancy			
COUNCIL SIZE	45	15	33%	3	7%	27	60%	0	0%
Cabinet (not politically balanced) (TBC)	7	0				7			
Winchester Town Forum (not politically balanced)	14	1				13			
The Scrutiny Committee *1	8	3	38%		0%	5	63%		
Health & Environment Policy Committee *3	8	3	38%		0%	5	63%		
Business & Housing Policy Committee*2	8	3	38%		0%	5	63%		
Audit and Governance Committee *6	8	3	38%		0%	5	63%		
Planning Committee *5	9	3	33%		0%	6	67%		
Licensing and Regulation Committee *4	11	4	36%		0%	7	64%		
Joint West of Waterlooville MDA Planning Committee *8	5	2	40%		0%	3	60%		
TOTAL BY GROUP exc. Council, Cabinet & WTF	57	21	36.84%		0.00%	36	63.16%		0.00%

Notes

- The Scrutiny Committee** - up to 10 members (up to 2 substitutes per group)
- Business and Housing Policy Committee** - up to 10 members (up to 2 substitutes per group)
- Health & Environment Policy Committee** - up to 10 members (up to 2 substitutes per group)
- Licensing and Regulation Committee** - up to 11 members (up to 2 substitutes per group)
- Planning Committee** - up to 9 members (up to 2 substitutes per group)
- Audit and Governance Committee** - size not specified (up to 2 substitutes per group) - normally politically balanced and size determined by council. HR Sub Committee and Standards Hearing Sub Committee will be appointed from the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee and shall be politically balanced.
- Housing Appeals** - size not specified (up to 2 substitutes per group)
- Joint WoW MDA**. 5 members (to include chair of Planning) plus 2 deputies per political group.

The proportionality rules are as set out below:

- No political group can have all the places on a committee (the exception is the Cabinet).
- A group having an overall majority on the Council is entitled to a majority of seats on each committee.
- The gross number of seats is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.
- The number of seats on each committee is allocated in accordance with each group's entitlement.

REPORT TITLE: INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' REMUNERATION PANEL

6 JULY 2022

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Margot Power - Cabinet Member for Finance and Value

Contact Officer: David Blakemore Tel No: 01962 848217 Email
dblakemore@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

Local authorities are required to have a members' allowances scheme approved by Full Council which can be rolled forward annually with any agreed indexation applied for a maximum four-year period. The current scheme took effect from April 2017. An interim review was undertaken in 2019 having regard to changes to some committees as a consequence of the council's new constitution implemented that year.

The current agreed indexation for members' allowances is the same percentage increase as the nationally agreed pay increase for local government employees (linked to Spinal Column Point 49 of the NJC Scheme) which has been applied four times since 2017. This indexation can no longer be applied without a full review being undertaken, as the four-year term of the current scheme expired on 31 March 2022.

It is also timely that the current scheme is reviewed to ensure that the level of payments remain appropriate, including the existing Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs).

To undertake the review, the council is required to establish a new Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to exercise the functions specified in Regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement to undertake a periodic review of members' allowances (and the process in doing so is set out in statute). Adopting a scheme which has been the subject of consideration by an independent panel balances the desirability of just and fair recompense to Members for the work they do as a councillor, with the economic demands on the council's resources.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 Other than officer time in supporting the work of the panel, the two lay members of the panel will each be paid a fee of £200 per day of the IRP convening (total costs therefore expected to be £800). The Panel will meet virtually so reducing costs as there will be no associated room hire and catering costs. The fee of the professional advisor from South East Employers (SEE) (who will facilitate the review process, chair the IRP and produce its final report and recommendations) is £3000. This compares extremely favourably with previous reviews undertaken and associated costs of the professional advisor. For example, equivalent costs were £4,400 for a Panel in 2014 and £3,750 in 2017.
- 2.2 Budget provision has been made in 2022/23 to cover these costs. Any increase to members' allowances as a result of recommendations from the

IRP (including indexation) would be factored into the budget process for 2023/24.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Before a scheme of allowances for members can be adopted, legislation defines specific processes that must be followed. The council must also consider the report of the IRP before adopting any such scheme.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 Prior to the Panel meeting, an evidence-gathering exercise would follow. This would include:-

- a) a survey of all Members of the Council which would then be analysed for the Panel to consider;
- b) a survey of all Parish and Town Clerks which would then be analysed for the Panel to consider (the IRP will also recommend an allowances scheme for Parish and Town Councils);
- c) collection of benchmark comparative data for all Hampshire Districts and Boroughs which will then be used as part of the report.

This would be undertaken by the SEE consultant in association with Council officers.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 A members' allowances scheme enables the payment of allowances to members based on their responsibilities, irrespective of their personal circumstances or consideration of any protection characteristics.

- 8.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) will refer to the council's existing scheme, which is inclusive of a Dependent Carers' Allowance. The IRP will refer to comparative allowances schemes and whether, for example, a parental leave policy may further help to improve equalities amongst councillors and lead to a broader diversity of age and experience as it helps to remove barriers that councillors, or perspective councillors, could experience.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 None required

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

10.1

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<p>Financial Exposure</p> <p>IRP recommends Scheme which exceeds budget provision</p>	<p>Council has final decision on scale of allowances, and will take that decision in the context of the overall budget consideration.</p>	<p>An independent review of allowances paid to elected members not only provides assurance that members are considering an allowances scheme that is recommended by a panel not associated with the council , but will also have regard to benchmarking data, providing assurances that the scheme proposed is appropriate to a) provide suitable recompense to help support members in their work and recognition to their level of special responsibility (where applicable), and b) be at a level that will continue to attract future candidates of all backgrounds to be councillors without their having to firstly reflect on financial burden/implication of taking on this role</p>
<p>Exposure to challenge</p> <p>Challenge to adoption of Allowances Scheme.</p>	<p>Adoption will follow independent assessment by IRP. Experienced SEE consultant will have undertaken review process.</p>	

Innovation N/A		
Reputation Adverse comments from public if an increase in allowances is recommended	Any increase proposed will have been recommended by an independent panel.	Payments of appropriate level of allowances etc (independently recommended) will continue to attract future candidates to be councillors from all backgrounds
Achievement of outcome Not completed early enough to allow new Scheme to commence in April 2023	Appointment of SEE substantially reduces impact on officers. SEE have set aside necessary time to carry out the Review within the proposed timescales.	Greater understanding of the work inherent in the role of councillors, and comparison of the allowances schemes from across the south east
Property N/A		
Community Support Adverse comments from public if an increase in allowances is recommended.	Any increase proposed will have been recommended by an independent panel.	Transparency of the process to bring forward a revised allowances scheme – and assurances that this is independently assessed and recommended to the council
Timescales Review not completed early enough to allow new Scheme to commence in April 2023.	SEE are very experienced in dealing with IRPs and will project manage the review to meet relevant timescales. Officers will assist with facilitation of the process	
Project capacity	SEE are very experienced in dealing with IRPs and will project manage the review to meet relevant timescales.	

	Officers will assist with facilitation of the process. SEE have set aside necessary time to carry out the review within the proposed timescales	
Other	N/A	

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 The IRP takes evidence and then makes recommendations to the council on a Members' Allowance Scheme. Before a scheme can be adopted, the council must have regard to the IRP's recommendations.
- 11.2 SEE have previously facilitated the work of an IRP for the council in 2017 and for the interim review in 2019 and officers have informally met with their consultant who has been appointed to once again carry out this work. The consultant has considerable expertise in this area, having undertaken and led on a number of reviews across the south east and would be one of the panel members along with two others. It is recommended 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.
- 11.3 The timetable for this review is for the IRP to convene on 6 and 7 September 2022, having firstly surveyed members during the summer period. All members are invited to make representations directly to the IRP when it convenes. It is proposed that the IRP will produce its final report making recommendations to the Council meeting on 2 November 2022 (having been first considered by Cabinet), which would fit sensibly with the budget process for 2023/24 and an introduction date for a new scheme of 1 April 2023 (if the Council decided to introduce a new scheme).
- 11.4 As noted in Section 6 above (Consultation), an evidence-gathering exercise would take place in advance of the IRP convening.
- 11.5 The Panel would then meet over two days (6 and 7 September 2022), as follows:-

- **Day 1**

Introduction for Panel, and initial discussions and review of comparative benchmarking data.

Workshop/Interviews of Members in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances.

- **Day 2**

Workshop/Interviews of other Members (and also any parish councillor who may wish to speak to the Panel).

- Review of evidence considered, including interviews.
- Consideration and issues for draft Report

11.6 The IRP's report would then be finalised in late September 2022, before being reported to Cabinet in October, in advance of a report being taken to full Council on 2 November 2022. The council does not have to accept the recommendations from the panel, and could therefore leave the scheme as it is at present (although it must review the annual inflation allowance). The council must however have regard to the recommendations if it wishes to amend the scheme.

11.7 This timetable would allow provision to be made in the council's budget as necessary, with any new Scheme operating from April 2023.

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 Delay Review until 2023/24. This is an option, which could be considered, but the existing indexation arrangements can no longer be applied. It is also recommended that a review should be undertaken this year to ensure the council continues to have a Scheme that is up to date and reflects workload and responsibility of members and also compares favourably with current benchmarking data of comparative local authorities

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

[CL149 – Interim Report of Independent Remuneration Panel - 20 January 2020](#)

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

None

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THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 June 2022

Minute Extract

1. **ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT – DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2021/22**
(SC066)

The Chairperson introduced the report, ref SC066 which set out proposals for the Annual Scrutiny Report, [available here](#). The committee was recommended to consider the report and make any necessary comments on the content before its submission to full council.

The committee proceeded to ask questions and debate the report. The committee discussed:

- the scheduling of meetings to effectively scrutinise future decisions whose timescales were not yet known, whilst also allowing sufficient time for decision takers to consider the committee's comments
- the wish to avoid unnecessarily length meetings through more effective scheduling of meetings and the potential use of informal meetings to obtain points of clarification
- that it recognised that additional meetings may need to be scheduled to achieve more effective scrutiny of decisions.

The committee noted that the report represented a succinct summary of the main work it had conducted during the previous municipal year.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

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

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REPORT TITLE: Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2021/22

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF CHAIRPERSON: Councillor Caroline Brook

Contact Officer: Matthew Watson Tel No: 01962 848 317 Email
mwatson@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

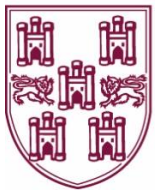
PURPOSE

At the end of each municipal year, the Chairperson of the Scrutiny Committee for that year reviews the work of all overview and scrutiny bodies and provides a report back to the council.

The draft report for the 2021/22 municipal year is attached at appendix 1 so that the scrutiny committee can add its comments before it is finalised for presentation to full council.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the committee consider and make any necessary comments on the content of the report prior to its submission to full council.



Winchester
City Council

Annual Scrutiny Report 2021/22



What is Scrutiny?

Rather than making decisions, the role of scrutiny is to improve decision-making by reviewing decisions taken and suggesting improvements that could be made.

Decisions taken must be monitored in this way to ensure that the council's services are of high quality and that the decision-making process is transparent and that the council's various programmes of work remain on track. It also provides an opportunity for the views of the public, businesses, community groups and others to be considered when reviewing the council's activities.

To achieve this, the council has established three Policy and Scrutiny committees, which are the:

- Business and Housing Policy Committee
- Health and Environment Policy Committee
- The Scrutiny Committee

One of the key roles of scrutiny is to hold decision-makers to account for their decisions. Scrutiny committees have the power to require Cabinet Members to attend their meetings and explain the decisions they have taken. Having heard from decision-makers and gathered any other evidence, policy and scrutiny committees can make recommendations on how things could be improved.

A key part of the role of the two policy committees is also to consider proposals for new policy and recommend new ways forward as well as to review existing policies and strategies.

In addition to reviewing decisions and performance, the policy and scrutiny committees can look at topics in more detail. Establishing a 'task and finish' group is a way to undertake more detailed work, gather evidence on the topic and develop recommendations that can make a difference and add value.

By focusing on a particular topic, a task and finish group can gather evidence from several sources, including customers, other people affected by the issue and experts from outside the Council. This provides the opportunity for the public to influence the policy-making process.

The Committees

The Council has the following policy and scrutiny committees, which, as specified in the council's constitution, carry out the overview and scrutiny function with the following remits:

Business and Housing Policy Committee

To maintain a strategic overview of the progress towards the achievement of the first two priorities in the Council strategy namely:

- a) Making the District a premier business location
- b) Delivering quality housing options

The broad terms of reference are as follows:

- a) It will hold the Cabinet to account by reviewing and scrutinising executive decisions.
- b) Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council concerning its policy objectives and performance targets

Health and Environment Policy Committee

To maintain a strategic overview of the following priorities:

- a) Improving the quality of the district's environment
- b) Improving the health and happiness of the community

The broad terms of reference are as follows:

- a) It will hold the Cabinet to account by reviewing and scrutinising executive decisions.
- b) Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives and performance targets

Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee reviews and/or scrutinises decisions made, or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions, apart from regulatory functions (decisions made in respect of permissions, licences and other similar consents).

It can monitor the implementation of decisions, service performance, and make reports and/or recommendations to the Cabinet. More generally, the Scrutiny Committee can select topics for closer enquiry in the interest of improving the council. It can further review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them and/or invite them to address the Committee about their activities and performance. They can ask questions and gather evidence from any person or body (with their consent) and exercise the right to call in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Leader, Cabinet, or officers.

For Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006, the Committee acts as the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee and as such is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the decisions and work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Performance Panel

During the 2021/22 year, the Scrutiny Committee continued to use the performance panel to undertake a detailed review of the quarterly performance and financial information.

The purpose of the panel is to provide a strategic review, on behalf of the scrutiny committee, of the quarterly performance and financial monitoring information which supports the delivery of the Council Plan and budget strategy.

The panel does this through:

1. Reviewing quarterly Performance Monitoring reports
2. Reviewing progress against Council plan delivery, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and agreed targets
3. Reviewing the quarterly Revenue and Capital budget Monitoring report
4. Reviewing project highlight reports for Tier 1 projects and post-project reports at project completion
5. Working with the Lead Officer to investigate areas of concern and request further information, inviting cabinet members and relevant officers to attend to discuss the performance of specific areas

The questions raised, answers provided, and detailed minutes of the panel's meetings are published on the website and circulated to the scrutiny committee and cabinet with each of the quarterly performance papers. In addition, a verbal update

is provided by the chair of the panel.

Membership and Meetings

Business and Housing Policy Committee: The following councillors have attended as a committee member during the year: Councillor Anne Weir (Chairperson), Councillor Caroline Horrill, Councillor Charles Radcliffe, Councillor Chris Edwards, Councillor Fiona Isaacs, Councillor Hugh Lumby, Councillor Jamie Scott, Councillor Jonathan Fern, Councillor Mike Craske, Councillor Paula Ferguson, and Councillor Tony Bronk

Health and Environment Policy Committee: The following councillors have attended as a committee member during the year: Councillor Paula Ferguson (Chairperson) Councillor Caroline Brook, Councillor Chris Westwood, Councillor Frank Pearson, Councillor Hannah Williams, Councillor Jan Warwick, Councillor John Tippet-Cooper, Councillor Jonathan Fern, Councillor Michael Kurn, Councillor Steve Cramoysan and Councillor Susan Cook

Scrutiny Committee: The following councillors have attended as a committee member during the year: Councillor Caroline Brook (Chairperson), Councillor Anne Weir, Councillor Caroline Horrill, Councillor Hannah Williams, Councillor Hugh Lumby, Councillor Kathleen Becker, Councillor Margot Power, Councillor Mike Craske, Councillor Paula Ferguson, Councillor Stephen Godfrey, Councillor Steve Cramoysan, Councillor Susan Cook and Councillor Brian Laming

Dates and times of meetings 2021/22

Business & Housing Policy Committee	
	22/06/21 18:30
	21/09/21 18:30
	30/11/21 18:30
	01/03/22 18:30
Health and Environment Policy Committee	
	06/07/21 18:30
	30/09/21 18:30
	19/01/22 18:30
	02/03/22 18:30
The Scrutiny Committee	
	19/07/21 18:30
	09/09/21 18:30
	15/11/21 18:30
	06/12/21 18:30
	15/02/22 18:30
	03/03/22 18:30
Performance Panel	
	14/06/21 16:00
	23/08/21 16:00
	08/11/21 16:00
	24/02/22 16:00

All items considered in 2020/21 Business and Housing Policy Committee

Meeting Date	Title
22/06/21 18:30	Green Economic Development Strategy BHP017
22/06/21 18:30	High Street Priority Plan BHP018
22/06/21 18:30	HRA Welfare Fund and Preventing Homelessness Grant Spending Plan(s) BHP019
22/06/21 18:30	Update on a Digital Winchester
21/09/21 18:30	A Digital Economy for Winchester - Update
21/09/21 18:30	Local Plan - Verbal Update
21/09/21 18:30	New Homes Programme Update Report
21/09/21 18:30	Presentation - Next Generation Winchester" - Project Update"
21/09/21 18:30	Winchester District Ten-Year Green Economic Development Strategy - Report
30/11/21 18:30	Digital Update - Verbal Update
30/11/21 18:30	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Asset Management Strategy
30/11/21 18:30	Winchester District High Streets Priority Plan up-date and progress report
01/03/22 18:30	Digital Task Force
01/03/22 18:30	Neighbourhood Services - Engagement Programme
01/03/22 18:30	Shop Appy
01/03/22 18:30	The Homelessness Prevention Grant Spending Plan 2022/23
01/03/22 18:30	Winchester City Council - Landlord Letting Policy

Health and Environment Policy Committee

Meeting Date	Title
06/07/21 18:30	Carbon Neutrality Annual Report and Action Plan (HEP013)
06/07/21 18:30	Community and Wellbeing Strategy Update (HEP012)
30/09/21 18:30	Carbon Neutrality Programme - Transport policies/actions (HEP014)
30/09/21 18:30	Core Funding Grants Programme 2022-2025 (HEP011)
30/09/21 18:30	Vision for a sustainable, decarbonised future Winchester District (HEP015)
19/01/22 18:30	Air Quality Briefing Update (HEP019 and Presentation)
19/01/22 18:30	Carbon Neutrality Programme - Energy policies/actions (HEP016)
19/01/22 18:30	Future of Waste and Recycling (HEP020 and Presentation)
19/01/22 18:30	Management of Open Space - Scoping Report (HEP017)
02/03/22 18:30	Carbon Neutrality Programme - Carbon Offsetting (HEP021 and Presentation)
02/03/22 18:30	Carbon Neutrality Programme - Housing/Property policies/actions (HEP024)
02/03/22 18:30	Draft Tree Strategy (HEP022)
02/03/22 18:30	Review of Meadowside and Winchester Sport and Leisure Park provision (HEP023)

The Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date	Title
19/07/21 18:30	Annual Scrutiny Report - Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2020/21
19/07/21 18:30	Appointments of external bodies related to scrutiny
19/07/21 18:30	Central Winchester Regeneration Strategic Outline Business Case
19/07/21 18:30	General Fund Outturn 20/21
19/07/21 18:30	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn 20/21
19/07/21 18:30	Q4 Performance Monitoring including a verbal update from the Chair of the Performance Panel
19/07/21 18:30	Scrutiny Report - Exceptions to Forward Plan 2020/21
09/09/21 18:30	Q1 Finance & Performance Monitoring including a verbal update from the Chair of the Performance Panel
15/11/21 18:30	Fees and Charges 2022/23
15/11/21 18:30	General Fund Budget Options and Medium-Term Financial Strategy
15/11/21 18:30	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Budget Options
15/11/21 18:30	Q2 Finance & Performance Monitoring including a verbal update from the Chair of the Performance Panel
06/12/21 18:30	Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR) Outline Business Case
06/12/21 18:30	Exempt Information - Item 6 Central Winchester Regeneration Outline Business Case - Appendix E
15/02/22 18:30	Capital Investment Strategy 2022-2032
15/02/22 18:30	General Fund Budget 2022/23
15/02/22 18:30	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23
15/02/22 18:30	To note the determination of the Monitoring Officer following a call-in request.
15/02/22 18:30	Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23
03/03/22 18:30	Community Safety Partnership Performance Review
03/03/22 18:30	Land transaction in respect of the River Park Leisure Centre site and associated parking area
03/03/22 18:30	Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring including a verbal update from the Chair of the Performance Panel

Public participation.

The policy and scrutiny committee welcomes and encourages engagement with residents and other community representatives during its public participation session. During 2021/22 all meetings of the council were live-streamed, recorded and made available on the council's YouTube channel which has improved the visibility and transparency of meetings.

The agenda, minutes, audio and video recordings for all Policy and Scrutiny meetings can be found on [our website](#)

Review of 2021/22

Business and Housing Policy Committee.

Chairperson of the committee, Cllr Anne Weir.

The Committee turned its attention over the year to the Council's work on recovery. It looked ahead to the emerging Green Economic Development Strategy and initiatives to strengthen support for vulnerable sections of our community and move ahead with the Council's housing development programme. The continuing commitment and drive from the housing and the economic development teams in the face of ongoing pandemic related pressures is acknowledged and the teams are thanked for their sustained service and their innovative and purposeful responses to the many unforeseen challenges.

Winchester Tenants and Council Together (TACT) continuing participation and thoughtful contributions to the committee's discussions relating to housing and support for local communities is greatly appreciated.

The chair is particularly grateful for the support given to the Committee in its work on the Next Generation and Digital Winchester Task and Finish groups. The findings of each group make valuable contributions to the development of the local plan and will inform future iterations of the council plan. The Task and Finish groups demonstrated models for future public engagement in emerging policy areas. The Committee recognises that Partner organisations also generously contributed time and insight to these two workstreams.

On its return to in-person meetings in June 2021, the Committee considered proposals for spending additional support and assistance to Council Tenants, included in the 2021/22 budget, to be provided through an HRA Welfare Fund, and for spending the government Homelessness Prevention Grant. The Economic Development team outlined the approach to creating the District's Green Economic Development strategy and presented transitional proposals for support for high streets and district centres that would lay the foundation for a longer-term strategic approach. An update was given on the Digital Winchester call for evidence.

At the September committee meeting, the Housing team presented the finding of the Next Generation Task and Finish group's work which investigated the challenges faced by younger people who want to work and live in the Winchester district and the part the council can play in ensuring the housing mix meets the needs of this generation. The report was warmly welcomed bringing together a wealth of information and insight that would inform housing policy and the emerging local plan.

The housing team also reported on progress with the new homes programme noting that delivery continued strongly and that work was ongoing on a special vehicle for submarket rented housing. The economic development team presented the draft green economic development strategy which provides a road map and practical steps towards a greener, more technology-driven creative economy supported by a well-documented evidence base. The City Council's Local Plan team updated the

committee on the progress with the local plan as it relates to the remit of the committee and a further update on the Digital Winchester project was given.

In November, the committee reviewed the Housing Revenue Account Asset Management Strategy and challenged the team on retrofit and disposals and acquisitions while supporting the prioritisation of funding for fire doors. The economy team introduced a progress report and forward plan of activity for the district High Streets Priority Plan and updated the committee on the Digital Winchester project which was nearing completion following a successful online open forum session.

At its final meeting in March, the committee heard from the housing team about the Neighbourhood Services Engagement Programme and commented on the proposal to add two officers to the team highlighting the importance of collaborative working across the council. A report on the Council's Landlord Letting Policy was discussed and recommendations were made to Cabinet on a range of questions raised. The Spending Plan 2022/23 for the Homelessness Prevention Grant was also reviewed, and the cabinet noted several points raised by the committee.

The economic development team reported back on the impact of the ShopAppy retail platform on the performance of independent businesses. The final report of the Digital Winchester Task and Finish Group was welcomed by the committee observing that, in the light of Covid-19, attitudes and expectations of digital services in Winchester District had moved forward and ensuring access to fast, reliable, and often higher capacity services was of much higher priority across the local area. This should be kept under review by the committee in the year ahead.

The Health and Environment Policy Committee

Chairperson of the committee, Cllr Paula Ferguson

The Health and Environment policy committee met four times during the municipal year, in July, September, January and March and had a full agenda at each meeting. It considered papers covering a range of issues affecting both the district's environment and the health/happiness of the district's residents and communities. These issues ranged from waste management to air quality, to community support, to tree management, to sports and leisure provision in the district, as well as an in-depth consideration of the policies relating to the core strands of the council's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan i.e., transport, energy generation and housing/property. I would like to thank both officers and external guests for their professional input to the meetings, as well as Democratic Services for their support. I would also like to thank all those members of the public who came to speak to the committee plus my fellow councillors who sit on the committee for their detailed engagement with the topics at hand.

At the July meeting, the committee considered two papers.

The first considered the Community and Wellbeing Strategy which had been reviewed and updated, with a greater emphasis on collaborative working with community groups. The committee probed the council's strategy for engaging with community groups, churches, charities, parish and town councils, and the unparished town wards. It welcomed the council's focus on trying to maintain the positive community engagement ignited during the pandemic, together with the need to keep supporting those organisations helping the most vulnerable such as the food banks and the food pantry.

The second considered the council's Carbon Neutrality Annual Report and Action Plan which outlined the progress that the council had made over the past two years to reduce both the council's and the district's carbon footprint. The committee welcomed this progress and probed the various priorities being put forward including retrofitting the council's own housing stock, decarbonising public transport, and more community engagement. The committee, however, asked that a carbon impact assessment be made for any proposed priorities so that there could be a focus on actions which were likely to lead to the greatest carbon reduction,

At the September meeting, the committee considered three papers.

The first looked at the Core Funding Grants Programme 2022 -2025 and how the council would manage this funding over the next 3 years which included a 20% reduction this year. The committee focused on the important role of the voluntary sector in the community, particularly during the pandemic, and acknowledged the vital work that many of the organisations that receive a core grant had done. The committee probed the process by which organisations are selected and while it recognised the need to reduce grant funding by 20% given current restraints on Council's finances, the committee urged that this reduction be reviewed should the financial position change.

The second considered the specific policies/actions the council is undertaking to reduce carbon from transport within the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. Questions

focused on the likely impact that the shift to more home working would have, whether the projections regarding electric vehicles were realistic, and how the gap between the city's and the county's carbon neutrality targets could be bridged. The committee emphasised the need for officers to calculate the likely impact of carbon reduction on any policies/actions being put forward, and for there to be a focus on those actions which were likely to have the greatest impact, calling for metrics to be developed and reported on, including priorities, targets and timescales.

The third considered the prospect of how the council might produce a Vision for a Sustainable, Decarbonised Future Winchester District, which was jointly presented by WinACC and the Wessex Green Hub. The committee welcomed this report and the prospect of creating such a vision. It probed how this could be done, how this would fit alongside the existing Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, and how residents and community groups could be involved in the process. Given the approach being put forward is based on the concept of 'Doughnut Economics', the committee recognised that training might be needed for officers and members.

At the January meeting, the committee considered four papers.

The first considered the specific policies/actions the Council was undertaking to increase renewable energy generation as part of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. Attention focused on the role of the Local Plan to identify and provide an impetus for increased renewable energy generation with solar farms favoured over the potential for onshore wind. The committee noted that external expertise was needed to support the council in this area and called for the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan to include a clear plan for energy generation, again with clear metrics to include priorities, timescales and progress.

The second related to the Future of Waste & Recycling in the District and the challenge of responding to the additional recycling demands within the new Environment Bill. The committee probed the challenges likely to be faced by the council, the impact the changes were likely to have on the council's finances and on businesses, plus the need to work effectively with HCC as the changes are planned for and introduced. It also discussed the need for greater coordination with community groups to encourage behaviour change. The committee asked officers to look at ways to accelerate the recycling of additional items including the possibility of a food waste trial and to provide an assessment of the carbon impact of any proposed changes in future reports.

The third provided an update of the state of air quality within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Winchester town centre and the wider district, as well as providing possible approaches to how the council might tackle air quality going forward. The committee raised concerns about the growing evidence linking air quality with poor health and probed the likely impact of the new Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document for the town. It also emphasised the need to keep raising public awareness about the negative impact of wood-burning and bonfires.

At the March meeting, the committee considered four papers. The first provided a review of the sports and leisure provision at the new Winchester Sports and Leisure Park and the refurbished Meadowside Leisure Centre, both managed by Everyone Active who presented the report. The committee sought clarity in respect of the core pricing structure, and access arrangements for community groups and military personnel. It also raised concerns about the security of bike storage and the likely impact of rising energy costs. The committee commended both centres and congratulated Everyone Active on the work they had done to open the centres on time during the pandemic.

The second considered the council's actions/policies to reduce carbon from housing/property as part of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. Attention focused on the retrofit programme for the Council's own property and raised concerns about the rising costs of materials and the likely impact this could have. The committee highlighted the need for a clear plan to include timescales and overall funding requirements, together with the need for ongoing engagement with tenants. As with previous elements of the Carbon Neutrality Plan, the committee called for metrics to be put in place to allow targets to be set and progress to be monitored effectively.

The third set out the council's option for carbon offsetting and the committee probed both the need for this in the short term, expressing concern about how quickly the carbon offsetting could be achieved if options such as tree planting were used. While it recognised that limited offsetting is likely to be needed if the council is to be carbon neutral by 2024, the committee recommended that offsetting should not be seen as an 'easy option' and that the focus should remain on carbon reduction.

The fourth considered the draft tree strategy, with the committee focusing its discussions on how the strategy could be effectively used to protect the council's existing tree stock, and how it would help the council to manage and respond to requests in respect of trees on private land, including enforcement where trees are cut down illegally. The committee welcomed the new strategy, recommending it be presented in a range of formats to make it more accessible.

The Scrutiny Committee

Chairperson of the committee. Councillor Caroline Brook.

The scrutiny committee has a wide remit in its role of reviewing and scrutinising decisions made, or actions taken, related to the discharge of the council's functions.

Over the year the committee has dealt with several topics which are either contained in its terms of reference as annual responsibilities or were referred to the Committee from other Committees of the Council.

The committee met six times during the 2021/22 municipal year, attendance was high throughout the year with just four apologies received from members. It was also pleasing to note that members of the public attended all but one of the committees' meetings and I am grateful for their contribution to our work.

The following gives an overview of the committee's workload for the year.

- The council's "Central Winchester Regeneration" project and the Land Transaction in respect of the River Park Leisure Centre site featured heavily on the committees' agenda this year with reports being tabled at both the July, December and March meetings before decisions being taken at cabinet.
- As is normal a key part of the work of the committee was to scrutinise the suite of budget papers at our February meeting before the formal decision at both cabinet and council.
- The performance panel met on four occasions to scrutinise each of the quarterly finance and performance reports before those reports were tabled at the scrutiny committee. I am grateful to the panel members for the work they have undertaken during the year.
- At the November 2020 meeting, the committee agreed to establish a task and finish panel to undertake a review of the current provision of mental health services across the district, including those related to the city council's policies and services. The panel met during the year and will meet again during 2022/23 and will report back to the committee.
- Two call-ins were initiated by members in the municipal year.
 1. The first was received on 1 December 2021, regarding a decision taken at the Cabinet meeting on the 23 November 2021, report [reference CAB3324](#) (*A land transaction in respect of the River Park leisure centre site and associated parking area*). This call-in request was not accepted by the Monitoring Officer and a report was presented to the committee at its meeting on 15 February 2022.
 2. The second was received on 17 March 2022, regarding a decision taken at the Cabinet meeting on the 9th March 2022, (report [reference CAB3342](#) "*A land transaction in respect of the River Park Leisure Centre (RPLC) site and associated parking area, bowls club and skate park*"). This call-in request was not

accepted by the Monitoring Officer and a report is due to be presented to the committee at its meeting on 14 June 2022.

- For Section 19 of the Police & Justice Act 2006, the Committee acts as the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee and as such is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the decisions and work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which was undertaken at our March meeting, and we were pleased to welcome back Chief Inspector Jon Turton.

Members of the cabinet attended meetings of the committee which allowed for discussion and questions concerning policy and progress during the year. All members of the Committee contributed to the issues put before them in a constructive manner and I am grateful for their support. My thanks also go to the Vice-Chair for their help and advice during the past 12 months.

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