

Meeting	Council
Date and Time	Thursday, 23rd February, 2023 at 7.00 pm.
Venue	Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL.

A live video stream of this meeting will be available from [YouTube.com/WinchesterCC](https://www.youtube.com/WinchesterCC)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 23rd February, 2023 and all Members of the Council are summoned to attend.

Note: This meeting is being held in person at the location specified above. Members of the public should note that the meeting will be streamed live to the council's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/WinchesterCC).

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. Please note that Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services (democracy@winchester.gov.uk) prior to noon, five working days preceding the day of the council meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Election of Mayor of the City of Winchester for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year**

Following an extended period of personal leave, Cllr Derek Green has decided to resign from the Office of Mayor of Winchester. Council is therefore invited to elect a Mayor of Winchester for the remainder of the current Municipal Year 2022/2023.

2. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 18 January 2023**
(Pages 9 - 20)



3. **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.

4. **Announcements from the Mayor, Leader and Chief Executive**

5. **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 Thursday 16 February 2023).

6. **Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO)**

Under Section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council must appoint an Officer to the position of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO). This position is responsible for maintaining the Electoral Register for the area. The Chief Executive is the appointed ERO for Winchester City Council.

Due to changes in electoral legislation it is necessary to appoint Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DERO) to assist with the effective discharge of the election. Council is requested to delegate the authority to appoint Deputy Electoral Registration Officers to the Chief Executive who acts as the Electoral Registration Officer. This delegation mirrors that in respect of the Chief Executive's role as Returning Officer in that they may appoint Deputies as required.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council:

Delegate the appointment of Deputy Electoral Returning Officers to the Electoral Returning Officer, subject to them holding satisfactory qualifications and experience as required.

7. **To consider and determine the following Recommended minutes of Cabinet held 9 February 2023 - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2023/24 (CAB3387) (Pages 21 - 56)**

*Please note that an updated version of the report and appendices considered at Cabinet on 9 February 2023 is included (with minor corrections and updates made).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet recommend that Council:

1. That the 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account budget be approved, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.
2. That the 10-year indicative HRA capital programme be approved, as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 to the report.
3. That capital expenditure in 2023/24 of £9.530m for the Maintenance, Improvement and Renewal programme be approved as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.4.
4. That the proposed budget in 2023-24 for new homes of £20.518m be approved as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, subject to individual scheme approvals.
5. That the proposed indicative funding for the HRA Capital Programme be approved as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report.
6. That the HRA Financial Plan operating account extract, including annual working balances, be noted as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report.
7. That the proposal to fund £0.400m for the new initiatives detailed in section 13.1 of the report be supported, which includes funding for additional staff resources to support the actions identified and the creation of a new disrepairs claims budget of £0.100m.
8. That it be agreed to continue the provision of the Welfare Support budget of £0.215m and to refocus this on measures to support vulnerable tenants to maintain their tenancies during this period of unprecedented cost pressures.
9. That a rent increase of 7% from April 2023 for Social and Affordable housing within the HRA for existing tenants be approved.
10. That a cap on the average overall increase for tenant service charges in 2023-24 of 7% be approved.
11. That in recognition of the Cost-of-Living crisis, a discretionary 7% cap on the annual rent increase for Shared Owners be approved, in line with the increase in social and affordable rents to existing tenants as opposed to 13.1% increase that would have been applied.

12. That in principle to the HRA funding approximately £3.5m from the unallocated New Homes budget be approved, in order to meet any grant requirements to acquire 17 properties in accordance with the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) grant conditions, as detailed in Section 19.5 of the report.

8. **To consider and determine the following Recommended minutes of Cabinet held 9 February 2023 - General Fund Budget 2023/24 (CAB3388) (Pages 57 - 112)**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

1. That the level of General Fund Budget for 2022/23 be agreed, and recommend the summary as shown in Appendix A of the report.

2. That the creation of and transfers to reserves (detailed in section 13.13 of the report) be approved to support the delivery of the key priorities in the Council Plan, including:

- a. Greener Faster (£250k)
- b. Future of Waste (£500k)
- c. Pride in Place (£150k)
- d. Digital Transformation (£400k)
- e. Regeneration (£300k)
- f. Cost of Living/Living Well (£170k)
- g. Transitional Reserve (additional £230k)

3. That the Pride in Place investment proposals set out in section 13.5 of the report be supported, including:

- a. To increase the regeneration budget by £130k per annum to provide capacity to deliver the council's regeneration programme.
- b. To increase the Town Forum bus shelter replacement programme by £10k per annum from 2023/24
- c. To freeze the proposed grant funding reductions to Hampshire Cultural Trust and maintain pre-2022/23 funding levels until the end of 2024/25, at a cost of £43k per annum.
- d. Extend the current one-off budget funding street scene works under the Pride in Place priority by £50k per annum
- e. Increase the tree works budget by £78k per annum to fund ongoing essential works to the Council's trees across the district
- f. Increase the Natural Environment and Recreation Team budget

by £23k per annum to fund a tree officer post to manage the council's trees.

4. That the proposed increase to the salary budget of £175k per annum to fund all grades being uplifted by one increment on the existing pay scales be approved, in accordance with Appendix G of the report, to give Winchester a more competitive market position for recruitment and retention of staff.

5. That a discretionary 7% cap for 2023/24 on the annual increase in rent for Partnered Home Purchase scheme property owners be approved, in line with the increase in social and affordable rents to existing tenants in the HRA.

6. That the sum of £1,186,879 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 of the report.

7. That the Council Tax for the Special Expenses in the Winchester Town area at Band D for 2022/23 be increased by 5.5% to £80.93, an increase of £4.22.

8. That the surplus balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund for distribution to this Council, calculated in January 2023 of £39,724.63, be approved.

9. That the level of Council Tax at Band D for City Council services for 2022/23 be increased to £155.29, an increase of £4.00 reflecting an average Council tax increase of 2.65%

10. That the new Council Tax Reduction scheme income bands be approved (set out in Appendix E of the report) that ensure claimants continue to receive the same level of support after the increase in Universal Credit from April 2023.

11. That the distribution of the Government's £150,512 Council Tax Support Fund through a reduction to Council Tax balances be approved, in line with the Government's guidance and additional local criteria, detailed in paragraph 17 of the report.

TO PASS A FORMAL RESOLUTION SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE CITY OF WINCHESTER FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING 1 APRIL 2023.

9. **To consider and determine the following Recommended minutes of Cabinet held 9 February 2023 - Capital Investment Strategy 2022 - 2032 (CAB3389) (Pages 113 - 160)**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

1. The Capital Investment Strategy be approved including:
 - a) the Capital Programme and Capital Programme Financing (Appendices A and B to the report);
 - b) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (Appendix E);
 - c) the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy (Appendix G); and
 - d) the prudential indicators detailed in the report and Appendix F.
10. **To consider and determine the following Recommended minutes of Cabinet held 9 February 2023 - Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 (CAB3390) (Pages 161 - 192)**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement which includes the Annual Treasury Investment Strategy for 2023/24 (and the remainder of 2022/23) 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.

11. **Changes to Committee Memberships**

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

12. **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.



15 February 2023

Agenda Contact: David Blakemore, Democratic Services Team Manager
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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.