



<b>Meeting</b>	Council
<b>Date and Time</b>	Tuesday, 16th July, 2024 at 6.30 pm.
<b>Venue</b>	Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 16th July, 2024 in the Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL 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 You Tube channel ([www.youtube.com/WinchesterCC](http://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](mailto:democracy@winchester.gov.uk)) prior to noon, five working days preceding the day of the council meeting.

## AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2024 and the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2024.**  
(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](mailto:democracy@winchester.gov.uk) – no later than 10am, Tuesday 9 July 2024.
5. **To consider and determine the following Recommended Minute of the Scrutiny Committee held 6 June 2024 - Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24 (SC093).** (Pages 29 - 46)

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

That Council note the annual scrutiny report for 2023/24.

6. **Recruitment of Independent Persons (CL171).** (Pages 47 - 52)

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That Full Council is recommended:

1. To appoint the following three individuals as Independent Persons:
  - a. Alan Harrison
  - b. Linda Phillips
  - c. Peter Baulf
2. To extend its sincere gratitude to the Council's current Independent Person, Mr Michael Cronin for his dedicated service and invaluable contributions over the past seven years.

7. **Notices of Motion.**

To consider the following Motion to be proposed by Councillor Danny Lee (seconded by Councillor Malcom Wallace):

**Title:** Accelerating Climate and Nature Emergency Actions

**Preamble:**

Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan aims to meet our net zero targets by 2024 for the Council and 2030 for the District.

Achieving net zero locally is projected to cost half as much as a national approach while tripling financial returns<sup>(i)</sup> and delivering three times faster<sup>(ii)</sup>.

Despite this, national preparation for climate change impacts remain inadequate.

Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) has raised significant concerns about failures to properly implement regulations which means key

Environmental Plan and local targets for improvement are likely to be missed<sup>(iii)</sup>.

Central government must enhance collaboration with local governments to deliver faster for the Climate and Nature crises<sup>(iv)</sup>.

The most significant climate impacts affect our most vulnerable populations, who are least able to adapt<sup>(v)</sup>.

Degradation of natural habitats affects community well-being, contributes to climate change by releasing stored carbon. Restoration and protection of these habitats are crucial for mitigating climate change and maintaining biodiversity<sup>(vi)</sup>.

It is crucial for the new UK government to prioritise climate change with additional resources to expand local actions and meet UK's net zero targets and Nature targets.

### **This Council Notes:**

- Our State of Nature is struggling to recover, and global warming temperatures have exceeded 1.5°C across an entire year and are now breaching 2.0°C<sup>(vii)</sup>.
- The importance of local initiatives to contribute to the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050 and a 78% reduction in emissions by 2030 from 1990 levels<sup>(viii)</sup>.
- The Government Net Zero Strategy estimates c82% of the UK's emissions are "within the scope of influence of local authorities"
- Studies indicate that local authorities could save the UK approximately £140 billion and deliver substantial energy and social benefits through localised climate and nature initiatives- an additional £400 billion in wider co-benefits<sup>(ix)</sup>.
- Local authorities need additional funding to enhance their contributions to the UK's net zero and nature protection goals<sup>(x)</sup>.
- A local climate 'test' applied to all government policy/funding decisions would support rather than conflict with local action. Ensures national policies align with and reinforce local climate initiatives. Thus, creating a cohesive approach to enable local authorities' climate goals for faster more efficient and effective delivery (as proposed by the LGA)<sup>(xi)</sup>.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) can play a pivotal role in safeguarding our natural environment, ensuring sustainable development, and enhancing habitat value for carbon sequestration/associated ecosystem services and the well-being of our communities with long-term environmental, economic, and social benefits<sup>(xii)</sup>.
- An enhanced local focus on climate and nature through a government policy reset with new support could:
  - Address climate change and nature crises more equitably and promptly, with improved consideration of impacts on different

- community segments.
- Improve adaptation plans for a 'Just Transition' in housing and business sectors, increasing resilience against extreme climate events and bolstering both natural and built environments. This includes:
  - Promoting energy-efficient housing, protection from heatwaves, walkable neighbourhoods, nature-based solutions for flooding, reduced traffic pollution, and addressing health inequalities.
  - Facilitating closer coordination with partners for more effective local actions.

### **The Council Resolves To:**

- Urge the new Government to form a partnership with councils to fast-track local decarbonisation with nature protection, restoration, and adaptation.
  - Request the Council Leader to write to our local MP and encourage Group Leaders to lobby their national parties to support these initiatives in a revitalised national-local government relationship.
  - Ask HCC to work closer with Districts to accelerate delivery of Net Zero and Nature restoration.
- (i) <https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/post-pn-0703/> & ([Local Government Association](#))
  - (ii) [www.circularonline.co.uk/news](http://www.circularonline.co.uk/news)
  - (iii) [www.theoep.org.uk](http://www.theoep.org.uk)
  - (iv) <https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Financing-Local-Net-Zero-Projects-A-Guide-for-Local-Authorities.pdf>
  - (v) <https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/post-pn-0703/>
  - (vi) [BMJ Gut](#)
  - (vii) <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/landmark-report-shows-uk-wildlifes-devastating-decline> & <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-global-temperature-record-streak-continues-april-2024-was-hottest-record>.  
[Extreme heatwaves, droughts, wildfires and floods](#)
  - (viii) <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/independent-assessment-the-uks-net-zero-strategy/>
  - (ix) ([Local Government Association](#)) ([Local Government Association](#)).
  - (x) ([UK 100](#)) ([UK 100](#)).
  - (xi) <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/campaigns/make-it-local/back-local-climate-action/back-local-climate-action-further> & <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/local-government-white-paper>
  - (xii) ([Public Pack](#)) Agenda Document for Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services Decision Day, 27/06/2024 14:00 ([hants.gov.uk](https://hants.gov.uk))

### **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 40 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.



8 July 2024

Agenda Contact: David Blakemore, Democratic Services Team Manager  
Tel: 01962 848217 Email: [dblakemore@winchester.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:democracy@winchester.gov.uk) to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place.

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## COUNCIL

Thursday, 22 February 2024

Attendance:

Councillors Present

Clear (Mayor)

Achwal S	Learney
Achwal V	Lee
Batho	Miller
Becker	Morris
Bolton	Pearson
Brook	Pett
Brophy	Porter
Chamberlain	Power
Cook	Prest
Cramoysan	Reach
Cunningham	Read (from item 6)
Cutler	Rutter
Edwards	Scott
Eve	Thompson
Godfrey	Tippett-Cooper
Gordon-Smith	Tod
Horrill	Wallace
Isaacs	Warwick
Laming	Westwood
Langford-Smith	Williams

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Greenberg, Kurn, Small and Wise

[Recording of meeting](#)

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1. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2024**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 17 January 2024 be approved and adopted.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Porter, Tod and Warwick declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in respect of the agenda items due to their role as County Councillors.

Councillor Scott declared an interest in respect of item 5, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25 (and other agenda items, where reference was made to the HRA budget), as was a tenant of the council.

Councillor Becker declared a pecuniary interest in respect item 5, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25 as a property owner with a connection to a council sewage treatment works. Councillor Becker left the room during consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or decision.

Councillor Horrill declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of the agenda item 5, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25, as her husband was a member of the Trinity board.

Councillor Thompson declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of the agenda item 5, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25, as her husband was a member of the Trinity board.

Councillor Westwood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of the agenda item 5, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25, as was a member of the Winchester Housing Trust board.

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

The Mayor referred to several events that she was to attend, including her hosting in Abbey House the annual Pie and Mash luncheon that was in aid of her charities. The Mayor then reminded Council of the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards ceremony in the Guildhall on Thursday 7 March.

The Chief Executive announced apologies for the meeting.

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

Two written questions had been received from members of the public who attended the meeting to present their questions. Supplementary questions were also asked. The questions received and their response were subsequently set out on the [council's website](#).

5. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES OF CABINET HELD 8 FEBRUARY 2024 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2024/25 (CAB3445)**

Councillor Becker left the meeting before consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or decision.

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

Council noted that due to an administrative error, an incorrect version of the minute extract of Cabinet had been included in the agenda pack for the meeting.



The Recommendations for Council on the agenda front sheet were correct. The correct version of the minute extract of Cabinet had been distributed in a supplementary agenda to Council in advance of the meeting.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 8 February 2024 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. That the HRA Financial Plan operating account extract, including annual working balances be noted, as detailed in Appendix 6 of report CAB3445.
2. That the 2024-25 Housing Revenue Account budget be approved as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.
3. That the 10-year indicative HRA capital programme be approved as set out in appendices 3 and 4 of the report.
4. That capital expenditure in 2024-25 of £18.649m 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.
5. That the proposed budget in 2024-25 for new homes of £15.524m be approved as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report subject to individual scheme approvals.
6. That the proposed indicative funding for the HRA Capital Programme be approved as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report.
7. That the proposed additional investment in the council housing stock of £30m over the next eight years to 2030-31 to retrofit properties on a fabric first basis to help improve their energy efficiency and reduce energy costs for tenants be noted. This additional annual investment brings the total annual investment here to £5.6m a year and £45m in total (see paragraph 12.5 of the report).
8. That the proposed strategic change in direction moving from a plan based upon direct delivery of new homes to one based upon a mixture of actively acquiring s106 affordable housing directly from developers alongside future development with grant funding and using Right to Buy resources be approved (see paragraph 13.7 of the report), including the continuing commitment to rural housing, including through rural exception sites.
9. That the current financial viability assessment for new build be noted and that at present all potential development sites based on current assumptions evaluated this year have not been assessed as being financially viable within the existing viability model (see paragraphs 13.1-13.10 of the report).

10. That the proposed move to 80% market rent to help improve the viability of new homes development and to mitigate the increasing cost of delivery be approved (see paragraph 13.5 of the report).

11. That a revenue savings target of £400k over two years to assist with bridging the forecast gap in financing future capital expenditure be approved (see paragraph 14.2 of the report).

12. That the disposal in principle of Barnes house in 2024-25 be approved, and in addition the disposal of £0.500m of surplus HRA property per year over the next eight years to generate additional capital receipts to help fund the increased investment requirement over these years be approved (see paragraph 14.3 of the report).

13. That the average formula rent increase for 2024-25 for all affordable and social housing of 7.7% based on the September 2023 CPI figure of 6.7% +1% be approved (see paragraphs 15.1- 15.4 of the report).

14. That the proposed move from RPI+0.5% to CPI+1% for existing council shared owners in the HRA from 2024-25 onwards, as well as in all future HRA shared ownership leases be approved. Note that the impact of this in 2024-25 will be a reduction in rent rises this year from 9.4% to 7.7% (see paragraph 15.4 of the report).

15. That a 7.7% increase in tenant service charges in 2024-25 be approved (see paragraph 15.5 of the report).

16. That consultation on the move to full cost recovery from 2025-26 for both private and tenant connections of the council's sewage treatment works be approved and it be noted that this will include transitional protection and be achieved within a nine year timeframe, but subject to a further report in Autumn 2024 (see paragraphs 15.7-15.12 of the report).

17. That it be noted that officers are currently beginning a review of the current Housing IT management system with a view to evaluating whether it is still fit for purpose or needs to be replaced, as well as beginning work on the re-procurement of the repairs and maintenance contract. The Business plan provides for this to happen over the following two years at a provisional one-off cost of up to £2m (see paragraph 12.10 of the report).

18. That it be noted that the draft HRA Business 30-year Plan is viable and sustainable and has the capacity to support the council's ambitious delivery of 1,000 new affordable homes over the next 10 years. The proposed plan provides sufficient funds over the life of the plan to still deliver over 1,500 new affordable homes in total.

6. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES OF CABINET HELD 8 FEBRUARY 2024 - GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2024/25 (CAB3444)**

Councillor Cutler (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management).

By way of an update, the meeting had been provided with revised Council Tax Resolution information following review of the decisions made at the Hampshire County Council budget meeting of the same day – Thursday 22 February 2024. At Resolution 2 (a), the Council Tax Base was updated to **£53,691.65** (was £53,691.67). This change had a consequential impact and reduction on each of the precepts for Hampshire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority as set out at Resolution 5. These had been updated respectively to **£82,322,185** (was £82,322.216), **£14,038,219** (was £18,486,042) and **£4,447,816** (was £4,447,818).

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

**AMENDMENT** – Moved by Councillor Godfrey and seconded by Councillor Bolton:

Amend the recommended minutes by addition of a new recommendation 2e: The removal of overnight parking charges in city centre car parks, funded by the deletion of long-term vacant posts.

As the Mayor was satisfied that there had been adequate debate of the original motion, the Mayor called for a short adjournment to the meeting whilst the amendment was circulated in writing.

Upon its reconvening, Council proceeded to debate the matters in the Amendment. At conclusion of debate, Councillor Cutler was invited to exercise his right of reply before Council voted on the Amendment.

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget meetings, a recorded vote was taken on the Amendment before Council.

**The following Members voted in favour of the Amendment before Council:**

1. Councillor Neil Bolton
2. Councillor Caroline Brook
3. Councillor Susan Cook
4. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
5. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
6. Councillor Caroline Horrill
7. Councillor Fiona Isaacs
8. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
9. Councillor Steve Miller
10. Councillor Frank Pearson

11. Councillor Michael Read
12. Councillor Jan Warwick

**The following Members voted against the Amendment before Council:**

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal
2. Councillor Vivian Achwal
3. Councillor James Batho
4. Councillor Kathleen Becker
5. Councillor Adrian Brophy
6. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
7. Councillor Angela Clear
8. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
9. Councillor Neil Cutler
10. Councillor Chris Edwards
11. Councillor Nathan Eve
12. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
13. Councillor Brian Laming
14. Councillor Kelsie Learney
15. Councillor Danny Lee
16. Councillor Jonny Morris
17. Councillor Jerry Pett
18. Councillor Jackie Porter
19. Councillor Margot Power
20. Councillor George Prest
21. Councillor Mark Reach
22. Councillor Jane Rutter
23. Councillor Jamie Scott
24. Councillor Lucille Thompson
25. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
26. Councillor Martin Tod
27. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
28. Councillor Chris Westwood
29. Councillor Jonathan William

**AMENDMENT LOST.**

Following summing up by the proposer of the substantive motion (which was the Recommended Minute of Cabinet) and the seconder exercising his right to speak, in accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget meetings, a recorded vote was first taken regarding **Recommendations 1 – 9 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet.**

**The following Members voted in favour of Recommendations 1 – 9:**

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal
2. Councillor Vivian Achwal
3. Councillor James Batho
4. Councillor Kathleen Becker
5. Councillor Adrian Brophy
6. Councillor Chris Chamberlain

7. Councillor Angela Clear
8. Councillor Susan Cook
9. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
10. Councillor Neil Cutler
11. Councillor Chris Edwards
12. Councillor Nathan Eve
13. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
14. Councillor Brian Laming
15. Councillor Kelsie Learney
16. Councillor Danny Lee
17. Councillor Jonny Morris
18. Councillor Frank Pearson
19. Councillor Jerry Pett
20. Councillor Jackie Porter
21. Councillor Margot Power
22. Councillor George Prest
23. Councillor Mark Reach
24. Councillor Jane Rutter
25. Councillor Jamie Scott
26. Councillor Lucille Thompson
27. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
28. Councillor Martin Tod
29. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
30. Councillor Chris Westwood
31. Councillor Jonathan Williams

**No Members voted against Recommendations 1 – 9 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet.**

**The following Members abstained from voting:**

1. Councillor Neil Bolton
2. Councillor Caroline Brook
3. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
4. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
5. Councillor Caroline Horrill
6. Councillor Fiona Isaacs
7. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
8. Councillor Steve Miller
9. Councillor Michael Read
10. Councillor Jan Warwick

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 8 February 2024 (Recommendations 1 – 9, as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. That the level of General Fund Budget for 2024/25 be agreed, as in the summary as shown in Appendix A of report CAB3444.
2. That the Greener Faster and carbon reduction investment proposals set out in section 14 of the report be approved, including:

- a. £200,000 per annum for the carbon reduction measures on waste and recycling vehicles to enable the change to HVO fuel.
  - b. £1,400,000 per annum (less assumed 80% government funding) to expand recycling services to include food waste collections.
  - c. £400,000 per annum to implement other changes to the collection of recyclables.
  - d. £250,000 reduction in the annual waste income budget to reflect proposed changes to the Hampshire Inter Authority Agreement on waste.
3. That in relation to the Cost of Living focus of the Council Plan, the following be approved:
- a. In the absence of any government funded scheme, the allocation of up to £100,000 from the Cost of Living / Living Well reserve to wholly or partially fund a local Council Tax Support Fund for 2024/25 in accordance with section 19 of the report.
  - b. Extending the council tax Exceptional Financial Hardship Fund, with the remaining balance of 2023/24 funding (£38,000 as at Jan 2024), to 2024/25 to support any council tax payers experiencing exceptional hardship, regardless of whether they are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.
  - c. A discretionary 7.7% cap for 2024/25 on the annual increase in rent for Partnered Home Purchase scheme property owners, in line with the increase in social and affordable rents to existing tenants and for shared owners in the HRA.
4. That in relation to the council's Homes for All priority the following be approved:
- a. an additional £20,000 per annum contribution to the New Burdens Reserve to support the Preventing Homelessness Strategy, including funding the increased costs of providing temporary accommodation for homeless households where required.
  - b. to reduce the long term empty property period from 2 years to 1 year, of the 100% council tax premium which applies to all unoccupied and unfurnished property.
5. That in relation to the council's TC25 transformation programme the following be approved:
- a. The £607,000 of immediately recognised TC25 savings set out in section 13 of the report be reassigned to contributions to the Transitional Reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26 to support the delivery of the wider transformation programme.
  - b. A new budget of £100,000 per annum for the support and coordination of digital channel shift work across the council's services.
  - c. The transfer of the £130,000 of additional 4% Funding Guarantee income to the transitional reserve to invest in the TC25 transformation programme.

6. That the unavoidable budget growth of £100,000 per annum to fund increased external audit fees be approved.

7. That savings in corporate property budgets for Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) of £177,000 to reflect reduced liabilities be approved.

8. That service income annual budgets be amended as follows, in response to revised estimates:

- a. Building control fees reduced by £100,000
- b. Land charges income reduced by £100,000
- c. Legal services reduced by £50,000
- d. Garden waste service income increased by £90,000
- e. Car parking income increased by £100,000

9. That the sum of £1,273,758 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.

A recorded vote was then taken regarding **Recommendations 10 – 13 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet.**

**The following Members voted in favour of Recommendations 10 – 13:**

1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal
2. Councillor Vivian Achwal
3. Councillor James Batho
4. Councillor Kathleen Becker
5. Councillor Neil Bolton
6. Councillor Caroline Brook
7. Councillor Adrian Brophy
8. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
9. Councillor Angela Clear
10. Councillor Susan Cook
11. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
12. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
13. Councillor Neil Cutler
14. Councillor Chris Edwards
15. Councillor Nathan Eve
16. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
17. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
18. Councillor Caroline Horrill
19. Councillor Fiona Isaacs
20. Councillor Brian Laming
21. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
22. Councillor Kelsie Learney
23. Councillor Danny Lee
24. Councillor Steve Miller
25. Councillor Jonny Morris
26. Councillor Frank Pearson

27. Councillor Jerry Pett
28. Councillor Jackie Porter
29. Councillor Margot Power
30. Councillor George Prest
31. Councillor Mark Reach
32. Councillor Michael Read
33. Councillor Jane Rutter
34. Councillor Jamie Scott
35. Councillor Lucille Thompson
36. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
37. Councillor Martin Tod
38. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
39. Councillor Jan Warwick
40. Councillor Chris Westwood
41. Councillor Jonathan Williams

**No Members voted against Recommendations 10 – 13 of the Recommended Minute of Cabinet, or abstained from voting.**

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 8 February 2024 (Recommendations 10 – 13, as follows) be approved and adopted:

10. That the Council Tax for the Special Expenses in the Winchester Town area at Band D for 2024/25 be increased by the maximum allowed under the referendum limit of 2.99% combined between the town and district.

11. That the surplus balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund for distribution to this Council, calculated in January 2024 of £118,152.14, be approved.

12. That the level of Council Tax at Band D for City Council services for 2024/25 be increased to £159.36, an increase of £4.07 reflecting an average Council tax increase of 2.6%.

13. That the new Council Tax Reduction scheme income bands (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 2024 be approved.

**Council Tax for the City of Winchester for the year commencing 1 April 2024.**

In accordance with legislative requirements on recorded votes at Budget Meetings, a recorded vote was then taken regarding the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7) (as set out on pages 85 – 91 of the agenda pack, as amended above and as set out below).

**The following Members voted in favour of the Council Tax Resolutions (1 – 7, as amended above and set out below):**



1. Councillor Sudhakar Achwal
2. Councillor Vivian Achwal
3. Councillor James Batho
4. Councillor Kathleen Becker
5. Councillor Neil Bolton
6. Councillor Caroline Brook
7. Councillor Adrian Brophy
8. Councillor Chris Chamberlain
9. Councillor Angela Clear
10. Councillor Susan Cook
11. Councillor Steve Cramoysan
12. Councillor Patrick Cunningham
13. Councillor Neil Cutler
14. Councillor Chris Edwards
15. Councillor Nathan Eve
16. Councillor Stephen Godfrey
17. Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith
18. Councillor Caroline Horrill
19. Councillor Fiona Isaacs
20. Councillor Brian Laming
21. Councillor Paula Langford-Smith
22. Councillor Kelsie Learney
23. Councillor Danny Lee
24. Councillor Steve Miller
25. Councillor Jonny Morris
26. Councillor Frank Pearson
27. Councillor Jerry Pett
28. Councillor Jackie Porter
29. Councillor Margot Power
30. Councillor George Prest
31. Councillor Mark Reach
32. Councillor Michael Read
33. Councillor Jane Rutter
34. Councillor Jamie Scott
35. Councillor Lucille Thompson
36. Councillor John Tippet-Cooper
37. Councillor Martin Tod
38. Councillor Malcolm Wallace
39. Councillor Jan Warwick
40. Councillor Chris Westwood
41. Councillor Jonathan William

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council Tax for the City of Winchester for the year commencing 1 April 2024 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

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 £1,273,758 (Appendix D to report CAB3444 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 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) Maintenance work to Council Owned Bridges
- (k) Night Bus Contribution
- (l) Neighbourhood Plans
- (m) Community Infrastructure
- (n) Administration of the Town Forum

2. That it be noted that the Head of Revenues, in consultation with the Corporate Head of Finance calculated the Council Tax Base for 2024/25 at

(a) £53,691.65

being 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 on page 89 of the agenda pack.

3. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £9,830,059.

4. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a) £135,046,027

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) £120,812,925

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

(c) £14,233,102

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) £265.09

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) £5,676,801

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Annex 2 on page 91 of the agenda pack)

(f) £159.36

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 2024/25, 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)	£82,322,185		
Police and Crime Commissioner – Hampshire (PCCH)	£14,038,219		
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA)	£4,447,816		
<u>Valuation Bands</u>	<u>HCC</u>	<u>PCCH</u>	<u>HFRA</u>
A	1,022.16	174.31	55.23
B	1,192.52	203.36	64.43
C	1,362.88	232.41	73.64
D	1,533.24	261.46	82.84
E	1,873.96	319.56	101.25

F	2,214.68	377.66	119.66
G	2,555.40	435.77	138.07
H	3,066.48	522.92	165.68

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 on page 91 of the agenda pack as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 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 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

7. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES OF CABINET HELD 8 FEBRUARY 2024 - CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2024 - 2034 (CAB3443)**

Councillor Cutler (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management).

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 8 February 2024 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. The Capital Investment Strategy be approved including:
  - (i) the Capital Programme and Capital Programme Financing (Appendices A and B to report CAB3443);
  - (ii) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (Appendix E of the report);
  - (iii) the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy (Appendix G of the report); and
  - (iv) the prudential indicators detailed in the report and Appendix F of the report.

8. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES OF CABINET HELD 8 FEBRUARY 2024 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25 (CAB3446)**

Councillor Cutler (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance) moved that the recommended minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management).

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommended minute of Cabinet held 8 February 2024 (as follows) be approved and adopted:

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement which includes the Annual Treasury Investment Strategy for 2024/25 (and the remainder of 2023/24) be approved;

2. That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to manage the Council's pooled property investment and long-term borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate; and

3. That authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, who in turn discharges this function to Hampshire County Council's Deputy Chief Executive and 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.

9. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

RESOLVED:

For the Planning Committee, Councillor Williams to be a full member of the committee, replacing Councillor Vivian Achwal who will now become a deputy, replacing Councillor Williams.

10. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

13 written questions had been received, seven of which were heard at the meeting along with associated supplementary questions, with the responses to all the questions received and their response subsequently set out on the [council's website](#).

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 10.45 pm (adjourned between 8.40pm and 8.50pm).

The Mayor

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## COUNCIL

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

Attendance:

Councillors Present

Clear (Mayor)

Achwal S	Morris
Achwal V	Pett
Aron	Pinniger
Batho	Porter
Becker	Power
Bennett	Reach
Bolton	Rutter
Brook	Scott
Chamberlain	Small
Cook	Thompson
Cramoysan	Tippett-Cooper
Cunningham	Tod
Cutler	Wallace
Eve	Warwick
Godfrey	Westwood
Gordon-Smith	Williams
Greenberg	White
Horrill	Wise
Laming	
Langford-Smith	
Latham	
Learney	
Lee	
Miller	

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Brophy and Prest

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1. **APOLOGIES.**

Apologies for the meeting were noted as above.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made.

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 Porter and seconded by Councillor Power and unanimously resolved that Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith be elected the 825<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 15 May 2024.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Russell Gordon-Smith be elected the 825<sup>th</sup> Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 15 May 2024.

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

Proposed by Councillor Cutler and seconded by Councillor Learney and unanimously resolved that the best thanks of the council be accorded to Councillor Angela Clear for her service to the council as Mayor.

RESOLVED:

That the best thanks of the council be accorded to Councillor Angela Clear for her service to the council as Mayor.

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 Tippett-Cooper and seconded by Councillor Reach and unanimously resolved that Councillor Sudhakar Achwal be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 15 May 2024.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Sudhakar Achwal be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Winchester for the period commencing 15 May 2024.

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

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Tod be confirmed as 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 Cutler be appointed as Deputy Leader (Vice Chairperson of Cabinet) and Councillors Becker, Learney, Porter, Thompson and Westwood 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:**

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 (9) – Councillors V Achwal, Batho, Clear, Laming, Pett, Reach (Liberal Democrats 6) and Councillors Brook, Bolton (Conservatives 2) and Councillor Wallace (Green) plus deputies – Councillors Cramoysan, Power (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Horrill, Godfrey (Conservatives 2) and Co-councillors Lee, White (Green 2)

Audit and Governance Committee (6) – Councillors Morris, Chamberlain, Cramoysan, Pinniger, Power (Liberal Democrats 5) and Councillor Godfrey (Conservatives 1) plus deputies – Councillors V Achwal, Brophy (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Bolton, Miller (Conservatives 2)

Licensing and Regulation Committee (10) – Councillors Laming, S Achwal, Brophy, Latham, Morris, Pett, Wise (Liberal Democrats 7) and Councillors Cunningham, Langford-Smith (Conservatives 2) and Wallace (Green 1) plus deputies – Councillors Small, Tippet-Cooper (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Godfrey, Warwick (Conservatives 2) and Lee (Green 1)

Planning Committee (9) – Councillors Rutter, V Achwal, Clear, Laming, Small, Williams (Liberal Democrats 6) and Councillors Cunningham, Langford-Smith (Conservatives 2) and White (Green 1) plus deputies – Councillors Aron, Pett (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Bolton, Godfrey (Conservatives 2) and Lee (Green 1)

Economy and Housing Policy Committee (8) – Councillors Batho, S Achwal, Chamberlain, Eve, Morris, Scott (Liberal Democrats 6) and Councillor Miller (Conservatives 1) and White (Green 1) plus deputies – Councillors Aron, Brophy (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Horrill, Brook (Conservatives 2) and Councillors Lee and Wallace (Green 2)

Health and Environment Policy Committee (8) – Councillors Cramoysan, Aron, Bennett, Brophy, Latham, Power (Liberal Democrats 6) and Councillor Bolton (Conservatives 1) and Lee (Green 1) plus deputies – Councillors Eve, Tippet-

Cooper (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillors Warwick, Brook (Conservatives 2) and Councillors White and Wallace (Green 2)

Housing Appeals Committee (3) - Councillors Power, Scott (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillor Horrill (Conservatives 1) plus deputies – Councillor Batho (Liberal Democrats 1) and Miller, Cunningham (Conservatives 2)

Joint West of Waterlooville Planning Committee (5) – Councillors Rutter, Bennett, Clear, Williams (Liberal Democrats 4) and Councillor Langford-Smith (Conservatives 1) plus deputies – Councillors V. Achwal, Laming (Liberal Democrats 2) and Councillor Brook (Conservatives 1)

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

Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Brook  
Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Morris  
Licensing and Regulation Committee – Councillor Laming  
Planning Committee – Councillor Rutter  
Business and Housing Policy Committee – Councillor Batho  
Health and Environment Policy Committee – Councillor Cramoysan  
Housing Appeals Committee - Councillor Power  
Joint West of Waterlooville Planning Committee – Councillor Rutter

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

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

RESOLVED:

That the Winchester Town Forum be established for 2024/25 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 Cutler.

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 certificates to former councillors in recognition of their service to their communities and as members of Winchester City Council:

- Michael Kurn – Bishops Waltham Ward since 2021.
- Frank Pearson – previous Swanmore & Newtown ward from 2002 until 2016, then Central Meon Valley ward and as a member of cabinet 2006-2010 and 2018-2019 and Leader 2015 and as Mayor 2012-13 and 2018-19.

The Mayor then asked that council record its thanks to former councillors who had been unable to attend the meeting to receive their certificates:

- Chris Edwards – St Michael Ward since 2021.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 7.50 pm

The Mayor

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## THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 June 2024

### Minute Extract

#### ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2023/24

(SC093)

The Chairperson introduced the report, 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.

Councillor Danny Lee addressed the committee and highlighted the following points:

1. Regarding the review of the work of the Economic and Housing Policy Committee, he welcomed the aim of making the district a premier business location but noted the lack of support for rural district areas.
2. He observed the importance of linking the cultural strategy to business needs in both the city and district areas.
3. He highlighted the focus on climate change mitigation but emphasised the need to consider adaptation strategies as well.
4. Regarding the Community Safety Partnership, he queried the follow-up actions from the last meeting, particularly concerning the closure of landlines by the end of the year and residents' anxieties surrounding this issue.
5. He questioned the statement on page 27 regarding being carbon neutral by 2030, suggesting it needed qualification between operational and embodied carbon.
6. He also queried the status of the carbon credit trading initiative mentioned in the report.

Councillor Caroline Brook responded with the following points:

1. She clarified that many recommendations go to the Cabinet for consideration, and it is up to the Cabinet to decide on their implementation.
2. She acknowledged the importance of the landline closure issue raised and noted that it was taken up for consideration at the last meeting and agreed that it should be followed up.

The committee noted that the report represented a succinct summary of the main work it had conducted during the previous municipal year. The committee wished to express thanks to the previous committee members for their contributions over the past year and to Councillor Horrill for her contribution to the committee and the Performance Panel.

#### RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

That Council note the annual scrutiny report for 2023/24.

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REPORT TITLE: Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24

6 June 2024

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 2023/24 municipal year is attached in Appendix 1 so that the scrutiny committee can add its comments before it is finalised for presentation to full council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee consider and makes any necessary comments on the content of the report before its submission to full council.

# Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24



## **1. 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:

1. Economy and Housing Policy Committee
2. Health and Environment Policy Committee
3. 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.

## **2. 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:

### **2.1. Economy and Housing Policy Committee**

To maintain a strategic overview of the progress towards the achievement of the relevant priorities in the Council Plan namely:

1. Making the District a premier business location
2. Delivering quality housing options

### **2.2. Health and Environment Policy Committee**

To maintain a strategic overview of the progress towards the achievement of the relevant priorities in the Council Plan namely:

1. Improving the quality of the district's environment
2. Improving the health and happiness of the community

### **2.3. 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).

The broad terms of reference are as follows:

1. To review and scrutinise any decisions made or to be made or actions to be taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's functions, including holding the Cabinet to account by reviewing and scrutinising executive decisions.
2. Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives and performance targets
3. Exercise the right to Call-In for reconsideration of decisions made but not yet implemented by the Leader, the Cabinet and Cabinet Members and Officers

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)

#### **2.4. Performance Panel**

During the 2023/24 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:

- a) Reviewing quarterly Performance Monitoring reports
- b) Reviewing progress against Council plan delivery, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and agreed targets.
- c) Reviewing the quarterly Revenue and Capital budget Monitoring report
- d) Reviewing project highlight reports for Tier 1 projects and post-project reports at project completion
- e) 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.

### 3. Membership and Meetings

**Economy and Housing Policy Committee:** The following Councillors have attended as committee members during the year: Councillor James Batho (Chairperson), Councillor Chris Chamberlain (Vice Chairperson), Councillor Fiona Isaacs, Councillor George Prest, Councillor Jamie Scott, Councillor Margot Power, Councillor Nathan Eve, Councillor Steve Miller, Councillor Caroline Horrill and Councillor Sudhakar Achwal. **The following members attended the committee to address the meeting:** Councillor Chris Westwood, Councillor Danny Lee, Councillor Jackie Porter, Councillor Lucille Thompson and Councillor Malcolm Wallace.

**Health and Environment Policy Committee:** The following Councillors have attended as committee members during the year: Councillor Steve Cramoysan (Chairperson), Councillor Steve Cramoysan (Vice Chairperson), Councillor Charlie Wise, Councillor Hannah Greenberg, Councillor Jan Warwick, Councillor John Tippet-Cooper (Vice Chairperson), Councillor Jonny Morris, Councillor Neil Bolton, Councillor Adrian Brophy, Councillor Caroline Brook, Councillor Jonathan Williams and Councillor Michael Kurn. **The following members attended the committee to address the meeting:** Councillor Caroline Horrill, Councillor Danny Lee, Councillor Kathleen Becker, Councillor Kelsie Learney, Councillor Malcolm Wallace, Councillor Margot Power, Councillor Jackie Porter, Councillor Martin Tod and Councillor Susan Cook.

**Scrutiny Committee:** The following Councillors have attended as committee members during the year: Councillor Caroline Brook (Chairperson), Councillor Brian Laming, Councillor Caroline Horrill (Vice Chairperson), Councillor Jamie Scott, Councillor Jerry Pett, Councillor Jonathan Williams, Councillor Mark Reach, Councillor Jonny Morris. **The following members attended the committee to address the meeting:** Councillor Chris Westwood, Councillor Danny Lee, Councillor Kathleen Becker, Councillor Kelsie Learney, Councillor Malcolm Wallace, Councillor Martin Tod, Councillor Neil Bolton and Councillor Neil Cutler.

**Performance Panel:** The following Councillors have attended as panel members during the year: Councillor Caroline Horrill (Chairperson), Councillor Brian Laming, Councillor Jerry Pett, Councillor Jonathan Williams, Councillor Mark Reach and Councillor Neil Bolton. **The following members attended the committee to address the meeting:** Councillor Chris Westwood, Councillor Kelsie Learney, Councillor Martin Tod, Councillor Neil Cutler and Councillor Jackie Porter.

#### **4. Items considered during 2023/24**

##### **Scrutiny Committee**

03/07/23 18:30	Annual Report - Exceptions to Forward Plan 2022/23
03/07/23 18:30	Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23
03/07/23 18:30	Appointments of external bodies related to scrutiny.
03/07/23 18:30	Q4 Performance Monitoring
03/07/23 18:30	Strategic Outline Case for Station Approach
06/09/23 18:30	General Fund Outturn 2022/2023
06/09/23 18:30	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn 2022/2023
06/09/23 18:30	Q1 2023/24 Financial and Performance Monitoring
06/09/23 18:30	Scrutiny Request - Update on public convenience strategy.
22/11/23 18:30	Determination of call-in request
22/11/23 18:30	General Fund Budget Options & Medium-Term Financial Strategy
22/11/23 18:30	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Budget Options
22/11/23 18:30	Q2 Finance & Performance Monitoring
06/02/24 18:30	Capital Investment Strategy
06/02/24 18:30	General Fund Budget 2024/25
06/02/24 18:30	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25
06/02/24 18:30	Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25
06/03/24 18:30	Community Safety Partnership Performance Review
06/03/24 18:30	Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring Report

##### **Economy and Housing Policy Committee**

12/07/23 18:30	Carbon Credit Trading
12/07/23 18:30	Retrofit housing programme.
19/09/23 18:30	Housing Strategy 2023 to 2028
19/09/23 18:30	Nutrient Mitigation Project (presentation)
19/09/23 18:30	UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funds update
19/09/23 18:30	Winchester City Street Market Mgmt Contract and Operating Policy
28/11/23 18:30	Festivals and Events Programming Policy
28/11/23 18:30	Housing Revenue Account Rent Setting and Business Plan
20/02/24 18:30	Accommodation Strategy for Homeless Households
20/02/24 18:30	Green Economic Development Strategy Action Plan 2024/27
20/02/24 18:30	Scoping Document for The Older Persons Accommodation Strategy
20/02/24 18:30	Winchester District Cultural Strategy (Presentation)

## Health and Environment Policy Committee

04/07/23 18:30	Future of Waste and Recycling (Presentation)
04/07/23 18:30	Water Quality in Winchester District (Briefing update)
21/09/23 18:30	CNAP report: Winchester Movement Strategy and Transport Actions
21/09/23 18:30	Cost of Living Programme (HEP035)
21/09/23 18:30	Social Value delivered through Winchester's Leisure Centres
05/12/23 18:30	CNAP Report: Renewable Energy
05/12/23 18:30	Ecological Sites
05/12/23 18:30	Water Quality Update
22/01/24 18:30	Future of Waste and Recycling (Presentation)
31/01/24 18:30	Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services

## Performance Panel

22/05/23 16:00	Detailed review of draft Q4 Performance Monitoring
21/08/23 16:00	Detailed review of draft Q1 Performance Monitoring
07/11/23 16:00	Detailed review of draft Q2 Performance Monitoring

## Public participation.

The policy and scrutiny committee welcomes and encourages engagement with residents and other community representatives during its public participation session. During 2023/24 all public 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 2023/24**

### **Economy and Housing Policy Committee.**

Report of the chairperson of the committee, Cllr James Batho.

During the municipal year the previous Business and Housing Committee was renamed to the Economy and Housing Policy (EHP) Committee.

The background to the year is a continuing Cost of Living crisis and pressure on council budgets.

### **Economy**

At the September meeting the Business and Culture team brought forward updates on the UK Shared Prosperity and the Rural England Prosperity Funds, and the Winchester Street Market Management Contract and Operating Policy. The committee were pleased to see progress with the allocation of the Prosperity Funds and commented on the Street Market Policy, asking that it encourages start-up businesses, and that market trader selection should emphasise green credentials and support the council's net zero objectives.

In November the EHP considered the Festivals and Events Programming Policy and welcomed the plans to provide a "one point of contact" for organisations, though wanted to understand the resource implications.

At the final meeting in February the Winchester District Cultural Strategy and Green Economic Development Action Plan explored how Winchester City Council is working with partner organisations in these areas. The committee was impressed by the scale of ambition in each and wanted to ensure that clear governance and measurement mechanisms were put in place.

### **Housing**

Winchester Tenants and Council Together (TACT) continued to support the committee's work with thoughtful contributions to the discussions and their support for local communities is greatly appreciated.

At the first meeting in July the Housing team presented the Retrofit Housing Programme and described a challenging target for our housing stock to be carbon neutral by 2030. The committee were impressed by the dedication to achieve this target and commented that communication with residents and careful project management will be crucial to the success of the programme. The next presentation described an opportunity emerging from the Retrofit Housing Programme to trade and generate credits. The Carbon Credit Trading Report was met with some concerns about the process and how the credits generated should be utilised.

In September the committee explored the Housing Strategy objectives of More homes for all, Greener homes, Homes that better meet different needs and Better managed homes, Better neighbourhoods. The Nutrient Mitigation Project responds to the need to reduce nitrates by upgrading council owned water treatment plants.

The committee supported the programme and requested an update on cost recovery proposals at a future meeting.

In November the Housing Revenue Account Setting and Business Plan was presented and the committee agreed on the importance of ensuring accessibility to services for all whether utilising digital or non-digital methods.

At the final meeting in February aspects of the Housing Strategy were discussed. The Accommodation Strategy for Homeless Households brought the increasing issue of homelessness to the committee. It gave an opportunity to thank both the officer team and our partners, Trinity, Winchester Beacon and Emmaus for their work in this area. A Scoping Document for the Older Persons Accommodation Strategy was also brought forward and the committee acknowledged the comprehensive nature of the work required to address the accommodation needs of the of the older population and the necessity to consider a wide range of accommodation types across the district.



## **The Health and Environment Policy Committee**

Report of the chairperson of the committee, Cllr Steve Cramoyson

### **Introduction**

The Health and Environment Policy Committee met five times during the municipal year, in July, September, December and two additional meetings in January and had a full agenda at each meeting. The topics lined up for the February meeting originally scheduled have been deferred. The committee 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 included Waste & Recycling (twice), the Winchester Movement Strategy, how the district manages its ecological sites, water quality issues (twice), Cost of Living programme and the social value of the leisure centres. The committee welcomed a report from the environment agency on water quality issues in rivers, and a verbal update from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on the same subject. The committee were also asked to hear and scrutinise the proposals from the Hampshire Together, Hospitals team, about proposed changes to Winchesters Royal Hants County Hospital services.

**July meeting**, the committee considered two papers,

- **Future of Waste and Recycling:** the purpose of which was to update members of progress in this complex programme which is interdependent on Hampshire County Council decisions as well as national legislation, and funding. The paper gave members the opportunity to challenge and support the policy objectives and to consider what issues might be explored by the City Council in a consultation survey proposed for the public.
- **Water Quality in Winchester District:** This paper was a written submission only by the Environment Agency in relation to water quality in the rivers and water courses in our area. This format did not allow questions to be asked of the EA. Committee Members, and visiting councillors expressed concerns that the water authority is failing to maintain standards of water quality. In addition, that the agencies that monitor and report on these matters are fragmented and lack the powers to take effective enforcement action. The committee requested that a future meeting be held to demonstrate the progress made to remedy water quality issues.

### **September Meeting**

The committee considered three Winchester City Council papers:

- **Cost of Living Programme (CoL)**– which laid out what had been achieved to date and what would be available going forward. This included discussion of some of WCC strategic grants including supporting enhanced CAB services, work done to facilitate better collaboration between the various agencies and voluntary organisations that operate in the district, and details of the CoL grants available.
- **Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) Report: Winchester Movement Strategy (WMS) and Transport Actions Update** – was jointly presented by HCC & WCC officers to update members of the progress of the WMS. This provided an update on various schemes intended to encourage walking, cycling as well as use of

park & ride buses and buses more generally. It provided a high level view on HCC LPT4 and the DfT Decarbonisation plan.

- Social Value delivered through Winchester Leisure Centres – This was an interesting paper that sought to put measures on the impact of the participation at WCC leisure centres. An interesting approach to qualify the value of the services delivered rather than just as a cost centre.

### **December Meeting**

This meeting also gave opportunity for members to review three policy areas:

- Ecological Sites: This report included a summary of how ecological sites are currently managed, defined a need for review of how ecological sites are managed and gave opportunity to the Committee to put forward idea on policy principals on how to manage ecological sites.
- Water Quality Update: Representatives from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, provided an update on water quality and water pollution issues in the district, an overview of the current state of the River Itchen, protection for chalk streams, monitoring work being undertaken by other trusts and organisations, community programmes and measures the trust were adopting to improve the position.
- CNAP Report: Renewable Energy: The report set out the council's current and planned work on renewable energy generation and the outcome of consultation carried out earlier this year. The report was about carbon as a whole; not just renewable energy, and a balanced approach on how the council used its resources to achieve the best outcomes needed to be taken.

### **22 January 2024 (Additional Meeting)**

This was an additional meeting not planned at the start of the municipal year. The topic presented was:

- Update on Future of Waste and Recycling since the July meeting.  
Since that meeting:
  - Government had released results of consistency consultation
  - HCC had identified key next steps
  - WCC had undertaken a resident survey
  - Modelling had been undertaken on a range of variables
  - Financial estimates of costs included in medium term financial strategy
  - Indicative capital food waste funding from DEFRA
  - Outline timelines developed

The objectives for the meeting included comments to be included regarding the proposals where were due to be heard at a Cabinet meeting on the 8th February.

### **31 January 2024 Meeting**

This was a further additional meeting not planned at the start of the municipal year. The topic this time was a scrutiny meeting of the Consultation papers for the Hampshire Together proposals for a new hospital in Basingstoke, and the downgrading of acute services in Winchester. This was a lengthy and thorough meeting during which the committee raised a range of questions and concerns about how the proposals would affect various parts of the District of Winchester. The

Hampshire Chronicle reported that “CIVIC chiefs grilled hospital bosses...” which is how it should be for a matter of such importance.

To close, I’d like to thank all officers for the time and expertise invested in producing papers for the committee to consider. And to Democratic services, especially Claire Buchanan, ensuring the meetings ran smoothly, and advice on the processes.

Thanks also to fellow councillors who sit on the committee for engaging with each paper and subject and in sharing their expertise and knowledge on these. And of course members of the public who attended to speak on several of the agenda items across the year.

## **The Scrutiny Committee**

Report of the 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 five times during the 2023/24 municipal year, attendance was very high throughout the year with just one apology received from members. It was also pleasing to note that members of the public attended three of the committees' meetings and Councillors who are not members of the committee also attended four of the five meetings in order to address the committee.

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

1. At the July meeting, the Committee was updated regarding the Council's strategic outline case for Station Approach and members asked the cabinet to consider several points prior to decision.
2. At the September meeting, the cabinet member was invited to update the committee on the Public Convenience Strategy which had been prompted by feedback from residents.
3. The November meeting considered both the Housing Revenue and General Fund budget option reports and members fed back several detailed points on each report for the cabinet member to consider further.
4. 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.
5. 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 Chief Inspector Korine Bishop who provided a valuable contribution to the meeting.

The performance panel met on three occasions to scrutinise three of the quarterly finance and performance reports before those reports were tabled at the scrutiny committee and then to the cabinet. I am grateful to the panel members for the work they have undertaken during the year.

One call-in was initiated by members in the year regarding a decision concerning the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. This call-in request was not accepted by the Monitoring Officer, and this was reported to the committee at its meeting in November 2023.

During the year, a proposal was implemented that enables the committee and the general public to view a 3-month “look ahead” of the council’s key decisions. I welcome this development and believe it will help both the committee to plan its workload more effectively and for residents to see future decisions further in advance.

I am also pleased to report that following a suggestion, a specific learning/training session is being prepared for committee members run by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny early in the new municipal year.

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 constructively put before them 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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REPORT TITLE: RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

16 JULY 2024

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Contact Officer: Lisa Kirkman, Monitoring Officer Tel No: 01962 848501 email  
lkirkman@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

To report the outcome of the recruitment process for the role of Independent Person ("IP") and to recommend the appointment of three candidates following interviews conducted on 14 May 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Full Council is recommended:

1. To appoint the following three individuals as Independent Persons:
  - a. Alan Harrison
  - b. Linda Phillips
  - c. Peter Baulf
2. To extend its sincere gratitude to the Council's outgoing Independent Person, Mr Michael Cronin for his dedicated service and invaluable contributions over the past seven years.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### 1. COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1. The Council is responsible for maintaining high governance standards pursuant to its duties under the Localism Act 2011. The Audit & Governance committee has the role of ensuring that the ethical standards regime forming part of the governance framework of the Council is robust, thereby engendering public confidence that the Council can deliver upon its priorities within the Council Plan.

### 2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1. The costs of the advertising and recruitment process have been met from existing resources. The IPs (three) will receive an allowance of £800 per annum which is commensurate with remuneration at other Councils. This is a total additional annual cost of £1,200 which can be funded within existing budgets.

### 3. LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 the council is required to appoint at least one IP to give a view on complaints against members, including whether to investigate a complaint for alleged breach of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.
- 3.2. The council may not appoint a person (or close associate of a person) who has been an officer, member, or co-opted member of the council within the 5 years prior to the appointment.
- 3.3. Full Council must approve the appointment of any IP.
- 3.4. As a result of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (amendment) Regulations 2015 the IP will also have a role in relation to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, or Chief Financial Officer. At least two IP's must be invited to join any disciplinary panel in this respect.
- 3.5. There is a statutory requirement to ensure that the advertising for post is brought to the attention of the public therefore the selection process entailed a notice via public advertisement.

### 4. WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None from this report.

### 5. PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None from this report.



## 6. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

6.1. This process has been undertaken in consultation with:

- a) The Audit and Governance Committee
- b) The Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement due to her Cabinet Member responsibilities
- c) The Council's Statutory Officers (Chief Executive, S151 Officer, and Monitoring Officer)
- d) Legal and Democratic Services

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1. None from this report.

## 8. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

8.1. The recruitment has been carried out in accordance with the council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 and in accordance with the principles in the Council's Corporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan.

## 9. DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1. None from this report.

## 10. RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Financial Exposure	Ensuring the Council always has the required complement of IPs to consider complaints or allegations against councillors or dismissal decisions re statutory officers will ensure independent oversight and mitigate against improper decision-making, which in turn protects the Council's strong financial arrangements.	Will meet the statutory requirements (set out in the body of this report) for independent oversight, strengthening governance and in turn ensuring reputation and public confidence.
Exposure to challenge	Appointment of IPs in accordance with statutory requirements removes the risk of non-	Will meet the statutory requirements (set out in the body of this report) for independent oversight,

	compliance in that regard. In addition, the role of IPs aids in independent oversight, therefore mitigating against poor decision making and inappropriate behaviours, aiding overall good governance.	strengthening governance and in turn ensuring reputation and public confidence.
Reputation	Appointment of IPs is required as this is a role that is part of the framework of independent oversight within the Council, which is key to maintaining trust and confidence in the good governance of the Council and its reputation among residents and others	Appointment of IPs and the role they carry out is an example of how the Council can demonstrate its engagement with independent oversight to ensure good governance in a reputable and appropriate manner.
Achievement of outcome	The Council is required by law to appoint IPs and the recommendations in this report achieve that critical outcome. In addition, the appointment of three IPs will mitigate against the risk of being below complement in the event of illness or conflict arising with one of the IPs	
Timescales	The Council has moved to commence recruitment in a timely fashion to mitigate against the possibility of the existing IP resigning or becoming unavailable for whatever reason.	

## 11. SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1. The Independent Persons (IPs) fulfil a statutory role in relation to Member conduct issues. There are also statutory provisions requiring that the

Independent Persons will have a role in the event of a proposed dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, or S151 Officer.

- 11.2. Independent Persons are appointed under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011. Their view is sought and taken into consideration before any decision is taken on whether a councillor has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and as to any action to be taken following a finding of failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.
- 11.3. Two Independent Persons are also required to form an Independent Panel for the purpose of advising Council on the dismissal of any Statutory Officers.
- 11.4. The Audit & Governance Committee advises the Council on the adoption or revision of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and monitors the operation of the Code of Conduct, overseeing arrangements for dealing with complaints against councillors.
- 11.5. The Council currently has only one IP after the resignation of one and sadly the loss of another. At its meeting on the [29 February 2024, the Audit and Governance Committee](#) was asked to approve the commencement of a recruitment process for the Council to increase its current complement to three IPs. This was the approach taken before and was considered appropriate to ensure there is always availability among the pool of IPs, and to mitigate against the risk of being under complement, in the event of illness or conflict of interest arising with one or two of the IPs. This is in keeping with the approach adopted at other local authorities.

## 12. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 12.1. The Audit and Governance Committee agreed for Councillors Chamberlain, Godfrey, and Power to form the interview panel in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement (Councillor Becker), due to her Cabinet Member responsibilities and the Deputy Monitoring Officer as adviser to the panel.
- 12.2. An advertisement for the role was placed on the 21 March 2024 and was available until the 30 April 2024. An application pack was created which consisted of the Advertisement, Role Description, Person Specification, Eligibility criteria and Application Form. Applicants were asked to complete and submit an application form, which was contained within the Application Pack.
- 12.3. Shortlisting of candidates was undertaken by officers from the applications received and the interview panel was convened to meet on the 14 May 2024 in Abbey House.

12.4. Following interviews and a technical assessment, the interview panel agreed to recommend the successful candidates listed below to be formally appointed by Full Council at its meeting on the 11 July 2024.

- a) Alan Harrison
- b) Linda Phillips
- c) Peter Baulf

12.5. In line with the recommendations in the review of Local Government Ethical Standards by the Committee on Standards in Public Life the interview panel agreed with the term of the appointments being for two years with one extension allowed of up to two further years.

12.6. Mr Michael Cronin, appointed as Independent Person in 2017, has played a central role in the Standards regime within the City Council. The council sincerely thanks Mr Cronin for his dedicated service and invaluable contributions over the past seven years.

13. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

13.1. To not recruit at this time. This would leave only one IP which could make dealing with complaints problematical and leaves the process open to delay. IPs are required for any Independent Panel required for the purpose of advising Council on the dismissal of any Statutory Officers.

14. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

14.1. Previous Committee Reports:

[AG129 – Recruitment of Independent Persons](#)

15. APPENDICES:

None