Public Document Pack

Winchester City Council

Meeting	The Scrutiny Committee
Date and Time	Thursday, 5th June, 2025 at 6.30 pm.
Venue	Walton Suite, Guildhall, Winchester and streamed live on YouTube at www.youtube.com/winchestercc

Note: This meeting is being held in person at the location specified above. Members of the public should note that a live video feed of the meeting will be available from the council's YouTube channel (youtube.com/WinchesterCC) during the meeting.

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 (5pm Friday, 30 May 2025). Please see below for details on how to register to attend. Please note that priority will be given to those wishing to attend and address the meeting over those wishing to attend and observe.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies and Deputy Members**
   To note the names of apologies given and deputy members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed members.

2. **Declarations of Interests**
   To receive any disclosure of interests from Councillors or Officers in matters to be discussed.

   Note: Councillors are reminded of their obligations to declare disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs), other registerable interests (ORIs) and non-registerable interests (NRIs) in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

   If you require advice, please contact the appropriate Democratic Services Officer, prior to the meeting.

3. **Appointment of Vice-Chairperson for Municipal Year 2025/26.**
   As this is the first meeting of the committee in this municipal year, it will be necessary to appoint a Vice-Chairperson.

   The Chairperson will call for nominations from committee members.

4. **Chairperson's Announcements**

5. **Minutes of the meeting of the 5 March 2025** (Pages 7 - 16)
That the minutes of the meeting be signed as a correct record.

6. **Public Participation**
To receive and note questions asked and statements made from members of the public on matters which fall within the remit of the Committee.

Members of the public and visiting councillors may speak at the committee, provided they have registered to speak three working days in advance. Please complete this form (https://forms.office.com/r/Y87tufaV6G) by 5pm on 30 May 2025 or call (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

7. **Q4 Finance & Performance Monitoring** (Pages 17 - 54)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Scrutiny Committee raises with the Deputy Leader or relevant Cabinet member any issues arising from the information in this report, ref CAB3505, which is being presented to Cabinet on the 18 June 2025 and considers whether there are any items of significance to resolve or to be drawn to the attention of Cabinet.

8. **Appointments of external bodies related to scrutiny** (Pages 55 - 58)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the committee considers appointments to the following external bodies:

1. Portsmouth City Council – Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (1 vacancy and deputy)
2. Centre for Governance and Scrutiny – Southeast Regional Network (1 vacancy)
3. Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1 vacancy and deputy)

9. **Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25** (Pages 59 - 76)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

10. **Annual Report - Exceptions to Forward Plan 2024/25** (Pages 77 - 80)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee consider and make any necessary comment on the content of the report.

11. **To note the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions** (Pages 81 - 86)

The current forward plan of key decisions for the period 1 June 2025 – 31 August 2025 is attached to this agenda.

The forward plan of key decisions for the period July 2025 to September 2025 is due to by published before the Scrutiny Committee meeting and will be circulated separately.

12. **To note the committees current Work Programme.** (Pages 87 - 88)
The latest version of the committee work programme can be found here: https://democracy.winchester.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1

13. **To note the date and time of future meeting of the Committee**
    1. 8 Sep 2025 6.30 pm
    2. 13 Nov 2025 6.30 pm
    3. 10 Feb 2026 6.30 pm
    4. 4 Mar 2026 6.30 pm

Laura Taylor
Chief Executive

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

28 May 2025

Agenda Contact: Matthew Watson, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01962 848 317 Email: mwatson@winchester.gov.uk

**With the exception of exempt items, agendas, reports and previous minutes are available on the Council's Website https://www.winchester.gov.uk/councillors-committees*

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Membership

Chairperson: Councillor: Brook

Committee Members.
Councillors:
Batho
Laming
Pett
Clear
Power
Murphy
Bolton
Wallace

Quorum = 3 Members

Relevant Cabinet Members
Having regard to the content of the agenda, the Chairperson requests that The Leader and all relevant Cabinet Members attend meetings of the committee

Public Participation
A public question and comment session is available at 6.30pm for a 15 minute period. There are few limitations on the questions you can ask. These relate to current applications, personal cases and confidential matters. Please contact Democratic Services on 01962 848 264 at least three days in advance of the meeting (5pm Friday, 30 May 2025) for further details. If there are no members of the public present at 6.30pm who wish to ask questions or make statements, then the meeting will commence.

Filming And Broadcast Notification
This meeting will be recorded and broadcast live on the Council's YouTube site.and 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. Please note that the video recording is subtitled, but you may have to enable your device to see them (advice on how to do this is on the meeting page).

Voting
1. Apart from the Chairperson, every member has one vote when a matter before the meeting requires a decision.
2. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson may exercise a casting vote and that vote may be exercised in any way seen fit.
3. A member may abstain from voting or vote differently from how they may have indicated during the debate, without further explanation.
4. The way each member voted will not be recorded in the minutes, unless a motion to have a recorded vote has been passed.

Terms Of Reference
Included within the Council's Constitution (Part 3, Section 2) which is available here

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 5 March 2025

Attendance:

Councillors
Brook (Chairperson)

Wallace	Pett
Batho	Reach
Clear	Bolton
Laming	

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor V Achwal

Other members in attendance:

Councillors Horrill, Lee, Becker, Tod and Westwood

Video recording of this meeting

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1. **APOLOGIES AND DEPUTY MEMBERS**
Apologies for the meeting were noted as above.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
Councillor Wallace declared a disclosable pecuniary interest due to his role as a Hampshire County Councillor. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, he remained in the room and spoke under the dispensation granted by the Audit and Governance committee.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Chairperson advised that a Member's Asset Review meeting was held on February 12th, where Councillors and officers discussed the management and income generation of the commercial portfolio. Councillors present expressed a desire for greater detail on Council-owned assets, and access to the GIS system. It was suggested an annual review meeting would help members understand ongoing projects and asset management, with discussions also covering asset sales and improved income generation.

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 4 FEBRUARY 2025**
Regarding item 6 (Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025 – 2026) of the previous minutes, under “Resolved item number 3”, Councillor Wallace asked for an update from the Cabinet Member regarding the points made.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 February 2025 be approved and adopted.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Monica Gill addressed the committee regarding the formation of a Tenants and Residents Association. She explained the association aimed to provide a voice for residents and asked if councillors could publicise the group in their wards. She advised that the association consisted of 14 members, held regular meetings, and has seen attendance from contractors. Monica Gill advised that flyers providing contact information were being produced for distribution. The Chairperson believed that Councillors would be willing to share the flyers if provided.

Julian Perkins was invited to address the committee and expressed his concerns regarding the facilities at Market Lane Public Toilets. He stated that he had previously addressed the Cabinet in 2023 and was informed that £760,000 was being spent on the toilets. Mr. Perkins reported that the refurbishments were complete except the disabled entrance door, and only approximately £30,000 of the allocated funds had been used. He asked to know why so little was spent on the facilities. Councillor Brook thanked Julian Perkins for his contribution. The issues raised were discussed later in the meeting as part of agenda item 8.

Councillor Danny Lee addressed the committee regarding items: 6. Annual Community Safety Performance Update, 7. Development Delivery Plans - Central Winchester Regeneration and 8. Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring and a summary of his contributions were captured within that agenda item.

Councillor Caroline Horrill addressed the committee regarding item 7. Development Delivery Plans - Central Winchester Regeneration and a summary of her contribution was captured within that agenda item.

6. **ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Councillor Kathleen Becker, Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement introduced the report, ref SC095 which set out the Annual Community Safety Performance Update, (available here).

Councillor Becker explained that Winchester City Council was the responsible authority supporting the delivery of crime and disorder statutory duties by dedicating officer posts to the role and ensuring the Council's corporate priorities were delivered. She highlighted the report's significant successes, particularly in the night-time economy, anti-social behaviour, and grant funding applications. She mentioned the continuing focus on anti-social behaviour, working with young people including the Legacy project, and domestic violence, noting that while the data reflected women as victims, the partnership provided support for all victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Chief Inspector Korine Bishop addressed the Committee, outlining several key points which could be summarised as follows:

1. There had been a reduction in crime by 0.8% between April and Christmas, alongside a 20% increase in charges and summons. Out-of-court resolutions were up 2%, and victim satisfaction reached 68.2%, exceeding the 65% target.
2. Drug-related harm remained a top priority, with a specific focus on youth involvement in cannabis, vaping, and other drug sales. Operations have led to warrants, arrests, and interventions by the Youth Offending Team.
3. Rural crime was also prioritized, targeting commercial burglaries, plant and machinery theft, and motor vehicle theft.
4. The District was performing at the top of the force in formal action taken in the local area, with the force working with stores to report offences.
5. Formal action for shoplifting in the area had been seen for 48.8% of cases.
6. The team were working closely with community behaviour with monthly Offender Victim and Location (OVAL) meetings.
7. Chief Inspector Bishop sat on the board of directors for the Business Improvement District (BID), which allowed access to issues for businesses, and contact with universities and the council.
8. There had been an embedded officer within the prison in a bid to tackle organised crime.

Chief Inspector Bishop provided the committee with details relating to the following:

1. The "Let's Talk" scheme, which highlights top public concerns: speeding, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour, road safety, and parking issues.
2. The Hants Snap and Hants Alert Schemes.
3. The new police response hub at Bishop's Waltham that provided 24/7 support to teams across the Winchester District.
4. An uplift in extra officers in Winchester with 12 students in the front line response team and 5 detectives.
5. She gave a summary of some local, high-profile cases.

Councillor Danny Lee addressed the committee and highlighted the following points. Councillor Lee expressed his gratitude to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary, along with the Neighbourhood and Community Safety team, for their continued commitment to public safety. He hoped that the scrutiny process would offer greater clarity on his concerns relating to public safety and performance. These concerns were centred on the reported rise of crime data and statistical processes within the Winchester District and asked if such a breakdown could include rural statistics.

Councillor Lee then summarised his points regarding the future switch off of landlines and what provisions would be implemented to secure backup plans and communication, including considerations about power outages. A query was also raised regarding the extent to which major broadband providers were able to ensure the protection of vulnerable users. Councillor Lee asked whether it was

possible to secure fibre rollout plans, and emergency backup plans to ask to determine their inclusion into the 2025 to 2026 annual delivery plan.

The committee was asked to note and comment on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) progress report and agree on any matters of significance.

The committee proceeded to ask questions and debate the report. In summary, the following matters were raised.

1. Clarification regarding the most effective method for residents to report criminal activity to the authorities.
2. A request for further information regarding the breakdown of activities in the rural as well as urban areas of the district.
3. Further information was sought regarding strategies for improving contact with police services, particularly where telecommunications are limited.
4. The necessity for the Community Safety Partnership to further engage partners to develop clear advice for communities.
5. A request was made to share details of communications provider rollouts, where appropriate.
6. A question was asked regarding the status and planning around broadband services for the area, as part of the upcoming rollout and for emergency backup plans for telecommunications during prolonged outages and/or battery failure.
7. Information was sought regarding any financial incentives or support available for the community.
8. A request for support to provide assistance with and report domestic violence, from a community perspective.
9. Further information was requested regarding the Yellow Door initiative and whether any funding incentives would help expand the project.
10. Consideration of resources allocated to Whiteley police units and support from the police force.
11. Further information was sought regarding clarity on how rural areas can benefit from police funding and programs.
12. How could incidents not classed as hate crimes that consume significant police resources be better handled?
13. It was asked if the number of reports had increased, was there more financial incentives to increase awareness and campaigns?
14. The relationship between drug use and rural locations.

These points were responded to by Chief Inspector Korine Bishop, Dawn Adey, Strategic Director, and Sandra Tuddenham, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Manager accordingly.

RESOLVED:

The committee noted the report and agreed that:

1. Officers would contact the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) concerning the issues raised regarding residents' ability to contact the emergency services.
2. That a further breakdown of urban and rural crime statistics for the Winchester District be provided.
3. Officers to contact Stop Domestic Abuse to understand if further data was available regarding non-refuge numbers.
4. The Cabinet Member consider the committee's comments raised during the discussion of the item.

7. **DEVELOPMENT DELIVERY PLANS - CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION**

Councillor Martin Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management introduced the report CAB3484 which outlined proposals for the Development Delivery Plans - Central Winchester Regeneration (available here). The introduction encompassed the following points:

1. The Central Winchester Regeneration project was a vital opportunity to revitalise the city centre.
2. The project would deliver new homes, including affordable housing, alongside new employment and business opportunities.
3. Despite prevailing national financial constraints impacting similar regeneration schemes, the council had confidence in the viability of this project.
4. Jigsaw had been confirmed as the development partner, having been appointed in March 2023 and formalising the agreement in April 2024.
5. The cabinet would be requested to approve the development delivery plan, infrastructure delivery plan, public realm delivery plan, phase delivery plan, and the initial financial model.
6. The project aimed to establish the highest standards for the public realm, green and blue infrastructure, and transport infrastructure.
7. The footprint process would be implemented to comprehensively assess sustainability and social value throughout the planning process.
8. The report marked the next stage of the project, with a master plan anticipated later in the year, followed by a planning application expected in late 2026 or early 2027.

Councillor Danny Lee addressed the committee and welcomed the engagement in shaping the development brief. He acknowledged the development delivery plan's purpose in outlining the project's logistics. His concerns focused on the sustainability and long-term viability of the Central Winchester Regeneration project, particularly the need for a robust foundation to inform future planning. Councillor Lee welcomed the green-blue infrastructure strategy, highlighting its critical role given the environmental risks and Winchester's river setting. He asked about the strategy's completion timeline and its influence on the master plan. He also expressed surprise at the omission of the Manchester Ignition project, which offered innovative green financing solutions.

Councillor Caroline Horrill addressed the committee, raising questions for officers and the development team. Councillor Horrill asked about the developer's extended viability check and questioned the project's financial assumptions, including the land values. She also asked about bridging the funding gap from lost rental income and the success of the Kings Walk renovation. Councillor Horrill questioned the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, the commitment to the supplementary planning document, and the lengthy design and application timelines. She also inquired about the interim bus hub, the micro-consolidation site, and the inclusion of council homes. Finally, She queried if the council had adequately maximised the potential benefits from the land and properties under its stewardship.

The committee was asked to provide feedback on the proposals outlined in the draft cabinet report CAB3484, scheduled for consideration by the cabinet on 13 March 2025.

The committee proceeded to ask questions and in summary, the following matters were raised:

1. An indication was sought regarding the anticipated commencement of physical development.
2. A request was made for project headlines to be published on the Council website.
3. Clarification was sought regarding the project's anticipated contribution to economic vibrancy.
4. A question was asked regarding the economic self-sufficiency of the proposed development.
5. The ownership of the development site was questioned, specifically in the event of Jigsaw withdrawing from the project, a further question was raised what would happen if it was decided the project was not viable.
6. Further information was sought regarding the Kings Walk development.
7. Several questions were asked regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), including its use within the project, its allocation in rural areas, and the potential for increasing the overall CIL Budget.
8. A question was asked regarding the inclusion of council homes within the proposed development.
9. Further information was sought regarding the Bus Station Redevelopment, bus routes more generally, and National Express bus services.
10. A question was asked regarding Local Government Re-organisation and the opportunities and potential risks it might present for the project.
11. Further information was sought regarding the dynamics of footfall.
12. A question was asked regarding the Ignition Project in Manchester and whether there were lessons learned that could be of assistance.
13. Further information was sought regarding the Movement Strategy.

These points were addressed by Councillor Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Assets, Dawn Adey, Strategic Director, Ken Baikie, Director of Regeneration, Emma Taylor, Head of Programme: Regeneration, and Matt Woolgar, Jigsaw.

The committee agreed to move into an exempt session to consider the exempt appendix, during which further questions were raised regarding land values, project assumptions, and risks. The committee returned to the open session to debate the report further and to agree the following:

RESOLVED:

The committee noted the report and agreed that:

1. Officers consider providing a member briefing on the contents of the development agreement.
2. Officers to provide an update on the Council website following the public briefing, including key events and timescales.
3. The Cabinet Member consider the points made regarding increasing the wider City Council CIL budget.
4. The Cabinet Member discusses with Hampshire County Council potential avenues for enhancing highways investment relating to the project.
5. The Cabinet Member consider the committee's comments raised during the discussion of the item.

8. **Q3 FINANCE & PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Councillor Martin Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Assets introduced the report, ref CAB3493, which set out the Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring report (available here). Councillor Tod advised that the report highlighted the council's achievements in the past quarter and welcomed questions from the committee.

Councillor Danny Lee addressed the committee and raised concerns regarding the progress toward meeting the district's 2030 carbon-neutral target, questioning how risks to the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan would be addressed. He felt that there needed to be greater clarity in future reports concerning progress on climate emergency initiatives, waste management, and neutrality mitigation measures. He requested more information on the Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan, the local area energy plan, and the Central Winchester Regeneration. Finally, he questioned whether the anticipated increase in housing necessitated an adjustment to carbon delivery targets and sought clarity on the carbon impacts and costs throughout the supply chain.

The committee was asked to raise with the Deputy Leader or relevant Cabinet member any issues arising from the information in this report, ref CAB3493, which was to be presented to Cabinet on 13 March 2025, and to consider whether there were any items of significance to resolve or to be drawn to the attention of Cabinet.

The committee proceeded to ask questions and debate the report. In summary, the following matters were raised:

1. Clarification was requested on what was counted as the council's carbon emissions (page 420).
2. A question was raised concerning the district's carbon emissions, noting that the report stated carbon-neutral targets were a major risk but tracked as green and amber. It was also asked how the revised target of 520 kilotonnes of CO2 in 2030 aligned with additional housing.
3. Clarification was sought regarding the achievement of carbon neutrality, and if the only way to achieve this was through the decarbonisation of the energy grid.
4. In terms of the future of waste and recycling, it was asked if the council was aware of the requirement for businesses to recycle food waste and if this was something the council should be tracking through the BID.
5. On behalf of Councillor Power, a question was raised about why nutrient mitigation on page 425 of the papers was labelled as green.
6. Regarding the metric for homelessness, it was asked whether the increase should be a concern to the council.
7. Further information was sought regarding the KPIs used to demonstrate a vibrant economy and their adequacy.

These points were responded to by Dawn Adey, Strategic Director, Councillor Martin Tod, Leader and Cabinet Member for Assets, and Councillor Westwood, Cabinet Member for Housing accordingly.

RESOLVED:

The committee noted the report and agreed that:

1. Officers, in liaison with the Chairperson, arrange for a follow-up meeting with a small group of members to discuss existing and future KPIs used within the quarterly reports.
2. Officers, in liaison with the Chairperson, arrange a follow-up meeting with a small group of members regarding the issues raised in the meeting concerning public toilets.
3. Officers consider arranging a member briefing on Nutrient Neutrality to further understand the challenges and limitations surrounding this matter.

9. **TO NOTE THE LATEST FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

RESOLVED

1. That the April 2025 to June 2025 Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.

Chairperson

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT TITLE: Q4 2024/25 PERFORMANCE MONITORING

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: CLLR CUTLER – DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Contact Officer: Simon Howson Tel No: 01962 848 104

Email: showson@winchester.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Scrutiny Committee:

1. Raises with the Deputy Leader or relevant Cabinet member any issues arising from the information in this report, ref CAB3505, which is being presented to Cabinet on the 18 June 2025 and considers whether there are any items of significance to resolve or to be drawn to the attention of Cabinet.

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Performance Report – January to March 2025

Recommendation

That Cabinet notes the progress achieved during Q4 of 2024/25 and endorses the contents of the report.

Index

Performance Report

Section 1 - Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener district.

Section 2 - Living Well

Section 3 - Homes For All

Section 4 - Vibrant Local Economy

Section 5 - Your Services. Your Voice

Section 6 - Regeneration and Growth

Updates since Q3 report

Section 2 of this report now includes the quarterly highlights of the Tier 1 River Park Cricket Pavilion project. This project involves replacing the River Park/North Walls cricket pavilion with a new bespoke facility.

Section 3 of this report has been updated to include the quarterly highlight report for the Housing Compliance (Tier 1) project.

As is usual for the final quarterly performance report of the year, the full year financial position for the 2024/25 year will be reported in the separate annual outturn report to Scrutiny Committee on 8 September.

Red/Amber/Green status

The table below provides a brief explanation of the RAG status used throughout this report to quickly and visually communicate the status of projects and service plan actions.

GREEN	**Normal level of attention** Project is on track to be delivered on time and within agreed resources
AMBER	**Minor concern** Some issues, being managed, needs to be closely monitored
RED	**Major concern** Serious issues, milestone dates being missed, recovery plan required

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Section 1 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District

Delivery highlights – January to March 2025

- Adopted an Air Quality Strategy at Cabinet 13 March 2025
- Approval by the Digital and IT Delivery Group (11 March) to procure the Biodiversity Net Gain software “Mycelia”.
- Completion of habitat management - scrub clearance works at council “ecological sites” Whiteshute Ridge and Greenacres.
- Processed over 100 Tree Preservation Order (TPO) applications and made 3 new TPOs.
- New Tree Framework commenced in January. Planted 168 trees and inspected 875 trees.
- Communications have developed and are delivering a detailed communications plan to support all the projects, grants, campaigns, and events in the CNAP.
- Carried out internal promotion of existing staff sustainable active travel initiatives: EV Car scheme, Love to Ride Winter Wheelers and Car Share Scheme via My Journey.
- WCC are part of the Portsmouth City Council / Utility ECO consortium for the delivery of 'Warm Homes: Local Grant’ from 2025/28. Mobilisation work commenced to deploy this energy efficiency retrofit scheme which will cover on and off gas properties.
- WinACC, PECAN and The Environment Centre have been setting up 'My Home Made Better' campaign. This has involved developing communications material, designing the website as well as recruiting and training staff.
- Completed the delivery of 10 low carbon audits for local businesses. Under the council’s Green Business Grants, to help reduce carbon emissions, the council have funded two business solar pv projects with estimated carbon saving of 32.2tCO2.
- Grants totalling £1,796 were awarded to support the work of local voluntary conservation and biodiversity groups such as Upper Itchen Restoration CIC and Soberton & Newtown Conservation Group.

Our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (Council)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney		**Project Sponsor:** Dawn Adey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**	**Carbon**

RAG Status Update

Carbon savings attributed to switching all council fleet to low carbon vehicles by March 2025 will not be achieved due to vehicle availability and procurement lead time. Additionally, anticipated carbon savings associated with switching leased assets (leisure centres) to low carbon have not been possible for the 2024/25 CNAP reporting year.

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

Good progress has been made across all pathways for Q4. The following updates are some of the key highlights:

- Approval has been given to procure two Electric vehicles for Animal Welfare. Financial approval has been granted for buying four low carbon vehicles for Special Maintenance, the business case has been drafted and will need to go to ELB for approval.
- The Council approved the budget allocation to cover the supply of green energy (gas and electricity) in the Medium-Term Financial strategy. The price for green energy supply 2025/26 has been negotiated and a more competitive rate has been secured.
- Installed more efficient LED lighting at Chesil Multistorey Car Park.
- EV waste vehicle truck is up and running and is being trialled on waste collection route in the town centre.
- Commissioned solar desktop feasibility studies for small scale solar PV on council assets this includes both rooftop and canopy sites. This will help inform the viability of the sites' solar pv potential and feed into the outline business case.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Embed EV waste truck in rounds to assist with household waste collection.
- Special Maintenance to submit business case for purchase of four new low carbon vehicles. Procure 2 Electric Vehicles for Animal Welfare team.
- Review outcomes of desktop solar pv assessments. Commission structural surveys of viable solar rooftop sites. Draft and develop outline business case for small scale solar PV on council assets.
- Pilot and launch new staff benefit ‘Heat Scheme’ to help staff achieve cheaper energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.
- Launch of annual staff travel survey. Undertake data collection and analysis for 2024/25 council carbon footprint report.

Our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (District)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney		**Project Sponsor:** Dawn Adey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**	**Carbon**

RAG Status Update

Both timeline and carbon are amber. Whilst progress has been made across the pathways, some projects are still in their infancy and will take time to deliver the kilo tonnes of CO2e savings required. This major programme risk is being actively managed.

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

Great progress has been made across all pathways for Q4.

Key progress

- WCC invited to work with Scottish and Southern Energy Network to develop the first pilot digital Local Area Energy Plans using their Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator (LENZA) tool. An initial kick off meeting has started to review data collection and model interventions.
- The Community Solar Support Scheme was completed and delivered nine solar PV systems on community buildings (four of these installations have happened in Q4) these have saved 14.7tCO2e to date.
- An outline business case for the solar for business programme was submitted and approved based on the Marwell and Biffa model. Progress has been made on drafting a decision record and carrying out financial modelling.
- Work has progressed on mapping and continuing to develop the Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan for 2025 – 30 targets and the 2025/26 Biodiversity Action Plan for the district.
- Successful outcome of Social Housing fund bid to government Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, allocated £3.5M to retrofit council homes with ASHP, solar pv and battery storage where applicable.

Actions for the next quarter:

- HCC Active Travel Grant – identify and work with two schools (primary and secondary) to deliver Bike Bus scheme.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation fund - finalise grant acceptance letter. Procure and appoint contractors to deliver measures. Identify eligible properties.
- Carry out desktop technoeconomic feasibility study for solar for business scheme. Draft PPA agreement.
- Continue to develop and draft the Nature Improvement Plan, to be presented to HEP committee in July.

Future of Waste and Recycling

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney	**Project Sponsor:** Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

RAG Status Update

Due to a delay in decision making regarding the new materials recovery facility (MRF), the introduction of additional plastics recycling such as pots, tubs and trays in Hampshire will be delayed. The council is awaiting news of a decision from HCC and will then be able to set a definitive timeline for delivery of this element of the project. DEFRA have been advised of the delay which will impact all councils in Hampshire. **The timeline RAG status has been changed to amber to reflect this uncertainty.**

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

- **Grounds Maintenance relocation** - The lease for the Winnall depot was delayed due to a property sale but has been agreed with new owners. Fitout works are on track, with key areas completed by mid-March.
- **Preparing the Biffa depot for food waste -** Biffa is working on specifications for preparing the depot for the food waste service, with works scheduled to start after procurement in summer 2025.
- **Communal Properties: preparing for food waste recycling -** A joint research project with Southampton University, Test Valley BC, and Eastleigh BC aims to improve recycling in communal properties, with results expected in summer 2025. Discussions with the Housing team are ongoing to address space for extra bins in some communal properties.
- **Funding and Budgets -** New Burdens funding details for transitional costs have been received and are being assessed against the Council's budget.
- **Communications with Businesses -** Stakeholders have been informed about new commercial regulations through our website, social media, Parish Connect, the Business Bulletin, and a webinar for the Sustainable Business Network - which was advertised to all businesses in the district, recorded and remains linked on our website. Food waste bins have been introduced in staff kitchen areas.
- **Procurement of food waste containers -** The procurement process for bins, caddies, and liners is complete, with deliveries expected in July and December.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Grounds Maintenance Contractor move into new depot.
- Continue contract variation process to introduce food waste collections.
- Work with Biffa to monitor vehicle procurement and delivery.
- Prepare an implementation and communication programme for food waste.
- Develop the phasing schedule for the phased rollout.

Nutrient Mitigation Solution

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Jackie Porter, Cllr Chris Westwood	**Project Sponsor:** Dawn Adey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

Progress achieved against last quarter.

- Inter-authority agreement between Partnership for South Hampshire has been signed; enabling the generation and sale of nutrient credits.
- 10 sites (Phase 1) have received discretionary advice from Natural England agreeing credits so are ready for procurement and work instruction. Procurement for the next plant upgrades is underway at time of writing (March 2025), and it has been agreed that procurement can be individual by site and not required to combine into one open tender. Overall procurement timeframe is therefore longer than expected.
- Final quotes have been received for the next plant upgrade and works will be instructed imminently.
- The first sales of credits from the 2 pilot plants have been completed – and other customers are finalising paperwork and payment.
- Desk-based and technical reports have been commissioned for the next 5 plant upgrades (Phase 2) for phosphorus credits. Technical reports are being reviewed.
- Desk-based technical reports have been commissions for 22 plant upgrades (Phase 3) for nitrogen credit generation.
- Price of credits has been agreed at £3,250 per Nitrate credit and £50,000 per Phosphate credit (unless upstream of Alresford) – this pricing information can now be communicated to potential purchasers.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Complete procurement and instruction of remaining plants for Phosphorous mitigation.
- If technically achievable, procure and instruct work on 5 plants in next phase.
- Review and select which of the following 22 plants should be investigated for nitrogen credit generation.
- Sell existing credits from the HRA pilot upgrades using Allocation Agreement and Unilateral Undertaking established.

Climate Emergency - Progress against our plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Develop an electric vehicle strategy *	Cllr Learney	Apr 25	Ongoing
2	Install EV rapid chargers where they are needed across the district	Cllr Learney	Aug 24	**Complete**
3	Complete the final phase of the repairs to the Weirs	Cllr Learney	Jul 24	**Complete**
4	Deliver programme of retrofit carbon reduction measures to our housing stock	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	Ongoing
5	Review and implement nutrient neutrality mitigation measures	Cllr Porter	Aug 25	Ongoing
6	Adopt an air quality strategy, complying with National Air Quality Standards	Cllr Porter	Dec 24	**Complete**
7	Introduce doorstep food waste collections and increase recycling	Cllr Learney	Apr 26	Ongoing
8	Increase our recycling rates by introducing a simpler approach in line with Government programme for waste reforms	Cllr Learney	Apr 26	Ongoing
9	Switch our buses and waste collection lorries to low or no carbon fuels	Cllr Learney	Jul 24	**Complete**
10	Adopt and implement an Active Travel Plan	Cllr Learney	Apr 25	**Complete**
11	Continue to embed sustainable procurement across our contracts and supply chain to support the carbon neutrality programme.	Cllr Cutler	Mar 25	Ongoing
12	Investigation into provision of a natural burial area at the cemetery	Cllr Becker	Jun 25	

Red/Amber Status

***1** - Electric Vehicle Strategy – Amber progress made on the initial research stage. Further work required to develop this into a plan. This will be carried forward into the Service Plan for 2025/26.

Measuring our progress

	Long range trackers (Annual)								
No.	**Performance measure**	**Cabinet member (Cllr)**	**Lead Director**	**17/18 (base)**	**21/22**	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**Target 24/25**
TCE1	Council total market-based emissions (tCO2e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	4,251.1	4,260.2	3,970.3	4,090.5	tbc	3,700
TCE1a	Council market-based Scope 1 & 2 emissions (tCO2e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	1,667.8	595.6	523.4	398.2		
	% change relative to 2017/18 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		-64%	-69%	-76%		
TCE1b	Council market-based Scope 3 emissions (tCO2e) [1]	Learney	Dawn Adey	2,583.4	3,664.6	3,446.9	3,692.3		
	% change relative to 2017/18 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		42%	33%	43%		

			Lead Director	2017 (base)	2020	2021	2022	Target 2030	Status
TCE2a	District territorial GHG (ktCO2e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	929.8	763.6	805.5	786.0		
	% change relative to 2017 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		-18%	-13%	-15%		
TCE2b	District carbon emissions under scope of LA influence (ktCO2e)	Learney	Dawn Adey	658.0	545.3	578.3	555.2	520.00	n/a
	% change relative to 2017 baseline year	Learney	Dawn Adey		-17%	-12%	-16%		

TCE1 and 2 -

Reporting on KPIs for carbon targets has been updated and modified as of Q4 to show the different scopes for organisation reporting. A reduction of 96% is forecast for the reduction of carbon emissions included in Scope 1 & 2 (TCE1a above).
Under district emissions two datasets have been included. TCE2a captures Greenhouse gas emission in district and includes large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use, livestock, and soils. TCE2b is carbon emissions within the scope of local authority influence this excludes large industrial sites,

railways, motorways, land-use, livestock, and soils. District emissions are compiled by the government are reported 2 years in arrears. Next expected data release is June 2025.

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
TCE3	% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, and composting	Learney	Simon Hendey	36.13%	42.84%	43.26%	37.79%	35.70%	40%	
TCE4	Residual household waste average kg / household	Learney	Simon Hendey	102.63	105.36	98.55	103.91	102.42	<420 kg/hh	
TCE5	Energy usage (kWh) corporate buildings: Electricity [2]	Learney	Simon Hendey	151,545	116,815	135,277	142,277	146,880	Measure only	n/a
TCE6	Energy usage (kWh) corporate buildings: Gas [2]	Learney	Simon Hendey	198,383	59,794	59,211	137,598	188,055	Measure only	n/a
TCE7	Retrofit adjustments – total number of houses completed (running total for financial year) [3]	Westwood	Simon Hendey	358	47	172	223	247	291	
TCE8	Retrofit adjustments – total number of measures completed across the houses in TCE7 (running total for financial year) [3]	Westwood	Simon Hendey	543	81	411	424	486	536	
TCE9	Renewable energy generated (kWh) from solar panels [4]	Learney	Simon Hendey	43,197	138,388	113,011	25,842	34,400	Measure only	n/a

Commentary:

TCE3 – The average for the year was 40% and so on target.

TCE7/8 - Due to the various complexities? in retrofit delivery the targets through the year are adjusted to reflect the changing landscape. Setting an absolute annual target for total possible number of properties that could have retrofit measures is always going to be hard to achieve as it is not within our gift to require tenants to accept the works. Targets were revised to 291 properties and 536 measures this is based on Retrofit Improvements and Planned Maintenance Window upgrades but still were optimistic.

TCE9 – Reporting platform for WSLP solar PV has not been reporting for February and March, so Q4 figures do not include this data. Updates have been requested.

Footnotes:

[1] *Since 2017/18 the council has acquired more assets and reports more activities under scope 3 (this includes WSLP, Chesil Lodge, Home working and staff commuting, council cared for housing schemes).*

[2] *Relates to electricity and gas usage at the City Offices campus (City Offices, main Guildhall plus West Wing); Due to the way metering is set up this includes the whole of each building - so university, CAB and NHS offices are recharged a percentage for their use.*

[3] *Figures from 23/24 relate to that year's different set of properties and measures; 24/25 begins a new set of properties and measures. The two KPI work together, so the total number of properties targeted (265) have multiple measures targets (890) against them.*

[4] *Data reported relates to: WCC Sites (City Offices, Cipher House, Vaultex), Winchester Sport and Leisure Park, Biffa and Marwell Zoo.*

Section 2 Living Well

Delivery highlights – January to March 2025

- Ten projects were awarded a total of more than £760,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding by Cabinet in March. Notable projects included a new 3G sports pitch at Kings School and improvement of a 2-mile offroad footpath between the Worthies and Winchester. Other funded projects included investment in community facilities, outdoor play, allotments and cycling infrastructure.

- More than 50 children from six schools across the district took part in a celebratory festival to mark the culmination of ten weeks of sports sessions at local primary schools that involved over 700 children. The final event took place in February at the King George V Playing Fields and the University of Winchester all-weather pitch, and the project was funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

- Issues and priorities emerging from the development of a new Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facility Assessment were considered by the Health and Environment Policy Committee in February.

- The second meeting of the Stanmore Community Network was held in February, bringing together a strong mix of local organisations, council representatives, and community stakeholders. The meeting explored areas for future collaboration, network members' priorities and opportunities for engagement. Attendees shared ideas on community-led initiatives, volunteer engagement and resource-sharing. There are now sound foundations on which the network can build.

- The Homes for Ukraine support programme continued to deliver face-to-face advice and support, wellbeing sessions to both adults and young people, and saw grant payments to 79 individuals to assist with independence and integration. The British Council were contracted to deliver intensive English language learning courses, which commenced with 60 learners enrolled, and Ukrainian guests were supported to attend digital skills training and engage with HCC Apprenticeship Week.

- The final round of district small grants was oversubscribed resulting in a total of £10,868 of grants being awarded, with a further £10,624 in grants awarded from the Town Forum. Twenty grant awards supported a wide range of community activities across twelve different wards, projects funded include encouraging physical activity at Colden Common Bowls Club, Tichborne Park Cricket Club, Winchester Ramblers, and Compton Football Club. Also encouraging participation in community activity such as a children's event organised by Bishops Waltham Town Team, a new fortnightly carers companionship café in Newlands and a new chair-based exercise class in Weeke.

- Public art experts Studio Response were commissioned using developer contributions to deliver a new creative programme for residents in and around the Waterlooville area that will connect local communities using the power of words and storytelling. The project will feature a series of workshops for local residents to share their stories and anecdotes from living in the Waterlooville area.

River Park Cricket Pavilion

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kathleen Becker	**Project Sponsor:** Susan Robbins	
Project RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

- Contract tendering completed.
- Contract awarded and standstill period complete.
- Contracted award was within budget and to time.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Works are due to commence on site in late May 2025.
- Initial works in May will be the site set up where the area will be secured with hoarding.
- Demolition of the current pavilion will begin in June 2025; foundations will follow with the frame being erected in the autumn.

Living Well - progress against our plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Work closely with local charities and voluntary organisations to review our Integration Programme for Ukrainian guests	Cllr Becker	Dec 25	
2	Develop a network of private and public sector spaces throughout the district to support a Spaces of Sanctuary scheme	Cllr Becker	Sept 24	**Complete**
3	Work with developers at each major development area to provide public facilities, green spaces, and areas to play	Cllr Becker	Ongoing	
4	Develop a Community and Wellbeing Strategy *	Cllr Becker	Mar 25	
5	Deliver a wide range of physical activities through school and community sports coaching programmes	Cllr Becker	Feb 25	**Complete**
6	Enable, engage, and empower young, disadvantaged people to fulfil their potential through participation in sport and outdoor activities	Cllr Becker	Ongoing	
7	Support for residents with the cost-of-living crisis with the roll out of Council Tax Hardship Grants	Cllr Cutler	Mar 24	**Complete**
8	Deliver a programme supporting residents to live longer better *	Cllr Becker	Mar 25	

Red/Amber Status

***4** – Consultants Temple Group finished their work in March. However, additional efforts are needed to finalise the strategy before it can be adopted. This action has been included in the 2025/26 action plan and will be addressed in the early part of the 2025/26.

***8** – A delay in securing approval from Hampshire County Council for the funding to deliver this programme means that the commencement date has slipped slightly from March to May 2025.

Measuring our progress

	Long range trackers (Annual)								
No.	**Performance measure**	**Cabinet member (Cllr)**	**Lead Director**	**20/21**	**21/22**	**22/23**	**23/24**	**24/25**	**Target 24/25**
LW1	% of adults participating in 150+ mins of sport or physical activity per week within the Winchester district	Becker	Dawn Adey	n/a	73.7%	73.0%	73.3%	69.2%	Measure only
LW2	Number of unemployed (source: Economic Activity data)	Thompson	Dawn Adey	1,800	1,700	1,235	1,900	1,900	Measure only

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	**Performance measure**	**Cabinet member (Cllr)**	**Lead Director**	**Q4 - 23/24**	**Q1 - 24/25**	**Q2 - 24/25**	**Q3 - 24/25**	**Q4 - 24/25**	**Target 24/25**	**Status**
LW3	Winchester Sport and Leisure Park - total number of visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	304,205	340,189	340,178	347,038	358,832	1,233,094	
LW4	Winchester Sport & Leisure Park – total number of all concessionary rate visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	128,983	131,095	135,532	136,816	140,036	442,798	
LW5	Meadowside - total number of visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	21,410	19,506	19,886	18.892	20,977	73,050	
LW6	Meadowside - total number of all concessionary rate visits	Becker	Dawn Adey	444	2,552	2,677	2,631	3,481	10,242	
LW7	Number of housing benefit claimants (rolling total)	Cutler	Liz Keys	2,811	2,726	2,553	2,452	2,301	Measure only	n/a
LW8	Number of Council tax reduction claimants (rolling total)	Cutler	Liz Keys	5,898	5,854	5,850	5,805	5,784	Measure only	n/a
LW9	Average time taken to process new housing benefit claims (days)	Cutler	Liz Keys	19.4	20.73	25.95	16.24	21.38	24 days	
LW10	Number of reported fly-tips (actual incidents) [4]	Cutler	Simon Hendey	244	168	158	185	246	<1,100	
LW11	% of fly-tips cleared within contract deadlines/days	Cutler	Simon Hendey	n/a	81%	72%	85%	86%	80%	

No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
LW12	Number of reported graffiti incidents (online form totals)	Cutler	Simon Hendey	15	26	11	9	12	<169	
LW13	Number of "Public Space" issues reported (online form totals inc. litter, bins, etc.) [5]	Cutler	Simon Hendey	199	143	131	121	163	<600	

Commentary:

LW1 – The data comes from the Sport England Active Lives survey, for which response rates were 22% down this year. Numerous areas saw unexpected variances in their results so we will need to review the next year's figures to see if a trend is emerging or whether this was an unreliable result.

LW11 – The table and notes below provide further information relating to the percentage of reported fly-tips cleared within KPI.

	Q1 24/25	Q2 24/25	Q3 24/25	Q4 24/25
Total fly tips confirmed cleared	148	148	156	168
Fly- tips up to 1 metre cubed in size	32	36	31	24
Number of which cleared in time (5 working days submission to clearance)	23	25	21	15
Percentage of up to 1 metre cubed cleared in time	72%	70%	68%	63%
Fly-tips size 1 metre cubed and above	116	112	125	144
Of which in time (15 working days submission to clearance)	98	83	111	133
Percentage of 1 metre cubed and above cleared in time	85%	74%	90%	92%
Average percentage of all fly-tips cleared in time	**82%**	**73%**	**85%**	**88%**

- The completion targets of 5 and 15 working days include 3 to 5 days for evaluation of fly-tip for any enforcement action and 2 to 10 days for clearance (depending on size of up to a metre cubed / 1 metre cubed and above).
- The target of 80% was selected as a viable baseline as this is the first time it has been included in the strategic key performance indicators and will be reviewed annually.
- Compared to the same periods for 23/24 (Q1 to Q4), total fly-tip numbers reported have decreased from 880 to 756 over the period.

Footnotes:

[4] *Figures are net total of 'actual' reports received (less any that have been identified as duplicates, out of district, private land etc.)*

[5] *Figures based on total form reports received for 'Clean my Street' relating to bins/bring sites, street mess – human, syringes, spilt waste, street sweeping, overflowing litter/dog waste bins etc.-- glass, litter, alongside report forms submitted for Park Areas and Public Conveniences. The previous kpi for 23/24 – 'litter' line was only one item from the form, not inclusive of the wider set of 'street mess' issues.*

Section 3 Homes for All

Delivery highlights – January to March 2025

- The final vacant Venta Living Ltd apartment was let on 7 March 2025 and all 41 units are now let. The scheme has supported many keyworkers to find good quality and affordable privately rented accommodation within the City Centre area.
- The community safety partnership has worked with Swanmore College on initiatives to reduce Violence Against Women & Girls Safer (VAWG) through peer heroes changemakers with an aim for young people to take ownership and create something that they believe will reduce violence experienced by women and girls in their school.
- Healthy Relationship workshops delivered to (pastoral leaders and EDI committee members) at Barton Peveril College. Youth Options Outreach will offer 6 sessions around healthy relationships, misogyny and incels.
- An extension of funding for ASB Grip Patrols with BID Rangers has been agreed to roll on to Q1 which includes patrol cover outside of core hours to include the hot spot period between 5pm and 7pm.
- The review and refresh of the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was launched through a well-attended homelessness forum, which included key partners and stakeholders. The consultation process has started, with customer service questionnaires distributed to everyone who has used the Housing Options service in the past year, as well as to stakeholders and housing staff.
- A successful grant bid made to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DENSNZ) secured £3,458 753 of funding. The funding will deliver on a programme that aims to improve 672 homes over the next three years through a mix of new technology (Solar PV, Air Source Heat Pumps) and building fabric cavity-wall and loft insulation improvements aiming to save carbon and reduce fuel bills.

New Homes Programme

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Chris Westwood	**Project Sponsor:** Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

RAG Status Update

There is an increase in programme confidence due to the recent S106 acquisition negotiations, but RAG status remains Amber due to the lack of control over the pace of delivery by the private developer market. Continued commitment to commissioned schemes to mitigate S106 acquisitions risks.

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

- Following completion of the Winnall scheme in Q4 2023/24, new flats and houses continue to be occupied. This includes shared ownership homes and, following the signing of a lease with Venta Living Ltd (the council's housing company), homes for market rent.
- Market engagement with SME and volume housebuilders is ongoing, with the aim of securing new build units for use as council housing.
- Legal contracts completed in February 2025 with Alfred Homes Ltd for land and the construction of 10 affordable homes at Hazeley Road, Twyford.
- Discussions continue with Cala regarding the acquisition of 156 S106 units at Kings Barton, Winchester.
- Feasibility studies are underway on a number of pipeline council commissioned schemes with the aim of making them financially viable against a challenging economic backdrop.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Progress detailed contract negotiations for the S106 acquisitions at Kings Barton.
- Corner House, Winchester – options analysis and prepare outline business case for Cabinet review.
- Woodman Close, Sparsholt – tender for a build contractor and prepare final business case for Cabinet review.
- Southbrook Cottages, Micheldever – finalise accounts with build contractor and prepare post completion report for Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet review.

Housing Compliance Improvement Plan

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Chris Westwood	**Project Sponsor:** Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

RAG Status Update

The RAG status is amber due to challenges around resource constraints and the challenges of securing resources in a very competitive recruitment market. Resource proposals are being presented to ELB end of April to ensure appropriate resource in place to support service improvement work. In addition, some tasks are being outsourced to external providers to deliver key activities to ensure timelines can be achieved.

Compliance works were not known at the time of budget setting for 2024/25, the HRA forecast was updated in Q3 to allow budget. Regular monitoring of budget and trends in place to monitor overspends and plans around budget forecasting.

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

- The project has progressed significantly across this quarter in the area of data validation work to reach a more assured position on all 6 areas of compliance. This work supports the foundations of good data quality and validation methods for ongoing reporting, monitoring, and service delivery.
- At the end of Quarter 4 we have been able to provide more robust, validated, and accurate data across compliance programmes.
- Mobilised fire door survey programme
- Mobilised Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) programme
- Appointed multi-disciplinary specialist team to support fire safety work in our HRBs.
- Appointed interim Fire Safety Manager
- Work to progress and appoint a third-party supplier to deliver 100% stock condition programme has been progressed to contract award stage.
- Decision made to appoint third party supplier to support with review of compliance policies & procedures due to internal resource constraints and skills gaps in some compliance areas

Actions for the next quarter:

- Appoint and mobilise work with third party supplier to deliver suite of updated compliance policies & procedures.
- Seek approval and recruit Building Safety Manager to assist with driving this service improvement work.
- Mobilise stock condition programme with pilot phase identified to ensure approach, data collation and outputs from survey achieves project objectives linked to accurate stock condition data.
- Review and develop compliance reporting to provide accurate position of remedial actions resulting from programmes.
- Introduce monthly exception reports across all compliance programmes to ensure internal controls are in place to validate data & reporting against these programmes.
- Progress and mobilise asbestos survey programme.
- Complete market research and seek approval to procure new Asset management system

Homes for All – progress against our plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status R/A/G
1	Review HRA Business Plan in light of the economic circumstances and review current planned services and programmes.	Cllr Westwood	Nov 24	**Complete**
2	Deliver the outcomes and expectations of the standards set by the Regulator of Social Housing	Cllr Westwood	Ongoing	
3	Review of Hampshire Home Choice Framework	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
4	Deliver council housing retrofit carbon reduction programme	Cllr Westwood	Ongoing	
5	Develop and implement an Older Persons Accommodation Strategy	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
6	Seek opportunities for homes to be offered across the district by Venta Living Ltd	Cllr Westwood	Ongoing	
7	Collaborate with partners to deliver the aims set out in the Winchester Community Safety Delivery Plan 24/25	Cllr Westwood	Mar 25	**Complete**
8	Review and refresh the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
9	Develop a Temporary Accommodation Strategy	Cllr Westwood	Mar 25	**Complete**
10	Complete the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation and embed new policies and processes across the organisation *	Cllr Westwood	Dec 24	

Red/Amber status

***10**. The DAHA accreditation submission was delayed in December as we could not demonstrate a CRM management system that captures all Domestic Abuse interactions and data in one place. It was the only criteria not met that delayed the accreditation process, and the intention is to create an in-house data solution to resubmit for accreditation in June 2025. This work is carried forward to the 25/26 action plan.

Measuring our performance

Long range trackers (Annual)												
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Target 23/24	23/24 Status	Target 24/25	24/25 Status
HFA1	% of all WCC homes achieving energy efficiency rating of C or above	Westwood	Simon Hendey	62%	63%	65%	70%	tbc	70%		70%	tbc
HFA2	Net cumulative total new home completions across the district (rolling total)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	n/a	121	139	276	308	1,000 by 2030		1,000 by 2032	tbc
HFA3	Homelessness – numbers recorded as rough sleepers (as at year end)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	n/a	n/a	2	3	5	0	Annual Count	0	

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
HFA4	Average time for homeless household to receive offer of a permanent home (days – as at quarter end)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	n/a	95	158	332	310	365 days	
HFA5	Numbers on housing waiting list	Westwood	Simon Hendey	1,538	1,592	1,575	1,623	1,569	Measure only	n/a
HFA6	Voids cumulative re-let time (general needs and older persons) (calendar days)	Westwood	Simon Hendey	15.63	22.59	19.81	20.52	19.76	13	

Comments from CHOS on quarter where status is amber or red:

HFA3: The target has not been met due to a number of challenges with regards to the reduction in stage 1 accommodation being available for individuals at risk of rough sleeping, general rising living costs and availability of suitable accommodation, particularly one-bedroom accommodation.

HFA6: Meeting the void turnaround target remains challenging in the light of changing customer demographics, housing preferences and improving the quality of voids work. We have since carried out benchmarking through HouseMark which confirms that issues facing void turnaround times is growing across the sector and proving more intractable than could have been envisaged. HouseMark figures for February 2025 show little sign of improvement, with void rates 24% higher than 12 months ago and average relet times remaining higher than 50 days for the second month in a row supporting the proposal to revise our current voids target.

Section 4 Vibrant Local Economy

Delivery highlights – January to March 2025

Economic Development

- Completed the delivery of the government's UK Shared Prosperity (UKSP) and Rural England Prosperity (REPF) funded programme with a total of £1,689,000 of funding awarded to 52 projects across the district supporting local investment.
- 61 businesses supported with either commercialisation, incubation and scale up, acceleration and digital productivity or net zero report through the Business Growth Factory which was funded through the UKSP programme.
- A major project from the Green Economic Development Strategy Action Plan is the development of an outline business case, based on the Marwell and Biffa model, for Winchester Science Centre's solar PV power purchase agreement, submitted for on 13 February 2025.
- Completed delivery of low carbon assessment programme resulting in 10 completed audits and if all actions are completed will result in an annual energy saving total of 41,750 kWh.
- Five green business grants awarded and six projects through the UKSP and REPF programme that have resulted in businesses reducing their energy consumption or increasing renewable energy generation by installing solar PV or EV charging points.
- 230 residents engaged with the digital skills programme, funded through UKSP, through workshops or one to one session held throughout the district.
- Delivery of retrofit skills programme, funded through UKSP, in Partnership with Hampshire County Council, including: a retrofit conference and 187 learners including those completing Retrofit 101 or 202 courses.
- PR activity resulted in 81 pieces of coverage achieved with 425 Visit Winchester brand mentions, reaching a potential audience of 855 million. National and international media titles featuring coverage on Winchester include Woman's Weekly, Waitrose Magazine, Closer, My Weekly, The Scotsman, The Daily Mail, BBC Travel, The Times, Tatler, The Sun and Country Living (see PR reports and coverage for January, February and March).
- Jane Austen Winchester trail leaflet launched, and a Jane Austen/tourism showcase visit was arranged for Dr Danny Chambers, MP as part of English Tourism Week. Winchester and 'Jane Austen's England' was cited as number 1 in The New York Times list of 52 favourite 'Places to go in 2025'. Broadcast media opportunities secured for That's TV (regional) and BBC Breakfast (national) covering Jane Austen events across Winchester.
- Users to visitwinchester.co.uk up 14% for this quarter compared with Q4 2024. Total users for Q4 2025: 84,000. 'Things to do,' 'What's on' and 'Shopping' feature in the top five performing pages. Top performing content across Visit Winchester digital channels included itinerary for a great day out, walking, 5 places to see snow drops, valentines. All content promotes shopping and eating out to support footfall to Winchester's high streets.
- Attendance at Tourism Southeast Excursions Group Travel Show showcasing Winchester to over 100 group travel organisers.

- Visit Winchester sustainable tourism feature published in Hampshire Fare's Local Produce Guide (p.26-29).
- Partnered with Visit Britain to host journalists from USA, Nordics, Australia, writing for titles including Lonely Planet, Conde Nast Traveler, and Escape (Australia's leading weekend newspaper which has a cumulative print and online readership sitting just under 2.5million).
- Over 100 creatives from businesses across the district attended Creative Industries Growth Programme, delivered in partnership with Evolve Advisory and funded by UKSP.
- Cultural Strategy end of year one action plan report completed and shared with the "cultural collective" stakeholder group. Of the 20 actions agreed to be undertaken the vast majority have been implemented with a small number not fully completed and carried forward for further action in year two.
- West Waterlooville Art Programme 'Plot Lines' website and Instagram are now live. Writers recruited for workshop series two and three. First milestone evaluation meeting has taken place, exploring measuring the future success of the programme.

Vibrant Local Economy - Progress against our Plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status
1	Produce event toolkit and associated event management guidance	Cllr Thompson	June 24	**Complete**
2	Installation of new information boards with maps and wayfinding information	Cllr Thompson	June 24	**Complete**
3	Undertake consumer marketing activity including production of a public art trail leaflet	Cllr Thomoson	Sep 24	**Complete**
4	Support independent business (food and drink, retail) and market towns across the district	Cllr Thomspon	ongoing	Ongoing
5	Support employment and skills projects and plans	Cllr Thompson	ongoing	Ongoing
6	Develop a Sustainable Tourism Tactical Plan	Cllr Thompson	Mar 25	
7	Develop and deliver a programme of Jane Austen 2025 PR and marketing	Cllr Thomspon	Jan 25	**Complete**
8	Support local investment through both the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funding programme	Cllr Thompson	Mar 25	**Complete**
9	Deliver the Green Economic Development Strategy Action Plan 2024 - 2027	Cllr Thompson	ongoing	Ongoing
10	Deliver Digital Growth Factory (UK Shared Prosperity 24/25 funded project)	Cllr Thompson	Feb 25	**Complete**
11	Explore future uses of the Guildhall and Abbey House	Cllr Tod	Spring 25	
12	Review of Concessionary Rental Policy	Cllr Tod	Jan 24	**Complete**
13	Implementation of a new Business Rates exemption and relief to support green technologies.	Cllr Cutler	Mar 24	**Complete**

Red/Amber status

6 - Resource allocated to collate evidence, baseline data and sector trends / insight in Q1 25/26 to underpin the plan's development which is carried forward into the 2025/26 service plan.

11 - Abbey House: No further work in this area due to significance of the property to the Mayor and consideration of LGR implications

Guildhall: Condition Surveys and appointment of Market Assessment consultant being undertaken. Aiming for September this year to clarify cost plan for Guildhall refurbishment works and conclude marketing for appointment of a Guildhall Operator to manage the building and events under a new lease of the Guildhall. This work will carry forward into 25/26.

Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)									
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Target 24/25
VLE1	% of economically active people in employment (aged 16-64 - source: NOMIS)	Thompson	Dawn Adey	77.4%	83.7%	75.1%	81.5%	87%	Measure only
VLE2	Business counts (micro, small, medium, large – source: NOMIS)	Thompson	Dawn Adey	8,035	8,110	8,165	8,225	8,095	Measure only

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
VLE3	% of WCC revenue spend with local suppliers	Cutler	Liz Keys	31.18%	22.00%	22.00%	28.39%	18.80%	25%	
VLE4	% residents claiming out-of-work benefits [6]	Thompson	Dawn Adey	2.00%	2.10%	2.30%	2.20%	2.10%	Measure only	n/a
VLE5	City centre high street footfall – total number of unique visitors count [7]	Thompson	Dawn Adey	431,393	429,807	402,943	410,475	426,754	Measure only	n/a

Comments from CHOS on quarter where status is amber or red:

VLE3: The reason for the reduction in the % of local revenue spend decreasing compared to Q3 is due primarily to a large increase in expenditure for Q4 most of which was with Surrey based Cardo South Ltd for Housing and Estates projects. (Amber as year average is 22.80%)

Footnotes:

[6] *Data provided by ONS – "CC01 Regional labour market: Claimant Count by unitary and local authority". Published 17th of the month.*

[7] *Data provided by the Winchester BID Place from their Informatic reports – in April 2024, a new way for collecting data on unique visits was introduced therefore data previously reported for 2023/24 cannot be compared. For comparison, reprofiled data for Q4 23/24 has been included in the table above.* Throughout the year each month can see the footfall levels go up or down. This is a result of positive impacts such as events and festivals and negative impacts like weather especially storms – such as the ones in December that closed the Christmas market for two weekends. .

Section 5 Your Services. Your Voice

Delivery highlights – January to March 2025

- Adoption of new Council Plan 2025-30 following comprehensive engagement with stakeholders, members, parishes, and staff
- Digital Vision and Strategy adopted.
- Monthly 'Digital Dispatch' newsletter circulated monthly to colleagues and Members to support delivery of our Digital Strategy
- Digital & Change Champions Sessions conducted on MS Teams, promoting reduced printing and safe AI usage.
- Three key digital projects established, and discovery phase commenced:
    - Customer Experience (CX)
    - Digitalisation of Planning
    - Implementation and adoption of Microsoft 365
- Revised opening hours of reception have been adopted following successful trial increasing phone capacity at peak times.

Transformation Challenge (TC25)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Neil Cutler	**Project Sponsor:** Liz Keys		
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**	**Budget Reduction**

RAG Status Update

Progress of circa £1.56m (52%) of the £3m target for baseline budget reductions has been achieved to date as a result of TC25. Not unexpectedly, as we move further into the programme, realising savings becomes more challenging and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) also brings additional uncertainty and possible implications that are currently unbudgeted. The programme risks are kept under regular review, the next phase of our transformation programme is underway, and the programme is being managed robustly to ensure the £3m target budget reductions is achieved.

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

In addition to the 'Your Services, Your Voice' delivery highlights:

- Contract re-tenders and negotiations achieved the following savings:
- City Offices and Guildhall cleaning contract awarded with revised specification resulting in annual savings of approx. £96k.
- Contract negotiation for Cash Collection contract resulting in a saving of £27k.
- GIS contract negotiation saving £18k.
- New Guildhall booking system to be implemented April 2025 resulting in an improved system and a saving of £4k.
- Jobs Go Public advertising portal contract negotiation creating a saving of £4k.
- Transport grants reviewed and a proposal from ShopMobility of a £12.5k reduction agreed for 25/26 with no impact to service.
- Internal Audit Review (Part 2) – shared audit days for IT service with TVBC agreed.
- Implementation of in-house Emergency Planning arrangements resulting in a budget reduction of £23k
- Use of Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) has exceeded income target of £100k for 24/25.
- Fees and charges review completed with a focus on full cost recovery. Impact on income to be reviewed and reported in November MTFS
- Microsoft Copilot chat enabled for colleagues providing instant, intelligent assistance with the aim of enhancing productivity.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Next phase of Strategic Reviews ('Preparing for Change' meetings') to be held with CHOS and Cabinet Members to inform next TC25 phase and priority areas in preparation for LGR
- Finalise Service Level Digital & IT Roadmaps
- Progress Microsoft 365 Implementation and Adoption project
- Completion of renovation works to bring 59 Colebrook Street back into use by creating 6 one-bedroom flats, generating additional income.
- Further strategic review of parking management – options to be reviewed.

Your Services. Your Voice - Progress against our plans

Ref	Project	Cabinet Member	Delivery Date	Status
1	Undertake a district wide Residents' and Young Persons' survey	Cllr Becker	Aug 24	**Complete**
2	Development of a corporate digital strategy that drives innovation across the council	Cllr Cutler	Sep-24	**Complete**
3	Modernise the contact channels our residents and businesses use to contact and do business with the council to improve the customer journey	Cllr Cutler	2025/26	**On-going**
4	Adoption of a Council Plan 2025-30 that is fit for the future	Cllr Tod	Jan 25	**Complete**
5	Review and improve our approach to consultation and engagement, by adopting a new Consultation and Engagement Policy and Charter	Cllr Becker	Dec 24	
6	Further promotion of self-serve and digital services including the increased take-up of electronic billing (rollout of "Digital by Default") and notifications for Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Benefits services, and the further roll out of SMS for the issue of electronic payment alerts and reminders. This will lead to more efficient process and a reduce in printing and postage costs with the additional benefit of reduced carbon.	Cllr Cutler	2025/26	**On-going**
7	Review our complaints policy and processes and demonstrate learning from complaints to drive service improvements	Cllr Cutler	Jun 25	
8	Establish and introduce new tenant/leaseholder engagement programme	Cllr Westwood	May 24	**Complete**
9	Deliver customer focussed digital transformation of housing services	Cllr Westwood	Mar 26	
10	Install improvements to the audio/visual systems for public facing meetings	Cllr Cutler	Apr 24	**Complete**
11	Increase subscription take up to the Your Council News email newsletter	Cllr Tod	Jun 24	**Complete**

Red/Amber status

none

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Measuring our progress

Long range trackers (Annual)									
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	2021	2022	2023	2024	Target 2024	Status
YSYV1	Residents' satisfaction with the way the council runs things (Residents' Survey)	Becker	Laura Taylor	No survey	75% (SE 62%)	No survey	69% (compared to LG survey of 55%)	> LGA average	
YSYV2	% of Residents' Survey respondents that feel the council involves residents when making decisions	Becker	Laura Taylor	No survey	58%	No survey	55%	60%	

Practical real-time measures (Quarterly)										
No.	Performance measure	Cabinet member (Cllr)	Lead Director	Q4 - 23/24	Q1 - 24/25	Q2 - 24/25	Q3 - 24/25	Q4 - 24/25	Target 24/25	Status
YSYV3	% complaints responded to within 10 working days	Becker	Liz Keys	79%	79%	92%	89%	90%	90%	
YSYV4	% of upheld and partially upheld complaints	Becker	Liz Keys	68%	47%	48%	45%	68%	Measure only	n/a
YSYV5	Number of residents digitally interacting with the council (number of online reports submitted through online forms platforms)	Becker	Liz Keys	15,513	8,837	7,294	6,706	16,616	42,000	
YSYV6	Number of respondents to consultations	Becker	Laura Taylor	1,182	1,182	540	1,332	112	Measure only	n/a
YSYV7	% of major planning applications decided within time or agreed extension (WCC / SDNP)	Porter	Dawn Adey	100% / ~	100% / 100%	100% / ~	100% / ~	94.3% / ~	80%	
YSYV8	% of non-major planning applications decided within time or agreed extension (WCC / SDNP)	Porter	Dawn Adey	96% / 94%	97% / 86%	93% / 81%	82% / 81%	93% / 88%	80%	

Comments from CHOS on quarter where status is amber or red:

YSYV2: For context, whilst this result is below the target, across the board in comparable LG surveys there has been a drop in all areas of around 10-20%, so we are still in line with the general trend from the LGA polling (and above their scores by around 10-15% each time).

YSYV5: The annual target was raised from the previous year as form submissions were increasing – however, as the garden waste subscriptions were a large part of this, further channel shift will be driven by the digital transformation work.

Section 6 Regeneration and Growth

Bar End Depot

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod	**Project Sponsor:** Dawn Adey/ Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**
Progress achieved during the last quarter: • Scheme refined for pre-app		
Actions for the next quarter: • Exchange and pre-app submission		

Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR)

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod	**Project Sponsor:** Ken Baikie	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

RAG Status Update

The Development Agreement (DA) Long Stop date for the updated draft Development Delivery Plan (DDP) was 6 months from signing of the Development Agreement but was extended to 14 February at Jigsaw's request. The DDP was approved by Cabinet on 13 March.

Jigsaw plan to submit the planning application in Summer 2026 (rather than 24 months from approval of the DDP as stated in DA).

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

- On the 13 March, Cabinet approved the Development Delivery Plan (DDP) and £4.5m of CIL receipts was earmarked, to be used for public realm and green/blue and bus/highway infrastructure works in the CWR in line with the DDP

Actions for the next quarter:

- A public event will be held on 2 April where Jigsaw will share details of the Development Delivery Plan (DDP) and next steps. During the event, the public will have an opportunity to speak to the project team directly and ask any questions.
- Jigsaw will begin the detailed design for the CWR area and working with the LPA on the pre-application. A stakeholder engagement and consultation event are planned within the next 3 months.
- Finalise Archaeology Evaluation (trial trenching) report

Local Plan

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Jackie Porter		**Project Sponsor:** Dawn Adey
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

- Answered requests from the LP Inspector in terms of how information was presented and kept the Local Plan examination website up to date.
- Agreed an updated Statement of Common Ground. Air Quality Report on compensatory habitats and an updated Habitat Regulations Assessment with Natural England.
- Undertaken preparation for the Local Plan examination in terms.
- Appointed Consultants to assist Officers at the Local Plan examination; and
- Agreed an updated Local Development Scheme for the adoption of the Local Plan that is subject of an examination and for the preparation and consultation of the next Local Plan.

Actions for the next quarter:

- Answer the Inspector's MIQ's by the deadlines that have been set by the Planning Inspector.
- Attend and give evidence at the Local Plan examination.

Station Approach

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Martin Tod	**Project Sponsor:** Dawn Adey/ Ken Baikie	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

Progress achieved against last quarter.

During this period, the final version of the Concept Master Plan (CMP) and technical document has been meticulously worked on and is now complete, ensuring all necessary elements and revisions have been incorporated.

To accompany the completion of the CMP a comprehensive views study was commissioned to gather a wide range of perspectives. This study has been successfully completed, providing evidence to demonstrate the heights and massing ranges put forward within the CMP.

Finally, the feedback from the consultation process has now been thoroughly reviewed. An in-depth analysis report has been produced, detailing the key findings and recommendations based on the collected feedback.

Actions for the next quarter

The CMP is scheduled for consideration at Cabinet on June 18th, 2025.

Winchester Movement Strategy

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Kelsie Learney	**Project Sponsor:** Simon Hendey	
Programme RAG status	**Timeline**	**Budget**

RAG Status Update.

Current WMS schemes progressing, The City LCWIP is being reviewed further based on consultation feedback. The micro-consolidation trial has been delayed as the funding and building control process is agreed. Additional CIL funding towards transport schemes being developed through the WMS will be requested and this will help to a certain extent but the current lack of central Government active travel / public transport funding limits what can be achieved at the moment. This means that, in effect, the delivery of the overall strategy will take longer, and the timescales associated are uncertain as this is dependent upon future Government funding sources

Progress achieved during the last quarter:

- City Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - Online public consultation of Draft Plan undertaken.
- Micro-consolidation Trial - Building Control application submitted.
- Worthy Road Walking and Cycling Improvements completed.

Actions for the next quarter:

- City Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) feedback to be reviewed.
- Fulflood Liveable Neighbourhood ‘next steps’ to be agreed.
- Progress BC application and all other agreements for the Micro-consolidation Trial

SCO96
THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT TITLE: APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL BODIES RELATED TO SCRUTINY FOR THE 2025/26 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

5 JUNE 2025

Contact Officer: Matthew Watson Tel No: 01962 848 317 Email Mwatson@Winchester.Gov.Uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

The report asks the committee to nominate Councillor representatives to the three external bodies that the Scrutiny Committee has traditionally appointed to. These bodies are detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the committee considers appointments to the following external bodies:

1. Portsmouth City Council – Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (1 vacancy and deputy)
2. Centre for Governance and Scrutiny – Southeast Regional Network (1 vacancy)
3. Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1 vacancy and deputy)

1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

1.1 None arising directly from the content of the report.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

2.1 This report asks the committee to consider appointments of non-executive Councillors to three external bodies related to scrutiny.

2.2 There are currently three external bodies that it would be appropriate for the Scrutiny Committee to appoint non-executive councillor representatives to. These are detailed below.

2.3 Portsmouth City Council - Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Portsmouth City Council established this panel. Its membership is drawn from appropriate interest groups, stakeholders, and councillors from adjoining local authorities "*when discussing issues that have a significant effect upon the area*"'.

The next meetings of the panel are scheduled for ￼ at 1pm at The Guildhall, Portsmouth with subsequent meetings on the 17 September 2025, 19 November 2025, 21 January 2026 and 11 March 2026. at 1pm at The Guildhall, Portsmouth with subsequent meetings on the 17 September 2025, 19 November 2025, 21 January 2026 and 11 March 2026.

Appointments agreed for 2024/25 were Councillor V Achwal and Councillor J Williams (deputy). Winchester City Council is asked to appoint one member and one deputy representative for this municipal year.

2.4 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has previously requested a member representative as a 'scrutiny champion' for the Council. The current representative is the Chairperson of the scrutiny committee (Cllr Brook).

It is suggested that the Chairperson of the scrutiny committee be the appointed representative for this municipal year to the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, Southeast Regional Network.

South East Employers have informed the council about the possibility of forming a Regional Scrutiny Network and have requested member and officer nominations. More details will be given to the committee if the group is established.

2.5 Partnership for South Hampshire Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) established a PfSH Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2007 and it has previously been agreed that this

committee appoint a non-executive member representative from those wards within the PfSH area.

The next meetings of the committee are scheduled for: 2 July 2025, 17 September 2025, 3 December 2025 and 4 March 2026 at 10.30am at the Civic Offices, Fareham.

Appointments agreed for 2024/25 were Councillor S Achwal and Councillor Batho (deputy). Winchester City Council is asked to appoint one member and one deputy representative for this municipal year.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3.1 To not make appointments for this municipal year. However, this option was rejected because representation on outside bodies is a key element of members' roles.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: -

Previous Committee Reports: -

SC024 - Annual Appointments 2020/21
SC056 – Annual Appointments 2021/22
SC067 Annual Appointments 2022/23
SC088 Annual Appointments 2023/24
SC092 Annual Appointments 2024/25

Other Background Documents: -

The following websites provide background information to the three organisations concerned:

1. Portsmouth City Council - Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
   https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=151

2. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
   https://www.cfgs.org.uk/

3. Partnership for South Hampshire Overview & Scrutiny Committee

   https://www.push.gov.uk/work/our-meetings/overview-and-scrutiny/

APPENDICES

None

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SC098

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT TITLE: DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2024/25

5 JUNE 2025

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 reviews the work of all overview and scrutiny bodies and reports to the council.

Appendix 1 contains the draft report for the 2024/25 municipal year so that the Scrutiny Committee can add its comments before it is finalised for presentation to the 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 2024/25

What is Scrutiny?

Scrutiny improves decision-making by reviewing and suggesting improvements to decisions.

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. The Economy and Housing Policy (EHP) Committee
2. The Health and Environment Policy (HEP) 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.

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:

Economy and Housing Policy Committee

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

Thriving Places - making our district a place where residents want to live, visitors come and visit and attractive for sustainable business investment and growth that provides opportunities for young people to live and work in the district.

Good Homes for All - Focussing on increasing the number of affordable homes across the district while taking action to ensure our tenants live in council homes that are decent, safe and energy efficient and resilient to the effects of climate change.

Health and Environment Policy Committee

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

Greener Faster - working with and enabling businesses, organisations, and residents to reduce carbon emissions and achieve the council’s net zero carbon commitment for the district by 2030.

Healthy Communities - providing safe and attractive public facilities and open spaces to enable our residents to improve their health and wellbeing. Working collaboratively with voluntary and community sector partners to tackle social isolation, build community cohesion and support those most in need including targeted support for residents affected by the increased cost of living

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:

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.

Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives and performance targets

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, and 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)

This report from the Committee Chairperson which is found later in this report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Committee during the 2024/25 municipal year. The committee held seven formal meetings with high attendance and increased public participation. Key topics discussed included waste and recycling, the Local Plan, financial performance, housing, and community safety. The committee made several recommendations to the Cabinet and engaged in constructive discussions with public participants and Councillors.

Membership and Meetings

Economy and Housing Policy Committee: The following Councillors have attended the committee during the year: Councillor Batho, Councillor Chamberlain, Councillor Achwal, Councillor Eve, Councillor Morris, Councillor Murphy, Councillor White, Councillor Horrill, Councillor Aron, and Councillor Miller.

The following cabinet members attended the committee to address the meeting: Councillor Thompson (Cabinet Member for Business and Culture), Councillor Westwood (Cabinet Member for Housing), and Councillor Tod (Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management).

Health and Environment Policy Committee: The following Councillors have attended as committee members during the year: Cramoysan, Bennett, Bolton, Brophy, Latham, Lee, Power, Aron, Batho,

The following cabinet members attended the committee to address the meeting: Becker (Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement), Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency), Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan), and Tod (Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management).

Scrutiny Committee: The following Councillors have attended the committee during the year: Councillor Brook, Councillor Wallace, Councillor V Achwal, Councillor Batho, Councillor Laming, Councillor Pett, Councillor Reach, Councillor Bolton, Councillor Clear, Councillor Horrill, Councillor Godfrey, Councillor Cramoysan, Councillor Achwal, Councillor Warwick, Councillor Lee, and Councillor Cook

The following cabinet members attended the committee to address the meeting:

Councillor Cutler (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance), Councillor Tod (Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management), Councillor Westwood (Cabinet Member for Housing), Councillor Becker (Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement), Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency), Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan), and Councillor Thompson (Cabinet Member for Business and Culture).

Items considered during 2024/25

The following specifies the substantial agenda items for each meeting of the three Committees.

Scrutiny Committee.

06/06/24

1. Procurement Of Waste & Recycling Collection Vehicles / Update On Waste And Recycling. (Presentation)
2. Appointments Of External Bodies Related To Scrutiny
3. Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24
4. Annual Report - Exceptions To Forward Plan 2023/24

29/07/24

1. Local Plan - Regulation 19.

04/09/24

1. Q1 Finance & Performance Monitoring
2. Housing Revenue Account Outturn 23/24
3. General Fund Outturn 23/24

14/10/24

1. Bar End Depot, Bar End Road, Winchester – Disposal
2. Council Plan 2025-30 (Presentation)

12/11/24

1. General Fund Budget Options & Medium-Term Financial Strategy
2. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan & Budget Options
3. Procurement Of HRA Repairs And Maintenance Term Contract
4. Acquisition Of Affordable Homes At Kings Barton
5. Future Of Waste And Recycling; New Food Waste Collections And Recycling Service.

04/02/25

1. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025 - 2026
2. General Fund Budget 2025- 2026
3. Capital Investment Strategy 2025 - 2035
4. Treasury Management Strategy 2025 - 2026

05/03/25

1. Annual Community Safety Performance Update
2. Development Delivery Plans - Central Winchester Regeneration
3. Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring

Health and Environment Policy Committee

19/09/24

1. Council Health Priorities (Presentation)
2. Air Quality Strategy (Presentation)
3. Council Plan 2025-30 (Presentation)

03/12/24

1. Update On Performance Of The Council's Leisure Facilities Managed Under Contract By Everyone Active (HEP042)
2. Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030 (Presentation)

26/02/25

1. Sports Facilities Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 (Presentation)
2. Waste Update (Verbal Update)

Economy and Housing Policy Committee

17/09/24

1. Review Of Economy And Housing Policy Committee Resolutions
2. Winchester District Economy Review (Presentation)
3. Housing, Repairs And Maintenance Contract Procurement (Presentation)
4. Council Plan 2025-30 (Presentation)

26/11/24

1. Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG): Policy Review (Presentation)
2. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan & Budget Options

11/02/2025

1. Summary Of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund And Rural England Fund Programmes 2022-2025
2. Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policies

Public participation.

The policy and scrutiny committee welcomes and encourages engagement with residents and other community representatives during its public participation session. During 2024/25 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 2024/25

Economy and Housing Policy Committee.

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

The start of the year saw a General Election which resulted in an extended hold on Council meetings. The first EHP meeting was cancelled leaving three meetings to be held in the municipal year.

Economy

At the September meeting the Business and Culture team brought forward a review of the Winchester District Economy. The committee were pleased to see the range of activity and wanted to continue supporting skills development, particularly in retrofitting and digital support, ensure that rural areas remain a focus, continue and expand work in the solar energy sector and to prioritise efforts that align with the 'Greener Faster' initiative, recognising its importance in improving the district's performance.

At the final meeting in February the Summary of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Fund Programmes 2022-2025 was presented. The committee raised concerns regarding the equitable distribution of funding across wards, particularly between rural and urban areas, members agreed they would communicate with their respective wards, encouraging parishes and organisations to apply for grants in the upcoming year. The Cabinet Member was asked to consider whether maintaining some level of contribution from businesses, as beneficiaries of the funding, should be pursued, acknowledging the reduction in match funding requirements to encourage business engagement. Officers were asked to explore avenues to support more community involvement and funding applications, alongside business-related projects and continue to emphasise learning from both successful and unsuccessful projects, maintaining dialogue and providing feedback to applicants ensuring a steady stream of potential projects for the future.

Housing

During the year changes were made to the involvement of tenants, and the committee looks forward to contributions from these revised forums. The work of all involved is greatly appreciated.

At the first meeting in September the Housing team presented the Housing, Repairs and Maintenance Contract Procurement which aims to consolidate many of the repair, maintenance and retrofit contracts into a partnership led relationship with a selected supplier. The committee made several recommendations, the main points being to ensure that clear and detailed KPIs were developed and to focus on defining and maximising the social value aspects within the contract, acknowledging that this significant contract presented an opportunity to improve the social aspects of the local communities.

In November the committee looked at the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). Recently applications and approved grants had risen, and the average cost of works increased, while the grant allocations had remained the same. The committee were presented with 3 options for policy change, each with its advantages, disadvantages, and potential impacts on the Council's ability to fulfil its duties and manage the DFG budget effectively. The committee agreed that a change to the policy regarding means testing was appropriate to ensure that the funding was targeted to those most in need and noted that option three had the potential downside of providing support to those who could contribute a significant amount themselves whilst option two, allowed "boundary" cases to be considered and so enabled funds to be used more beneficially.

The committee also considered the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Budget Options. The main cost pressures on the HRA are continuing inflationary pressures on building supplies, increased capital costs for maintaining existing housing stock, high capital financing interest rates and challenges in new homes viability due to high public works loan board interest rates. The budget options presented support the Council's commitment to increasing investment in customers' homes, delivering 1,000 new homes by 2032/33, and improving customer service for repairs and maintenance. The committee highlighted the importance of policy reviews, particularly in areas such as the repairs recharge, voids, and the repair process.

At the final meeting in February the committee was asked to review and comment upon four Policies: Disabled Adaptations, Housing Repairs and Maintenance, Housing Repairs Recharge and Managing Damp and Mould. The committee raised the importance of a robust appeals process, particularly for the recharge policy, anticipating potential challenges from tenants due to its new implementation. The committee welcomed the regular review of the policies and suggested stating the implementation date and review date on the policy itself. The committee requested a review of the policies at this committee in one year, following implementation, to assess the actual situation.

The Health and Environment Policy Committee

Report of the chairperson of the committee, Cllr Steve Cramoyson

Introduction

The Health and Environment Policy Committee (HEP) met three times during the council year, in September, December and February. The planned July meeting was cancelled due to the General election. HEP considered and contributed to papers covering a range of issues affecting both the district's environment and the health/wellbeing of the district's residents and communities.

September 2024 Meeting

Members of the public addressed the committee on: EV charging for taxis, Air quality and Council Health priorities.

The committee contributed to three Policy papers.

Health priorities:

The first was a paper delivered by Mike Newman from the Public Health Team at Hampshire County Council who explained how HCC operated with a wide range of partners - agencies, institutions and stakeholders, setting out high level data to understand performance, and proposals for health priorities to test against existing and emerging strategies, policies and plans and map against the work of the council to continue to generate health benefits, both directly and indirectly. The committee asked questions, challenged some of the data presented and provided informed opinion on a many of the points covered in the presentation including:

- the levels of anxiety reported and the role of social prescribing
- the adequacy of pharmacies and food insecurity, particularly access to reasonably priced, good quality fresh produce locally.
- Concerns were raised about the impact of switching off the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) landline in rural areas and the associated stress for residents with poor mobile network coverage.

For a full list of the points raised refer to the minutes. The committee welcomed visibility of the strategy, and the process described and would welcome future updates.

Air Quality Strategy:

A presentation outlining how the City Council is evolving its Air Quality Strategy from an Air Quality Management area (AQMA) for a specific area of Winchester to an Air Quality Strategy (AQS) for the whole district. The council is leading Hampshire in the development of an Air Quality Strategy (AQS) for the whole district, with the area of works led by both the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and the Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan. An AQS had been commissioned following meetings of the cross-party steering group, comprising of members from all parties and stakeholders from WinACC, the Business Improvement District (BID), a representative from the Director of Public Health and relevant officers. The committee asked an extensive range of questions about the processes and other authorities that are contributing to the AQS. Questions about the sources of pollution

in the district, and about the availability of EV charging points, among many others. The committee was pleased to endorse the strategy and looks forward to a future update.

The Council Plan

Members were pleased to be asked to review and comment on the direction of the council plan, including the vision, themes and priorities, focussing on the responsibilities of the committee in respect of health and environment, namely: Living Well, Cost of Living, Climate Emergency/Greener Faster.

The committee raised many questions and provided opinions on around 20 areas of policy around the council plan. These fed into the Council plan published in January 2025.

December 2024 Meeting

This meeting focused on the Performance of the Councils Leisure Facilities managed by Everyone Active, and Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030.

Performance of the Councils Leisure Facilities managed by Everyone Active

The presentation highlighted that Winchester Sports and Leisure Park (WSLP) had received an 'Outstanding' rating achievement in the Quest accreditation in May 2024 one of only four facilities in England to achieve this rating, the National Operator of the Year award given to Everyone Active at the UK Active awards in October 2024.

Membership numbers at both centres were on an upward trajectory. Usage in nearly all categories was also up, except dry side usage at Meadowside which was attributed to flooding which took the dry side facilities out of action for several months. Strategies are in place to address this.

As with other reports HEP proceeded to question and challenge the report which stood up well.

Winchester District Nature Improvement Plan 2025-2030

The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency introduced the item which provided proposals to refresh the council's strategic approach to nature improvement in the district, as a result of local and national policy changes. It was recognised that there were limited resources available and the need to make considerable savings over coming years was emphasised. The Service Lead: Sustainability and Natural Environment and Principal Ecologist/Biodiversity Officer gave a presentation which set out the current position, changes since the creation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and the proposed way forward.

The committee emphasised the need to maximise assets and leverage strategies like BNG, local network recovery, ecosystem services, and local groups. Concerns were expressed regarding the resource implications of BNG in planning conditions, including monitoring, quantification, and resource allocation. The committee outlined the importance of effective use of resources, along with the valuable role of citizen scientists in collecting data and providing credibility. There was a call for clear Key

Performance Indicators (KPI's), measurable outcomes, and cost-benefit analysis and the importance of creating a legacy for the district and future cycles was highlighted.

February 2025 meeting

Sports Facilities Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy 2025

A representative of Sport Winchester addressed the Committee on this item, speaking in support of the strategy. A number of points were raised, including: Two areas where participation was rapidly increasing are women and girls' sports and accessibility for people with disabilities or mental health challenges, but current facilities did not adequately meet these needs.

Introduced by the Service Lead for Communities & Wellbeing, Continuum Sport and Leisure provided a presentation and answered questions thereon.

The committee reviewed, questioned and debated the process by which the strategy was evolving before going through an assessment of the findings on a sport-by-sport basis. In total there were 25 points of question or debate raised, including the following:

How will the strategy enable funding to be accessed? The strategy will inform both council and all the relevant potential funding bodies of key priorities for the district.

- How are the needs in terms of facilities and sports for people with disabilities assessed? Clubs were asked about their provision in place already or had identified a need for growth in the future and where national governing bodies were aware of the activity. The accessibility of pavilions were also checked.
- How were Parish Councils engaged? Every parish council received communication with surveys and offers to meet and discuss facilities. Where sites were owned, parishes were invited to attend site visits.

In summary, HEP supported the process and the direction that the strategy was taking.

Waste & Recycling update

Committee noted the verbal update. The primary new news was that £50.5 million investment in new recycling infrastructure was approved by Hampshire County Council. This would enable the collection of pots, tubs, trays, and cartons going forward, with this project expected to take around 2 ½ years to build, and a potential completion around October 2027. Hampshire had informed DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) that they are likely to be delayed in meeting the Government's April 2026 deadline for collecting pots, tubs, trays, and cartons on this basis. In addition, the Government was still planning to implement a deposit return scheme by October 2027. In total these new recycling options could improve recycling levels by approximately 10%.

From the debate:

- the final decision on co-mingling versus twin stream had not been formally made, but that the likely direction would be twin stream collections.

- the initial extra costs of twin stream were, £72 million less over 10 years comparing a twin stream rather than co-mingled collections.

- supported the council's approach to move the MRF project forward and encourage all other authorities to adopt twin stream collections.

Finally, I'd like to thank all officers & portfolio holders for bringing policy papers to the committee for policy development. Thanks to Democratic services, especially Claire Buchanan, ensuring the meetings ran smoothly. Thanks also to fellow councillors who sit on the committee for constructively engaging with each paper and subject and in sharing their expertise and knowledge on these. And members of the public who attended to speak on several of the agenda items across the year. Together this ensures that Council policies are scrutinised in a public forum with the opportunity for the public to have their say on the policies that council implements.

The Scrutiny Committee

Report of the chairperson of the committee. Councillor Caroline Brook.

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 municipal year in fulfilling our role to review and scrutinise decisions made, and actions taken.

Throughout the year, the committee held seven formal meetings, with high attendance at each. Public participation increased significantly, and we received deputations from members of the public or non-committee members at all meetings. Notably, 17 members of the public addressed the committee in July regarding the Local Plan.

The year began with a learning and training session in June 2024, facilitated by the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny (CfGS). This session was well attended and well received by committee members.

At our June meeting, we discussed the procurement of waste and recycling collection vehicles and recommended that the Cabinet implement education programmes to encourage composting and food waste reduction.

At our July meeting, we considered the Local Plan Regulation 19, focusing on whether the policy responses were suitable and met tests of soundness. Members of the public and Councillors raised numerous concerns regarding settlement boundaries, late inclusion of sites, planning guidance for developments, consultation processes, housing numbers, infrastructure, and alignment with national policies. We asked the Cabinet to consider the points raised during public participation and members' debate.

In September we received an update on Q1 Finance & Performance Monitoring, and members raised several questions about invasive plant species, the carbon neutrality action plan, waste and recycling, housing performance, energy efficiency, and data security. We asked the Cabinet Member to provide updates and clarifications on several of these points. We scrutinised the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn 2023/24, and questioned inflation underpayments, fire safety provisions, external income, and vacant staff posts. We also reviewed the General Fund Outturn for 2023/24 and asked for clarification on unusable reserves, asset management, one-off budgets, and underspends in climate emergency and transformation programme budgets. We recommended that the Cabinet Member benchmark asset management performance and provide a Member Briefing on council assets, which was later undertaken with five members of the committee.

At our October meeting we discussed the proposed disposal of Bar End Depot, hearing from members of the public and raising questions about the proposal's alignment with planning policies, the mix of uses, safeguards for developers altering terms, the size of the convenience store, and community needs. We recommended

that the Cabinet consider issues related to consultation responses, parking access, climate commitments in the development, and the description of healthcare provision.

We also received a presentation on the Council Plan 2025-30 and provided feedback on topics such as KPIs, community centres, allotments, rural support, digital connectivity, recycling, website usability, cultural strategy, housing, and energy efficiency.

In November we considered the General Fund Budget Options & Medium-Term Financial Strategy and raised questions about the food waste service costs, the garden waste service, property assets, reserves, and the TC-25 programme. We scrutinised the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan & Budget Options, raising questions about the tenant involvement budget, the savings targets, revenue pressures, service charges, new homes in rural areas, and the increase in reported repairs. We requested that tenant service charge information be made available.

We reviewed the proposals for the Procurement of HRA Repairs and Maintenance Term Contract, questioning the risks of a long-term contract, environmental considerations, the quality-to-price ratio, and opportunities for SMEs. We requested a breakdown of current repairs. We considered the Acquisition of Affordable Homes at Kings Barton and asked about staged payments, energy efficiency standards, and the speed of delivery. Finally, for this meeting we discussed the "Future of Waste and Recycling; New Food Waste Collections and Recycling Service," and sought clarification on increased costs, HVO costs, government funding assumptions, and the use of depot sites.

At our February meeting, we scrutinised the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025-2026, raising questions on business cases for property purchases, the forecast underspend, tenant feedback, rent increases, and service charges. We noted the report and requested various updates and clarifications. We also considered the General Fund Budget 2025-2026, with questions on topics such as the property portfolio, parking reserve, the cost of the Guildhall, food waste service financing, the TC-25 programme, and CIL funding. We requested that asset and parking information be more accessible. We reviewed the Capital Investment Strategy for 2025-2035 and the Treasury Management Strategy 2025-2026 and raised questions about the tailing off of general fund capital expenditure, plans to sell council assets and the management of shared undertakings.

At our final meeting in March 2025, we received the Annual Community Safety Performance Update and heard from Chief Inspector Korine Bishop. The Committee raised many questions about reporting criminal activity, rural crime statistics, contact with police services, broadband resilience for emergencies, and support for domestic violence initiatives. We agreed on actions regarding the Local Resilience Forum and providing a breakdown of crime statistics. We also discussed the "Development Delivery Plans - Central Winchester Regeneration", and raised questions about the

commencement of development, economic vibrancy, ownership of the site, Kings Walk development, CIL funding, inclusion of council homes, and the Bus Station Redevelopment. We agreed on actions including a member briefing and website updates. We scrutinised the Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring report, raising concerns about progress towards carbon neutrality, waste and recycling, homelessness, and KPIs for a vibrant economy. We resolved to arrange follow-up meetings on KPIs and public toilets.

Members of the cabinet attended all our meetings, allowing for discussion and questions concerning policy and progress. No call-in of key decisions was initiated in the year.

All committee members contributed constructively to the issues put before them, and I am grateful to them and the officer team for their support. My thanks also go to the Committee Vice-Chair for their help and advice during the past 12 months.

SC097
THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT - KEY DECISIONS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE FORWARD PLAN DURING 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR

5 JUNE 2025

Contact Officer: Matthew Watson Tel No: 01962 848 317 Email Mwatson@Winchester.Gov.Uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

An annual monitoring report is produced reporting on the number of key decisions which came forward for decision, which had not been included in the forward plan.

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require, as a minimum, that an annual report be made, to show instances of where the special urgency provisions have been used.

During the 2024/25 municipal year, the Chairperson of The Scrutiny Committee was informed of **one** key decision which was not included in the forward plan. This report provides further information on that decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee consider and make any necessary comment on the content of the report.

1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

1.1 None arising directly from the content of the report. This report is not making any decisions and is for noting and raising issues only.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

2.1 Annual consideration of key decisions not included within the Forward plan helps to support the proper governance of the Council and its decision-making structures.

2.2 Key decisions are defined by Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as being an executive decision which is likely:

a) To result in the local authority incurring expenditure, which is or the making of savings which are significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; (For Winchester City Council, the financial limit above which a decision is regarded as significant is £250,000), or

b) To be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

2.3 Under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012, the Council must give a minimum of 28 days notice of an intention to make a key decision. The statutory requirement is reflected in Rules 16.1 and 16.2 of Part 4.4 of the Council's Constitution.

2.4 There is an additional statutory requirement to provide at least 28 days' notice of when the Cabinet is proposing to meet in an exempt session. The purpose of this timeframe is to provide an opportunity for representations to be made that request the item be dealt with in a public session – and that any representations are considered before the agenda for the meeting is published. This requirement exists whether or not the matter is a key decision.

2.5 Under the Council's Constitution, Access to Information Procedure Rules at Part 4.4 (Rule 17 – General Exception and Special Urgency), if it is not possible to meet the requirements of Rules 16.1 and 16.2 then the key decision may proceed so long as (in summary) the Monitoring Officer is in agreement and has received the agreement of the Chairperson of The Scrutiny Committee that a key decision may proceed without inclusion in the forward plan.

2.6 In addition, where an agenda item requiring a key decision was not in the forward plan and was sent to Cabinet after the statutory deadline, the Chairperson of The Scrutiny Committee must first approve its inclusion (Access to Information Procedure Rule 17 – General Exception and Special Urgency). Reasons for the special urgency must be specified.

2.7 Details of the one Key Decision for the 2024/25 municipal year is listed below. In accordance with paragraph 17.1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, the Chairperson of the Scrutiny Committee agreed for this decision to be considered.

Detail of key decisions not included within the forward plan	**Date Decision Taken**	**Reason given for not being included in Forward Pan**
Winchester District Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)	Cabinet – 19/08/24	Summary The reason for the urgency was following receipt of the proposed consultation on the NPPF it was clear that the current timetable to adopt a new Local Plan for Winchester was at risk due to the proposed introduction of a new NPPF 'before the end of the year'. Full details of the reasons for the urgent decision can be found here: Cabinet, Forward Plan - August 2024 - Exception Plan Document 05/08/2024

2.8. For information, members may wish to note that the number of key decisions not included in the forward plan from previous years has averaged 6.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3.1 None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: -

Cabinet, Forward Plan - August 2024 - Exception Plan Document 05/08/2024

Other Background Documents: -

None

APPENDICES:

None

Winchester City Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

1 June 2025 – 31 August 2025

This document sets out key decisions to be taken within the next 28 days, together with any key decision by individual Members of the Cabinet and officers. It also includes potential key decisions beyond that period, though this is not comprehensive, and items will be confirmed in the publication of the key decisions document 28 days before a decision is taken.

Key Decisions are those which are financially significant, or which have a significant impact. This has been decided, by the Council, to be decisions which involve income or expenditure over £250,000 or which will have a significant effect on people or organisations in two or more wards.

The majority of decisions are taken by Cabinet, together with the individual Cabinet Members, where appropriate. The membership of Cabinet and its meeting dates can be found **via this link.** Other decisions may be taken by Cabinet Committees, Cabinet Members or Officers in accordance with the Officers' Scheme of Delegation, as agreed by the Council.

Whilst the majority of the Cabinet's business at the meetings listed in this document will be open to the public, there will be occasions when the business to be considered contains confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. The items of business where this is likely to apply are indicated on the plan.

This is formal notice under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that part of the Cabinet meetings listed in this document may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

If you have any representations as to why the meeting should be held in private, then please contact the Council via democracy@winchester.gov.uk . **Please follow this link to the Council's Constitution which includes a definition of the paragraphs** (Access to Information Procedure Rules, Part 4 paragraph 8.4) detailing why a matter may be classed as exempt from publication under the Local Government Acts, and not available to the public.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about any item included in the Plan please contact the Democratic Services Team prior to the meeting to make your request. Copies of documents listed in the Plan for submission to a decision taker are available for inspection on the Council's website. Where the document is a committee report, it will usually be available five days before the meeting. Other documents relevant to the decision may also be submitted to the decision maker and are available on Council's website or via email democracy@winchester.gov.uk.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and occasionally subject to change.

If you have any queries regarding the operation or content of the Forward Plan please contact David Blakemore (Democratic Services Team Manager) on 01962 848 217.

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
Section A Decisions made by Cabinet & Cabinet committees										
1	Station Approach concept masterplan	Cabinet Member for Place & Local Plan	Yes	Town Wards	Julie Pinnock	Cabinet report	Cabinet	Jun-25	18-Jun-25	Open
2	Q4 Finance & Performance Monitoring	Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance	Yes	All Wards	Simon Howson	Cabinet report	Cabinet	Jun-25	18-Jun-25	Open
3	Corner House, North Walls, Winchester - Outline Business Case	Cabinet Member for Housing	Yes	St Michael	Caroline Egan	Cabinet report	Cabinet	Jun-25	18-Jun-25	Part exempt 3
4	Land transaction (if required)	Cabinet Member for Asset Management	Yes	All Wards	Geoff Coe	Cabinet report	Cabinet	Jun-25	18-Jun-25	Part exempt 3
5	*Housing repairs and maintenance policy*	*Cabinet Member for Housing*	*Yes*	*All Wards*	*Gillian Knight*	*Cabinet committee report*	*Cabinet Committee: Housing*	*Jul-25*	*7-Jul-25*	*Open*

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
6	*Housing repairs recharge policy*	*Cabinet Member for Housing*	*Yes*	*All Wards*	*Gillian Knight*	*Cabinet committee report*	*Cabinet Committee: Housing*	*Jul-25*	*7-Jul-25*	*Open*
7	*Disabled adaptations policy*	*Cabinet Member for Housing*	*Yes*	*All Wards*	*Gillian Knight*	*Cabinet committee report*	*Cabinet Committee: Housing*	*Jul-25*	*7-Jul-25*	*Open*
8	*Managing damp & mould in council and private sector homes*	*Cabinet Member for Housing*	*Yes*	*All Wards*	*Karen Thorburn*	*Cabinet committee report*	*Cabinet Committee: Housing*	*Jul-25*	*7-Jul-25*	*Open*
9	*Public Toilets Improvement Strategy Update*	*Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency*	*Yes*	*All Wards*	*Campbell Williams*	*Cabinet report*	*Cabinet*	*Jul-25*	*15-Jul-25*	*Open*
Section B Decisions made by individual Cabinet Members										
10	Health priorities statement	Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement	Yes	All Wards	Steve Lincoln	Cabinet Member report	Cabinet Member for Community & Engagement Decision Day	Jun-25	18-Jun-25	Open
11	Local Enforcement Plan	Cabinet Member for Place & Local Plan	No	All Wards	Lorna Hutchings	Cabinet member report	Cabinet Member for Place & Local Plan Decision Day	Jun-25	18-Jun-25	Open

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
Section C Decisions made by Officers										
12	Treasury Management - decisions in accordance with the Council's approved strategy & policy	Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance	Yes	All Wards	Designated HCC Finance staff, daily	Designated working papers	Designated HCC Finance staff, daily	Jun-25	Jun-25	Open
Section D ***Proposed budget timetable 2026/27*** **Not classed as key decisions as final decision taken by full Council*										
13	*General Fund Budget Options & Medium Term Financial Strategy*	*Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance*	*Yes*	*All Wards*	*Liz Keys*	*Cabinet report*	*Cabinet*	*Nov-25*	*19-Nov-25*	*Open*
14	*General Fund Budget 26/27**	*Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance*	*No*	*All Wards*	*Liz Keys*	*Cabinet report*	*Council*	*Feb-26*	*26-Feb-26*	*Open*
15	*Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 26/27**	*Cabinet Member for Housing*	*No*	*All Wards*	*Liz Keys*	*Cabinet report*	*Council*	*Feb-26*	*26-Feb-26*	*Open*

	Item	Cabinet Member	Key Decision	Wards Affected	Lead Officer	Documents submitted to decision taker	Decision taker (Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Officer	Date/period decision to be taken	Committee Date (if applicable)	Open/private meeting or document? If private meeting, include relevant exempt paragraph number
16	*Capital Investment Strategy 26-36**	*Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance*	*No*	*All Wards*	*Liz Keys*	*Cabinet report*	*Council*	*Feb-26*	*26-Feb-26*	*Open*
17	*Treasury Management Strategy 26/27**	*Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance*	*No*	*All Wards*	*Liz Keys*	*Cabinet report*	*Council*	*Feb-26*	*26-Feb-26*	*Open*

27 May 2025

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

	Item	Lead Officer	Date for Scrutiny	Date for Cabinet
	Meeting 5 June 2025			
1	Q4 Finance & Performance Monitoring	Simon Howson	5 Jun 2025	18 Jun 2025
2	Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25	Matthew Watson	5 Jun 2025	
3	Appointments of external bodies related to scrutiny	Matthew Watson	5 Jun 2025	
4	Annual Report - Exceptions to Forward Plan 2024/25	Matthew Watson	5 Jun 2025	
	Meeting 8 September 2025			
5	Q1 Finance & Performance Monitoring	Simon Howson	8 Sep 2025	10 Sep 2025
6	Housing Revenue Account outturn 24/25	Liz Keys	8 Sep 2025	10 Sep 2025
7	General Fund outturn 24/25	Liz Keys	8 Sep 2025	10 Sep 2025
	Meeting 13 November 2025			
8	General Fund Budget Options & Medium Term Financial Strategy	Liz Keys	13 Nov 2025	19 Nov 2025
9	Q2 Finance & Performance Monitoring	Simon Howson	13 Nov 2025	19 Nov 2025
	Meeting 10 February 2026			
10	Treasury Management Strategy 26/27*	Liz Keys	10 Feb 2026	12 Feb 2026
11	Capital Investment Strategy 26-36*	Liz Keys	10 Feb 2026	12 Feb 2026
12	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 26/27*	Liz Keys	10 Feb 2026	12 Feb 2026
13	General Fund Budget 26/27*	Liz Keys	10 Feb 2026	12 Feb 2026
	Meeting 4 March 2026			
14	Community Safety Partnership Performance Review	Sandra Tuddenham	4 Mar 2026	
15	Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring	Simon Howson	4 Mar 2026	12 Mar 2026
	Items To be Confirmed			
16	Hobbs View, Southbrook Cottages, Micheldever - Lessons Learned	Caroline Egan		

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