

Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Thursday, 12 March 2026

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options
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Part A – Items considered in public

<p>A8</p>	<p>The extension of the existing waste and recycling collection contract (less exempt appendix)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That an extension of council’s existing waste and recycling collection contract with Biffa be approved, in line with the extension provisions contained within the current contract, (CAB3202 November 2019) for a period of eight years, which is compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. 2. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Director of Legal, to finalise the contract 	<p>The Council is committed to providing waste and recycling services that residents can rely on every week, while accelerating delivery of the Greener Faster priority within the Council Plan.</p> <p>Report CAB3535 reviews options for these services at the end of the existing contract in February 2029 and recommends seeking approval to extend the current waste and recycling collection contract with Biffa under its terms for a further eight years.</p> <p>Extending the existing waste and recycling collection</p>	<p>Retendering would require a full procurement exercise. Although this could have tested the market, the timing is unsuitable. With LGR underway, maintaining service stability is essential, and a new contract that was entered into now may need to be revisited when Simpler Recycling is introduced in Spring 2028 as the MRF becomes operational, creating unnecessary disruption. Given that the existing contract permits extensions of up to eight years, it was concluded that retendering was not appropriate and therefore not an option to pursue.</p>
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		<p>extension and secure the necessary provisions to ensure the Council can fully comply with the national Simpler Recycling programme.</p> <p>3. That in light of the local government reorganisation, a clause into the existing contract be included allowing the novation of the existing contract to a new organisation, and to ensure that any contact extension allows the same.</p>	<p>contract with Biffa for a further eight years provides the confidence and stability for a reliable service and delivers the ability to go ‘greener faster.’</p> <p>A contract extension safeguards service continuity during a period of local government reorganisation and major national reform in the waste sector, ensuring residents continue to receive a consistent, dependable service without disruption. For residents, this means certainty, familiarity, and confidence that collections will continue to operate smoothly while improvements are planned and introduced in a managed way.</p> <p>A longer-term arrangement</p>	<p>The service could potentially be brought in-house, but the council is not in a position to pursue this option at present. Although bringing the service in-house may offer greater control in the longer term, the transition to a new unitary authority makes this a challenging time to undertake a complex, and high-profile service transfer. Extending the current contract provides stability while the new authority considers future delivery models. Some potential LGR partners have already brought their services in-house, so there may be scope to explore this option in the future once the new authority is established.</p> <p>A shorter extension would mean the new unitary authority would need to begin</p>

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			<p>gives the Council and its waste partner the ability to plan and deliver change well. It allows future service improvements to be aligned with the national Simpler Recycling programme and the opening of the new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), expected in 2028, ensuring that changes are introduced at the right time and clearly, well-communicated, and easy for residents to understand.</p> <p>The extension also supports confident delivery by strengthening operational resilience and managing risk proactively. This creates a stable platform for improving recycling performance, reducing residual waste, and supporting residents to recycle more, without</p>	<p>the retendering process soon after vesting, limiting its ability to take a strategic, long-term approach. It is also likely to be much more expensive as vehicles which would otherwise be depreciated over 8 years would then be depreciated over fewer years, significantly increasing the overall cost.</p>

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			<p>compromising service reliability.</p> <p>By maintaining the current arrangements, the council is prioritising delivery confidence, a positive resident experience, and long-term environmental outcomes — ensuring services remain reliable today whilst being well positioned to deliver greener, more efficient waste services in the years ahead.</p>	
A9	Approval of Tourism Strategy for Winchester District	1. That the Winchester District Tourism Strategy 2026-2031 be approved, which will be led and delivered by Winchester City Council in collaboration with partners and businesses operating within the visitor economy.	<p>Report CAB3545 sets out the Tourism Strategy (see Appendix 1 of the report) for the Winchester district to 2031. The strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guide Winchester district’s visitor economy into a new era of sustainable 	Do nothing: The council’s production and delivery of a Winchester District Tourism Strategy, whilst an action in the Green Economic Development Strategy, is a discretionary function and the council could opt to not initiate but allow the sector to take total responsibility for.

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		<p>2. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director responsible for Economy and Tourism to revise the strategy, at an appropriate time, to reflect the new operating landscape as a result of LGR and the mayoral combined county authority.</p>	<p>growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a collective roadmap for the entire district, providing a clear vision and actionable plan to enhance the appeal of Winchester district. <p>Underpinned by a comprehensive evidence, base and an extensive programme of stakeholder engagement, the strategy sets out priorities under four themes: Market Focus; Positioning and Destination Marketing; Destination Development and Destination Management. Within each of these areas there are a series of priorities and suggested actions.</p>	<p>This option was rejected due to the important role such a strategy plays in demonstrating the council's leadership to the sector in sustaining and growing the visitor economy across the district.</p> <p>To ensure that Winchester district as a destination is managed, developed and promoted in a way that will deliver greatest economic impact, organisations across the visitor economy must work collaboratively. Winchester City Council has an important role as 'enabler', driving the actions in this strategy forward with the support, investment and participation of others.</p>

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			<p>The strategy provides a robust framework that not only strengthens our local visitor economy but also positions us as a leading contributor to the delivery of tourism support across a broader geography through the Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP).</p> <p>This approach aligns with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and creates opportunities to play a pivotal role in future devolution arrangements for driving regional growth and collaboration. It ensures Winchester district's expertise and assets are at the heart of shaping Hampshire's visitor economy</p>	

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			<p>of the future.</p> <p>As the LGR arrangements are confirmed and as greater clarity emerges on the mayoral combined county authority's growth plan priorities for culture and the visitor economy, revisions to this strategy may be required. This will ensure its aims and objectives remain relevant in a wider geography.</p>	
A10	Thriving and Resilient Communities Strategy	That the Winchester District Thriving and Resilient Communities Strategy (2026-2030) be adopted as set out in Appendix 1 of CAB3549.	This strategy sets out the council's approach to building strong and resilient communities. This will be achieved through our own place-shaping and capacity building activity, and through the fostering of an environment where communities can grow, evolve and solve their own	The council could opt to continue without adopting the Winchester District Thriving and Resilient Communities Strategy. However, this would mean moving towards LGR without any formally approved approach to working with communities or published aspiration for our

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			<p>challenges.</p> <p>To help focus efforts of both the council and the wider Winchester district community, five pathways are proposed in the strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social connection, inclusion and belonging 2. Community capacity and local leadership 3. Access to community assets, services and opportunities 4. Supporting people facing the toughest circumstances 5. Strong community networks and partnerships <p>The impact of this Plan will</p>	<p>communities to thrive and succeed. This would risk a new unitary authority taking a different direction, so this option is discounted.</p>

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			<p>be seen and felt in daily life: more people taking part, more places open and welcoming, stronger neighbourhood identity, and a voluntary sector that is confident, collaborative and equipped for the future.</p> <p>As we move towards local government reorganisation, this strategy sets out our ambition for Winchester's communities. It establishes a foundation from which we can move forward jointly with our new partner districts – increasing opportunities for communities to shape decisions, express local priorities, have influence close to where they live, and potentially take responsibility for local services and assets.</p>	
A11	Community Infrastructure	1. That the Strategic	Report CAB3547 provides an	Retaining the current

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	Levy (CIL) Funding	<p>Procedural Overview for CIL allocation and spending which apportions percentages of the CIL retained by the city council be revised to reflect 40% for community / health / active travel / transport schemes and 60% for strategic district schemes, as detailed in appendix 1 of CAB3547.</p> <p>2. That the ongoing commitment to the joint Movement Strategy with Hampshire County Council be noted, supporting the coordinated delivery of transport and active travel infrastructure that helps address the impacts of development on local communities.</p>	<p>update on the CIL funding programme including the amount of CIL collected and the current value of the CIL funds available to support infrastructure delivery. It considers the levels of demand for different types of projects and recommends changes to the approved arrangements for ring-fencing of funds that will ensure funds remain available to support infrastructure schemes and maximise effective delivery over the coming years.</p> <p>It presents CIL bids for community projects that were received between 1st September and 30th November 2025 as well as bids for schemes directly delivered by the council and county council which can be</p>	<p>ringfencing of available CIL funds in three pots has been discounted, as demand on two of the pots far exceeds demand for the third pot for transport and active travel. If the ringfences were retained in their current form, then community and WCC projects would remain unfunded, while pot for transport and active travel projects continues to grow.</p> <p>Various options were considered for the allocation of grant funds to applicants. All applications were assessed against the approved scheme criteria and the recommendations represent the best balance of maximising support for projects while retaining a sufficient level of reserves to maintain a programme of CIL</p>

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		<p>3. That a funding allocation of £1,088,638 from Winchester City Council CIL income receipts be and the expenditure under Financial Procedure rule 7.4 be approved, using the existing CIL funded community grants budget, for the following community-led projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chesil Theatre, Winchester - extension and refurbishment: £200,000 - Wickham pavilion: £150,000 - Theatre Royal, Winchester - boilers and lighting: £78,000 - Colden Common - 	<p>applied for throughout the year.</p> <p>Subject to this funding being approved by Cabinet, the projects detailed in this report will become part of the rolling programme of schemes, wholly or partly funded by CIL.</p>	<p>allocations through to LGR in 2028.</p> <p>The council's 'Solar for Business' schemes at Winchester Cathedral and Winchester Science Centre could be funded through other sources such as prudential borrowing, but utilising CIL funds to deliver these schemes would provide significant revenue benefits over the 25-year life of the panels as well as mitigate against the risk of falling electricity prices in the future.</p> <p>Leaving the CIL application, evaluation and approval process unchanged would limit us to one bidding round per year. This would reduce opportunities for investment in infrastructure and risk</p>

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		skatepark and MUGA: £30,000 - Kings Worthy – allotments: £35,525 - The Gurkha Museum - reconfiguration, ramps and toilets: £64,707 - Winchester City Museum - exhibition upgrade and remodelling: £200,000 - Trinity, Winchester - new heating system: £32,000 - Christ Church, Winchester - lifts and toilets: £92,300 - Colden Common Bowls Club - ramp and safety barrier: £10,000		good projects being delayed or unable to access the necessary funding.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Carroll Centre, Winchester - toilets and kitchen: £102,251 - Knowle MUGA: £30,000 - Durley Village Hall - kitchen: £22,905 - Boarhunt pavilion: £40,950 <p>4. That it be noted that four applications were refused.</p> <p>5. That it be noted that one application was referred to Winchester Town Forum for consideration to be funded from Winchester Town CIL.</p> <p>6. That it be noted that £110,000 previously allocated to three community schemes that</p>		

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		<p>are no longer going ahead - Otterbourne pedestrian crossing, Twyford cycle route and Knowle pump track - can be released back to the fund for future allocation.</p> <p>7. That a capital budget and funding allocation of £359,695 in 2026/27 from Winchester City Council CIL income receipts be approved, ring-fenced to support transport and active travel projects and the expenditure be approved under Financial Procedure rule 7.4, for the following Hampshire County Council projects:</p> <p>a) Swanmore to Bishops Waltham - footpath/cycleway:</p>		

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		<p align="center">£300,000</p> <p>b) Itchen Valley - path improvements: £59,695</p> <p>8. That a CIL allocation of £331,000 be approved to the following council-led projects, subject to approval of a full business case:</p> <p>a) Winchester Cathedral - solar PV installation: £107,000</p> <p>b) Winchester Science Centre - solar PV installation: £224,000</p> <p>9. That an increase of £30,000 be approved, funded by CIL, to the existing capital budget of</p>		

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		<p>£60,000 for solar PV at Meadowside Leisure Centre and approve its expenditure, bringing the total budget approved for expenditure to £90,000.</p> <p>10. That a capital budget of £110,000 in 2026/27 be approved (subject to approval of by Winchester Town Forum report WFT343) allocated from Neighbourhood (Town) CIL income receipts and the expenditure under Financial Procedure rule 7.4 be approved for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) improvement at St Matthews Field, Weeke.</p> <p>11. That a CIL allocation of £4.5m to the Central</p>		

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		<p>Winchester Regeneration scheme be approved, previously earmarked for this purpose in CAB3484.</p> <p>12. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director responsible for CIL to approve funding allocations from Winchester City Council CIL income receipts to community, health, active travel and transport fund projects.</p> <p>13. That authority be delegated to the S151 officer to approve capital budget and expenditure up to £500k for community, health, active travel and transport fund projects.</p>		

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A12	Future arrangements for development management in the South Downs National Park for the period 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2032	That the Corporate Head of Planning and Regulatory Services and Director (Legal) be authorised to enter into a new agreement for the delivery of development management services (including planning enforcement) on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority for the period 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2032. Subject to the South Downs National Park Authority Member approval on 20 th March 2026	<p>In April 2011, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) became the local planning authority for the part of the district which lies within the park boundary.</p> <p>The Council has since that time delivered the development management service (includes enforcement) on behalf of the SDNPA. The agreement is secured through S101 of the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>The current arrangements began on 1st October 2022 until 30th September 2024, with an option to extend for a further 2 years. That option was exercised and the current arrangement is due to terminate on the 30th</p>	<p>The council is under no obligation to provide a development management for the SDNPA. If we decided not to continue to deliver the service, we would have to give notice and staff that deliver the development management service would be subject to TUPE.</p> <p>The partnership has worked well for both authorities and as explained above, it is considered financially favourable to the council to continue with the arrangement as well as ensuring decision making remains at the most local level providing those who use the SDNPA development management service.</p>

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			<p>September 2026.</p> <p>Both parties agree to entering into a new agreement to continue to deliver the development management service, and on 23rd December 2025 the SDNPA wrote to the Council with an offer to continue with the arrangement, under a new agreement.</p> <p>The offer is provided at officer level at this time to deliver the development management service from 1st October 2026 to the 31st March 2032. This offer is to be taken to the SDNPA Committee for their Member approval on 20th March 2026. Terms have been negotiated with an offer of 8% uplift over the current terms.</p>	
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			<p>Subject to that offer being ratified by the SDNPA Committee it is recommended that we enter a new contract. A 5.5-year contract ensures decision making is retained at the most local level for the 40% of the district inside the park.</p> <p>A new agreement running to March 2032 provides certainty for the development management service during the transition to a unitary authority with the subsequent unitary authority continuing to deliver the development management service in accordance with the agreement.</p>	
A13	Annual Review of Risk Management Policy 2026/27	That the Risk Management Policy for 2026/27, the Risk Appetite Statement for 2026/27 and the current	Report CAB3548 presents the annual review of the council's Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite	None.

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		<p>Corporate Risk Register be approved.</p>	<p>2026/27.</p> <p>These define the council’s arrangements for identifying and managing risks and its integration with corporate governance and performance management.</p> <p>There have been updates and amends to the key strategic risks that appear on the Corporate Risk Register over the course of 2025/26, resulting from the quarterly reviews by ELB and Audit and Governance Committee and these have been reported in the quarterly Governance Monitoring report.</p> <p>The report seeks consideration and approval of the reviewed Risk Management Policy and Risk</p>	

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			Appetite Statement for 2026/27.	
A14	Q3 Finance & Performance Monitoring	That the progress achieved during Q3 of 2025/26 be noted and the contents of report CAB3537 be endorsed.	The Council Plan sets out the priorities of the council and the report provides a summary of the progress achieved during the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025	None.