

Meeting	Council
Date and Time	Wednesday, 14th January, 2026 at 6.30 pm.
Venue	Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL and streamed live on YouTube at www.youtube.com/winchestercc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 14th January, 2026 in the Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL and all Members of the Council are summoned to attend.

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

A limited number of seats will be made available at the above named location, however attendance must be notified to the council at least 3 working days before the meeting. Please note that priority will be given to those having registered to speak during the Public Question session over those wishing to attend and observe. Please note that Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services (democracy@winchester.gov.uk) prior to **10am**, five working days preceding the day of the council meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 24 September 2025** (Pages 9 - 16)
2. **Disclosure 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.
3. **Announcements from the Mayor, Leader and Chief Executive.**



4. **Questions from Members of the Public**

To receive and answer any questions from the public.

(Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services – democracy@winchester.gov.uk – no later than 10am on Wednesday 7 January 2026)

5. **To consider and determine the following Recommended Minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held 27 November 2025 - Pay Policy Report and Statement 2026/27 (AG170). (Pages 17 - 44)**

RECOMMENDED:

That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2026/27 be adopted.

6. **Information for Council**

South Downs National Park Authority: Cllr Jerry Pett

7. **Notices of Motion**

(a) Armed Forces – End to the Unjust Benefits System for Veterans – “Credit Their Service”

Proposer: Cllr Danny Lee

Seconder: Cllr Brian Laming

Preamble

Winchester is a proud supporter of the Armed Forces community, the Royal British Legion (RBL) and Armed Forces Covenant. Our district has deep historic and present-day ties with the Armed Forces, including service personnel, veterans, and their families who contribute to our community.

However, veterans receiving military compensation continue to face unfair treatment in the welfare system. The Royal British Legion’s “Credit Their Service” campaign highlights this serious injustice.

This inequity results in our poorest veterans and their families being denied full financial support that would otherwise be available to civilians receiving equivalent compensation through civil courts. Winchester City Council can lead locally by ensuring military compensation can be treated fairly and advocate for national reform.

Council Notes

- That military compensation, awarded by the UK Government for injury, illness or loss sustained in service, is still treated as income by c80% of local authorities in the UK and is therefore means-tested benefits, despite civilian personal-injury compensation being fully disregarded.
- That the Royal British Legion’s ‘Credit Their Service’ campaign has

- identified more than 150,000 veterans and family members affected nationally each year.
- That councils have the discretion to disregard Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and War Pension income in local benefits including Council Tax Support (CTS), Housing Benefit (HB), Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP), and Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG).
- That the Royal British Legion lists Eastleigh and other authorities – including Wigan, Durham, Northumberland, and Basingstoke – as councils that have adopted fairer treatment by fully disregarding military compensation in local schemes.
- That Winchester City Council has a strong commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and can demonstrate national leadership by ensuring local veterans are treated fairly. Winchester City Council signed the Covenant on 2 March 2022¹.

Council Resolves

1. To support the Royal British Legion’s “Credit Their Service” campaign, recognising the injustice caused when military compensation is treated as income in local means-tested benefits.
2. To amend all relevant Winchester City Council policies to ensure that
 - All Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments and War Disablement Pensions are fully disregarded when assessing financial liability for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG).
 - All Armed Forces compensation and War Pension income is fully disregarded when assessing eligibility or award levels for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP).
 - The same principle is applied wherever legally permissible in Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit calculations within local discretionary parameters.
3. To embed this position explicitly within the Council’s Private Sector Housing Policy and DFG Policy Statement, citing the Armed Forces Covenant duty to ensure fair treatment.
4. To publicise the policy clearly to veterans, local voluntary groups, and Armed Forces representatives across the district.
5. To write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions urging national reform so that military compensation is fully exempt from all means-tested Department for Work and Pensions benefits.

¹ [Winchester City Council - GOV.UK](#) - no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen. And, and in some circumstances that special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured

6. To work with the Royal British Legion, the Hampshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, and neighbouring councils to support consistent adoption of “Credit Their Service” principles across Hampshire.

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Ref/Notes

1. [Credit their Service](#)

(b) Protecting Streams and Rivers Across the Winchester District.

Proposer: Cllr Kelsie Learney
Seconder: Cllr Suzanne White

This Council recognises that our streams and rivers are vital to the ecological health, cultural heritage, and future sustainability of the Winchester district.

Our district includes internationally significant chalk streams, the River Itchen, River Meon, and River Dever, as well as the River Hamble and other watercourses.

These rivers provide habitats for unique and endangered species, support livelihoods, recreation, the wellbeing of our residents and have historical and cultural significance. However rivers across the UK, and here in the Winchester district, face increasing pressures from pollution, over-abstraction, habitat and biodiversity degradation, and climate change.

This Council welcomes the priority given to the protection and restoration of rivers and chalk streams within the recently adopted Local Nature Recovery strategy for Hampshire and the specific reference to chalk streams within the recently published consultation draft revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

However these measures are unlikely to counter the cumulative impact of:

- Government proposals to scale back biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements
- Indications that nature-friendly farming measures within Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs) may be rolled back.
- Proposed changes weakening Habitats Regulations
- Reference in the draft NPPF to “an unacceptable adverse effect on water quality” rather than absolute protection
- The removal of the House of Lords’ amendment to the Planning and Infrastructure bill which required spatial development strategies to identify the measures to protect chalk streams from environmental damage; and impose responsibilities on strategic planning authorities in relation to the protection and enhancement of chalk stream habitats.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Restate this Council's intention to lead by example to protect and restore our rivers and streams and their catchments.
2. Continue to advocate to Government and national and regional bodies, including the Environment Agency, for the protection of our chalk streams and other freshwater ecosystems.
3. Support local initiatives and citizen monitoring efforts that protect and restore river health, such as citizen science water testing and river fly monitoring, riparian buffer planting, natural flood management, creating wildlife corridors and sustainable agriculture partnerships.
4. Support public engagement to raise awareness of the importance of chalk streams and rivers to Hampshire's natural and cultural heritage.
5. Request that the Environment Agency publishes an annual "State of the Rivers" report to track progress in protecting the aquatic environment, in collaboration with local environmental organisations.

(c) Hampshire Mayoral Election.

Proposer: Cllr Caroline Horrill

Seconder: Cllr Stephen Godfrey

This council notes the announcement last month from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government that the inaugural elections to select a Mayor for the new Hampshire Mayoral Combined Authority would not take place until May 2028.

This Council believes that the election of a Mayor for the Hampshire & the Solent Combined County Authority must happen as early as possible, preferably in May 2026, but should not be delayed beyond May 2027.

This Council resolves to:

1. Formally oppose the Government's proposal to delay the Hampshire Mayoral election from May 2026 to May 2028.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing this Council's concern at the proposed delay and calling for the election to proceed in May 2026 as originally planned and not to be postponed beyond May 2027.

(d) Local Elections.

Proposer: Cllr Caroline Horrill
Seconder: Cllr Stephen Godfrey

This council notes the letter from the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness on 18th December 2025 inviting views on the postponement of local elections from May 2026.

This Council believes that local elections, including those planned for Winchester City Council in May 2026, must not be postponed.

This Council resolves to request that the Leader responds to the Minister accordingly – making clear that Winchester City Council does not support postponement of its elections.

8. Changes to Committee Memberships

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

9. Questions from Members of Council

The total time for questions and the answer and supplementaries thereto shall not exceed 40 minutes.

LAURA TAYLOR
Chief Executive

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



6 January 2026

Agenda Contact: David Blakemore, Democratic Services Team Manager
Tel: 01962 848217 Email: dblakemore@winchester.gov.uk

Quorum = 15 members

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs at Ordinary Meetings of the Council. The total time allocated for questions by the public shall normally be limited to 20 minutes.

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing to Democratic Services no later than 5 working days preceding the Council meeting. For example, if the Council meeting is being held at 6.30pm on a Wednesday then the question would need to be received by 10am on the preceding Wednesday. Please email to democracy@winchester.gov.uk.

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting will be recorded and broadcast live on the Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution for further information, which is available to view on the [Council's website](#).

DISABLED ACCESS:

Disabled access is normally available, but please phone Democratic Services on 01962 848 264 or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place.