



<b>Meeting</b>	Health and Environment Policy Committee
<b>Date and Time</b>	Wednesday, 8th July, 2026 at 6.30 pm.
<b>Venue</b>	Walton Suite, Guildhall Winchester and streamed live on YouTube at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/winchestercc">www.youtube.com/winchestercc</a>

**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 ([www.youtube.com/winchestercc](http://www.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. Please note that priority will be given to those wishing to attend and address the meeting over those wishing to attend and observe.

## AGENDA

### PROCEDURAL ITEMS

- 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 Interest**  
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 2026/27**
- 4. Chairperson's Announcements**



5. **To note the dates and times of future meetings of this committee.**

- 8 July 2026 at 6.30pm
- 17 September 2026 at 6.30pm
- 1 December 2026 at 6.30pm
- 28 February 2027 at 6.30pm

6. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 14)

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2026.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

7. **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.

*NB members of the public are required to register with Democratic Services three clear working days before the meeting*

(contact: [democracy@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@winchester.gov.uk) or 01962 848 264).

Members of the public and visiting councillors may speak at this Committee, provided they have registered to speak three working days in advance. Please contact Democratic Services **by 5pm on 3 July 2026** via [democracy@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@winchester.gov.uk) or (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

8. **Nutrient Neutrality Working Group - Update**

9. **Integrated Update from Special Maintenance and the Natural Environment and Recreation Team - River Management and Pollution**  
(Pages 15 - 22)

Briefing note attached

10. **Nutrient Mitigation programme** (Pages 23 - 34)

Briefing note attached

11. **Investing in Communities: Making CIL Work Harder and Faster (Presentation)** (Pages 35 - 48)

12. **To note the Work Programme for 2026/27** (Pages 49 - 52)

**Laura Taylor**  
Chief Executive

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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.

30 June 2026

Agenda Contact: Claire Buchanan, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: 01962 848 438 Email:cbuchanan@winchester.gov.uk

*\*With the exception of exempt items, Agenda, reports and previous minutes are available on the Council's Website [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk)*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Chairperson:** Pett (Liberal Democrats)    **Vice-Chairperson:**

### **Conservatives**

Warwick

### **Liberal Democrats**

Achwal V  
Brophy  
Pinniger  
Power  
Tippett-Cooper  
Westwood

### **Ind & Green**

Lee

### **Conservatives**

Horrill and Langford-Smith

### **Deputy Members Liberal Democrats**

Eve and Fleuren

### **Ind & Green**

Bailey-Morgan and  
Cook

Quorum = 3 members

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS**

Representations will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes, subject to a maximum 15 minutes set aside for all questions and answers. To reserve your place to speak, you are asked to **register with Democratic Services three clear working days prior to the meeting** – please see public participation agenda item for further details. People will be invited to speak in the order that they have registered, subject to the maximum time period allowed for speaking not being exceeded. Public Participation is at the Chairperson's discretion.

## **FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION**

This meeting will be recorded and broadcast live from the Council's YouTube channel. 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](#). 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).

## **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 25 February 2026**

Attendance:

Councillors  
Pett (Chairperson)

Bennett  
Brophy  
Horrill

Lee  
Power  
Westwood

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Latham and Miller

Deputy Member:

Councillor Horrill (deputy for Councillor Miller)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Cramoysan (Cabinet Member for Recycling and Public Protection) and Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency)

[Full Video Recording](#)

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1. **APOLOGIES AND DEPUTY MEMBERS**

Apologies were noted as above.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lee made a personal statement that he was a Trustee of WinACC, should any discussion arise in this respect during the consideration of items.

Councillor Pett declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of any agenda items it may impact, due to being a member of the South Downs National Park Authority. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, he stated that he had a dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer that enabled him to speak and vote on these matters.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairperson announced that two working groups, involving members only at this stage, had been established and updates were provided as follows:

- i. Identifying current barriers to increasing the availability and accessibility of Electric Vehicle Charging Points across the Winchester.

The group were in the process of working with officers over the coming weeks and would report back in due course.

- ii. Developing practicable incentives, including indicative costs, for householders off mains drainage to modernise private sewerage systems to reduce the risk of the leaching of nutrients into the surrounding land and watercourses.

A report had been prepared on nutrient neutrality which had been endorsed by members of the committee and would be circulated in due course for progression, together with a copy of the recent Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) paper referencing a useful framework for nutrient mitigation.

#### 4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings held on the 2 December 2025 be approved and adopted.

#### 5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments or questions made during public participation.

#### 6. **ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY DUTY - HEP046**

Following introduction by the Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency, the Service Lead: Sustainability and Natural Environment and the Ecologist/Biodiversity Officer presented the report in relation to enhanced biodiversity duty, and several questions were asked, including the following:

1. An enquiry was made regarding whether the council possessed the ability to capture data on biodiversity projects, such as hedgerow planting, that occurred on land outside of council ownership. It was explained that community groups were encouraged to report their actions and that the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) reporting would provide more robust data on such delivery. It was further noted that the Nature Improvement Plan (NIP) aimed to establish clearer templates and direct routes for communities and parish councils to share this information.
2. Further clarification was sought on whether additional guidance or incentives could be provided to parish councils to assist in monitoring local biodiversity activities. It was noted that the council

intended to use platforms such as Parish Connect to provide guidance and encourage reporting. It was suggested that sharing examples of work undertaken by different parishes could encourage engagement.

3. An explanation was requested regarding the biodiversity gains data in the report, specifically why certain habitat baseline figures remained identical to post-development figures. It was clarified that the table followed a standard government template which included retained habitats. It was explained that if a developer retained an existing habitat without alteration, the units would appear in both the baseline and post-development columns.
4. A request was made for a key or more user-friendly format to be included in future reports to help the public understand the relationship between biodiversity units and hectares. It was confirmed that while the current report followed a statutory template, future iterations of the Nature Improvement Plan reporting could be adapted to be more accessible.
5. A question was asked concerning the adequacy of resources for BNG monitoring and whether a robust enforcement system was in place to ensure developers met their commitments. It was stated that monitoring fees were set to ensure adequate resourcing and that the BNG governance framework was designed to make enhancements measurable and enforceable over a 30-year period.
6. Further clarification was sought on the lack of off-site biodiversity units secured within the local planning authority boundary and whether this indicated a shortage of habitat banks in the district. It was explained that while the council did not have full control over private land, work was being undertaken with the Partnership for South Hampshire to identify land across the county for habitat banks. It was noted that the market for these banks was beginning to materialise.
7. A question was raised as to whether the council could enforce the requirement for BNG units to be located within the district. It was clarified that while the statutory metric provided financial incentives to keep units in close proximity to a development, the council could not refuse an application solely because units were provided in a different location.
8. An enquiry was made as to where information regarding amendments to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) could be located. It was noted that this information had been discussed during a previous committee meeting regarding the Nature Improvement Plan.
9. Further clarification was sought on whether the objectives of the Nature Improvement Plan were supported by sufficient financial and human resources. It was stated that the action plan was developed to be commensurate with available resources. It was further noted that the

NIP remained a priority for the sustainability team with a supporting budget.

10. A question was asked regarding why a large number of planning permissions were exempt from BNG requirements and what examples of such exemptions existed. It was noted that the government had introduced exemptions to streamline the planning system.
11. A question was raised regarding whether the presentation of data could be improved to show the time required for habitats to mature and how this linked to carbon credits. It was agreed that future public-facing reports would aim to be more accessible and that the team would consider how to better demonstrate the linkage between biodiversity data and carbon credits.

The questions were responded to by the Cabinet Member, the Service Lead: Sustainability and Natural Environment, and the Ecologist/Biodiversity Officer.

In conclusion, the committee thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for an informative report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the comments raised by the committee, as summarised above, be noted.

## 7. **SUPPORT CREATION OF LOCAL CARBON CREDITS - PRESENTATION**

Following introduction by the Cabinet Member for the Climate and Nature Emergency, the Sustainability Manager then gave a presentation on supporting the creation of local carbon credits, and several questions were asked, including the following:

1. Further clarification was sought on the graph illustrating carbon flux, specifically regarding the prioritisation of sites and whether "high yield" referred to current status or future potential. It was explained that the graph represented carbon being sequestered from or emitted into the atmosphere based on land use, with green indicating net sequestration and orange indicating a carbon-emitting site, such as the agricultural use at Littleton Triangle.
2. A question was asked regarding how the sequestration figure of 125 tonnes per year compared with other local authorities. It was responded that research into other authorities was not yet complete, and while 125 tonnes was a contribution, it was small in relation to total annual district emissions.
3. Further clarification was sought on whether changing farming practices at the Littleton Triangle would provide financial advantages to both the land manager and the council through the sale of carbon credits. It

was explained that landowners balanced economic and environmental gains, and that income streams from natural capital markets, such as carbon credits or biodiversity net gain, served as potential arguments for alternative land uses.

4. An enquiry was made regarding the relative value of land used for carbon sequestration compared to land for agriculture or housing, and whether credits were a sufficient incentive for developers. It was noted that business cases were required to demonstrate value for money and that future scoping would compare the economic returns of natural capital schemes against other land uses.
5. A question was raised concerning the funding and management of projects for parish councils, and what guidance was available regarding plan viability and responsibility for volunteer-run groups. It was acknowledged that parish councils required working examples and further guidance to understand the path toward delivering shovel-ready projects.
6. Further clarification was sought on the potential for a toolkit to assist parishes in monetising small pockets of land through simplified carbon credit systems. It was observed that equipping parishes with such tools would assist them in viewing land acquisitions as assets rather than liabilities.
7. A suggestion was made to utilise a "pincer movement" by working with existing partnerships, such as farm clusters and the wildlife trust, to move the project forward locally. It was responded that joining up different projects and stakeholders, including the South Downs National Park, was a key part of the strategy.

The questions were responded to by the Cabinet Member and the Sustainability Manager.

In conclusion, the committee thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be received and the comments raised by the committee, as summarised above, be noted.

8. **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER AND ENFORCEMENT - PRESENTATION**

Following introduction by the Cabinet Member for Recycling and Public Protection, the Service Lead: Public Protection then gave a presentation on public space protection orders and enforcement, and several questions were asked, including the following:

1. Further clarification was sought on the low number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) served in Winchester, specifically requesting the figures and the time period they covered.
2. It was explained that four FPNs were served for dog fouling over the previous two years, while none were served for littering or alcohol-related offences.
3. An enquiry was made as to whether data was available concerning the number of cautions that had been issued by the council or the police.
4. The officer noted that this information was not immediately available but could be provided, and it was further clarified that data was not currently shared between the police and the council regarding the use of these powers.
5. A question was asked regarding the risk of further criminalising vulnerable members of the community and whether the use of third-party enforcement agencies would create perverse incentives.
6. It was clarified that the use of external agencies was only being scoped as an option and was not a definitive proposal at that stage.
7. Further clarification was sought on how the council could address the issue of begging on the high street, which some residents reportedly found intimidating.
8. The officer explained that a staged approach involving words of advice was typically used before a fine was issued, and that PSPOs could provide a swifter method for dealing with individuals who moved between different locations.
9. An enquiry was made as to whether begging was already a criminal offence under existing statutes.
10. The officer noted that while an older act allowed for arrests for begging, it was slated for removal, and the council was exploring whether a PSPO was a more appropriate tool.
11. A request was made for the council to establish a clear evidence base and data recording system to justify the adoption or renewal of these powers.
12. It was confirmed that sufficient data was a legal requirement for the adoption of a PSPO and that specific controls, such as those for the volume of amplified busking, could be built into the orders.
13. Further clarification was sought on whether a district-wide PSPO for dog fouling was already in effect.
14. It was clarified that there was no current PSPO for dog fouling and the council instead relied on the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act.

15. A question was asked regarding whether other individuals, such as Parish Clerks, could be authorised to issue FPNs for dog fouling in their local areas.
16. It was confirmed that the council had the power to authorise other persons to take such action, although it was noted that many parish councils had previously been reluctant to do so.
17. An enquiry was made concerning whether the primary issue was a lack of visible street presence and human resources rather than a requirement for new legislation.
18. A question was raised as to whether committee members believed residents were avoiding the city centre due to anti-social behaviour.
19. Further clarification was sought on the use of alternative tools to address issues such as busking and commercial waste management before committing to a range of PSPOs.
20. An enquiry was made as to whether the proposal involved a single PSPO or multiple orders for different behaviours.
21. It was explained that the preferred model was to have separate PSPOs for specific activities to ensure legal clarity and ease of enforcement.

The questions were responded to by the Cabinet Member, the Corporate Head of Planning and Regulatory Services and the Service Lead: Public Protection.

In conclusion, the committee thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for an informative presentation

**RESOLVED:**

That the presentation be received and the comments raised by the committee, as summarised above, be noted.

9. **BUILDING A RESILIENT WASTE SERVICE FOR THE FUTURE - PRESENTATION**

Following introduction by the Cabinet Member for Recycling and Public Protection, the Corporate Head of Service: Place then gave a presentation on building a resilient waste service for the future, and several questions were asked, including the following:

1. A question was raised regarding the debate over using bags for food waste, the variable quality of compostable liners, and the presence of plastic in tea bags. It was noted that a video was produced to explain the recycling process and that the use of bags was preferred by collection crews to assist with efficiency.

2. Further clarification was sought on how to simplify the perceived complexity of recycling, with suggestions made to utilise circular economy videos or peer-led engagement campaigns similar to those used in public health. It was suggested that the communications team could provide materials to councillors to help amplify these messages through parish newsletters and social media platforms.
3. An enquiry was made as to how the amount of avoided carbon dioxide was calculated for residents, and whether a breakdown of recycling performance between rural and urban areas was available. It was explained that carbon data was based on verified specialist references, and it was noted that messaging regarding the financial savings achieved by avoiding landfill was also under consideration.
4. A question was asked concerning the accessibility of glass recycling and the current capacity of bins following changes to kerbside collections. It was reported that a new material recycling facility was being tendered which would allow glass to be collected in the main recycling bin, which was expected to increase capacity and simplicity for residents.
5. Further clarification was sought on whether the Emissions Trading Scheme represented a financial cost or a potential income for the council. It was clarified that while there was no immediate impact on the collection authority, the future unitary authority would benefit from reduced disposal costs if waste tonnages were lowered before the scheme's introduction in 2028.
6. A question was raised regarding the council's enforcement strategy for fly-tipping and whether reported figures included incidents occurring on private land. It was noted that fly-tipping incidents had decreased and that the council pursued prosecutions for offences on both public and private land.
7. An enquiry was made to verify that residual waste was sent for energy recovery rather than to landfill. It was confirmed that the majority of non-recyclable waste was sent to an energy-from-waste facility, and it was noted that a primary objective was to reduce the volume of material sent for incineration to further lower carbon emissions.
8. A question was asked regarding the possibility of the council providing a parallel waste collection service for commercial establishments. It was noted that such a service was a potential consideration for the future unitary authority.
9. Further clarification was sought on the actions being taken to influence the government and producers to reduce unnecessary packaging. It was explained that the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, which began in April 2025, required producers to pay for the packaging they produced, with higher costs for materials that were more difficult to recycle.

10. Confirmation was sought on whether the council received a share of the funding generated by the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme to cover its waste management costs. It was confirmed that this funding was received by the council.

The questions were responded to by the Cabinet Member and the Corporate Head of Service: Place.

In conclusion, the committee thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for an informative presentation

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be received and the comments raised by the committee, as summarised above, be noted.

10. **TO NOTE THE MEETING DATES FOR THE COMMITTEE IN 2026/27**

RESOLVED:

That the meeting dates of the committee for 2026/27, as set out on the agenda, be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 9.00 pm

Chairperson

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## HEP Briefing Note

**Subject:** How Winchester City Council Manages Water

Service Area: Special Maintenance

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### Matters for the Committee to Consider

**1. Public awareness and community resilience**

Does the Committee believe there is more the Council could do to improve residents' understanding of flood risk, individual preparedness and the roles of the different agencies involved in responding to water-related incidents?

**2. Learning from local experience**

Would the Committee support a review of recent flooding events to identify any lessons learned and opportunities to further strengthen the Council's operational response arrangements?

**3. Making the invisible visible**

Given that much of the Council's work in managing water takes place behind the scenes, are there opportunities to better communicate the value of this work and increase public understanding of the services provided?

### Purpose

To provide councillors with an overview of Winchester City Council's role in managing water across the district, including flood risk, drainage, wastewater treatment and environmental protection. The note also explains how this work supports delivery of the Council Plan and contributes to creating healthy, resilient and sustainable communities.

### Introduction

Water has always shaped Winchester. From the River Itchen running through the heart of the city to the network of drainage infrastructure that supports our communities, how we manage water affects residents, businesses, our environment and our local economy.

Managing water well is not simply an operational issue. It is fundamental to delivering many of the ambitions set out in the Council Plan. It helps protect homes and businesses from flooding, supports sustainable growth, safeguards our important natural habitats and ensures that our communities are better prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Winchester City Council does not hold all the statutory responsibilities relating to water management. Those responsibilities sit across several organisations. However, the Council has an important role to play and, in some areas, a very direct operational role. This briefing note sets out what we do, where others lead, and how partnership working is essential to keeping Winchester safe, resilient and thriving.

## **Supporting the Council Plan**

The Council's approach to water management supports a number of the priorities within the Council Plan.

### **Healthy communities and quality of life**

Protecting communities from flooding helps people feel safe in their homes and supports the continued vitality of our towns and villages. The Council's work in managing river levels, maintaining flood infrastructure and responding during periods of severe weather contributes directly to community resilience.

### **Tackling the climate emergency and protecting our environment**

The changing climate is increasing the likelihood of more intense rainfall events and placing greater pressure on existing infrastructure. Our approach focuses not only on responding to these challenges but also on protecting the district's internationally important chalk streams, sensitive habitats and biodiversity.

### **Homes for all and sustainable growth**

Through the planning process, the Council helps ensure that new development is supported by appropriate drainage arrangements and that growth does not increase flood risk elsewhere. Good water management is therefore an important part of delivering sustainable communities.

### **Living well and a well-run council**

Whether operating wastewater treatment works, maintaining flood defences or working with partners to resolve local issues, the Council continues to provide practical services that matter to residents whilst making best use of its resources and expertise.

## **Winchester City Council's Role**

Water management is a shared responsibility. The organisations involved each have different powers and duties.

Key partners include:

- Hampshire County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority;

- the Environment Agency, responsible for flood forecasting, environmental regulation and the management of main rivers; and
- Southern Water, which manages the public sewer network and wastewater infrastructure serving most residents.

Within this wider framework, Winchester City Council's responsibilities focus on several key areas:

- managing river flows through Winchester;
- providing drainage advice through the planning process;
- operating council-owned sewage treatment works;
- supporting local flood response arrangements; and
- undertaking limited water quality monitoring.

Whilst these responsibilities are more targeted than those of some of our partners, they remain important in protecting communities and supporting the district's future growth.

### **River Management and Land Drainage**

Historically, Winchester City Council was the Land Drainage Authority. However, following the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, many of those responsibilities transferred to Hampshire County Council.

Around 95% of former land drainage functions now sit with the County Council. Winchester City Council nevertheless retains responsibility for managing watercourses that it owns or controls.

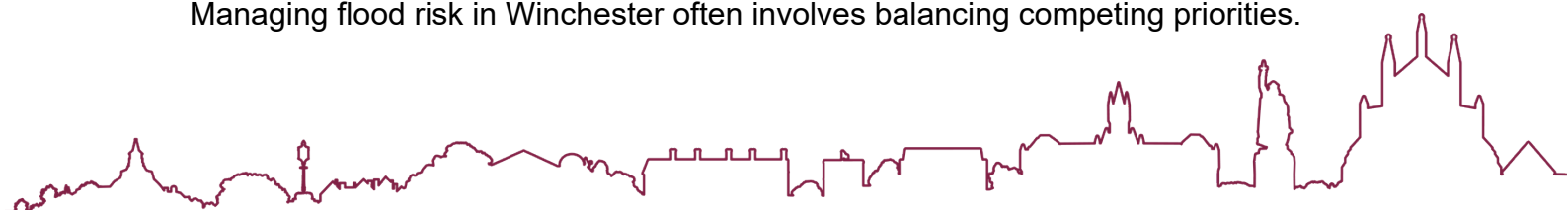
This includes active management of sections of the River Itchen through Winchester, from Winnall Moors through to Winchester College. Officers oversee a complex network of channels, weirs, sluices and culverts that require regular attention.

One of the most important aspects of this work is daily monitoring. River levels are checked each morning, with officers assessing conditions and determining whether adjustments to sluices or other interventions are required.

Much of this work happens behind the scenes and is rarely visible to residents, but it plays an important role in reducing flood risk across the city.

### **Flood Risk Management**

Managing flood risk in Winchester often involves balancing competing priorities.



The Council seeks to protect homes, businesses and infrastructure whilst also recognising the environmental importance of areas such as Winnall Moors, which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

River levels are managed within agreed operating ranges. As levels increase, officers may adjust sluice gates or redirect flows through different channels. In more extreme situations, floodplains may be allowed to function as intended, temporarily storing water away from developed areas.

Alongside these operational interventions, the Council has invested in flood defence infrastructure.

Localised measures, including flood boards, walls and temporary defences, provide protection to some of the city's more vulnerable locations.

The Durngate Flood Defence Scheme has further strengthened Winchester's resilience. Completed in 2021, the scheme provides a city-wide line of defence and includes flood storage capacity of approximately 250,000 tonnes of water. It was designed to provide protection against a one in one hundred year event and has not yet been required.

The Council also maintains a limited stock of sandbags. Their use is prioritised for council assets and vulnerable residents where no alternative support is available.

### **Planning and Sustainable Development**

One of the most significant ways in which the Council influences water management is through its role as Local Planning Authority.

Every planning application is assessed to understand whether the proposed drainage arrangements are appropriate and whether the development could increase flood risk.

For major developments, Hampshire County Council provides specialist advice on surface water drainage. Winchester City Council continues to review foul drainage impacts and the broader implications of development proposals.

National planning policy requires developments to demonstrate that they will not worsen flood risk elsewhere. Developers are expected to follow the drainage hierarchy, prioritising infiltration methods where possible before considering other discharge arrangements.

In practice, this often means incorporating sustainable drainage systems and attenuation measures designed to slow the release of water and replicate more natural drainage patterns.

Taking this approach helps ensure that growth is supported by the right infrastructure and that future communities are planned in a sustainable way.

## **Surface Water and Flash Flooding**

Flash flooding is becoming an increasing challenge as rainfall patterns change.

Locations such as Winchester High Street can experience flooding during intense downpours when large volumes of water enter the drainage system over a short period of time.

The Council undertakes a range of activities to help manage this risk, including monitoring and maintaining culverts and, where appropriate, lowering river levels ahead of forecast storms to create additional capacity within the system.

It is important to recognise, however, that many of the factors contributing to flash flooding sit outside the Council's direct control.

Flooding can result from highway drainage issues, pressures within the sewer network or the sheer intensity of rainfall overwhelming existing infrastructure.

The Council therefore has both an operational role and an important role in working alongside partners to understand local issues and identify solutions.

## **Wastewater Treatment**

Winchester City Council owns and operates approximately 45 small sewage treatment works serving around 3,500 homes across the district.

Whilst the vast majority of residents are connected to Southern Water's sewerage system, these sites provide an important service to a number of rural communities.

Larger treatment works operate under Environment Agency permits and are subject to regular monitoring. Compliance levels remain consistently high, with performance typically achieving around 99% compliance.

Most treated discharges enter the ground through infiltration systems, although some sites discharge to local watercourses.

Maintaining these facilities ensures that communities continue to receive reliable services whilst protecting the wider environment.

## **Water Quality and Nutrient Management**

The Council's direct role in drinking water quality is limited. The principal exception is the borehole supply at Itchen Stoke, which is monitored in conjunction with the Environment Agency.

The Council also has a role in supporting the delivery of nutrient neutrality requirements.

Nutrient neutrality has become an important consideration in enabling housing growth whilst protecting internationally designated habitats. Through improvements

to treatment infrastructure, the Council has opportunities to generate nutrient credits that can be used to support development in appropriate circumstances.

This work demonstrates that environmental protection and economic growth do not have to be mutually exclusive. With the right approach, both objectives can be achieved.

The Winchester district falls within three river catchments in relation to nutrient neutrality – the East Hampshire, Test, and Itchen catchments. Within the East Hampshire and Test catchments, new housing development is required to be nutrient neutral for nitrogen. Within the Itchen catchment new housing development is required to be nutrient neutral for both phosphorus and nitrogen.

The council is currently working on developing a programme of mitigation solutions to reduce nutrient pollution and facilitate the delivery of new development within the Winchester district. The council is upgrading its wastewater treatment works (WwTW) within the district to generate nitrogen and phosphorus mitigation and generate additional revenue through the sale of credits. The council is also supporting the Solent Mitigation Partnership (SMP) and other third-party developers to develop additional mitigation schemes within the district.

There is a separate paper on Nutrient neutrality at this meeting.

### **Working in Partnership**

No single organisation is responsible for every aspect of water management.

Success depends upon strong partnership working between Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Southern Water and other stakeholders.

The Council's role is often to bring local knowledge, practical experience and leadership to these discussions, ensuring that the interests of Winchester's communities are properly represented.

As pressures increase through climate change, ageing infrastructure and future growth, these partnerships will become increasingly important.

The council is part of the East Hants Catchment Partnership and the Meon Valley Catchment Partnership, combining stakeholders to work towards the improved preservation, enhancement and management of these river catchments. These groups aim to protect and enhance the landscape, biological and cultural heritage and the ecosystem services that are delivered.

These catchment partnerships are involved in projects such as habitat restoration, species reintroductions (water voles), river health monitoring and can supply advice and grants to farmers and landowners to reduce nitrate pollution and safeguard the environment for future generations.

## Conclusion

The Council's role in water management is both practical and strategic.

On any given day, this may involve monitoring river levels, operating treatment works, reviewing planning applications or working with partners to prepare for periods of severe weather.

Taken together, these activities help protect residents, support sustainable development and safeguard the natural environment that makes Winchester such a special place.

Much of this work happens quietly and behind the scenes. However, it underpins many of the outcomes that matter most to our residents and supports the delivery of the Council Plan by helping to ensure that Winchester remains a safe, resilient and sustainable place to live, work and visit.

## Key data sources

**Flood warnings and alerts** (from Environment Agency)

[Flood alerts and warnings - GOV.UK](#)

**Groundwater levels** (from the Environment Agency)

[Groundwater Graphs - Hampshire](#)

**River levels in Winchester** (from the Environment Agency)

[Winchester, Hampshire - Find river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels - GOV.UK](#)

**Water quality data monitoring** (from the Environment Agency)

[Map Explorer | Water Quality Explorer](#)

Data showing the performance of nutrient improvement schemes at housing sites.

[Housing Performance - Winchester City Council](#)



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## HEP Briefing Note

### **Subject: Nutrient Mitigation Programme**

Service Area: Sustainability and Natural Environment

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026

#### **Matters for the Committee to Consider:**

1. The progress update on the council's WwTW upgrade projects across the three delivery strands: i.e., cost reduction sites; New Housing/HRA sites; and PfSH sites.
2. The programme management and governance framework, delivery timescales, and current risks for the programme.
3. The emerging third-party nutrient mitigation schemes being delivered within the Winchester district including the Solent Householder Septic Tank Upgrades Programme and the Hinton Ampner Nutrient Mitigation Scheme.
4. The role of the council as Local Planning Authority (LPA) in securing nutrient mitigation and monitoring, and the increasing number of third-party Strategic Mitigation schemes.

### **Purpose**

This note provides councillors with a comprehensive overview of the council's nutrient mitigation programme. It provides an update on the delivery progress of the various constituent projects and activities within the programme. It also sets out the programme management and governance framework and delivery timescales and a summary of emerging third-party nutrient mitigation schemes in the Winchester district.

The information shared here, together with the water management briefing also being considered at this meeting, aligns with the points considered by the Committee Nutrient Neutrality Members' Working Group.

### **Introduction**

The Winchester district falls within three riverine catchments in relation to nutrient neutrality – the East Hampshire, Test, and Itchen catchments. Within the East Hampshire and Test catchments, new housing development is required to be

nutrient neutral for nitrogen. Within the Itchen catchment new housing development is required to be nutrient neutral for both phosphorus and nitrogen.

The council is currently developing a programme of mitigation solutions to reduce nutrient pollution and facilitate the delivery of new development within the Winchester district. The council is upgrading its wastewater treatment works (WwTW) within the district to generate nitrogen and phosphorus mitigation and generate additional revenue through the sale of credits. The council is also supporting the Solent Mitigation Partnership (SMP) and other third-party developers to develop additional mitigation schemes within the district. Additional programme management resource has been put in place to manage and coordinate the delivery of the various projects and activities within the council's nutrient mitigation programme.

This report provides an update on the delivery of the council's WwTW upgrades; sets out the governance framework and delivery plan for the programme; identifies emerging third-party mitigation schemes in the district; and highlights current programme risks and issues. It also considers the role of the council as competent authority in considering nutrient mitigation strategies that facilitate development proposals and ensuring that it is legally secured and properly monitored for the requisite period.

## **Council wastewater treatment works upgrades**

The council's Nutrient Mitigation Programme aims to support the creation of nitrogen and phosphorus mitigation across the Winchester district through the upgrade of council wastewater treatment works (WwTW). The council operates 28 WwTWs across the district which could be upgraded to generate nitrogen credits. 17 of the WwTWs are within the Itchen catchment and have the potential to generate both nitrogen and phosphorus credits. The programme of WwTW upgrades is currently being delivered through three separate strands:

### **1. Cost reduction sites**

The HRA has made provision to undertake works to WwTWs where running costs are high to mitigate service charge recharges (i.e. cost reduction). Any works to WwTWs are undertaken with the primary aim of reducing the running cost of the plants. 11 sites have been identified for delivery under the cost reduction programme. The council has investigated the following five sites as part of the first phase of the cost reduction programme:

- **Furzeley Corner (Denmead)** – the site with the highest running costs with annual costs of £8.3k per property. The works to replace the existing cesspits with a package sewage treatment works was completed in June 2026 with total spend to date of £113k. The treatment is currently operational and functioning as

intended delivering significant cost savings with annual costs of £500 per property upon completion.

- **Doctors Lane (West Meon)** – site investigation has been conducted, and a solution has been identified to reduce running costs from about £4.6k per property to £500 per property. This involves replacing the existing cesspools with a new package treatment plant, including an on-site pumping station, and disposing of treated effluent via a properly designed drainage field located away from the treatment site (on land owned by the Diocese of Portsmouth). Tender submissions have been received from contractors, and these are currently under evaluation. We are unable to award the contract until the easements are finalised and formally documented. The council's Legal team have been instructed, and this is currently in progress.
- **Meonwara Crescent (West Meon)** – site investigation has been conducted, and a potential solution has been identified that could reduce annual running costs from £4.5k to £500 per property. The proposed solution is reliant on permission from the Environment Agency as the site is close to the River Meon and there could be significant environmental concerns. Advice has been requested from EA, and we are awaiting their response.
- **Hoyle Close (Upham) and Foresters Cottages (Soberton)** – both sites have been investigated but no solution is possible due to local geology. Both sites will remain as cesspools as effluent infiltration to the ground is not possible and there is no river to discharge to.

The first phase of cost reduction schemes at Furzeley Corner, Doctors Lane, and Meonwara Crescent are already underway and will be completed as part of Tranche 1 of the programme (see Table 1). Doctors Lane is at the contract award stage and due for delivery in Q2 2026/27; and Meonwara Crescent is awaiting advice from EA to confirm a solution can be delivered on site with an estimated delivery of Q3 2026/27. No nitrogen or phosphorus credits will be generated by the upgrades as these three sites are currently cesspools. No action will be taken at Hoyle Close and Foresters Cottage due to a lack of viable options.

## 2. New Homes/HRA sites

The council has already completed the upgrade of two WwTWs at The Goodens (Cheriton) and Northington Road (Itchen Abbas) to package treatment plants (PTPs) to generate phosphorus and nitrogen mitigation. The New Homes Delivery team have used some of the credits generated by the schemes to mitigate the council's own developments, delivering affordable council homes. The sale of the remaining nitrogen and phosphorus credits for the two completed schemes is ongoing.

At the time of writing, nearly all the nitrogen credits (55 of 60) and the phosphorus credits (4.9 of 5.1) from the Northington Road scheme have been allocated to developers. Prices are set at £3,250 per nitrogen credit and £50,000 per phosphorus

credit (or part thereof). £224k has been invoiced to date and £190k further is expected to be paid once all balances are settled prior to development starting on site (in line with signed Allocation Agreements). The plant installed at Northington cost £68k so the income generated to date represents a good return on investment alongside achieving nutrient mitigation within the Itchen River catchment.

Credits are now starting to be allocated from The Goodens scheme with 86 nitrogen credits and 9.98 phosphorus credits available for purchase. An initial 13 nitrogen credits and 1.24 phosphorus credits have been allocated to date. £98k has been invoiced to date and £73k is expected to be paid once all balances are settled prior to development starting on site. Some phosphorus credits from this scheme will be sold for £100k (each or part thereof) because the mitigation location is upstream of the Alresford area where there are very few phosphorus credits available to mitigate development in this area of the catchment. The plant installed at The Goodens cost £37k with a further £45k was paid to the South Downs National Park Authority to secure the monitoring for the scheme.

A capital budget of £400,000 to upgrade an additional four WwTWs funded from HRA reserves was authorised by Cabinet in July 2024 (see [CAB3470](#)). Works to individual WwTWs will be delivered subject to the council's Chief Finance Officer and Strategic Director agreeing the business case and granting authority to spend the budget.

The council commissioned consultants to undertake site surveys and feasibility studies of four WwTW sites – Baring Close (Itchen Abbas), Hobbs Close (Bishops Sutton), Kiln Lane (Old Alresford), and The Pastures (Cheriton) – to provide more detailed data on site conditions and potential mitigation options for each site. The site survey and feasibility work was completed at the end of February 2026. The outputs were used to develop individual outline business cases (OBC) for the sites. The business cases were considered by PAC Board in June 2026, and approval was provided to proceed to the next stage of project development for all sites, except for Hobbs Close.

The council commissioned consultants to undertake hydrogeology studies for the site. The studies suggest that, owing to lag time, phosphorus credits cannot be generated by the upgrade of Hobbs Close and only a small amount of nitrogen credits can be generated. As a result, it was decided not to proceed with upgrading this site at this time.

The next steps will be to procure and appoint a contractor to install the upgrades as part of Tranche 2 of the programme (see Table 1). Upon completion of the works, the nitrogen and phosphorus credits generated will be managed and sold by the New Homes Team to generate revenue.

### 3. Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) sites

The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) secured funding through the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund (LMNF) to upgrade 11 Winchester City Council (WCC) owned wastewater treatment works (WwTW) to provide nitrogen and phosphorus mitigation in the Itchen catchment. The Solent Mitigation Partnership (based at Fareham Borough Council) will manage and sell the credits generated by the WwTW upgrades.

A capital budget of £900,000 to implement works on council-owned plant upgrades funded by and on behalf of Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) was authorised by Cabinet in September 2024 (see [CAB3459](#)). It delegates authority to the Strategic Director to procure any works or services, award contracts to preferred bidder(s), and enter into necessary legal agreements with Fareham Borough Council (FBC) to receive the grant funding and establish working arrangements to implement the project and sell credits generated.

The first WwTW to be upgraded on behalf of PfSH is Itchen View (Itchen Stoke) which was completed in May 2025. The upgrade will generate 51.25 nitrogen credits and 6.39 phosphorus credits. The proposed Benefiting Parties, as defined by the Inter Authority Agreement, for this scheme is Winchester City Council. In January 2026, approval was given to release the nutrient credits from the Itchen View scheme to the Solent Mitigation Partnership/Fareham Borough Council for them to sell to developers within the proposed catchment area, in line with CAB3459.

The council commissioned consultants to undertake site surveys and feasibility studies of the remaining 9 PfSH sites to provide more detailed information on site conditions and inform potential mitigation options for each site. This included the sites at Couch Green, Gorse Down, Lambourne Close, North Drive, The Brook, The Hallways, Westwood View, Woodland Close, and Woodlark Cottages.

PfSH have confirmed that their three priority sites for development in Phase 3 are The Brook (Old Alresford), Couch Green (Martyr Worthy), and Woodland Close (Bramdean), as these represent the most financially viable investments. These sites will be delivered in Tranche 3. It is proposed that a contractor is procured to deliver both the three New Homes/HRA sites (Tranche 2) and the three PfSH sites (Tranche 3). Upon completion of the works, the nitrogen and phosphorus credits generated from the PfSH sites will be managed and sold by the Solent Mitigation Partnership.

A further three sites – North Drive (Littleton), The Hall Way (Littleton), and Woodlark Cottages (Brighton) - are on a reserve list for future consideration depending on costs and timescales. It is proposed that these three sites will be delivered in Tranche 4 subject to agreement with PfSH. The four remaining projects have lag times that have been assessed that will make them ineffective as phosphorus mitigation. These include Beech Grove, Owlesbury (16 years), Gorse Down, Owlesbury (9 years), Lambourne Close, Sparsholt (12 years), and Westwood View, Kilminster (14 years).

# Programme Delivery and Governance

## Programme Governance

Figure 1 sets out the programme governance structure and defines how the programme is overseen, directed, and managed.

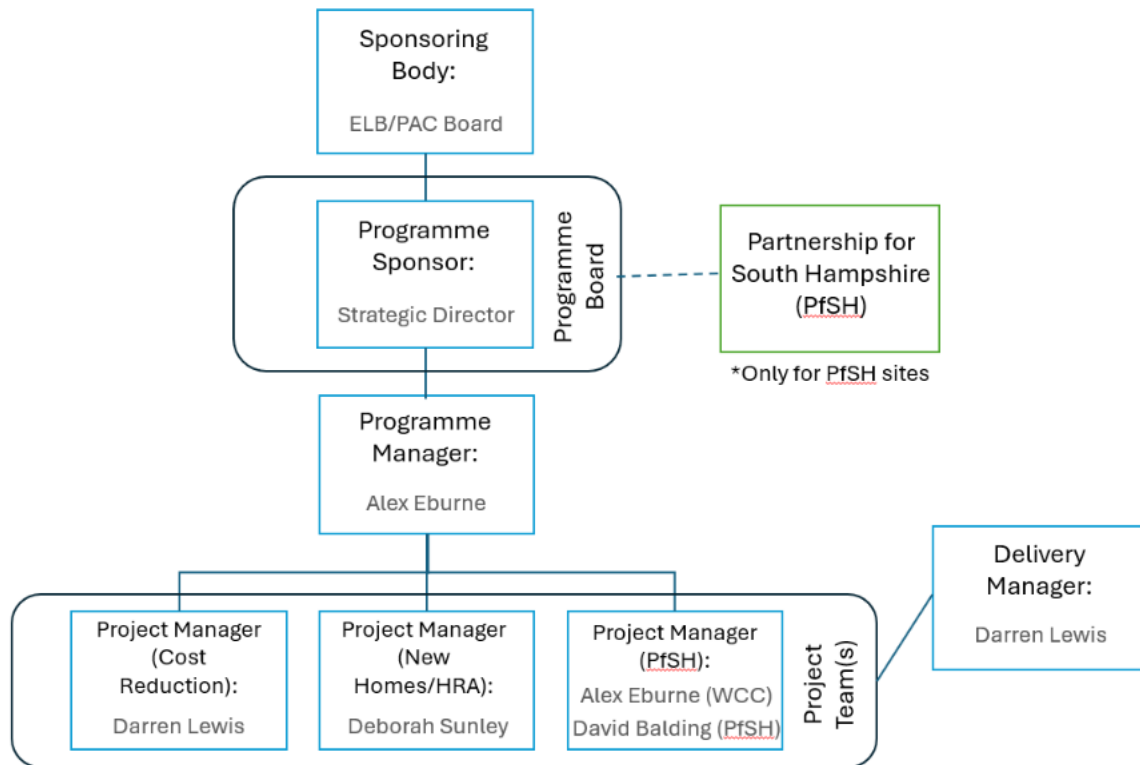


Figure 1: Programme governance structure

A Project Team has been set up for each of the three delivery strands within the programme – i.e., Cost Reduction, New Homes/HRA, and PfSH. Each Project Team is led by a Project Manager with responsibility for the day-to-day management of the projects and supported by technical specialists and support officers to enable effective delivery. In the case of the PfSH sites, the council will need to work in close collaboration with the PfSH to develop the projects and agree business cases for investment. Regular meetings will be held with PfSH to ensure effective cross-organisational working and collaboration.

## Programme Delivery

The delivery of the WwTW upgrades will be overseen by the council’s Engineering & Transport Manager and Drainage Engineer. As a critical project resource, it is important that the team’s limited capacity is managed appropriately. There is only sufficient capacity to oversee a maximum of 3-4 active installations at any given time; it is not possible to supervise all sites at once. Therefore, it is proposed that the programme of WwTW upgrades is delivered in six tranches (see Table 1). The delivery timescales and phasing are set out in Figure 2 below.

Table 1: Programme Delivery Tranches

Tranche	Sites	Timescales
Tranche 1: Cost Reduction Sites (Phase 1)	<p>Sites in Tranche 1 are being procured and installed individually. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Furzeley Corner</li> <li>2. Doctors Lane</li> <li>3. Meonwara Crescent</li> </ol>	<p>Furzeley Corner: May 2026 (Completed)</p> <p>Doctors Lane (Q2 2026/27)</p> <p>Meonwara Crescent (Q3 2026/27)</p>
Tranche 2: New Housing/HRA Sites	<p>Four sites set out in CAB3470:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baring Close</li> <li>2. Hobbs Close</li> <li>3. Kiln Lane</li> <li>4. The Pastures</li> </ol> <p>All four sites to be developed together with same delivery timescales</p>	<p>Site investigations: February 2026 (Completed)</p> <p>Installation: Q3 2026/27</p>
Tranche 3: PfSH Sites (Phase 1)	<p>First phase of PfSH sites which includes the following three priority sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Brook</li> <li>2. Couch Green</li> <li>3. Woodlane Close</li> </ol>	<p>Site investigations: February 2026 (Completed)</p> <p>Installation: Q4 2026/27</p>
Tranche 4: PfSH sites (Phase 2)	<p>A further three sites on a reserve list for future consideration depending on costs and timescales:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. North Drive</li> <li>2. The Hallway</li> <li>3. Woodlark Cottages</li> </ol> <p>*Subject to agreement with PfSH to proceed</p>	<p>Site investigations: February 2026 (Completed)</p> <p>Installation: Q1 2027/28</p>
Tranche 5: Cost Reduction sites (Phase 2)	<p>Second phase of cost reduction sites including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Headon View</li> <li>2. Kiln Cottages</li> <li>3. Wine Cross</li> </ol>	<p>Site investigations: Q3 2026/27</p> <p>Installation: Q2 2027/28</p>

Tranche 6: Cost Reduction sites (Phase 3)	Third phase of cost reduction sites including: 1. Big Tree Cottages 2. Oak Close 3. Widley Walk	Site investigations: Q3 2026/27 Installation: Q3 2027/28
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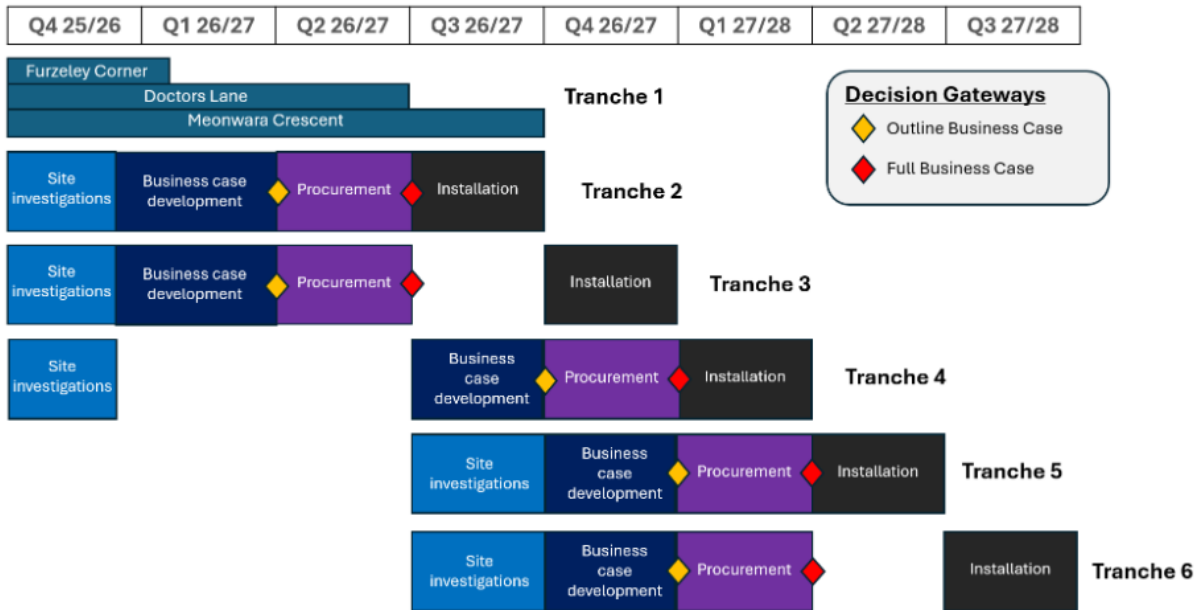


Figure 2: High-level Gantt chart showing programme delivery timescales

### Third-party nutrient mitigation schemes

In addition to upgrading council-owned WwTW, the council is also supporting third party mitigation schemes to enable sufficient supply of nutrient mitigation in the Winchester district. There are a few emerging schemes in development within the Winchester district through the Solent Mitigation Partnership which are summarised below:

#### Solent Householder Septic Tank Upgrades Programme

Launched at the end of May 2026, the scheme will offer grants to homeowners to replace old septic tanks with modern package treatment plants, with Fareham Borough Council acting as the lead authority and grant provider. The scheme will be delivered in phases with the first phase focused on residents in the River Itchen Headwaters within the Arle Water Body, in and around Bishops Sutton, Winchester. It is expected that the Phase 1 funding allocation will deliver around 33 upgrades. The business case for Phase 1 was approved by the PfSH Joint Committee on 16 March 2026: [PfSH Joint Committee – Full Agenda Pack - 16 March 2026](#)

Winchester City Council will be the Monitoring Authority for the first phase of the scheme given that the upgrades are occurring within the Winchester district. The Monitoring Authority will be signing up to a legal agreement (unilateral undertaking) with residents that will secure that a PTP remains in place for 100 years and, when replaced, a system of the same or similar efficiency on the PIA certificate is installed. The Monitoring Authority's responsibility is to enforce against these legal agreements, if necessary, such as undertaking site visits. The council will receive reports of upgraded tanks including information on the date of upgrade, system installed, payment records, building regulations approval and any environmental permit. The Business Case for the scheme includes £16,000 for the council to perform its monitoring authority function over the lifetime of the scheme.

A letter with further details on the scheme has been circulated to residents of Bishop's Sutton who have a private septic tank, inviting them to apply for grant funding to upgrade it. Further details on the grant scheme, including eligibility criteria, can be found on the council's website: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/climate-change-and-energy/take-action/funding/septic-tank-upgrade-bishop-s-sutton>.

### **Hinton Ampner Nutrient Mitigation Scheme**

The National Trust began a nutrient mitigation project in 2020 by taking two parcels of Grade 3 agricultural land on the Hinton Ampner Estate out of agricultural use. However, the legal arrangements required to establish the nitrogen mitigation scheme have been stalled and the scheme has yet to be delivered. The SMP has therefore been exploring a collaborative arrangement with the National Trust, through the Inter-Authority Partnership, to help unblock progress and support delivery of this mitigation scheme.

The Hinton Ampner scheme will generate 650 nitrogen credits and 2 phosphorus credits. Fareham Borough Council (FBC) is the Lead Authority and Host Authority for this project under the Inter-Authority Agreement. In this instance, the project is that FBC shall acquire rights to sell credits in respect of the land owned by the National Trust. Winchester City Council has registered its interest in becoming a potential Benefitting Party in the scheme.

### **The role of the council as Local Planning Authority (LPA): securing nutrient mitigation and monitoring**

The background to the Nutrient Neutrality and the role of the planning process is detailed in the [Winchester District Local Plan 2040 – Nutrient Neutrality Topic Paper \(November 2024\)](#). When making planning decision the council are required by law to take the nutrient issue into account as part of the overall planning assessment. Planning permission can only be granted for affected development where the council in its role as LPA is satisfied that an acceptable mitigation solution is secured.

The LPA uses a legal agreement (usually a S106) to secure the nutrient mitigation to offset the release of excess nutrients entering the catchments of the Solent and Itchen River. A legal agreement is required when the mitigation is being directly provided i.e. upgrade of a septic tank or setting land aside. As part of the legal agreement there is also a requirement to monitor the mitigation to ensure that it does deliver the level of mitigation envisaged. This requirement is accompanied by a monitoring fee (written into the S106) that enables WCC to undertake this work.

There has been a growing trend for third parties seeking to undertake upgrades or set aside land that will have a positive impact on water neutrality and then use the anticipated improvement to sell nutrient credits (Strategic Mitigation Schemes). The LPA has been involved in some schemes, in its role as competent authority, seeking to ensure that when the mitigation is provided there is necessary monitoring embedded into the requirements of the legal agreement to provide confidence that the mitigation delivers the anticipated reduction in nutrients.

Legal agreements are used in a number of different scenarios: to enable the monitoring of Strategic Mitigation Schemes and to secure mitigation when it is being delivered as part of a planning application. There are cross boundary agreements where neighbouring authority development is seeking to rely on mitigation scheme originating in Winchester District. As such, WCC potentially has a monitoring and enforcement function for such schemes that facilitate development in neighbouring authorities.

The council has an important role, as competent authority, upholding regulatory standards and ensuring legal compliance (i.e. Habitats Regulations which protect designated European wildlife and species from harmful development and activities). As part of this role the council is already carrying out a monitoring function for nutrient mitigation established within S106 planning agreements.

The planning team already undertake a more general monitoring role for S106 agreements and planning conditions, and the monitoring of nutrient mitigation schemes fits within this work stream. Currently, given the complexity of the issues and the importance of securing monitoring the planning team work closely with legal services to secure the monitoring and advise when considering the need for potential enforcement of the agreement.

It is anticipated that the additional monitoring that the council are being requested to undertake (Solent Septic Tank Upgrade scheme) can be accommodated as part of the monitoring function albeit expanded.

The increase in Strategic Mitigation schemes and localised mitigation schemes provides the opportunity to consider how best to administer and resource this monitoring function alongside the existing S106 monitoring.

## Risks

The key programme-level risks are captured within a programme risk register. The greatest risk to the council's nutrient mitigation programme is related to new legislation which has recently been adopted. The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 legislates for a new approach to nutrient neutrality through the preparation of Environmental Delivery Plans (EDPs) with project delivery funded via a new Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) levy.

While an EDP is being prepared for the Solent and River Itchen, the implications for existing mitigation schemes are not yet clear. However, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has confirmed that projects must continue. As Natural England start the preparation of EDPs, they are developing Conservation Measures Specifications that will be used for the strategic mitigation measures they are proposing. It is understood that septic tank upgrades will form part of the package of measures being delivered for nutrient neutrality under EDPs.

## Supporting Documents

[CAB3470 – Housing Revenue Account Nutrient Mitigation Proposal](#)

[CAB3459 – Partnership for South Hampshire Nutrient Mitigation Proposal](#)

[PfSH Joint Committee – Full Agenda Pack - 16 March 2026](#)

[Winchester District Local Plan 2040 – Nutrient Neutrality Topic Paper \(November 2024\)](#)

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# INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES: MAKING CIL WORK HARDER AND FASTER

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HEP048

Health and Environment Policy Committee

8 July 2026

Agenda Item 11



Winchester  
City Council

# We would welcome the thoughts of the committee on:

- The steps we have taken to accelerate the spend of CIL monies
- How we can encourage more ambitious and impactful bids from communities across the district



# WHAT IS CIL?

- Community Infrastructure Levy.
- A planning-related charge to help fund local infrastructure.
- Collected from certain types of development that takes place across the district.
- Used to mitigate against the local impacts of development.
- South Downs National Park Authority collects and administers the CIL related to all development within its boundaries.
- Governed by the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (amended in 2019).

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# WHAT CAN CIL ACHIEVE?

A powerful way to reinvest in the places we live, work, and enjoy. It allows us to deliver projects that:

- enhance quality of life,
- celebrate local identity,
- ensure new development is matched by the right infrastructure.

By working with communities, parish councils, and partners, it enables us to:

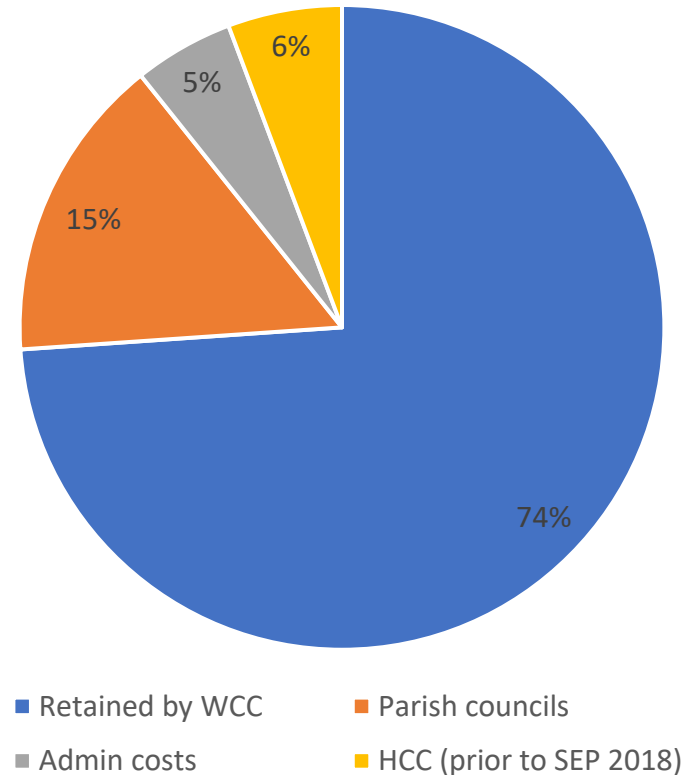
- make meaningful and lasting improvements.
- support growth while protecting what makes our area special.

# CIL COLLECTED

- Nearly **£27m** collected since introduction in 2014.
- Over **£4m** passed to parish councils (by regulation).
- **£1.5m** passed to HCC pre-2018 for traffic/transport schemes.
- Nearly £20m retained by WCC for delivery of infrastructure by the council, local communities, groups and organisations

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### Distribution of CIL



# WHAT CIL CAN BE USED FOR



Education Facilities



Healthcare Facilities



Energy and Carbon Reduction Schemes/Climate change mitigation



Open Space Provision



Built Facilities, Indoor/Outdoor Sport, Recreational and Informal Leisure and Social Facilities



Green and Blue Infrastructure



Community and Cultural Facilities



Active Travel and Movement Infrastructure



But it can't be used for:

- Revenue costs such as staffing, utilities, or operational running costs
- Private developments or commercial ventures that do not offer public benefit
- Projects outside the local area that do not support local development or residents
- Any activity not linked to infrastructure delivery or local growth objectives

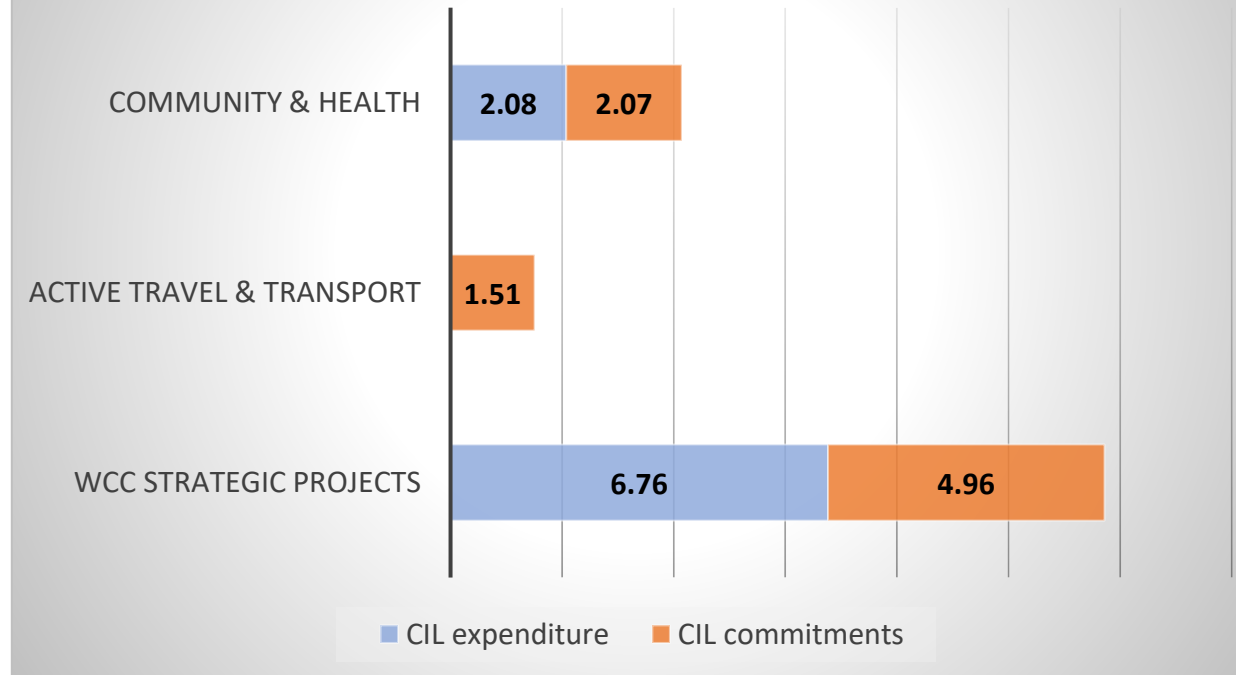
Our policy is to also exclude:

- Ongoing maintenance or repairs of existing facilities or assets

# HOW HAVE WE USED OUR CIL?

- 46 community schemes and 14 council schemes delivered with CIL funding.
- **86% (£17.3m)** of the CIL retained by the council for allocation to projects is either **spent (£8.8m)** or **committed (£8.5m)**.

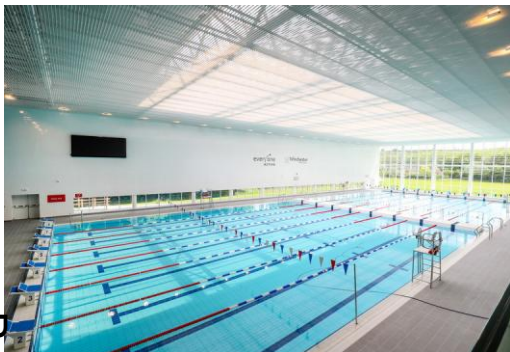
CIL expenditure and commitments to date  
£ million



# SOME COMPLETED PROJECTS

## WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

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Winchester Sport and Leisure Park



Durngate flood defenses



Abbey Gardens play area



Winchester City FC 3G pitch



Winnall Flats open space



KGV pavilion

# SOME COMPLETED PROJECTS

## COMMUNITY AND OTHER EXTERNAL PARTNERS



St Swithun's Church, Kings Worthy  
Car park



Denmead Recreation Ground  
MUGA



Bishops Waltham GP surgery  
Consulting rooms



Shedfield Recreation Ground  
Pavilion extension



Priory Park, Bishops Waltham  
Skate park



Sutton Scotney  
River Dever boardwalk

# PROJECTS NOT YET DELIVERED

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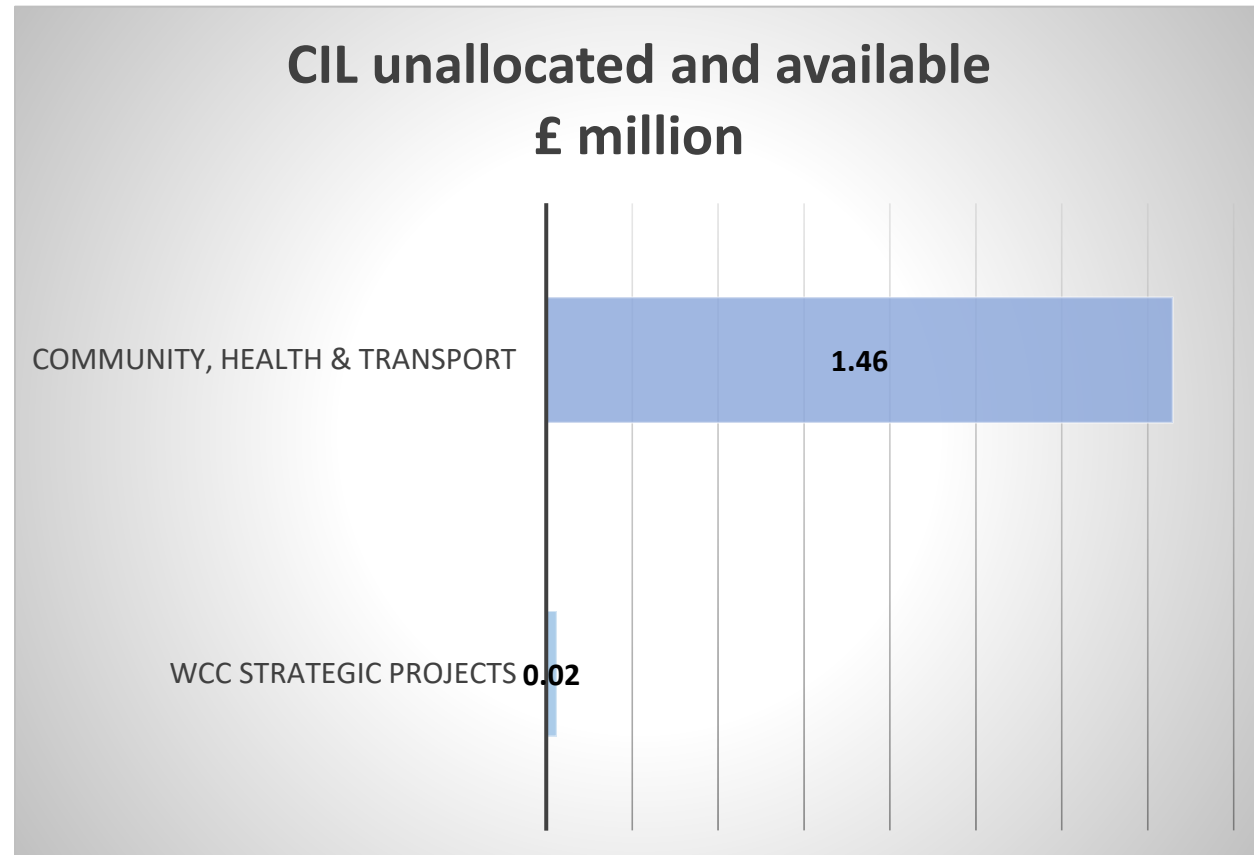
- £8.6m currently committed but not yet spent.
- Very few long-standing awards - two of which have started.
- Includes £4.5m CWR



# HOW MUCH CIL DO WE HAVE?

- Around **£1.5m** of CIL remains to be allocated.
- The majority is ring-fenced for community, health and transport projects.
- The availability of CIL funding increases as we collect it from developers.

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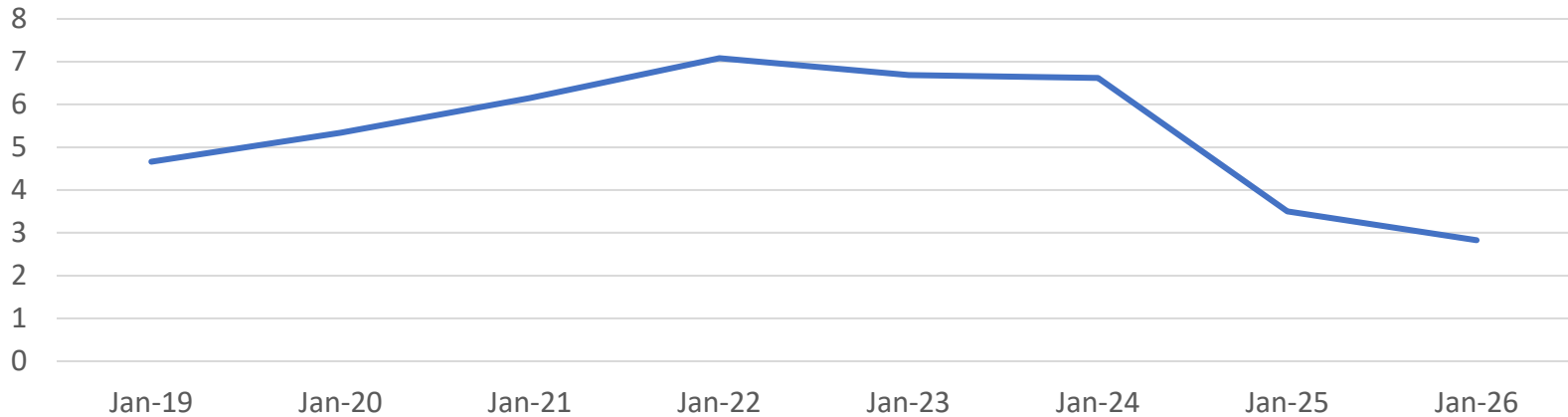


# A REFRESHED APPROACH

- Typically, we have adopted a measured approach of sustaining a long-term funding programme by keeping money available to support future projects.
- We now wish to increase access to CIL funds to deliver necessary infrastructure projects over the next two years.

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Historic levels of CIL available to be allocated (£ million)



# A REFRESHED APPROACH

To....	We have....
Maximise the amount of funding available...	Ensured stalled projects are identified and any funds unused / not needed are made available to others.
Increase awareness of the funding...	Enhanced promotional campaigns and increased use of social media to increase the number of quality bids.
Remove blockages to scheme delivery...	Increased dialogue with key delivery partners such as HCC Highways teams and NHS Integrated Care Board.
Be more flexible and dynamic in fund distribution...	Removed the ringfence of CIL across two of the three funds, to combine the pots and better respond to demand and need.
Maximise impact of the funding...	Prioritised schemes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• demonstrate high likelihood of deliverability</li><li>• respond to known community need and deficits</li><li>• create real community benefit and outcomes</li></ul>
Speed up the application and award process...	Increased the number of opportunities to bid by reducing application times and streamlining approval methods.

# We would welcome the thoughts of the committee on:

- The steps we have taken to accelerate the spend of CIL monies
- How we can encourage more ambitious and impactful bids from communities across the district



30 June 2026

**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2026/27**
**HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME – 2026/27**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Date for Committee</b>	<b>Outcome Focus</b>
<b>8 JULY 2026</b>				
<b>BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE – POLICY: GREENER FASTER/HEALTHY COMMUNITIES</b>				
1	Nutrient Neutrality Member Working Group – Verbal update	Councillor Pett	8 July 2026	Strengthening climate resilience and accelerating delivery of community infrastructure
2	Integrated Update from Special Maintenance and Natural Environment and Recreation Team – River Management and Pollution	Campbell Williams Susan Robbins /Rick Smith	8 July 2026	
3	Investing in Communities: Making CIL Work Harder and Faster (Presentation)	Susan Robbins / Steve Lincoln	8 July 2026	
<b>17 SEPTEMBER 2026</b>				
<b>WATER, NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES – POLICY: GREEN FASTER/HEALTHY COMMUNITIES</b>				
4	Strategic Session with Southern Water	Susan Robbins/Julie Pinnock	17 September 2026	Providing assurance on environmental impacts and infrastructure capacity to support sustainable growth
5	WCC Nutrient Mitigation Programme Update	Susan Robbins / Julie Pinnock / Alex Eburne	17 September 2026	
<b>1 DECEMBER 2026</b>				
<b>PROTECTING OUR PLACES AND SUPPORTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES – POLICY: PRIDE IN PLACE/HEALTHY COMMUNITIES/GREENER FASTER</b>				
6	Strengthening Planning Enforcement	Julie Pinnock / Sarah Armstrong	1 December 2026	Ensuring regulatory activity and community services are aligned to improve both place quality and resident wellbeing
7	Harnessing technology and innovation to support compliance and place stewardship	Julie Pinnock	1 December 2026	
8	Health and Wellbeing Programme Update	Steve Lincoln/Susan Robbins	1 December 2026	

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Agenda Item 12

28 FEBRUARY 2027

**PARKS FOR PEOPLE – POLICY: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES/PRIDE IN PLACE**

9	Co-designing inclusive and meaningful green spaces	Susan Robbins/Rick Smith	28 February 2027	Ensuring parks and green spaces deliver measurable wellbeing, biodiversity and community outcomes
10	Nature Improvement Programme (NIP) – Implementation Update	Susan Robbins/ Rick Smith	28 February 2027	



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