



Meeting	Winchester Town Forum
Date and Time	Tuesday, 11th August, 2026 at 6.30 pm.
Venue	Walton Suite, Winchester Guildhall and streamed live on YouTube at www.youtube.com/winchestercc

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

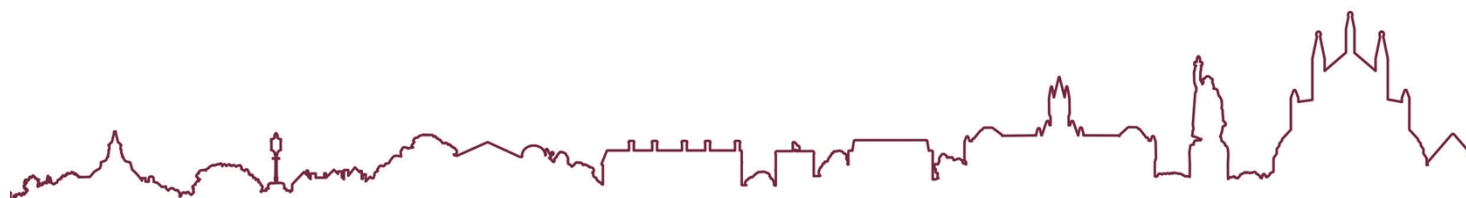
AGENDA

1. **Appointment of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2026/27 Municipal Year**
2. **Apologies**
To record the names of apologies given
3. **Disclosures of Interests**
To receive any disclosure of interests from Councillors or Officers in matters to be discussed.

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

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

4. **Chairperson's Announcements**
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2026** (Pages 5 - 10)
That the minutes of the meeting be signed as a correct record.



6. **To note the date and times of future meetings of the Forum as set out below:**

- 8 June 2026 – meeting cancelled
- 11 August 2026 – additional meeting (originally scheduled for 5 August)
- 10 September 2026
- 9 November 2026
- 21 January 2027
- 8 March 2027

7. **Public Participation**

To receive and note the questions asked and statements made from members of the public on issues relating to the responsibility of this Forum.

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

8. **Community Governance Review (Presentation) - to follow**

9. **Assets to transfer to new Town Council (Report) - to follow**

10. **Town Forum Informal Group Appointments and Work Programme for 2026/27 (WTF344) (Pages 11 - 20)**

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



3 August 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](#)*

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson: to be appointed

Vice-Chairperson: to be appointed

Liberal Democrats

Aron
Batho
Becker
Eve
Learney
Morris
Murphy
Reach
Scott
Tippett-Cooper
Thompson
Tod
Westwood
Wise

Conservatives

Quorum = 5 members

The two County Council Members representing the Winchester Town area are invited as observers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public question and comment session is available at 6.30pm for a 15 minute period. There are a few limitations on the questions you can ask. These mainly relate to current applications (including grants), personal cases and confidential matters.

To reserve your place to speak, you are asked to register with Democratic Services three clear working days prior to the meeting –Please contact Democratic Services via democracy@winchester.gov.uk or (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

VOTING

- apart from the Chairperson, every Member has one vote when a matter before the meeting requires a decision.
- in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson may exercise a casting vote and that vote may be exercised in any way seen fit.
- a Member may abstain from voting, or vote differently from how they may have indicated during the debate, without further explanation.

The way each Member voted will not be recorded in the minutes, unless a motion to have a Recorded Vote has been passed.

Disabled Access

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

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).

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

Monday, 9 March 2026

Attendance:

Councillors

Westwood (Chairperson)

Eve
Batho
Becker
Learney
Morris
Murphy

Reach
Scott
Tippett-Cooper
Thompson
Tod
Wise

[Full video recording](#)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aron.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Tod declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of items on the agenda due to his role as a Hampshire County Councillor. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, he remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Audit and Governance Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements made at this meeting.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2026**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 January 2026 be approved and adopted.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments or questions made during public participation.

6. **UPDATE FROM SARAH DAVIS, BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)**

The Chairperson announced that due to unavoidable circumstances, Sarah Davis was unable to attend this meeting to provide an update from the BID. It was noted that this item would be deferred to a future meeting of the forum in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred to a future meeting of the forum.

7. **TOWN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ALLOCATION FOR YOUTH PROVISION (WTF343)**

Councillor Learney introduced the report as Cabinet Member and on behalf of the Climate and Open Spaces Informal Group, setting out the details of the Neighbourhood (Town) CIL application proposals to improve the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at St Matthews Field in Weeke. She welcomed the opportunity to propose funding for a major upgrade in the provision for young people in North Winchester. The MUGA provided enhanced facilities in line with council plan priorities and had received significant local support.

In addition to funding for the MUGA, it was also proposed that £6,000 be used for focussed engagement with local young people to help identify the design and explore what additional facilities may be required across the town area. Furthermore, engagement would include targeted sessions with girls, in line with the 'Make Space for Girls' approach.

If approved, approximately £100,000 would remain in the town community levy fund. Whilst some of these funds had been tentatively earmarked for the provision of speed indicator devices in the town, there was no guarantee that remaining funds would be passed onto any newly formed town council or be spent in Winchester. An additional cycle of CIL distribution was planned during the summer, with the opportunity to allocate funding for not only further improvements to open spaces, but to other schemes across the town wards.

Forum members were encouraged to identify potential schemes to bring forward as opportunities within their local communities, that could offer a good use of the outstanding CIL funds available.

The forum proceeded to ask questions and comment on the following matters which were responded to by Councillor Learney and the Corporate Head of Economy and Community.

- (a) A question was asked regarding the form of consultation that would take place to ensure the design of the Multi-Use Games Area was appropriate for various activities. In response, it was noted that additional capacity would be brought in with the £6,000 funding to engage specialists. These specialists would use techniques and contacts to reach as many people as possible. The findings would then help to shape the design and identify additional requirements.

- (b) Further clarification was sought on whether the "Make Space for Girls" group was consulted as part of the design process. It was noted that a range of officers from the natural environment and recreation, cultural, and community teams attended a briefing and training session from the group. The approaches and techniques from this group would be utilised.
- (c) An enquiry was made as to whether further community infrastructure levy (CIL) applications would be supported once work was identified through the consultation. In response, it was confirmed that a further round of applications planned for the end of the summer would provide an opportunity for the forum to look at requirements across the town.
- (d) A question was raised concerning plans to publicise the facility once it was built to ensure it was used by local residents. It was reported that press publicity and social media would be used to promote the facility. It was also anticipated that information would spread among young people interested in these facilities.
- (e) Further clarification was sought on how the consultation would be structured between a broader discussion on youth facilities and the functions of the North Winchester site. In response it was explained that the focus would be on engagement with particular groups. The process of making changes and seeking planning permission would also generate issues for consideration.
- (f) An enquiry was made as to whether there were plans to make the entrances to the field available and attractive to the public. It was noted that this would be part of the work resulting from the consultation. It was acknowledged that the entrances were hidden and there was a question as to whether these should be highlighted.
- (g) A question was asked regarding the timescale for delivery and whether the project would be completed within the current financial year. It was emphasised that the intention was to deliver the project before the end of the financial year. Furthermore, it was noted that discussions within the officer team regarding the work programme and timescales had commenced.

At the conclusion of the debate, the forum wholly supported and welcomed the new MUGA which provided a safe, welcoming and active place for all young people across the city for the future. The Chairperson thanked Councillor Batho and Councillor Learney for leading the CIL funding and enabling this to be used to deliver the MUGA and much needed youth provision facility for the town and district.

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments of the forum, set out above, be noted;

2. That the allocation of £110,000 Town CIL funding to the North Winchester Youth Provision project to improve the facilities at St Matthews Field for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), be approved; and
3. That the allocation of £6,000 Town CIL revenue funding, and supplementary revenue budget for youth engagement and consultation, be approved.

8. **INFORMAL GROUPS - VERBAL UPDATES**

The Chairperson provided an update on the progress with the Community Governance Review (CGR) process following the recent public engagement sessions and Councillor Batho provided more detail in the informal group update, as set out below.

The Forum received individual updates from the Chairpersons of various Town Informal Groups, where available. Each summarised the work that had been carried out by the respective groups over the previous two-month period.

Councillor Batho – Transition to Town Council Informal Group

Progress updates from the group were as follows:

- (a) It was noted that should the decision be taken to establish a town council, that the feedback from the public engagement favoured a town council to be formed comprising of the existing five unparished town wards. Further work on this as a preference would be pursued by the informal group in due course to further explore the process. Collaboration with existing town councils of a similar size would ensue in due course to understand the transitional planning required.

It was emphasised that no decisions had been taken at this time regarding a town council. However, this recommendation would be taken to Licensing and Regulation Committee on 17 March 2026, with a proposal that a second round of consultation be undertaken, ahead of any final proposals coming forward to Full Council during 2027.

Councillor Murphy – Streets and Spaces Informal Group

Progress updates from the group were as follows:

- (a) Speed Indicator Devices – there was significant concern regarding speeding traffic in the city and high demand from residents for devices to be installed. Following the allocation of budget, the group would work with officers to develop a plan and further feedback would be provided in due course.
- (b) Winchester BID – the barometer of business report had indicated that there was growth in the High Street with footfall increasing during 2024/25, in comparison to national statistics and positive feedback had been received following this year's Christmas Market, with High Street stores also reporting the positive impact of the markets on their sales.

- (c) Students from the Winchester School of Art had been working on a project regarding Winchester routes and would be developing a trail due to launch at Winchester Gallery on 7 May 2026 which the forum were encouraged to attend.

Councillor Tippet-Cooper – Culture Informal Group

Progress updates from the group were as follows:

- a) The Buttercross – scaffolding had been erected and restoration works had commenced. Information was publicly available which provided detail of works to be carried out and indicative timings for the work that was due to be completed.

RESOLVED:

That the updates received from the Town Informal Groups as set out above, be noted.

9. **TO NOTE THE MEETING DATES FOR THE FORUM IN 2026/27**

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 7.15 pm

Chairperson

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REPORT TITLE: WORK PROGRAMME AND ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO
INFORMAL GROUPS FOR 2026/27

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

11 AUGUST 2026

Contact Officer: Claire Buchanan Tel No: 01962 848 438 Email
cbuchanan@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): GENERAL

PURPOSE

This report sets out an initial draft work programme for the new municipal year and asks the forum to agree matters it wishes to consider during 2026/27.

The forum is also asked to consider its appointments to the informal groups established during the previous municipal year(s). The previous groups and associated membership are set out within the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the forum considers the items listed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, agrees the matters it wishes to consider during the 2026/27 municipal year and delegates to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Chairperson, authority to set the detailed work programme.
2. That the forum considers whether it wishes to (a) re-appoint the informal groups as shown in paragraph 11.2 and (b) establish any additional informal groups.
3. That the forum agrees the membership of the informal groups for 2026/27 established as part of item 2 above.

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

1.1 This paper seeks to ensure that:

- a) the forum fulfils its terms of reference in a way that is well planned and executed, and
- b) the role of councillors elected to lead and serve their communities is properly supported and developed.

Both of these objectives help to support the governance of the council and its decision-making structures.

2 WINCHESTER VISION PRINCIPLE

2.1 At its meeting on 11 March 2024, the town forum considered the Winchester Vision Update report (WTF329 refers). The forum agreed that a revised town forum committee report template be introduced to include town vision outcomes as a section that required report authors to demonstrate how the principles adopted in the Winchester vision are being reflected going forward. Three principles would continue to be reflected in all future forum reports.

2.2 Spatial: Streets and spaces of Winchester / The city made by walking

2.3 The establishment of the informal group last year which centred on streets and spaces continues to ensure that this remains a key focus of forum activity.

2.4 People Power: Sharing responsibility at the local level / Establishing mechanisms that enable communities.

2.5 The forum's existing grant programme is a tool to enable and empower communities and this programme would continue to be overseen by the account and grants informal group.

2.6 Auditing and Sharing Resources: Creating and sharing data.

2.7 This report does not address this vision principle, but it is the third principle that will be reflected in all future reports.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 No immediate financial implications, other than usual costs associated with arranging and supporting meetings.

4 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The authority to take the decisions set out in this report are pursuant Part 3.2 of the council constitution and the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and the Localism Act 2011.

5 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 If officers are involved in work of the forum (other than general support) in the same way as they would be with Parishes; then their time will not be a specific charge to the Town Account. Work that solely relates to the Town may involve additional charges to the Town Account. The forum will need to assess its work priorities so that they can be supported from within available resources.

6 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 7.1 All members of the town forum are invited to be nominated for each informal group.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 None.

9 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 9.1 The Council considers the appointment of nominees that represent as far as possible the diverse nature of the local community.
- 9.2 The work programme for the Town Forum will take account of recommendations of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Members' Forum and be updated to include reports arising from the identification of equality issues that impact on the town area.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 None required.

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

11.1 Work Programme for the 2026/27 Municipal Year

The forum is a well-established part of the Council's democratic process playing a greater role in providing a 'Winchester voice' on issues that affect

the Town area. In considering which subjects the Forum should discuss in the coming year, members may want to refer to:

- The forum's terms of reference ([as set out on the Council's website, on this link](#))
- Issues considered by the forum in the previous year (Appendix 1 to this report)
- Latest forward plan ([as set out on the Council's website, on this link](#))

In selecting items for discussion, members should be mindful of the officer resources required and whether there is other relevant and /or similar Council work being undertaken in the same area, to avoid duplication.

There are a number of topics that regularly form part of the forums work programme and these have been incorporated into the 2026/27 draft programme in Appendix 2.

11.2 Informal Group Membership in 2025/26

During the previous municipal year 2025/26, the forum appointed the following informal groups. The current memberships of each group are shown below.

- (i) Winchester Town Forum (Streets and Spaces) Informal Group
Cllrs: Murphy (Ch), Aron, Batho, Eve, Tod, Thompson and Westwood
Lead Officer: C Williams
- (ii) Winchester Town Forum (Climate and Open Space) Informal Group
Cllrs: Eve (Ch), Batho, Murphy and Learney
Lead Officer: R Smith
- (iii) Winchester Town Forum (Culture) Informal Group
Cllrs: Tippet-Cooper (Ch), Eve, Morris and Thompson
Lead Officer: A Gostelow
- (iv) Winchester Town Forum (Grants and Community Empowerment) Informal Group
Cllrs: Aron (Ch), Batho, Becker, Eve and Wise
Lead Officer: S Lincoln
- (v) Winchester Town Forum (Transition to Town Council) Informal Group (NEW GROUP ESTABLISHED FOR 2025/26) –
NB: Name changed from 'Community Governance Review' Informal Group on 22 January 2026 and merged with Winchester Town Forum (Account) Informal Group comprising of existing membership of both groups
Cllrs: Batho (Ch), Learney (retains leadership for town account financial activities), Aron, Eve, Morris and Thompson
Lead Officers: D Kennedy and G John/S Hendey

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 Not to consider making changes to any appointments. This was rejected as it is usual practice at the first meeting of the new municipal year to consider whether any changes are required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Topics previously considered by the Forum in 2025/26

Appendix 2: Draft Work Programme for 2026/27

Appendix 1

2025/26 Agenda Items

The forum met three times in 2025/26. The table below lists the business items for each of those meetings.

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
12/06/25	• Response to the request of Winchester Town Forum for a Community Governance Review (Report WTF339 and Presentation)
11/09/25	• Winchester Bus Services (Verbal Update) • Winchester Town Account Financial Planning 2025/26 (WTF340)
10/11/25	• Winchester Town Account Medium Term Financial Position (Draft budget options) (WTF341)
22/01/26	• Update on Policing in Winchester (Verbal Update) • Winchester Town Account Budget for 2026/27 (to be recommended to Cabinet) (WTF342)
09/03/26	• Update from Sarah Davis, Business Improvement District (BID) – <i>Item deferred to 2026/27</i> • Town Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation for Youth Provision (WTF343)

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM – SCHEDULED ITEMS OF BUSINESS ETC

8 JUNE 2026 – MEETING CANCELLED					
	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
			Original	Revised	
11 AUGUST 2026 (ADDITIONAL MEETING)					
	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
	Community Governance Review	Gareth John/Simon Hendey	11 August 2026		Presentation
	Assets to transfer to new Town Council	Simon Hendey	11 August 2026		Report
	Town Forum Informal Group Appointments and Work Programme for 2026/27	Simon Hendey/Claire Buchanan	11 August 2026		WTF344

10 SEPTEMBER 2026

	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
			Original	Revised	
	Winchester Town Account Financial Planning 2026/27 (Initial draft Medium Term Financial Projections and assumptions for 2026/27 to 2030/31)	Darren Kennedy	10 September 2026		
	Update from Sarah Davis, Business Improvement District (BID) - <i>Deferred from 9 March 2026 - TBC</i>		10 September 2026		Presentation

9 NOVEMBER 2026

	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
	Winchester Town Account Medium Term Financial Position (Draft budget options)	Darren Kennedy	9 November 2026		

21 JANUARY 2027					
	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
	Winchester Town Account Budget for 2027/28 (to be recommended to Cabinet)	Darren Kennedy	21 January 2027		
8 MARCH 2027					
	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
	No items at present				

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