

DECISION TAKER: Councillor Jackie Porter – Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan

REPORT TITLE: WINCHESTER COLLEGE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

7 NOVEMBER 2022

Contact Officer: Dawn Adey Tel No: 01962 848 308 Email dadey@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ST MICHAEL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Decision is to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Winchester College. The MOU will put the Council's partnership arrangements with the College on a clear footing and support both organisations in working together towards common goals for the benefit of the city.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Memorandum of Understanding in appendix A is entered into on behalf of Winchester City Council.

IMPLICATIONS:

- 1 The memorandum of understanding contains non-legal commitments that both parties will work in partnership for the benefit of the city. The proposed shared priorities set out how each organisation will support the community, benefit the economy and also show commitment to the preservation of historic buildings. The MOU also outlines how the organisations will work together to reduce carbon emissions.
- 2 **PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**
 - 2.1 The MOU is a way of providing a framework for how the organisations will work together. It has no direct outcomes that impact people in itself. Outcomes that impact people will be considered at appropriate times as projects and shared goals are taken forward. As set out in its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, the College is committed to compliance with relevant equality legislation, in particular the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, Codes of Practice and relevant best practice guidance. It promotes a culture that actively values difference and recognises that people from different backgrounds and experiences can bring valuable insights into the workplace and enhance the way it works.
- 3 **RISK MANAGEMENT**
 - 3.1 This MOU is not legally binding and is therefore a cautious arrangement in appetite for risk, which is below the Council's Moderate approach to risk.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
Financial Exposure	There are no financial arrangements in the MOU	The MOU and demonstrating partnership working can be a good evidence base to base bid funding on. Should we wish to apply for bid funding in Partnership with Winchester College such an application would follow the appropriate approval processes in each organisation.
Exposure to challenge	The MOU is not legally binding	
Innovation		The MOU provides a framework for innovative approaches when working together.
Reputation – Partner in	The Council can exit	

MOU develops a strategic direction that does not fit with the Council's ambitions	these arrangements.	
Achievement of outcome - Making the MOU work takes resources to be applied, there is a risk that the resources will not be available	The MOU is very flexible, allowing either party to work on individual projects at times when each organisation can resource the need.	The MOU could lead to more success and the outputs we can deliver together might be in excess of what is envisaged at time of signing.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 4.1 The MOU essentially codifies and strengthens a working relationship which already exists. Due to their respective roles, both organisations already make a significant contribution to the local area, working together as so required. Through this MOU, areas of common ground / interest have been identified, with a firm commitment to delivering outcomes that are in excess of what might otherwise have been achieved.
- 4.2 This is particularly relevant in the context of the College having published its "Winchester College in the 21st Century" vision, which sets out a significant programme of change which is currently being implemented. There is the opportunity, through this MOU, for the Council to help ensure that this vision is implemented in a manner which makes a wider, positive contribution to the City as a whole.

5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 Do nothing: The Council could Decide not to enter into this arrangement. In such circumstances, both organisations would continue to work together and deliver the desired outputs. However, the opportunity to align priorities and provide a focus for this through the framework of the MOU would be lost. It is considered that not entering the MOU would be a missed opportunity to secure a commitment from the College to work towards the delivery of the shared priorities which have been identified.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Cabinet/Committee Reports or Cabinet Member Decisions:-

None

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Memorandum of Understanding between Winchester City Council and Winchester College