



Winchester
City Council



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

DATED: 7 NOVEMBER 2022

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

AND

WINCHESTER COLLEGE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This memorandum of understanding (“MoU”) sets out the commitment of both parties to work together towards a series of outcomes, for the benefit of the City of Winchester.
- 1.2 The first party, Winchester City Council (“the Council”), is the local authority for the non-metropolitan district of the City of Winchester.
- 1.3 The second party, Winchester College (“the College”), is an independent school in the City of Winchester, providing boarding for boys aged 13-18. From September 2022, it will offer Sixth Form for day girls and boys.
- 1.4 Both parties – in their respective roles – make significant contribution to the local area: seeking to make the City of Winchester an even more attractive place to live, work and visit.
- 1.5 Through this MoU, both parties commit to pursuing, through best endeavours, a number of shared priorities over the next five years.

2. STATUS

- 2.1 This MoU is not intended to be legally binding, and no legal obligations or legal rights shall arise between the parties from this MoU. Both parties enter into the MoU intending to honour all the commitments that relate to them.
- 2.2 Nothing in this MoU is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between the parties, constitute any party as the agent of another party, nor authorise any of the parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of another party.
- 2.3 Furthermore, nothing in this MoU requires either party to make decisions in a manner which is advantageous to the other. In particular, the Council will fulfil its statutory responsibilities and various functions as a local authority as it best sees fit, whilst at the same time having regard for whether the priorities set out in this MoU could be aided through its decision-making. Similarly, the College will fulfil its obligations as both a school and a charity, whilst seeking to contribute to the delivery of the priorities set out in this MoU.

3. THE COUNCIL’S FOCUS

- 3.1 In January 2020, the Council adopted the Council Plan 2020-25, setting out priority outcomes for the local authority. It identifies issues that will be addressed over the life of the Plan through the work of the Council and its partners. The Plan was updated in March 2021.¹
- 3.2 The Council Plan details five priority outcomes, including creating a greener district, a vibrant local economy and living well. The College considers that it is well placed to support the

¹ Winchester City Council: Council Plan 2020-25 (2021 Edition) - <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/about/strategies/council-strategy>

Council in making progress against the projects and actions in the Council Plan in relation to these priority outcomes.

- 3.3 In addition to the Council Plan, the Council (and, where relevant, with its partners) has adopted (or is developing) a series of other strategies and plans which are relevant to the contribution the College makes both now and in the future. These are:
- a. The Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, which sets out how the Council will become carbon neutral by 2024, and the whole district by 2030. ²
 - b. The Destination Management Plan (DMP) (adopted by the Visit Winchester and the Heart of Hampshire Destination Management Partnership, which includes the Council). ³
 - c. The Winchester Vision 2020 – 2030 (adopted by the Winchester Town Forum, made up of Council members) which sets out a ten year vision for the urban part of the district in which the College is located. ⁴
 - d. The Central Winchester Regeneration vision and activities. ⁵
 - e. Winchester District Local Plan 2018 – 2039 (emerging), which is due to be consulted on at the end of 2022. ⁶
 - f. The Open Space, Sports & Recreation Study (and in particular the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Study which form part of this). ⁷
- 3.4 In its work as a school and a charity, the College will give consideration to how it can align with – and effectively contribute to – the aspirations and priorities set out in the documents referenced in paragraph 3.3 above. It will also have regard for any updates or additions to these documents and any other relevant plans which the Council brings forward.

4. THE COLLEGE'S VISION AND CONTRIBUTION

- 4.1 In February 2021, the College published “Winchester College in the 21st Century”, setting out a new vision and significant programme of change for the school. ⁸ The College considers that this approach – which will bring the benefits of economies of scale – will enable the

² Winchester City Council: Carbon Neutrality Action Plan –

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/about/strategies/council-strategy>

³ Visit Winchester and the Heart of Hampshire Destination Management Partnership: Destination Management Plan –

<https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/information-local-businesses/>

⁴ Winchester Vision 2020–2030 –

<https://democracy.winchester.gov.uk/documents/s13880/WTF293%20Appendix%20A%20Handbook%203.pdf>

⁵ Central Winchester Regeneration – <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/regeneration/5744/central-winchester-regeneration>

⁶ Winchester District Local Plan 2018-2039 –

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/winchester-district-local-plan-2018-2038-emerging>

⁷ Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council: Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study –

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/winchester-district-local-plan-2011-2036-adopted/evidence-base/infrastructure/open-space-sports-and-recreation-study>

⁸ Winchester College in the 21st Century – <https://www.winchestercollege.org/newsletters/the-winchester-vision>

school to continue its unique approach to education, whilst also sustaining public benefits within the City of Winchester (as detailed from paragraph 4.3 below onwards).

- 4.2 The most significant change announced as part of this vision is the decision to introduce girls to the school, initially into the Sixth Form (16 to 18 year olds). In addition, day pupils (boys and girls) are being introduced to the school, also into the Sixth Form, from September 2022.
- 4.3 The College's existing interaction with the maintained school sector (including academies) through its Educational Partnerships – along with its Community Service work – is extensive. This would continue to be provided; and entirely funded by the College as part of its charitable objectives. A summary and examples of current activities are set out in the appendix to this MoU. In line with the changes outlined above, the College is committing to a significant growth in the school's bursary provision, with the initial objective of a 25% increase, to 150 pupils, by 2024.
- 4.4 More widely, the College has extensive grounds of approximately 250 acres, and through these it makes a significant contribution to the City of Winchester. This includes the maintenance of more than 80 listed buildings, 11 acres of formal gardens, 100 acres of ancient water meadows, 4.5 miles of the River Itchen and 52 acres of playing fields. This is complemented by leasing St Catherine's Hill (a public access area) to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and giving access rights over its land for a new cycle track. All of these assets – the majority of which are made available to the public – are enjoyed by approximately 100,000 visitors annually, including through participation in initiatives such as the National Garden Scheme.
- 4.5 In a typical year, the College welcomes around 15,000 visitors to its museum, Treasury, and on guided tours, as well as to public events throughout the year, including Heritage Open Days.
- 4.6 The College remains committed to sharing its resources, expertise and facilities with the wider community – at no cost to the taxpayer and, wherever possible, free. Through the growth and diversification of its admissions (as referenced in paragraph 4.2 above), the College will be able to expand the benefits it offers to the City of Winchester; sustaining them at a high standard.

5. SHARED PRIORITIES

- 5.1 Having regard for their respective plans, the Council and the College agree that:
 - a. The College's assets make a significant contribution to the attractiveness of the City of Winchester as a destination, and consideration should be given to how this might be strengthened. This would be to help secure an uplift in visitor numbers and longer duration of stays, in line with the objectives of the DMP.
 - b. It is in the interests of the City of Winchester that the College's contribution to the local economy and community (including the employment of 350 full-time equivalent staff, the majority of whom live within a 30 minute commute) is sustained and expanded over the

coming years. The vision referenced in paragraph 4.1 above will help ensure the College is well placed – as a major local employer and purchaser of goods and services – to support efforts by the Council to secure economic growth, tackle the cost of living and increase prosperity within the City of Winchester.

- c. The Council has set a clear direction for the future of the City of Winchester, as referenced in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.3 above. This includes the ongoing preparation of an updated planning framework, to ensure that development within the local authority area takes place in a manner which is sympathetic to the City's heritage (of which the College is a key part). The College is committed to ensuring it meets the requirements of these local policies.

5.2 The Council and the College therefore agree to the following:

- a. Support the College's growth and diversification to become co-educational and available for day pupils (thereby offering more options for local families), whilst ensuring that these changes are managed sensitively to deliver an overall net benefit to the City of Winchester.
- b. Work with the Winchester City Centre Partnership to maximise the economic benefits to the local area of the College's presence, including through continued support for – and involvement in – the Business Improvement District. The College will – particularly as it expands – seek to maximise its use of suppliers within the City of Winchester, and make itself available to support the Council's initiatives for securing local growth – such as through joining the Partnership Board to oversee UK Shared Prosperity Fund projects within the local authority area.
- c. Seek to maximise the extent of the benefits (and knowledge thereof) arising from the College's support for the maintained school sector in the City of Winchester (through its Educational Partnerships), as a priority element of its commitment to doing so across Hampshire and the south coast.
- d. Align, wherever possible, the College's Community Service activities with the priority outcomes in the Council Plan 2020-25 (particularly those relating to a greener district, a vibrant local economy and living well), along with other relevant strategies and plans for the City of Winchester. The Council may, from time to time, ask the College to consider using its Community Service programme to support priority projects in the local area.
- e. Contribute to the work of the Winchester District Sport & Physical Activity Alliance, to ensure that the College's existing and future recreational facilities (including the new Sports Centre) are made available for community use wherever possible, having regard for: (i) existing commitments; (ii) any future planning obligations; and (iii) the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Study.
- f. Establish a heritage framework partnership, outlining how: (i) the College will maintain the listed buildings in its ownership (in line with an Estates Management Plan); and (ii) the Council engages with the College to agree a strategy to undertake these works.

- g. Explore the potential for Winchester's tourism offer to be strengthened through increased public access to the College's assets, which could include: (i) making more of the school's grounds available for visitors outside of term time; and (ii) enabling Jane Austen's House at 8 College Street to be made available for the enjoyment of visitors. Further discussions with get underway to explore options in respect of the latter.
- h. Consider how the College could make a contribution to the progression of the Council's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, exploring the potential to become carbon neutral within the lifetime of this MoU (ahead of the Council's commitment to see this achieved across the City of Winchester by 2030).

6. TAKING THESE PRIORITIES FORWARD

- 6.1 In committing to this MoU, both parties recognise that there is considerable potential for progress to be made in respect of the shared priorities outlined above. The Council and the College will work collaboratively in pursuit of these, whilst also recognising that neither is under any obligation to the other (particularly having regard for what is stated in paragraph 2.3 above).
- 6.2 Given the commitment of both parties to work together in pursuit of these priorities, it is proposed that senior principals from both the Council and the College will meet at least every six months to: (i) review progress; and (ii) identify and agree what steps may be required to ensure further progress is made. The Council and the College may agree to establish separate working groups (such as that suggested in 5.2(f) above) from time to time, in relation to particular projects or themes. This may involve other parties, as appropriate.
- 6.3 It is agreed that this MoU shall remain in place for a period of five years from the date of signing, however proposed amendments may be brought forward by either party at any time. Consideration may be given to a further MoU being entered at the end of this five year period.

Signed for and on behalf of **Winchester City Council**

Signature:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signed for and on behalf of **Winchester College**

Signature:

Name:

Position:

Date:

WINCHESTER COLLEGE'S EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

(Activities at the time of the MoU being prepared – July 2022)

Educational Partnerships

The College works with 15 partner secondary schools from the maintained sector (including academies), across Hampshire and along the south coast. This includes all three main secondary schools in Winchester.

- Two of these 15 – Midhurst Rother College in West Sussex and Barton Peveril Sixth Form College in Hampshire – have benefitted from longstanding relationships, over several years.
- The College's work with each of these 15 schools involves: (1) educational visits to Winchester; (2) visits by teachers to them; (3) professional development in a range of subjects; (4) teacher training links; and (5) interview practice.
- It is estimated that these partnerships benefit approximately 1,000 pupils annually, across all 15 schools.

In addition, the College has strong links with primary schools in Winchester and the surrounding area. Through (1) visits by the College's pupils to schools, and (2) primary pupils visiting the College, a wide range of activities are supported, including chess, concerts, creative writing, drama, debating, ecology work, mathematics, natural history, summer sports and many other activities, including Ukrainian support.

More details are provided [on the College's website](#).

Community Service

400 College pupils are involved in this programme, resulting in 18,000 hours of voluntary work being provided on an annual basis. This includes pupils contributing to the following organisations' activities:

- [Blue Apple Theatre](#);
- [The Winchester Beacon](#);
- [Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#);
- [Butterfly Conservation](#); and
- Chalk Streams Projects (working with 500 local primary school pupils).

More details are provided [on the College's website](#).