



COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Wallace

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“On 14-Oct, the Leader informed the Council that Hampshire County Council has made two 2 Investment Zone expression of interest submissions to Government for sites in Hampshire.

The Leader will have noticed the widespread concern that “Investment Zones” will damage efforts for nature recovery. Guidance on Investment Zones states that the aim is to “remove burdensome EU requirements”, which include Habitats Regulations and the requirement to provide an Environmental Impact Assessment, key tools in protecting nature during the planning process. Even worse, the guidance seems to allow for Investment Zones in National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other protected environments. There is also concern that Investment Zones undermine local democratic control of development. For example, the documentation states that Investment Zones “will benefit from a liberalised planning process” and “the planning system will not stand in the way of investment and development”. This appears to mean that local communities will lose their rights to resist unsustainable development.

Will the Leader:

- Confirm his commitment to local control of planning
- Confirm his commitment to the current affordable housing percentage for development in the area as a minimum.
- Confirm that he will continue to insist on existing environmental protections and nature recovery rules as a minimum”

Reply

“At Full Council, on 5th October, I announced that Hampshire County Council had reopened discussions on the ‘Hampshire Deal; and Investment Zones. I also advised that Winchester did not currently have any proposed investment zones in the district but that submissions could still be made by others for their potential inclusion.

Following our meeting, Solent Freeport did submit a request that their tax sites should be able to secure the same fiscal advantages as Investment Zones however none of these are in the Winchester district area and they did request extra environmental protections, particularly in the New Forest area.

Similarly, the County submitted a further list of existing Enterprise Zones for consideration of potential conversion into Investment Zones and none of these are in our area.

On November 17, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, scrapped the entire Investment Zone programme in his Autumn Statement.

In answer to Cllr Wallace's specific points, I am happy to confirm our commitment to local planning as he himself will have witnessed via our recent publication of our Regulation 18 draft local plan [Regulation 18 Local Plan - Winchester City Council](#) which demonstrates this council's commitment to strong local policy and planning controls.

The draft local plan also reinforces this administration's commitment to affordable housing with the new Draft Policy H6 replacing an 'expectation' that was too often missed, with a minimum requirement for affordable housing delivery that developers have to achieve. We are not interested in any future schemes such as the previous Investment Zone proposals that would weaken any of our affordable housing goals.

Finally, our draft local plan also sets 17 ambitious policies (NE1-NE17) for biodiversity and the natural environment. We would similarly oppose any future schemes such as the previous Investment Zone proposals that weakened or eliminated any of these critically important policies for environment protections and nature recovery."



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Isaacs

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“As a Council we have made commitments to do our best to help with the climate emergency. As individuals and businesses are increasingly under pressure to reduce costs, help with energy reduction and assist with doing their part to support the climate emergency actions, I have been asked by numerous residents about the policy with regards to windows in Grade 2 listed buildings.

We are not ahead of other councils with this regards, who have addressed this area sympathetically ensuring that the building are protected whilst improving on energy loss and their climate emergency plan. Will the Cabinet Member confirm that they will allow Grade 2 listed building to have the option of approved triple glazed windows that other councils are allowing in heritage sites and listed buildings? Numerous Parish Councils are also in support of this.”

Reply

“The Council has given permission for double-glazed windows to be installed in buildings that are in conservation areas or are Grade 2 listed and we are seeking to identify ways to make the process of cutting energy usage simpler and easier, while still ensuring that we protect our valuable local heritage. Our new draft Local Plan policy HE14 is specifically designed to encourage and enable appropriate alterations to improve the energy efficiency of listed buildings and non-designated buildings.

The Council is also open to receive applications for triple glazing. At this stage, our team is not aware of any applications to install a triple glazed window in a Grade 2 listed building in the Winchester District but there is no reason why an appropriate application that took due account of heritage considerations and other material planning matters would be refused.

Listed buildings are an important and irreplaceable part of our shared heritage. They add to the character and quality of the Winchester District and are valued by our residents and visitors alike. The Council is pleased to

continue to work positively and proactively with the owners and custodians of listed buildings to enable them to be used, occupied and enjoyed as living and working buildings for the present and future. When considering applications for listed building consent to alter listed buildings, the Council follows the approach set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and National Planning Policy Framework (2021), reflected locally in the Local Plan Policies CP13, CP20, DM16 and DM29. This approach seeks not to prevent change to listed buildings, but to manage it to ensure that alterations protect the heritage significance of the listed building. Significance is a term used in the National Planning Policy Framework, and is defined as: 'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest', which may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic'.

Replacement windows in listed buildings usually require listed building consent. Listed buildings vary considerably in their age, design, function and condition, as do the windows in those buildings. As with all planning applications, decisions are made on a case by case basis. Where windows are likely to be original to the building, the Council encourages their repair and retention, as these are important features which contribute to the significance of the listed building; replacing historic windows which are capable of repair is both harmful to the significance of the listed building and wasteful. Where historic windows are demonstrated to be beyond repair, the Council supports their replacement, which sometimes will include double glazing of an appropriate design and detailing. Where windows are not historic, or are inappropriate to the building due to their design or materials, the Council also supports their replacement with a suitable alternative which could include double glazing.

Many historic buildings are not listed. They may however be located in a Conservation Area, a local designation applied by the Council to enable it to protect the historic character and appearance of that area. Under the present national regulations, planning permission is not required to replace windows (or external doors) on unlisted houses within conservation areas, provided that any replacement windows/doors use materials of a similar appearance to those being removed. Planning permission is required to replace windows and external doors in blocks of flats, commercial or industrial buildings within conservation areas. Where planning permission is required, the Council's approach, set out in Local Plan Policy DM27 is consistent with that it applies to listed buildings. That is to encourage repair and retention of windows and doors where appropriate, and where replacement is acceptable, to manage the type of new window or door to be installed.

The Council is happy to advise and guide owners and occupants of listed buildings to assist them to maintain and repair their buildings and also to improve their thermal performance. There are many ways to insulate and upgrade listed buildings in a sensitive and sustainable manner. Considerable guidance is available online from Historic England and our team is always willing to offer advice and help."



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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Rutter

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“When is the electric bus trial starting in Winchester and where can I catch one of them?”

Reply

“Our intention is that a trial of an electric bus can be started in the spring., however, we are advised that there is a worldwide shortage of electric vehicles which has made it very difficult to obtain one in order to undertake the planned trial. However, Stagecoach has been extremely helpful in obtaining a suitable bus, from Sweden, in order to undertake a trial as part of the Park and Ride service in Winchester.

The intention is to integrate the electric bus into the Park and Ride service as soon as it arrives. This will be helpful in terms of assessing how electric buses perform as part of the Park and Ride and the infrastructure needed to support them and as such inform future decisions about Park and Ride bus provision.

We will arrange an opportunity for members to ride on the new bus once it arrives.”



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QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Weston

To: The Cabinet Member for Business and Culture (Cllr Thompson)

“Can the Cabinet Member give us a breakdown on all expenditure on St Maurice’s Covert from the start of the project and budget allocation in 2016? Can the Cabinet Member please list the payments to Scott Whitby Studio (architects), money spent on the gravestones, the recent mural, the new paving, lighting, seating and the installation of a memorial plaque naming the 51 men of St Maurice’s parish who died in 1914-19?

The Town Forum budget paper in November 2020 budget refers to a one-off Budget: St Maurice's Covert £41,500 with an extra £5,787 for 2020/2021. Has there been any savings on this agreed budget?

When and who made the decision not to continue with the Scott Whitby Studio proposals and why?

Details of the information and an audit trail is not clear from the information available on the town forum pages of the website”

Reply

“The major phase of the renovation of St Maurices Covert was completed in October 2022 and is an example of how our council works with our communities to breathe new life into our much loved town centres.

ScottWhitby Studio was appointed to develop a scheme and they have been involved in the project throughout. The original proposals involved bin/bike store, a new plinth as well as re-surfacing walls and ceilings and new lighting / seating as well as the mural. This was approved by Cabinet in September 2017 (CAB2958).

Following the 2017 public consultation, several changes to the detailed design project were required to respond to concerns raised by the police and others regarding anti-social behaviour and rough sleeping. This saw the removal of

plinth and bin/bike store. The structure of the covert was also more challenging to deal with and costs increased from the original estimate in 2017.

A Cabinet paper in 2019 explained the reasons for the cost increase and a further £90,000 was approved bringing the revised total estimated cost of £225,000 (included a £5,000 contingency). The Business Improvement District committed £8,000 and there was a generous donation of £5,000 from the Steele family.

New lighting, surfacing, seating has been installed and the artistic design by Molly Hawkins won a community vote and she has created a vibrant mural within the covert.

Our efforts now turn to the installation of the war memorial plaque which we hope to complete by in the Spring.”



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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Brook

To: The Cabinet Member for Community and Housing (Cllr Ferguson)

“Would it be possible to have a list of the warm spaces that Winchester City Council are providing or funding for our communities?”

Reply

“At the Council’s recent Cost of Living Summit with other local organisations, a core topic for discussion was collaboration between partners to ensure warm spaces across our district.

It became clear at the summit that the most effective use of our resources would not be directly operating or providing warm spaces for our communities but to encourage and support organisations across the district that are doing so. We are doing this in two ways firstly, by sharing information about locations around the district where a warm space can be found and also by providing grant funding to help establish and sustain them.

To co-ordinate efforts, we are encouraging partners to add their details to the national ‘Warm Welcome’ website <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/#find-a-space>, which lists venues by postcode while describing the services available. This is currently on the front page of our website. There are already several venues listed seven within the city area and six in the communities of Oliver’s Battery, New Alresford, Kings Worthy, Bishops Waltham, Droxford and Boarhunt, the majority being libraries or churches. There may be others already in existence and we continue to liaise with partners to ensure maximum exposure and awareness of those locations on offer.

We are also aware of other warm spaces in community centres, and of venues providing similar services, but which don’t formally see themselves as warm spaces so aren’t listing themselves as such.

Warm spaces are one of the projects that the Cost of Living Grant scheme is designed to support. A grant of £4,947 to MHA has helped establish a warm space, listed on the national website, which provides sessions for over 60's to socialize with a hot drink and light snacks, access to games and Wi-Fi and IT support if required. A second grant of £3,528 to Street Reach is helping to provide weekly after-school drop-in sessions over winter where young people from the Winnall area can keep warm, have a hot meal and engage with youth team.

We have also received applications from The Carroll Centre and Unit 12 that are still under consideration and expect more in the coming weeks and months.”



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Edwards

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Porter)

“This Council is developing a new Local Plan which would enable our district to provide much needed homes, including a guaranteed number of affordable homes, to the highest environmental standards. Just as consultation on the Reg18 draft came to an end last month, the Secretary of State announced the government's intention to end mandatory housing targets for local authorities. Can the Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan advise members of any impact this change may have here?”

Reply

“The government has issued a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on the 6th December 2022 and a public consultation on a number of proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which runs from the 22 December 2022 until 2 March 2023.

The government has made it very clear in this public consultation that the standard method for assessing local housing need, remains the clear starting point for the plan-making process. The government are not any proposing changes to the standard method formula itself through the public consultation.

Local authorities will be expected to continue to use local housing need, assessed through the standard method, to inform the preparation of their plans; although the ability to use an alternative approach where there are exceptional circumstances that can be justified will be retained. As part of the public consultation, the government is seeking views on the sort of demographic and geographic factors which could be used to demonstrate these exceptional circumstances in practice.

Both the WMS and the proposed changes to the NPPF are an expression of government policy and, therefore, capable of being a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and local plan examinations. However, the proposed changes that have been outlined above are only just

being consulted upon rather than being an immediate changes to government policy. This means that until further details are provided in the form of an updated NPPF, there is no justification to alter our current housing requirement that was consulted on in the draft Regulation 18 Local Plan. The City Council will be responding to the public consultation.”



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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Warwick

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Porter)

“The 2021 Census data showed that compared to the 1.46 million new households that actually formed, the 2014 MHCLG projections used in the standard methodology predicted that 2.4 million new households would form. This is an over-estimation of 936,000 households. Across Hampshire there were 18,756 fewer households in total than projected with significant growth shortfalls in Portsmouth, Southampton and the New Forest. In light of this significant data will the Cabinet Member revise the proposal to take additional housing on behalf of the PfSH authorities in the emerging Winchester Local Plan?”

Reply

"There is no proposal to take additional housing on behalf of the PfSH authorities in the emerging Winchester Local Plan.

A 'buffer' of 1,450 homes is included in the housing figures that were included in the draft Regulation 18 Local Plan in order to support that our plan is found sound at Inspection in this aspect. This buffer number will ensure we can accommodate changes to the standard methodology due to any change in population forecasts and the annual review of affordability ratio.

This buffer is also needed because there is always the risk that a confirmed site falls away and on occasion an Inspector can remove a site. If we do not have a buffer then we have to determine and consult on a new site – this is not sensible plan making. And as members know we are obliged to have Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring councils which is a test of soundness in itself.

We are working tirelessly to ensure our local plan provides for exemplary development across our district and it contains forward looking policies that will place us at the forefront of green development. The housing numbers are but one part of the plan and I am confident the approach we are taking will ensure our plan will be found sound at examination in this respect.”



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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Reach

To: The Leader (Tod)

“Many parts of Winchester city centre were affected by a spate of graffiti and vandalism last year. What progress has Winchester City Council made in addressing this antisocial behaviour?”

Reply

“As Cllr Reach is aware, we had a particular challenge with graffiti and vandalism across the city in the spring, summer and early autumn last year.

Our initial reaction was to work with the Winchester Business Improvement District (BID) and significantly increase the resource for graffiti removal, in part using the additional budget allocated last year to Pride in Place work. The Council’s new street scene officer worked closely with the car parking team, BID and our special maintenance team to coordinate this work.

When it became clear that a more robust intervention was needed, I called together a Pride in Place task and finish group and agreed on the need to take a more fundamental approach to tackling the wider vandalism and graffiti issues across the city. As a result of partnership collaboration with both internal and external services including the police, Hampshire’s Youth Offending Team and local youth charities, a group of young people were identified as the primary perpetrators and an intervention programme was put in place. This information supported the delivery of a number of immediate and diversionary interventions being put in place that included; home visits to parents by the police, additional security put into car parks, car park banning letters being issued, youth outreach, and, for one individual, referral to youth crime prevention team (YCP). The partnership also made a successful application to the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting grant funding for 3 deployable cameras to strengthen our capability to tackle any further issues.

This partnership approach has had a positive effect. We have seen a significant decrease in reported incidents and a reduction in criminal damage

including acts of graffiti and vandalism. Moving forward there will be a standing agenda item at the multi-agency ASB panel to ensure that any further issues are addressed if/as they arise.

This has been a particularly good example of the power of teamwork and collaboration both inside and outside our organisation and I have written to thank the officers and external partners involved.”



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QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Cunningham

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Porter)

“With regard to the proposed development of Sir John Moore Barracks, as local Ward and Littleton & Harestock Parish Councillors haven’t heard anything from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) since March last year, how can the council assert and maintain that effective consultation on the Local Plan has been ongoing and regular with local representatives and the Parish Council.

Can the Cabinet Member advise whether she or any officers have had discussions with the DIO since March 2022, and confirm the following elements will be guaranteed in the masterplan for the site;

1. Maintaining the Northern Fields as a well landscaped public open space and wildlife habitat, having a positive impact on the environment in addressing climate change.
2. Maintaining the village identity of Littleton by retaining the existing defined Settlement Gap between Littleton and Harestock.
3. Retain the existing Littleton Development Boundary.
4. Effectively and regularly engage with the Parish Council and Ward Members during development of the Plan.
5. Ensure the proposed 850 space Park-and-Ride is located in the area of the existing Barracks large car park.

We know and accept the need to build new homes in the district, but the detail of how this site is developed and its impact on the northern access to the city will be crucial.”

Reply

“The relocation of Phase 1 training to other bases is a disappointment to the council as the military are an integral part of our community here in the district. But this national decision presents an opportunity to ensure that the Sir John Moore barrack continues to play a positive role in our district.

Our officer team have met with DIO colleagues as they work through options for the site. The DIO have a pre-app agreement in place with our planning team and I understand two meetings have taken place in November 22 and January 23 in order to prepare the master plan for the site.

Public and stakeholder engagement is a critical part of any development work but there have been several pressing matters for the military to address over the past few months and we are not privy to decisions which may focus the DIO team on other matters. However, I am confident they are aware of the need to ensure local communities are aware of proposals as they develop.”



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QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Evans

To: The Cabinet Member for Community & Housing (Cllr Ferguson)

“Would the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community & Housing please provide an update on what has been achieved since she announced in September the launch of a £200,000 package of measures to provide additional support to help residents who have been particularly impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis?”

Reply

“Cabinet announced a package of measures in recognition of the steep increase in cost of living in recent months. We can report that in a short space of time we have been able to make great progress, with the key objectives announced by Cabinet in September shaping the work we have since delivered.

Helping residents access support quickly and easily.

We quickly set up a dedicated webpage on the council’s website for residents to find the information they need. The need for us to coordinate one central place for residents to access Cost of Living (COL) information help and support services was heavily supported at the COL summit. As a result, the pages have developed greatly to cover key COL issues such as debt, benefits and bills; housing, energy, food and wellbeing. The pages have received more than 7,000 visits since they were launched in October.

All organisations that offer warm spaces are being encouraged to sign up to the national “Warm Welcome” initiative, linked to by the council COL pages. Residents and partners can now search for warm spaces across the Winchester district.

Since November we have funded Citizen Advice Winchester to add additional capacity and resource that enables them to respond to the increased demand for help. This includes:

- Helping residents to understand and access the benefits and grants to which they are entitled. This includes benefits eligibility checks and help with applications (and challenging decisions), charitable support referrals (e.g. grants and food banks), utility/energy advice, debt advice and help around housing and homelessness.
- Providing emergency/crisis vouchers for people in immediate need.
- Outreach that takes services to places across the district where vulnerable people are in need and struggle to access services.
- Supporting partner organisations to build their skills and capacity to provide basic help and advice on cost of living issues.

Citizen Advice is seeing significantly increased numbers from groups such as disabled people/those with long-term health conditions, older people, social tenants and single people.

Offering extra support to our most vulnerable residents.

Council and private rented tenants are assisted to maintain their tenancies through support with budget plans and money management. New tenants are screened to identify those who need early assistance with money management and/or income maximisation. The council is also investing in a low-income tracker to target those in need of income maximisation and support and improve targeting of support in future.

Crisis food provision has been established to provide Fareshare food to tenants in immediate need, supplemented by food and fuel vouchers provided, which are easy and quick to access. A welfare fund supports tenants with items such as white goods and furniture as a last port of call. The team also recognises the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on tenants' mental health and is working with the Primary Care Network and Social Prescribers to ensure that they can access the right mental health support.

The COL emergency grant fund was launched on 28th November to help partner organisations provide support to residents across the district who have been particularly affected by the crisis. Three grants, totalling a combined £9901, have been awarded to MHA Communities, Street Reach and Winchester and District Young Carers. These projects will benefit more than 70 residents across Winchester district and also St Bartholomew and St Michael wards. Further applications are under consideration and we continue to actively promote the scheme and encourage applications.

We are working with voluntary sector partners to provide warm packs for people to include items such as an electric blanket, hot water bottle, thermos flask, blanket, thermal socks, gloves and hat. This will help those identified as in need e.g. where at least one of the household is in receipt of universal credit), made available at food banks and food pantries for people using food vouchers, and through Citizens Advice Winchester. We have sought external funding of £10,000 to help make this happen.

Working with our partners to co-ordinate our efforts and maximise our joint impact.

We arranged and hosted a COL summit that brought together partners from across the district to discuss how they can coordinate and maximise their impact on the issue. The summit took place on the 22nd November and was attended by over 70 delegates representing organisations from the voluntary, private and public sector. There was a strong sense of collaboration and positive discussion, with connections formed, ideas shared and plans made.

As a result of the appetite for partner led working and the need to collaborate to support all residents around COL related issues, we launched the Social Inclusion Partnership earlier today. This will engage key partners, for example Winchester Food Partnership, Trinity, Southern Health, Winchester Beacon, Emmaus, Winchester Vineyard and St John's.

A Cost of Living parish briefing was held on the 13th December, led by Cllr Ferguson (Deputy Leader) and supported by Cllr Tod (Leader). Representatives attended from a number of parish councils across the district and updates were provided on the COL summit and recently launched COL Grant Fund scheme.

Helping residents cut their carbon and reduce their energy bills

This element of support is important as it also positively impacts on another council priority, to reduce carbon emissions and become a carbon neutral district by 2030. The work of Citizens Advice to reduce bills has already been mentioned, but there is lots of support from other sources to help residents reduce their emissions.

The council is part of consortia to access funding through the HUG (Home Upgrade Grant) and LAD (Local Authority Delivery) schemes. These enable energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating for low-income households with poor Energy Performance Certificate ratings. Membership of these consortia means that the schemes are promoted to targeted households across the district, which have resulted in more than 100 applications to date.

In addition, we have written to all council tenants in properties with an EPC Band D and below and offered them the chance to opt-in to a 'Retrofit Ready Programme' which includes an energy assessment to identify a number of simple measures to make their homes more energy efficient, including the installation of new extractor fans, cavity wall insulation and additional loft insulation where appropriate."



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QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Horrill

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“Can the Cabinet Member please explain why more than £1 million has been spent on consultancy fees in the period Q1 2021 to Q1 2022? What areas of Council work are receiving significant consultancy spend and why are we unable to provide this support from within our own organisation?”

Reply

“The council’s use of ‘consultancy’ covers a wide range of areas where work is needed to deliver council priorities and where we do not have relevant expertise in-house and where it would not be affordable or practical to bring this expertise in-house, often due to the time-limited or specialized nature of the work. This can include specialist legal advice, geoarchaeology, hydrology, development finance, planning specialists or architects.

During that 15-month period covered in the question,

£398,000 was spent on external legal advice – including planning enforcement, supporting the monitoring officer in investigating members’ standards and defending against challenges on RPLC and Coventry House.

£545,000 was spent on strategic development advice; geoarchaeology and hydrogeological surveys; and specialist finance and communications support for Central Winchester Regeneration.

Other costs included £110,000 on architects and survey fees for HRA new build schemes.”



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QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Westwood

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“Residents can only recycle a limited range of plastics at home, and local supermarkets have recently closed or removed dedicated plastic recycling bins. What plans does the Project Integra waste partnership have to increase the range of plastics that can be recycled in Hampshire?”

Reply

“The Project Integra partnership brings together district councils (as collection authorities), the County Council (as a disposal authority) and our local unitary authorities (who do both collection and disposal) to coordinate waste collections across the combined area. Project Integra works through a long term contract with Veolia who provide collection, disposal and recycling infrastructure. Although there are many benefits to Project Integra, the contractual disposal arrangements can be a constraint on the materials we are able to collect for disposal and so we are working closely with Hampshire County Council who are the waste disposal authority to improve the range of materials which we can recycle locally.

It is essential to have robust local recycling infrastructure to avoid the issue faced by some collection authorities and companies where plastics collected for recycling have been exported and dumped in landfill.

As a first step towards increasing the range of materials that we can recycle, Hampshire now have planning permission to build a new single material recycling facility in Eastleigh for the whole of Hampshire, which will add plastic pots tubs, trays and cartons to the mix of what can be recycled.

This is currently scheduled to open in 2025, and we are working with Hampshire and in line with the developing government guidance and requirements to make sure we can use this new infrastructure as soon as it is ready.”



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QUESTION 13

From: Councillor Godfrey

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Porter)

“The Reg 18 version of the Local Plan includes a statement that the South Downs National Park Authority has agreed to the allocation of 500 homes to be built in the Winchester District part of the Park (note to Table H2 section 9.17). As the revised Local Plan for the National Park has not been approved, what records exist to support this stated agreement and what degree of confidence does the Cabinet Members have in this agreement being delivered?”

Reply

“The Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) that was agreed for the SDNP Local Plan in 2018 showed an ‘objectively assessed need’ within the National Park part of Winchester District of 31 dwellings per annum and the SoCG agreed that 15 dwellings per annum would be provided in the SDNP Local Plan.

Our teams have regular duty-to-cooperate meetings with the Local Plan team at the South Downs National Park (SDNP) to discuss a range of cross boundary issues.

As our Local Plan period will be to 2039, it was agreed with the SDNPA that there is significant scope for ongoing windfall development in the SDNP area and possibly some additional allocations through the review of their Local Plan which has now commenced. The SDNPA have agreed that a reasonable, but modest assumption, would be about 280 dwellings over the 20 year period. This would equate to 14 dwellings per annum over a 20-year period, which is slightly less than agreed in the 2018 SoCG. This would give a total provision of about 500 dwellings within the SDNP part of the District over the Local Plan period 2019-2039 (219 dwellings that are already committed with planning permission + 280 additional dwellings = 499). The above information will be formalised in an updated SoCG as Local Plan progresses to the Regulation 19 stage.”



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QUESTION 14

From: Councillor Tippett-Cooper

To: The Cabinet Member for Business and Culture (Cllr Thompson)

“One million visits by November 2022 - despite a pandemic- demonstrates the huge success of Winchester Sports and Leisure Park since it opened in May 2021.

In addition to recording a good level of day-to-day visits, the Council intended that the Leisure Centre would deliver lots of positive community outreach work as part of its operations. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how this is progressing?”

Reply

“I am pleased to report that our operators Everyone Active (EA) provide a full range of outreach programmes in partnership with others including the council. These are for people with different health needs and levels of ability, a range of age groups and from locations across the district. We work closely with EA to deliver their sports development and health and wellbeing programmes, which include activities for children, young people, and adults to take part in on a regular basis. Activities include:

- A project for young people under the care of Southampton Hospital. Three weeks were carried out in the summer (swimming, netball and gym), October and Christmas holidays. In-between these gaps, participants have had a free membership given to them, and all now have their own gym programmes.
- Pilot project with Winchester Beacon that provides memberships for service users, currently there are 5 members benefitting from this project.
- Falls prevention, yoga, tai-chi and resistance training for residents of Chesil Lodge, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, which supports good physical health and help them to feel positive and live independently.

- Severe Mental Illness Health Programme, launched in October, in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). This is a free, 12 week programme of either gym or yoga. Once completed, participants will receive an additional three month free membership.
- Everyone Active Athletes: 49 from the Hampshire Talented Athlete programme and 12 from EA's Sporting Champions programme.
- Launch in September of 'Goodboost' which is an aquatic session partly funded by UKactive. This provides an additional aquatics programme outside of hydrotherapy.
- Outreach health programmes are planned for the coming year within the wider community in schools and community settings such as scout groups."



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 15

From: Councillor Bolton

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Porter)

“Winchester and particularly the wider rural district still has a severe lack of affordable housing preventing young families remaining or being attracted to the area. After it was indicated by the Secretary of State for LUHC that amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework were being considered to reduce the emphasis on National housing targets. Can the administration confirm that sensible schemes, particularly affordable housing schemes, that are within the SDNP will still be pursued including such a scheme for, 'Dykes Farm' off Easton Lane, Winnall, which is easily within a 15 minute walk from the centre of Winchester yet within the SDNP?”

Reply

“The lack of affordable housing in the District is of significant concern and is a key priority of the Council to address through its “homes for all” programme of work

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) have policies on affordable housing provision both on market led sites (Policy SD28) and for rural exception sites (Policy SD29). The rural exception policy allows for 100% affordable housing on sites outside settlement boundaries provided they are delivered in perpetuity; the site selection process considering all reasonable options and the most suitable site (landscape, ecosystems services and overall sustainability), scale and location relate well to the existing settlement and landscape character and effective community engagement has fed into the design, layout and types of dwellings proposed. It also refers to the size, type and tenure to be based on robust and up-to date evidence of local community need as well as occupancy and local connection criteria to be applied.

And of course, we actively engage with the SDNPA through their pre-application advice service on bringing forward rural exception sites. On your specific point we have been in discussion with the representative of the land

owner of Dykes Farm and will be exploring its potential as an affordable housing site with the SDNP.

Of course, we should not forget that the Council's new homes programme aims to provide housing across all of the district, a significant part of which is in the SDNP. New schemes are constantly being evaluated across the district and if they offer a "sensible" opportunity to provide additional affordable housing they are subject to further investigation."



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 16

From: Councillor Cramoysan

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“What impact are the increasingly difficult economic conditions in the UK over the last 15 months, and which are set to continue through all of 2023 and perhaps into 2024, having on our redevelopment plans, such as for Central Winchester Regeneration and Station Approach?”

Reply

“The government’s chaotic and incompetent management of the economy since the 2016 Brexit referendum has had a dramatic effect on a wide range of industries with particular impacts on interest rates and the exchange rate and the resulting impact on prices and the pace of recovery from the pandemic.

This has contributed to an increase in construction costs of 25% in the last year and, combined with interest rates, this is affecting development projects across the country. That said, Winchester is better placed than many places to weather the storm and there are indications that costs are starting to stabilise and fall in some areas.

In terms of our redevelopment plans, the Central Winchester Regeneration project was always expected to last longer than a single business cycle and the shortlisted development partner bidders for the project are intensely aware of the current financial situation and have factored that into their submissions. We have confirmed with all the shortlisted development partner bidders for Central Winchester Regeneration that they have the required funding, resources and resilience to undertake the programme.

In terms of Station Approach, we are working with a multi-disciplinary team including cost and commercial consultants to see if and when a viable project can be brought forward. The development principles for the project recognise how the world has changed since previous schemes were brought forward.

Once we have concluded this work a report will be brought to Cabinet to decide whether it is the right time and conditions to proceed.

In order to protect the Council from the impact of national economic uncertainty, our programme and project methodology framework ensures that projects are assessed at numerous stages including for financial viability and will not pass through the business case process and associated project gateway decision points unless it is correct and prudent to do so.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 17

From: Councillor Read

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“Could The Leader please update the members on the current situation of the St Clements Health Centre development?”

Reply

“The pandemic and sharp increase in construction costs have meant that the selected primary healthcare developer Assura had additional hurdles to overcome in preparing for a construction start on site. However, these issues have now been resolved following extensive work in re-designing the internal layout for post-covid clinical treatment, and structural/external revisions associated with value engineering.

Delivery of primary care buildings is fraught with challenges. Over the last two years, Assura have successfully navigated their way through complex negotiations with NHS England, NHS Integrated Care Systems (ICS) (former CCG’s), and the District Valuer. As a result, the scheme meets all stakeholder requirements operationally and financially which is a significant achievement in any market but particularly given the challenges of the last two years.

Contracts have already been exchanged with Assura for a sale of the Upper Brook Street car park site on a ground lease and completion is anticipated in February with a start on site in March this year.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 18

From: Councillor Cutler

To: The Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Engagement (Cllr Becker)

“What can Winchester City Council do to help alleviate the crisis in the NHS?”

Reply

“Winchester City Council has an important role to play in strategic collaboration and early intervention and is doing what it can to prevent residents from needing to access acute NHS services, particularly while they are under such strain. However, the same pressures that face the NHS (in particular, chronic under-funding) are also faced by local government. The Council cannot fix an 18 hour wait for an ambulance, nor a two-week delay to see a GP. Or someone being able to even register with an NHS dentist. Those fixes are entirely within the gift of central government, and while we yearn for those services to be fixed, we do what we can to try to make sure people stay healthy, manage health conditions, and become and stay healthy.

We are working to bring about the much-needed new premises for the St Clements doctors surgery with construction of the new facility to commence in March 2023. We are also aware of the need for a new surgery in Bishops Waltham and have had initial meetings with the Parish Council and local GPs to see how the council could assist the delivery. We also engage with health partners to ensure the provision of appropriate facilities to serve major development sites.

We work with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System partners including Primary Care Networks and the Public Health team at Hampshire County Council to ensure a joined-up approach to health care. Work is currently ongoing to identify shared health priorities for the district, and the Chief Executive and I met with Councillor Liz Fairhurst, Cabinet Member and Simon Bryant, Director of Public Health Hampshire County Council to discuss this last week.

Our health and wellbeing work is very much delivered in partnership, in particular with our leisure centre operators Everyone Active, who run an Exercise Referral Programme. specialist classes for those with long-term health conditions and outreach programmes for those that are less physically active. The council also works in partnership with the wider voluntary sector. Community First leads a Wellbeing Walk programme, led by qualified walk leaders, and walks take place in five locations¹ across the district every week with more than 200 registered walkers and an average of 81 regular walkers across the programme.

We also support organisations such as MHA supporting older people to remain independent; Home-Start and The Carroll Centre supporting struggling young families; and Winchester Youth Counselling, Winchester Young Carers and Street Reach supporting young people facing challenging circumstances. This work supports thousands of our more disadvantaged residents every year, reducing health inequalities and improving life chances.

The Housing Service also proactively prevents pressure on the NHS through a range of services provided to its Council tenants. This includes:

- Disabled adaptations in Council properties facilitating greater independence and wellbeing.
- Specialist accommodation for older people which includes a dedicated team of officers who regularly visit tenants at their homes, alarm monitoring equipment and telecare options.
- Providing activities for older people to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation.
- Lifeline service for both Council tenants and private owners providing emergency assistance through our alarm centre with telecare capabilities.
- A tenancy sustainment service offering a range of person-centered support options for both Council tenants and private rented tenants. The team works with customers who are facing an immediate crisis or would benefit from short-term assistance across a number of areas including physical and mental wellbeing.

The council also has a pilot wellbeing programme in place for our sheltered housing schemes, offering tenants yoga, chair-based exercise, and singing for health.

The council administers the Better Care fund and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) for residents who live in the private sector, enabling adaptations that allow people to remain living with greater independence at home and helping facilitate the discharge of patients in hospital to prevent bed blocking. The DFG Service has the capacity to accelerate referrals to support hospital discharges, preventing so-called bed-blocking in hospitals.

¹ Colden Common, Bishops Waltham, Whiteley, Winchester City Centre and Weeke

The council also supports and participates in homeless prevention initiatives, working with partner agencies such as Trinity and The Beacon, and programs to reduce rough sleeping. The rough sleepers' initiative assists the most complex individuals who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping to access health care at the right time, ensuring an improvement to their health so their health doesn't escalate to needing acute care. A new mental health support worker will support residents in temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness to prevent the individual needing to access acute mental health services. A venue is provided for the drug and alcohol service to run drop-in sessions for households in temporary accommodation.

Finally, we mustn't forget the positive contribution that our high-quality housing and our parks and open spaces make to the positive mental health and wellbeing of our residents. A safe, secure home and the opportunity to enjoy fresh air, open space and a place to exercise in a high quality and safe setting are factors that are shown to have a significant effect on people's wellbeing and good health."



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 19

From: Councillor Miller

To: The Cabinet Member for Business and Culture (Cllr Thompson)
“Could an update on the tendering on the matter of Winchester market please be made? It seems to be a long time since the council was made aware of any progress on this matter.”

Reply

“This administration recognises the importance of street markets to many residents and visitors to Winchester and our market towns, as well as providing an opportunity for business start-ups, in particular, to access new customers and test new concepts.

In order to ensure that our district has the strongest market offer, we recently completed a review of the opportunities for markets across our city and market towns which was reviewed at the Business & Housing Committee on 6 October 2022 outlining the findings of that research and setting out the way forward.

The market procurement process is relatively complex not least because it will need to define clear management policies to decide on pitch allocation priorities and other issues as well as the performance expectations from any future contractor. The procurement documents are drafted to ensure that we receive the information we require in order to select a successful bidder. Apart from the social and economic benefits to our places, the market brings in income to the council and in these challenging financial times we want to ensure it continues to do so regardless of who wins the tender process.

The current intention is to go out to tender in March 2023 with the hope of being able to appoint a market management company in June 2023. There may be a transitional period between operators, so it is anticipated that the contract will commence in July 2023.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 20

From: Councillor Cook

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“I should like to ask the Cabinet Member and the Executive Management Team as thousands of Winchester District Residents were affected with low water pressure and for many more no water at all prior to the run up to Christmas.

Looking back taking Southern Water out of the equation is there anything that should have been dealt with in a communication stance with Ward Councillors and gaining a better understanding of exactly what was happening?”

Reply

“On Wednesday 21 December, a major incident was declared by the Hampshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) due to the potential loss of water and decreased water pressure to an estimated 23,000 properties across south Hampshire. At this point a well-rehearsed set of emergency planning meetings are triggered and any affected partner then implements their own emergency response plan. Winchester City Council emergency response team was in place from 1700 hours Wednesday 21 December through to the morning of Saturday 24 December 2022.

A key part of the local response plan is communications and there are well defined protocols within the Local Resilience Forum as to which agency releases information at what point. In this scenario, the lead agency was Southern Water and primary communications and messaging was created and released by them, this is then amplified by partners. Therefore, as a priority affected local parish councils were advised and the Council issued eight Facebook posts and 17 Twitter posts whenever new information was released.

An early task was to confirm the properties affected and once the distribution maps were received our efforts focused in those wards. Ward members are in a unique position to support the community and over the period eight detailed emails were sent to ward councillors in those areas most heavily

affected. This was based on information supplied by Southern Water with the first one being sent three hours after the emergency had been declared once priority action such as provision of water supplies in our park and rides had been established. In addition, individual questions from members were answered separately and actioned or escalated back through the LRF for response.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 21

From: Councillor Isaacs

To: The Cabinet Member for Community and Housing (Cllr Ferguson)

“On 17th December at 11pm with temperatures of -3 degrees outside, I was contacted by a mother of 3 young children who had had a major water leak and was asking for help.

After ensuring that they had the correct telephone number for the out of hours emergency contact number we both tried to make contact with someone. No answer after 2 hours the line was cut off. No person screening calls or triage of any kind to establish the order of severity or priority. No alternative way of getting assistance.

Whilst this lady's plumbing situation was eventually sorted the next day, the lack of support falls below expectations. Although I raised this issue the answer given was

“The calls are handled by a third party contractor and over the weekend they experienced a high volume of calls from their other housing associations/Local Authority clients.”

I understand that more officers were put in to help over the Christmas period but my question is this.

What actions are the council now planning to take to ensure that this situation is never repeated?”

Reply

“As a landlord we are committed to providing a good service to our tenants at all times, and this includes providing an effective Out of Hours Service for when tenants need to contact the council in an emergency. And I am sorry to hear of the problems that this tenant experienced in early December.

In December there was a period of sustained cold weather which led to an unprecedented volume of calls being made to the council's Out of Hours Service provider First Call, which led to a drop in the service levels we would expect from this service.

To remedy this problem, housing officers held a number of emergency meetings with First Call. These resulted in First Call implementing a new tiered system for incoming calls with Winchester City Council being assigned a high priority call response level for its social housing customers. First Call also brought in additional staff to meet call volumes as well as reducing its overall client base.

Going forward, the council has committed to undertaking an independent review of the council's Out of Hours service and this is included as a growth option in the HRA Budget 2023/24. This will allow the council to explore alternative options to improve the service and improve future customer satisfaction levels.

In addition the council's Property Services 'Out of Hours' contingency plan has been updated to provide for a housing services back office call response to monitor call demand during periods of particularly high demand and provide back-up support if necessary.

The council will also be contacting all tenants in the autumn next year to remind them to test their heating systems and report issues early in preparation for the winter switch on. This will be re-enforced in the tenants' newsletter and by a social media campaign. This is in addition to the regular boiler maintenance checks that are undertaken."



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 22

From: Councillor Westwood

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“What impact is government decision-making having on our plans for food recycling?”

Reply

“Food waste makes up over 30% of residual waste, so introduction of food waste recycling is crucial to our aspirations to reduce the amount of material being sent to landfill and continue to improve our recycling rate.

The government consulted on introducing a mandatory weekly food waste collection system in July 2021, over 18 months ago. The latest updates from DEFRA are that the consultation outcomes will be released soon, and that food waste collections should begin by March 2025 at the latest.

Unfortunately, the financial implications of launching a new food waste service are currently confused by Government policy.

The Government is now saying that it will provide ‘new burdens funding’ for the introduction of food waste recycling to cover some or all of the associated capital and revenue costs, but that councils which have previously introduced food waste recycling will not benefit. This could mean that failure to follow the Government timetable could have severe financial consequences – since the capital costs of new vehicles and containers – and the revenue cost of extra collection rounds are both very substantial.

We remain extremely keen to launch a new food waste service across the district and we are working to be able to launch the service as soon as it is practical and affordable. When we have more clarity on the government’s funding proposals, we will come back to members with a proposed timetable and plan for consultation and implementation.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 23

From: Councillor Weston

To: The Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan (Cllr Porter)

“Can the Cabinet Member advise us which department within WCC ensures that conditions detailed on the planning decision notice are fulfilled with and could the Cabinet Member furnish us with the details of the process and procedure followed to make sure that the conditions are fulfilled. Will the Cabinet Member let us know if she feels that conditions are an important part of the planning decision notice?”

Reply

“The Planning team deal with all aspects of planning, including the grant of conditional planning permission. Section 171a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 establishes a breach of planning as:

- the carrying out of development without the required planning permission;
or
- failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted

National legislation and guidance explains that planning conditions should be kept to a minimum and only be used when they satisfy the following tests:

1. necessary;
2. relevant to planning;
3. relevant to the development to be permitted;
4. enforceable;
5. precise; and
6. reasonable in all other respects.

Paragraph 59 of the National Planning Policy Framework states:

“Effective enforcement is important to maintain public confidence in the planning system. Enforcement action is discretionary, and local planning authorities should act proportionately in responding to suspected breaches of planning control. They should consider publishing a local enforcement plan to manage enforcement proactively, in a way that is appropriate to their area. This should set out how they will monitor the implementation of planning permissions, investigate alleged cases of unauthorised development and take action where appropriate.”

The City Council updated its Local Enforcement Plan (July 2020) following approval by Cabinet in May 2020. [Local Enforcement Plan - Winchester City Council](#). Chapter 11 deals with pro-active compliance monitoring, noting that:

“It is the responsibility of individual developers to comply with the conditions imposed on a planning permission.”

Our enforcement team pro-actively monitor the following development:

- All developments involving 10 or more dwellings or residential development greater than 1 hectare in area
- All commercial developments over 1000sq metres floor area or 0.5 hectares in area. All developments subject to a planning agreement (Section 106)
- Particular problematic sites such as those involving significant level changes or contamination.
- Any other developments may be inspected on a random basis at any time in order to ensure compliance.

We will also investigate any complaint received about a breach of a planning condition.

National guidance in the National Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Enforcement action should, however, be proportionate to the breach of planning control to which it relates and taken when it is expedient to do so. Where the balance of public interest lies will vary from case to case.

In deciding, in each case, what is the most appropriate way forward, local planning authorities should usually avoid taking formal enforcement action where:

- there is a trivial or technical breach of control which causes no material harm or adverse impact on the amenity of the site or the surrounding area;
- development is acceptable on its planning merits and formal enforcement action would solely be to regularise the development;
- in their assessment, the local planning authority consider that an application is the appropriate way forward to regularise the situation, for example, where planning conditions may need to be imposed.”

Members and Parish Councils were consulted on the draft Local Enforcement Plan. It sets out how the Council deal with alleged breach of planning control (this includes non-compliance with planning conditions). It explains how to report an alleged planning breach and how the enforcement team will deal with that. In addition a series of flow charts was added to the 2020 Plan which shows at a glance the steps the team will take in its investigation.

Members will recall the Member briefing giving by Leading Counsel on 9th June 2022 on enforcement matters which included a section on breach of conditions.

We also provide the planning service for the South Downs National Park Authority. [Enforcement: report a breach - South Downs National Park Authority.](#)

Conditions are an important part of any planning decision. National and Local policies establish how the Council should deal with alleged breaches of planning matters. Our Local Enforcement Plan recognises the need to be proactive and also to target our resources in a focused way. You can report a breach of planning using our on-line reporting tool. [Report a suspected breach of planning control - Winchester City Council.](#)”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 24

From: Councillor Reach

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“After a summer with a hosepipe ban, on 1st November Southern Water's sewers dumped raw sewage on Winchester High Street. Then two days before Christmas, thousands of residents in the district were left without water when their supply failed. What steps are the Council taking to hold Southern Water to account?”

Reply

“Like all of us, I've been appalled at Southern Water's recent failures in our district, whether it's raw sewage in the High Street or Brambridge, failed supply before Christmas in the communities immediately south of Winchester or the ongoing problem of discharges into our rivers and waterways. I also continue to be frustrated at their failure to invest to address the phosphate and nitrate issues that are unnecessarily holding up future development or to upgrade sewerage systems to address the extra pressure of development – an issue I was discussing only yesterday with local residents in Wickham.

I know that members share my concerns at Southern Water's failings – as witness the motion we passed unanimously in July last year – and I'm pleased to confirm that Southern Water will be attending the Health & Environment Policy Committee on March 1st where committee members will have the chance to cross-examine them – and the Environment Agency – in public on all these issues. If members have any specific questions they would like addressed, please forward them to the committee chair, Cllr Brian Laming, for consideration by the committee.

I have also had a chance to cross-examine Southern Water – on the council's behalf – at July's meeting of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH) board – primarily on the issue of water treatment upgrades to tackle phosphates, nitrates and sewer discharges – and make the case for investment to address these issues – as well as understand the role of other bodies, such as OFWAT, and other programmes, such as the Water Industry National Environment Programme, in authorizing their investment plans.

Unfortunately, we do not have direct powers to hold Southern Water to require them to address their failings: the days when the water and sewer system was built and run by local government are long gone. OFWAT, as the official regulator for Southern Water, has the power to 'call them to account', however Winchester City Council officers do actively engage with water companies where their operations adversely affect Winchester residents. And of course, they comment on our Local Plan in order that they are aware of the infrastructure requirement to match the future needs of the district. is available where we need it.

With regard to raw sewage surcharging on Winchester High Street, this occasionally arises during periods of high rainfall when the now long-established combined sewer system struggles to convey high volumes of rainwater. This has arisen due to newer surface water systems having been added to it over many years and our team are liaising with Southern Water to press for a solution. Any solution would involve significant capital expenditure by Southern Water and we are pushing for this to be given priority against competing infrastructural demands across their network.

The reduction and or termination of water supplies to thousands of regional residents just before Christmas arose due to a rapid transition of temperatures from sub-zero conditions to warm circa 10⁰C temperatures only a day later. This caused pipe work failures across the network and necessitated that Southern Water set up various water distribution points across the affected area. Such was the extent of the disruption that Hampshire's Local Resilience Form (LRF) declared a major incident and conducted regular meetings with Southern Water to ensure that they provided a suitably robust response. In the event questions remain as to whether Southern Water's response met expectation and officers have fed back our position to the LRF, which is due to hold a de brief session with Southern Water at the end of January.

Our work to address wider water quality especially the discharge of nutrients into our water systems is being addressed jointly with other district councils facing similar issues through the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). In addition to securing £2M funding to facilitate the availability of suitable mitigation sites, PfSH have also employed a Strategic Environmental Planning Officer (SEPO) whose primary objective is to provide a strategic response to the issue of nutrient neutrality across the impacted areas of the Solent. As well as providing a single point of contact to the development industry and landowners who may be able to offer mitigation solutions, the SEPO also monitors the supply and demand relating to nutrient neutrality mitigation and is working with us to consider how we might bring forward our own mitigation schemes to help unlock the phosphates and nitrates issue.

While I think the Health & Environment Policy Committee should be the centre of our public discussions with Southern Water, the scale of the problem is such that I am seeking further meetings with Southern Water to ensure that any issues raised at the committee are followed up and to continue to press for action to address the many issues with water supply and treatment that continue to face our district."



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 25

From: Councillor Tippett-Cooper

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“Does the Cabinet Member agree with WinAcc’s concerns that Hampshire County Council’s draft partial update of the Mineral and Waste Plan “fails to reflect the urgency of the climate emergency”?”

Reply

“Hampshire County Council is currently consulting on a partial update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan which will guide minerals and waste decision making in the Plan Area up until 2040.

HCC advised that the partial update to the Plan is proposed to build upon the currently adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013), eventually providing new and updated policies based on up-to-date evidence of the current levels of provision for minerals and waste facilities in the Plan Area.

The Strategic Planning team are working on the assessment of the Minerals and Waste plan and have until 31 January 2023 to respond and have not yet, at the time of writing this response, assessed its merits against our climate change agenda.

The Council has declared a climate emergency with a more ambitious target for carbon reduction than Hampshire’s and this is the lens that the Policy Officer will use when preparing the response. I will ensure that we are satisfied that our response reflects the needs of the climate response or our feedback will indeed match that of WINACC if we come to the same conclusion.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 18 January 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 26

From: Councillor Westwood

To: The Cabinet Member for Business and Culture (Cllr Thompson)

“What can we do to support local business during these challenging times?”

Reply

“The combination of increased prices, increased interest rates, unnecessary barriers to trade and economic slowdown is putting many local businesses under severe pressure and we continue to work directly and with partners to help our local businesses address them.

At the core of our approach is partnership working – whether through wider bodies such as the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), business bodies such as the Winchester Business Improvement District or through local authority partners, such as our engagement with Hampshire via Regeneration and Growth Partnership meetings. Within this, for example, we are seeking ways to bring gigabit broadband into our city and district.

We also continue to seek ways to bring new employment to our city and district to replace those lost to government downsizing and remote working – particularly through our regeneration work.

We also have an ongoing programme to provide support directly and help businesses get support from other bodies. We continually signpost businesses via our website and our monthly Business Bulletin to organisations who are providing support and advice for businesses on topical subjects. This has included the current challenges of the cost of living crisis as well as the ongoing impact of Brexit and business recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic, amongst others.

We are also seeking to help local businesses with the current recruitment crisis. We are hosting a Jobs and Opportunities Fair in partnership with Winchester Job Centre at the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park on Friday 24 February, from 10am to 1pm. Organisations will be able to meet with

residents looking for new employment – whether its people wanting a change of career, individuals returning to work after a break, or people looking to advance their employment situations. Additionally, employers will have the chance to reach out to those who have recently settled in the Winchester district, including Ukrainian guests. The council has also held a business startup course for Ukrainian guests looking to set up their own businesses.

Our Green Economic Development Strategy has a particular focus on supporting businesses on their journey to net zero. To this end, Winchester City Council have commissioned Meercat Associates to offer one-to-one consultations, online webinars and events to assist businesses in producing net zero strategies and action plans as well as access to the Clean Growth Programme of Low Carbon Across the South and East (LoCASE). Grants can cover 40% of expenditure towards business growth, up to a maximum of £10,000 and green audits may also be offered to businesses where more intensive work is required. The low carbon service not only supports businesses with carbon reduction but also helps reduce energy and running costs. This programme of support is provided free of charge as it is fully funded by Winchester City Council and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

We are also supporting businesses who are looking to expand or grow via our support for planning applications where appropriate.

Tourism remains an incredibly important support to our local economy. We have reviewed and are launching a revised Visit Winchester business model. This offer responds to challenges raised by businesses operating in the visitor economy alongside changing visitor buying habits. It provides effective digitally focused promotional and marketing opportunities to raise awareness, drive footfall and influence spend in the district's visitor economy.

Finally, we continue to focus on the needs of small and start-up businesses. New businesses are vital to the success of our markets – and we will ensure that this remains a useful point for them to trial new ideas and access new customers.. In addition, the Visitor Information Centre provides small and start-up businesses, who offer a locally produced range of goods for sale, a zero cost and risk-free opportunity to bring their offer to market, via taking a presence in the VIC.”