COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Brook

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

"I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for a productive conversation regarding CIL and for holding a panel discussion. Working together to encourage parishes to look at larger projects would be excellent.

Cllr Tod mentioned at Scrutiny the wards who had put most into the CIL pot and received the most back for projects. For transparency for the public, please could you provide an updated list of ward CIL contribution and the amount allocated to wards for projects?"

Reply

"The latest position on spending and receipts by ward of WCC CIL is as follows:

Area	WCC CIL rec'd	Spent/ Committed
Alresford & Itchen Valley	352,831	405,000
Badger Farm & Olivers Battery	437,343	139,500
Bishops Waltham	2,796,680	155,000
Central Meon Valley	844,306	185,000
Colden Common & Twyford	795,317	342,000
Denmead	661,311	119,500
Southwick & Wickham	1,384,259	142,952
St Barnabas	1,940,952	0
St Bartholomew	575,328	2,023,000
St Luke	575,324	0
St Michael	814,940	3,366,000
St Paul	3,298,735	550,000
Citywide (Movement Strategy)	*0*	*250,000*
The Worthys	1,254,038	75,000
Upper Meon Valley	138,453	160,000
Whiteley & Shedfield	1,251,434	236,000
Wonston & Micheldever	733,139	38,000

Although most of the spending is listed as allocated to individual wards except for the Winchester Movement Strategy allocation where this was not possible, much of it has wider impact – with expectations that the spending will impact or be used by residents outside the ward where the money is spent, for example:

Parish	Scheme	CIL Amount
Badger Farm	Community centre improvements	£34,500
Denmead/Newlands	Cycle route to Havant	£55,000
New Alresford	Car Park (The Dean)	£250,000
Winchester City-wide	Winchester Movement Strategy	£250,000
St Bartholomew	Flood alleviation scheme	£800,000
St Bartholomew	3G pitch for Football Club	£200,000
St Michael	Sports and Leisure Park	£1,800,000
St Michael	Wayfinder signing	£56,000
St Michael	Abbey Gardens Playground refurbishment	£110,000
St Michael	KGV Sports Pavilion	£1,250,000
St Paul	Station Approach Public Realm improvements	£500,000

In looking to allocate CIL, the City Council's decisions will continue to be mindful that neither the impact of extra development nor the infrastructure needed to address the resulting pressures automatically follow ward or parish boundaries."

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Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Rutter

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

"What progress has been made towards the 'mini Holland' scheme for Winchester City, what exactly will be involved, and will the benefits be spreading out to the villages and market towns?"

Reply

"The final Mini Holland Feasibility Study will be submitted by HCC to the Department for Transport by 31 March 2023.

From the 19 studies to be submitted in March a number will then be chosen to benefit from investment into Mini Holland schemes. The main focus of the Mini Holland study is to improve active travel opportunities. Cycle Winchester and the Walking Strategy Group have been engaged throughout the process and were recently consulted on the final draft.

The study area is the city centre and suburbs however the work has been done with the ambition for this to connect with a wider district network. Work on the District Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is underway and looking at improvements to active travel opportunities throughout the district villages and market towns."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Kurn

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

"With the coronation for King Charles III fast approaching, what plans are in place to celebrate this event of national importance in our historic city? This after the notable absence of recognition for her late Majesty the Queens Platinum jubilee in which many residents noticed there was no real effort especially in our city centre to mark the occasion.

I know cities across the country will be making great effort to make this occasion memorable for all, especially as the last time we witnessed a coronation was in 1953. As a former capital city I'm sure many will agree it is important we play our part to honour our new King."

Reply

"For the Platinum Jubilee, the council awarded grants to enable a dozen community Jubilee events to happen in village, town and city communities, spanning from Micheldever in the north of the district to Wickham in the south. In addition, five parish councils received direct grants to support celebrations for their communities. Road closure applications were made free of charge and the city council processed 49 of these to allow our communities to come together. The city council supplied The Queens Green Canopy plaques to mark the planting of trees in 24 parishes, 48 city council housing sites and 27 council-maintained open spaces along with a special Platinum Jubilee planting display at the Bar End roundabout. Events and celebrations taking place across the district were promoted via the council's corporate and Visit Winchester websites and social media channels.

Since last Autumn, information about the King's coronation, along with opportunities such as grants and advice, including information on road closures and top tips for holding events, has been available and kept up to date on the council's website: The Coronation of His Majesty The King - Winchester City Council. Engagement with residents, organisations and

businesses through e-newsletters and social media activity has supported the website content and this will continue.

The council will be dressing the city with union flag themed bunting and associated displays, including a coronation themed floral carpet in the raised bed located on Bar End roundabout. Celebrations in Alresford, Denmead, Wickham, Bishop's Waltham and Whiteley are being supported through £800 grants to Parish Councils to help with their plans for events and street dressings.

Winchester Cathedral is planning to offer a free event in the cathedral including a live streaming of the coronation on a big screen. The council is working with Winchester BID and businesses to put on events.

Grants have been made available to support community celebrations for the King's Coronation. Five grants have been awarded/under consideration to date. Applications for grants up to the value of £1000 can be made up to 28 February 2023.

Road closures for street parties have been made available free of charge and early applications have been encouraged. To date 20 applications have been received.

As well as these events and displays I am pleased to say that a lasting commemoration of the King's coronation will be made when a Beech tree is planted in Abbey Gardens in May with an associate plaque."

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Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Bronk

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

"Residents of St Mary's Terrace (and elsewhere) in Twyford were surprised and disappointed to find that when their street name plate was replaced last year it was missing an apostrophe. When this assumed error was questioned, the answer given was that the Council's policy required that all new street name signs must omit any apostrophe formerly shown on such signage.

I would appreciate a statement by or on behalf of the Leader to clearly articulate the council (or council's) position on the use of apostrophes on road signs in the Winchester District, including the reason for any omission of apostrophes and when and by whom (or which body) this decision was taken."

Reply

"Thank you for your question.

While this administration's priority is in other areas, I'm aware that this is a topic where emotions can run surprisingly high – and where having a clear policy will be helpful in managing this.

Clear and unambiguous street and place names are vital for postal and other delivery services and also for the emergency services – and punctuation can make that more difficult, particularly with modern computer systems – and our default approach is to make signs that use the spelling recorded in the systems used by the emergency services: the National Land and Property Gazetteer.

The council also decides new street names – and currently has the practice of following the recommended policy position by the Ordnance Survey and Local Government as laid out in their GeoPlace Data Entry Conventions and Best Practice for Addresses policy https://www.geoplace.co.uk/local-authority-resources/street-naming-and-numbering/snn-best-practice/apostrophes and avoiding the use of punctuation.

A more formal local policy is in the process of development. Personally, for all the reasons laid out by GeoPlace, I believe we should avoid **new** road or place names having any punctuation at all and avoid **new** names where the lack of punctuation could cause confusion.

This would not mean that the council would want to scrap all punctuation in existing street names and places. The apostrophe was invented several hundred years after the Mayoralty took responsibility for recording the streets of Winchester and, in common with our most famous local writer, Jane Austen, the Mayor, Corporation and Council have not always used them very consistently. However it's not a prudent use of resources to revisit our predecessors' decisions, except in the most unusual cases.

I would not want the City Council to reopen discussions about the use of punctuation in Kings Worthy or Bishop's Waltham, for example. In Twyford, Segars Lane should stay as Segars Lane and not change to Segar's Lane. Nor should Finches Lane change to Finch's Lane.

St Mary's Terrace in Twyford is a difficult case - since Ordnance Survey have it listed as St Mary's Terrace - and Royal Mail and the Land and Property Gazetteer (and hence the emergency services) have St Marys Terrace. The next door primary school also has an apostrophe – adding to the confusion.

In the case of St Mary's Terrace, I agree that the current name is confusing and not in line with residents' wishes. To that end, I have asked officers to update the sign."

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Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Warwick

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

"What is the current cost for the bulky waste collection service for our residents (as managed by Biffa) as the WCC website still displays the 2020-21 figures? Are the items collected via the bulky waste service recycled or do they go to landfill?"

Reply

"The prices for this service are correct on the Council's website and customers have been charged the correct amounts. The prices were, however, incorrectly dated, for which I apologise, and this has now been corrected. The current prices which customers pay are listed below inclusive of VAT.

Bulky waste - single items, e.g single mattress, or an under counter fridge	£18.40
Bulky waste - large single, or two/three items e.g. double mattress	£31.53
Fridge / Freezer	£36.58
Bulky Waste one cubic metre	£44.16
Bulky Waste two cubic metre	£75.68
Bulky Waste three cubic metre	£110.91
Bulky Waste four cubic metre	£126.12
Full Load	£237.71

Where waste is suitable it is sent for reuse, recycling or energy recovery. Where specific legislative guidance exists (e.g., Persistent Organic Pollutants) appropriate steps will be taken to segregate this material for disposal in line with the law, otherwise unrecyclable inert waste will generally be landfilled. It is worth noting that less than 5% of all household waste created in Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth is landfilled."

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Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

"With Hampshire County council taking over on street parking control later this year, can the residents be assured that this council is doing everything possible to keep permit cost as low as possible, and remain in control of the parking charges for visitors?"

Reply

"Hampshire County Council has set the cost of residents parking permits for the last 3 years so in effect they already have control of this aspect of on-street parking management. We have been liaising closely with the county council and have stressed the need for close collaboration on future management and alignment of both on and off-street parking.

The City Council will retain control off its off-street public car parks and hence will be able to control parking charges in these car parks in line with City Council policies and objectives."

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Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Cook

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

"The Winchester Sport and Leisure Park are a Swim England Accredited Water Well-being Operator and Rebecca Phillips who I believe is the Strategic Lead for Health and Wellbeing at Everyone Active has said and I quote.
"We really want to do as much as we can to try and reduce or remove the barriers that people experience so that many more can experience the benefits to be had from participating in Aquatic Activity."

Actually, I would like to go one stage further on this comment and remove or reduce all the barriers that are connected to Sport in General.
So, let's start with removing the Cashless Situation at the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park.
What I mean by that is that we have been told recently at the last Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Advisory Board that this Cashless Policy is a Company Policy which goes right in the opposite direction of what the Strategic Lead was saying!
Cllr Ferguson recently reported that she had experienced that yet another Group have unfortunately been unable to use the facilities and I know that others have reported and wanted change from this Cashless Facility.
This is a significant barrier to all age groups and groups that want to use the Facility.
We do NOT live in a Cashless Society and many Groups are not in a position to have cards and even some just like to know exactly what they are spending and in today's financial situation even more so that EveryOne Active as a Business with Assistance from Winchester City Council need to remove this barrier as this matter has been bought to the Advisory Board on a number of occasions and Still The Winchester Sport and Leisure Park are operating a Business that is a Cashless Site.

So, in short When will Everyone Active and Winchester City Council make it known to the Winchester District the date that this will be changing as it's been dragging on for way too long and it's not acceptable?

I really don't want to be discussing this, months down the line anymore it needs to change immediately otherwise we are discriminating many members of the general public that would love to use the Facility."

Reply

"Our new Leisure Centre opened in 2021 during the pandemic, and to complete and open such a significant facility for our residents during a time of national emergency must not go without mention.

Our partner Everyone Active operates these facilities and the contract does not stipulate that they must allow cash transactions, so we cannot require that they do so now.

In addition, Everyone Active had a 'no cash' policy in common with many other businesses at the time of opening but at a previous Advisory Board meeting, Everyone Active was asked to rethink this policy of not handling cash on the site. Everyone Active has received very little feedback from users on this issue since opening in May 2021 but agreed to take this question away to consider. They will consider the matter and respond to us by the time of the next Advisory Board meeting."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Cutler

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

"What progress are we making in tackling fly tipping across the district?"

Reply

"During April 2022 the City Council employed a full-time fly-tipping officer working with the Contract Management Team and we have rapidly reviewed our process and systems for dealing with fly tipping. As a result, we are making improvements to our customer reporting system to make it easier for members of the public to report incidents and to receive updates on progress.

We have identified regular fly-tip locations throughout the District and we have installed covert surveillance cameras which may capture vital details/evidence about offenders.

The number of fly tipping incidents have reduced in the Winchester district over the past 12 months from 2,120 in 20/21to 1,732 in 21/22 and although it is early days the expectation is that we will see the number of offences fall further. The council takes a firm approach to prosecuting offenders where sufficient evidence exists and has secured one conviction in the past year with costs awarded of £325, plus a £250 compensation to a landowner. In addition, there are 7 further prosecutions pending review."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Read

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

"Could the Cabinet Member please update me as to the effect on the proposed housing numbers if there is a major concern on land allocations not coming forward at the appropriate timings. How would the numbers and be reallocated within the plan?
With regards to the over development within the current plan in parished areas, have all the outstanding problems of numbers now been resolved as not to create an over build situation?"

Reply

"The Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan was published for consultation in late 2022 and numerous comments were received in response to this consultation. These cover matters including the housing requirement for the District, the strategy for distributing development, and the deliverability of the various sites proposed to be allocated for development. These comments ae being analysed and reviewed to assess how the next iteration of the Local Plan may need to be modified, if at all. It would not be appropriate to pre-judge the outcome of this work, or to assume that any of the allocations proposed in the Plan will not come forward.

There has not been 'over development' in relation to the requirements of the existing Local Plan, which runs to 2031. Any changes to the overall housing numbers for the new Local Plan, or the sites allocated to achieve them, will be considered through the process of developing the Regulation 19 Local Plan. The Local Plan's allocations will need to be demonstrated to be deliverable for the Plan to be found 'sound', so only sites with a reasonable prospect of delivery will be allocated. Similarly, the need for any changes to the distribution of housing within various parts of the District will be considered and a justified development strategy promoted through the Regulation 19 Local Plan."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Cramoysan

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

"It is apparent that communities in general are not clear about how to access CIL funding for valuable projects. If a group had a good idea requiring funding, how would they work out if it would qualify for CIL?"

Reply

"Thank you for the feedback regarding the process for applying for CIL funding. The CIL bidding process has recently been under review and it is planned to discuss this years' bidding outcome further once the new system of scoring bids has been trialled. The community bidding process is advertised on Parish Connect and has recently been reported as a news item on the website with examples of schemes which have been funded using CIL.

There is also information on the City Council website; *https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil* where there is an e-mail address for all enquiries regarding CIL which is *cil@winchester.gov.uk.* Our team who administer CIL welcome all enquiries regarding projects which community groups may wish to progress and can give advice on the type of infrastructure that may be supported with CIL funding.

A further section of information under the broad 'Community Infrastructure Levy' heading is called 'Apply for CIL' and explains the process for making a bid for funding along with the application form which is required to be filled in. This also explains the timescale for submitting bids, the amount of funding that can be applied for and the assessment criteria used for considering bids.

Since 2019, over fifty bids have been made by community groups and parish councils in response to the city council making over £1.5m available for community projects, and 38 bids have been successful. Members can also make community groups aware of the scheme as representatives of their local area and can also assist in making a bid for funding."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Horrill

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

"Can the Cabinet Member please advise what is the Local Plan back up plan when the DIO pull out of redeveloping Sir John Moore Barracks? Where are the circa 1000 homes going to be located, given you need the buffer housing numbers to cover the PfSH requirements?"

Reply

"As I indicated in my reply to Cllr Cunningham at the last Council meeting, our officer team are working with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) on options for the site and the DIO has a pre-app agreement in place. There is, therefore, no indication that the DIO has any intention of pulling out of redeveloping the Barracks or that an alternative plan is needed.

There is also no current "PfSH requirement" which means the buffer could not be used to cover the risk that a confirmed site falls away or that the Inspector removes a site.

The many comments made on the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation are being assessed, and it would not be appropriate to pre-judge the outcome of this work, or to assume that this allocation will not come forward. The emerging Local Plan allocations must be deliverable for the Plan to be found 'sound' and only sites with a reasonable prospect of delivery will be allocated. Any changes to the housing requirement, distribution of housing or allocation of sites should be considered through the process of developing and approving the Regulation 19 Local Plan."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Westwood

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

"What is the timetable for development and delivery of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan?"

Reply

"The intention is to revise the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan following review and analysis of the measures suggested within the Carbon Neutrality Roadmap following engagement with those also working on this journey. We need to assess feasibility and research which projects require additional work before they can be implemented. Areas for investigation include:

- Investment plan and benefits, what is the level of investment (council, government, private) needed and available to achieve the Roadmap.
- Carbon modelling using Carbon Neutrality Tool to forecast what emissions reduction our actions can achieve.
- Strategic priorities,which are the key policy areas that must align and complement.
- Stakeholders,meetings with sector focused groups.

This will result in the revision of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan with an accompanying Investment Plan by Summer 2023."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 13

From: Councillor Cunningham

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

"The Administration has increased resident's subscription for Garden Waste by 10% with effect from last November increasing the charges for small bins to £43 and large bins to £65. Not an insignificant sum to find especially as it is an additional cost on top of the Council Tax. We support the discount for residents in receipt of council tax reduction increasing from £10 to £15. Over the past several months there have been difficulties in delivering this additional paid for green waste service to residents for reasons of staff shortages, vehicle break-down, and inclement weather conditions. Can the Cabinet Member confirm that where the service was not delivered, residents effected will be reimbursed in full for these failed collections."

Reply

"The increase in the subscription price for the garden waste service agreed in November 2022 was for the 2023/2024 garden waste service year commencing in March 2023. This reflects the increased cost to the Council of providing the service.

However, subscribers for this current year 2022/2023 were able to sign up for the new service year 2023/2024 from November 2022 hence the subscription decision being taken at that time. This Council offers by far the cheapest garden waste bin subscription in Hampshire for people who receive council tax benefit. The cost is £1 a year more to sign-up for than the cheapest garden waste subscription in Hampshire if you don't receive council tax benefit. More information on this can be found at: https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up/faqs.

I do not recognise this list of difficulties but during the summer of 2022 the service was suspended for one week due to staff shortages. To compensate garden waste subscribers for this, the 2022/2023 subscription year has been extended and the 2023/24 garden waste season now begins on the 6 March 2023."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 14

From: Councillor Wallace

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

"Please can you confirm the status of Warmer Homes Programme? Will the programme be continuing beyond March 2023?"

Reply

"The council is part of a Warmer Homes consortium of 21 local authorities, headed up by Portsmouth City Council in conjunction with their partnering company Agility Eco. Since its launch in spring 2022 the Warmer Homes programme has been open to eligible residents of private housing in the Winchester district to apply for the installation of energy efficiency measures including various types of insulation, storage heaters, air source heat pumps, solar PV panels and heating controls.

The Consortium was awarded a total of £31.8 million across the 21 local authorities involved in the consortium, with funding of up to £10,000 available per on-gas property and up to £25,000 per off-gas property - a property where the primary heating source is not mains gas. The programme is only open to private households, owner occupiers and landlords of private rented properties with an EPC rating of E, F or G and a household income of £30,000 or less including those in receipt of eligible benefits.

As a result of the income restriction, only 17 households in the Winchester district have received funding through the scheme, despite targeted promotion to eligible households. Initially promoted through a mail-out to eligible homes in July 2022, followed by a Warmer Homes flier sent to 6150 homes in the Council Tax reduction mail-out in January 2023. A Warmer Homes pull-up banner was also placed in the council's reception area from June 2022 to January 2023.

We have been notified that the Warmer Homes programme will continue through to March 2025."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 15

From: Councillor Miller

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

"Given the fact that both the legal department and Estates are already busy. How do you envisage that the council will be able to cope when the following projects all coming online together.

1. The Doctors Surgery
2. River Park
3. The Depot
4. Central Winchester
5. Station Approach.

Even with development partners there will still be a vast amount of work required by our officers."

Reply

"These projects are not targeted to be delivered simultaneously and resources to ensure we have capacity for the projects in this question are aligned per project, with an overarching core permanent team. Each project has a budget which either references internal resources (and therefore has to secure those resources) or references external resources and seeks a budget to secure those resources before progressing.

In the budget being considered by Full Council tonight there is a request for budget for an additional Director post who will support the Strategic Director in delivering all regeneration, and some of the major sites projects coming forwards as listed in your question. If approved, this role will secure further capacity for the council."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 16

From: Councillor Godfrey

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

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm that all parish and town councils will be able to receive grant funding from the city council to support funding for events to mark the king's coronation, even if they have already received a small grant within the last 12 months?"

Reply

"I am pleased to confirm that all parish and town councils are eligible to apply for the council's district-wide grant funding to support events to mark the King's coronation. Even if an organisation has received a grant already under a different scheme such as the small grants and project grants, they can apply for this funding. We want to see as many local communities as possible and neighbours across the district come together in the manor they choose to celebrate and mark this special occasion.

Five applications have been received to date. The fund opened in January, and the deadline for applications is 28 February 2023. All applications received will be reviewed.

Website information: The Coronation of His Majesty The King - Winchester City Council.

The grants have been advertised on our social media, in the Your Council news, the Democratic Services Update, Parish Connect and discussed with parish councils in attendance at the funding webinar on 23 January about this particular stream of funding."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 17

From: Councillor Bolton

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

"Watercress and Winterbournes is raising awareness about the problem of improperly managed septic tanks with a new project, Septic Smart. They need help from anyone and all on the upper reaches of the Test and Itchen to spread the word. As our district and specifically my ward can proudly boast to be the home to the source of the Itchen, I thought this was particularly relevant to us and thank Cllr Power for extending the initial invite to attend the presentation.

Many residents in our area, me included, are not connected to the main sewer network and have to rely on private off mains sewage systems such as septic tanks and cesspits. While they store, treat and discharge waste in different ways all need to be emptied and maintained by specialist companies. When correctly sized, located and managed, these systems can work well for rural communities. When things go wrong, however, the consequences can include property damage, legal penalties and harm to our precious chalk streams. Faulty systems can slowly poison these rare habitats destroying their biodiversity. Off mains users have a key role in preventing this and the Septic Smart project is supporting them as part of the watercress and Winterbournes scheme.

Can you tell me what the administration is doing to ensure that residents on private sewage systems understand what their responsibilities are to the environment and what efforts the council is making to better inform them?"

Reply

"I am aware that everyone with a septic tank that discharges into a watercourse is required to upgrade or replace their current system. However, we are not the regulatory body responsible for gathering or holding this information and we have no records of replaced or upgrade septic tanks.

We very much encourage applicants for planning permissions to submit details of drainage strategy for surface and foul [including wastewater] drainage showing existing and proposed arrangements. Also at the Building Control stage, they are usually receiving technical sign off (either by us or an approved inspector) and the future owner/occupiers are not present when this is being done.

One is equally mindful that at full council on 6 July 2022 – Cllr Wallace tabled the following motion “to protect our local rivers & waterways by taking account of the cumulative impact of pollution including sewage discharge” and two of the agreed outcomes were:

5. Ask Southern Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major developments, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers or seas, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required).

6. Request that planning assessments, from now onwards, include in all reports on major developments appropriate coverage of the impact on watercourses, including the potential for the development to affect sewage outflow into watercourses, so that this information is clearly and transparently set out. Agenda item - Notice of Motion - Winchester City Council

On the 6th of March, I am holding a Decision Day to update the Local Validation List for Planning Applications, so our new Local Validation List, which would be published soon should provide further details and guidance on the basic requirement. I will arrange for our webpages pages to also include the link to Septic Smart information.

The Public Protection Service does have powers to investigate such systems that are directly prejudicial to health under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Building Act 1984. The Public Protection Service works closely with the teams in the Environment Agency that monitor groundwater and surface water quality as part of our monitoring of the quality of private water supplies and contaminated land within the district.

We encourage everyone to report any observed pollution incidents affecting a water course to the Environment Agency on their emergency hotline 0800 80 70 60.”

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 18

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

"As the CWR plans are nearing completion, how have the Leader and the Cabinet taken into account the recommendations of the Clare Lloyd-Jones Report 'A Perfect Storm' following the Silver Hill Judicial Review in 2015, as below?

In particular, how have the specific criticisms and the resolution of those criticisms been addressed?

6. Recommendations

6.1 The following recommendations are intended to improve the workings of the Council and thereby to give focus to developing Silver Hill and similar projects through improving its systems and assurance mechanisms:

6.1.1 The Council should stand back, and ask the question "do we want this"? The Silver Hill Development (as now proposed) has significantly departed from the 2003 Planning Brief.

6.1.2 The Council must express a definite idea of what it wants to be developed at Silver Hill. There must be a vision for Silver Hill as of now, and in the future. A designated and distinct project group of Councillors, as a sub-committee of and reporting to the Cabinet, chaired by the relevant Lead member, should be charged with being the guardian of this vision and ensuring it is maintained throughout the lifetime of the project.

6.1.3 The Council must ensure that it has the necessary professional and commercial skills amongst officers to achieve the vision and carry it into effect. This will mean reassessing the skills of those officers involved with the current project. The Council may wish to establish shared services to enable access to the most appropriate skills.

6.1.4 The Council must consider whether and, if so, why it has been hostile to competition, both in relation to Silver Hill and with other projects.

6.1.5 The Council must not re-procure external advisors without involving internal specialists, and relevant Members. The Council must not use those external advisers without involving internal specialists. This means currently that the Director of Finance and relevant Lead Member should have a say in briefs to Deloittes, and the Monitoring Officer and relevant Lead Member should have a say in the briefs to BLP and external Counsel on Silver Hill.

6.1.6 A register should be kept of all external advice obtained which should be available to all Members, and the public unless a particular piece of advice is required to remain confidential. Any information which is said to be commercially confidential should be made available as soon as possible and should not prevent the information from being put into the public domain unless it is strictly necessary to do so.

6.1.7 The Council must look at other projects to see whether outcomes are at risk in a similar way to Silver Hill.

6.1.8 The Council must take steps designed to re-establish trust with the community and citizens such as putting evidence of the existing scheme's viability in the public domain and reviewing its public engagement strategy."

Reply

"Thank you for raising these issues.

The publication of the Claer Lloyd-Jones report in 2016 was an essential moment in starting the journey that has brought us to the decisions that we will be making in the next few weeks. For those of us directly involved in receiving the report and interrogating Claer Lloyd-Jones on its content, whether as members of Overview & Scrutiny, Audit and the then Cabinet, it laid out important lessons that from that moment on, have been baked into the running of the Central Winchester Regeneration project and of the council as a whole, and which directly address the points you highlight.

I was on the Scrutiny Committee that scrutinised the report and had the chance to probe Ms Lloyd-Jones's views in greater depth. The committee recommended to Cabinet that a cross-party Informal Policy Group be set up to address the comments made by Ms Lloyd-Jones. The then cabinet, under the leadership of Cllr Godfrey, established such a group to apply the lessons of the Claer Lloyd Jones report and to take forward the decision of Cabinet to bring forward a Supplementary Planning Document for Silver Hill.

In addition, the Audit Committee, under the chairmanship of Cllr Cutler, established a sub-committee, the Audit (Governance) Sub-Committee, also under the chairmanship of Cllr Cutler to review, in detail, the recommendations of the report and ensure they were reflected in our governance and internal processes.

Further actions included a review of the constitution and a peer review of the council's operations with particular attention on those areas highlighted in the Claer-Lloyd Jones report.

The work set out by those groups in 2016 and 2017 is still baked into the work that the council is doing today. Addressing each of Ms Lloyd-Jones's points in turn:

> ***6.1.1*** *The Council should stand back, and ask the question "do we want this"? The Silver Hill Development (as now proposed) has significantly departed from the 2003 Planning Brief.*

At every stage of the process, the council has gone through a rigorous business case analysis, to ensure both that the direction wanted and approach recommended still meet the council's needs and reflect the Treasury's "Five Case Model" for any programme.

In order to give the clarity of vision for the site that was needed, the Supplementary Planning Document, with its community-led approach, was developed over 18 months and adopted by Council, clearly setting out the vision for the regeneration of Central Winchester. This, in turn, has been further defined in the Development Principles, and both are fully reflected in the procurement process and the draft Development Agreement and will be requirements of the Development Delivery Plan.

> ***6.1.2*** *The Council must express a definite idea of what it wants to be developed at Silver Hill. There must be a vision for Silver Hill as of now, and in the future. A designated and distinct project group of Councillors, as a sub-committee of and reporting to the Cabinet, chaired by the relevant Lead member, should be charged with being the guardian of this vision and ensuring it is maintained throughout the lifetime of the project.*

The vision for the site continues to be as defined by the SPD and Development Principles, both of which are embedded in the draft Development Agreement.

Alongside the wider constitutional review triggered by the Claer Lloyd Jones report, the Cabinet Regeneration Cabinet Committee exactly meets this specification and, unlike the Silver Hill project, has their role codified in the draft Development Agreement.

The Council also has much greater powers in the process compared to the previous scheme, with approval of the Development Delivery Plan, the submission of a planning application and the decision to the release of land at each phase of development all subject to the Council's control and separate from the controls that the council has through the planning process.

> ***6.1.3*** *The Council must ensure that it has the necessary professional and commercial skills amongst officers to achieve the vision and carry*

it into effect. This will mean reassessing the skills of those officers involved with the current project. The Council may wish to establish shared services to enable access to the most appropriate skills.

This point was considered by the IPG and Audit (Governance) Sub-Committee and led to a refresh of the council's workforce strategy. With the arrival of a new Chief Executive in 2018, additional dedicated Director resource was agreed which provided a clear focus for regeneration and secure the necessary technical resources with confidence. This evening's meeting includes expenditure proposals to ensure that we have the relevant skills to manage the programme.

6.1.4 *The Council must consider whether and, if so, why it has been hostile to competition, both in relation to Silver Hill and with other projects.*

This particular comment related to the decisions made in procuring the original Silver Hill development partner in 2004 where there was no competitive process to appoint a developer.

This time, the council has been extremely disciplined in running an open and competitive process with a development partner procured under a two stage procurement using competitive dialogue. This has seen more than 10 expressions of interest and three being taken to the second stage with high quality proposals from all participants objective assessment of the proposals and a decision on the development partner to be made shortly.

6.1.5 *The Council must not re-procure external advisors without involving internal specialists, and relevant Members. The Council must not use those external advisers without involving internal specialists. This means currently that the Director of Finance and relevant Lead Member should have a say in briefs to Deloittes, and the Monitoring Officer and relevant Lead Member should have a say in the briefs to BLP and external Counsel on Silver Hill.*

Since 2016, the Council's constitution, delegation of authority and project management processes have all been rewritten to ensure that the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer are required to approve relevant briefs to external partners and that, in the case of project management, PRINCE2 principles are followed. All project milestones are reviewed by the Projects and Capital Board, which consists of the Chief Executive, Directors, Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer. We have established a dedicated procurement function to ensure that appropriate processes are followed.

6.1.6 *A register should be kept of all external advice obtained which should be available to all Members, and the public unless a particular piece of advice is required to remain confidential. Any information which is said to be commercially confidential should be made available*

as soon as possible and should not prevent the information from being put into the public domain unless it is strictly necessary to do so.

The minutes of the Silver Hill Informal Policy Group held on March 2017, chaired by Cllr Horrill, concluded that a specific section in the committee template on legal implications discharged the first aspect of this recommendation. The policy on releasing confidential papers was updated by a motion proposed by Cllr Godfrey in January 2022 which referred the issue to the Audit & Governance committee which in turn agreed an updated policy in June 2022. This administration is committed to reviewing papers on a 6 monthly basis and releasing them to the public when appropriate to do so.

6.1.7 *The Council must look at other projects to see whether outcomes are at risk in a similar way to Silver Hill.*

Since the Claer Lloyd-Jones report, a much more strict risk management process has been put in place with a regularly-reviewed Risk Register for each major project and a consolidated Risk Register regularly reported to Audit and Governance.

6.1.8 *The Council must take steps designed to re-establish trust with the community and citizens such as putting evidence of the existing scheme's viability in the public domain and reviewing its public engagement strategy.*

Public engagement has been at the heart of the Central Winchester Redevelopment programme since 2017 and will continue to be so.

Following the consultation on the SPD, there was further consultation on the Development Principles. Potential development partners' consultation proposals are a critical element of the procurement process and part of the scoring process and a Communication & Engagement Plan is a required element of the Development Delivery Plan which has to be agreed with the Council. In addition, we will keep all existing public engagement processes in place such as Open Forums, the reference group and the Archaeology Advisory Panel."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 19

From: Councillor Godfrey

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

"Last summer, some of the residents in my ward did not have their garden waste bins collected during a shortage of resources. Can the Cabinet Member confirm what arrangements have been made to compensate these residents for this service failure?"

Reply

"During the summer of 2022 the service was suspended for one week due to staff shortages. To compensate garden waste subscribers for this, the 2022/2023 subscription year has been extended to cover this suspension for all householders. The 2023/24 garden waste season now begins on the 6 March 2023."

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2023

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 20

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“Would the Leader please evidence his cabinet's commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency by confirming how many flights each member of the cabinet has taken in the previous 12 months?”

Reply

“Members of cabinet have taken no flights in that capacity in the last 12 months.”