



## COUNCIL MEETING – 7 November 2018

### Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

#### QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Porter

To: The Portfolio Holder for Professional Services (Cllr Godfrey)

“What percentage of advertised meetings (since the new Council was formed in May) have been cancelled, and what effect do you believe it has had on the democratic processes of Winchester?”

#### Reply

“The total number of meetings that took place as advertised (since the new Council was formed in May and 2 November) is forty one with **three** re-arranged to another date and **five** cancelled (of these five meetings, informal briefings were arranged on two of these dates). The cancelled meetings were as follows:

- 25 June Standards Committee (used for Member briefing instead) – no business to transact
- 26 September Council (marked as provisional) – no business to transact
- 1 October Personnel Committee - no business to transact
- 3 October Cabinet (Housing) Committee (used for Member Briefing instead) – no business to transact
- 8 October Standards Committee - no business to transact

The meetings rescheduled to be held at a later date were as follows:

- 7 June Cabinet Leisure Centre - **rescheduled to 25 July**
- 29 October Cabinet (Local Plan) Committee - **rescheduled to 3 December**
- 1 November Cabinet (Leisure Centre) Committee – **rescheduled to 14 January**

Though we do not want to have to cancel meetings, there is no point in having a meeting if there are no agenda items or if it is known that decisions need to be made at a different time to when the original meeting notice was created. There is a central co-ordination of committee meeting dates through the Democratic Services team to ensure that these are up to date, and members are able to access these through their iPads now in real time rather than having to rely upon any changes being pencilled into physical calendars. I do not believe that the democratic processes of the Council have suffered as a result, though we will, as ever, endeavour to minimise the amount of cancelled meetings.”



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**QUESTION 2**

From: Councillor Huxstep

To: The Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships (Cllr Humby)

“Will the Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships state what is in place to assist business owners at the Bury Farm Industrial Estate, in Curbridge to re-locate their businesses?”

Reply

“The development of 3,500 new homes over the lifetime of the North Whiteley development is excellent news but one consequence is the disruption to businesses on the Bury Farm site. They have known since at least 2015 that they would have to leave and the Council engaged with many of them in 2015 and 2016 to offer assistance in finding new premises. Understandably, however, most found it difficult to justify the commitment involved until they had a definite date by which they would have to vacate.

The housebuilder Crest, who now own the site, will not ask businesses to leave until it is absolutely necessary for their premises to be given up and this gives many of them some time to find new accommodation, but some have been given notice for January 2019.

The Council, working with Crest and the Solent LEP, is therefore offering one to one support to each business to understand its requirements and commercial expectations. With this information it will be possible to provide some targeted support with property search, addressing regulatory and licensing issues, and possibly with relocation assistance for each business based on its own circumstances.

This process started with a meeting on Tuesday afternoon to which all businesses on the site were invited for an initial discussion and information sharing session with members of Cabinet and officers in the economic development team. This proved a worthwhile and successful exercise to understand more precisely the relocation requirements and business constraints on a one-to-one basis.

The Council will identify a specific lead officer to continue this work, supported by staff across the Council looking at ways to offer practical and timely help. The kind of activities that we can undertake include providing property search information, examining planning and licensing constraints, sign-posting access to short term funding, providing information to potential landlords, and of course working with Crest to ensure businesses have the maximum possible time before they are required to move out.

This does not mean that we can promise that every business will relocate successfully. Each operates on its own financial and geographic basis and that may not be compatible with what is available in the market. But I have assured the businesses that the Council will not leave them without support in navigating the sometimes unfamiliar and complex processes.”



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**QUESTION 3**

From: Councillor Power

To: The Leader (Cllr Horrill)

“In view of the Hampshire CC decision with regard to On-Street Parking Controls

*‘Areas of limited waiting introduced to allow convenient short term parking while preventing overstaying will generally be implemented as chargeable parking, which both generates revenue to support the associated costs and simplifies enforcement.’*

How does the Portfolio Holder intend to support retailers in our market towns?”

Reply

“The County Council Executive Member has held two decision days on T19 Modernisation of the On Street Parking Service. A review of the papers available on the County Council website indicate that approval in principle was given for the introduction of chargeable on street parking in June. That paper indicates a range of options would be considered and a specialist parking consultant be engaged.

Cllr Power makes reference to a paragraph in the October decision day. There is no reference in the paper to introducing ‘chargeable parking’ in market towns as a fait accompli which I think is the implication in the question raised.

The City Council along with every other district in Hampshire has been advised that the County Council wish to renew the Parking Agency Agreement. One principle in that Agreement is that the district must be willing to work in partnership with the County Council to deliver ‘targeted areas’ of ‘paid for parking’.

Our officer team are currently liaising with Hampshire County Council to review the implications, potential impact and timeframes resulting from this proposal but have had no indication to date that on street chargeable parking is a prerequisite for the Market Towns.

There is a view of course that the introduction of on Street Chargeable parking actually encourages more shoppers and the like, because people come and go, rather than not being able to find a parking space due to one car being parked in one location on street all day.

But we must carefully consider the County Council proposals and I anticipate that Cabinet will consider this important matter at our December meeting.

Importantly, I want to emphasise the work we do to support all businesses located in the Winchester district. Our staff meet businesses one on one, our business support service, provided by Enterprise First, offer one to one business advice, networking, training and mentoring. Training courses have taken place in the market towns of Alresford, Denmead, Bishop's Waltham and Wickham.

We are proud of our market towns, they offer great opportunities for shopping, browsing, and employment for local people in a wide range of unique and distinctly Winchester local enterprises. Visitors are welcomed, we produce town trail guides and including information on the Visit Winchester website. There are also pocket guides for Wickham, Bishops Waltham and Alresford.

In particular we continue to support businesses and retailers in the market towns of Denmead and Wickham through the funding of an officer to bring together the community through a number of events.”



## COUNCIL MEETING – 7 November 2018

### Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

#### QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Burns

To: The Portfolio Holder for Estates (Cllr Miller)

“Could the Portfolio Holder please provide the costs to date of both of the Station Approach projects? Also, could we be told of the projected amount to take the current scheme forward to the next gateway date and/or RIBA stage?”

#### Reply

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Financial year(s)</b>
Site acquisition cost:	£2,450,000	<i>inclusive of Stamp Duty Land Tax</i>	2015/16
Expenditure on previous procurement (2016 scheme)	£319,000	<i>Procurement process</i>	2015/16 and 2016/17
2017 LDS scheme; RIBA 2: Expenditure plus commitments /planned to end of stage	£1,198,000	<i>Covers procurement, design team and consultants fees, includes £86,272 committed/planned to complete Stage 2</i>	2017/18 and 2018/19

<b>Estimated cost</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Financial year(s)</b>
RIBA 3: Estimated	£1,270,000	<i>Design team fees</i>	2018/19 and 2019/20



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**QUESTION 5**

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Portfolio Holder for Professional Services (Cllr Godfrey)

“Can the Portfolio Holder please tell the council what action is being taken to reduce the number of critical staff leaving. We have had 6 planning officers, 2 enforcement officers and at least one building control officer leave. This would be an unacceptable situation in a private company. We need to be reassured that action is taken.”

Reply

“Winchester City Council is well known as a good authority to work for due to the wide range of development management experience that can be gained here. We have a large number of staff in the development management team and in the enforcement team - with this large number of staff, we will always have some turnover and resulting vacancies.

We actively recruit into vacant posts and due to the widely accepted shortage in RTPI planning colleagues, we do engage agency staff in this priority area. A search today on a planning jobs website showed 25 planner jobs in a 25 mile radius – this is not just an issue for our Council.

Of the roles listed above, offers have been made to six new employees.

Furthermore, our Employee Strategy sets out a series of approaches to ensure Winchester City Council becomes an ‘Employer of Choice’ some of which are set out in the response to Question 10.”



## COUNCIL MEETING – 7 November 2018

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#### QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

"In view of the continued fly tipping around the district and in particular the significant one on the A31 last week, could the Portfolio Holder please advise on the Council's approach to dealing with this menace?"

#### Reply

"The City Council takes a zero tolerance to those who we obtain evidence against and employs a Neighbourhood Services Officer who carries an enforcement specialism around fly tip investigation. An example of what this approach has achieved is the publicised case of Ashley Mooney, who received a 12 month custodial sentence and a 5 year ban from entering Hampshire for the purpose of undertaking any kind of activity related to waste disposal. This investigation was taken forward in collaboration with 3 other local authorities who aimed to provide maximum evidence to the courts.

Within this financial year, the following successes have been achieved:

- Successful prosecutions for two individuals in the same case, one receiving fines/costs totalling £6.033 and another receiving a fine of £385 and a 12 month community order..
- A £75.00 Fixed Penalty Notice for littering (the offender admitted dumping a small amount of waste and paid immediately.
- A £400 Fixed Penalty Notice for fly tipping (again, the offender admitted the offence and paid within a couple of days of it being issued).

#### **Current cases:**

- One case going to trial in the next week as the offender pleaded not guilty.
- One case being investigated likely to result in a £400 Fixed Penalty Notice.
- One case of an ongoing joint investigation with the Environment Agency and other neighbouring local councils.
- **A31** – ongoing investigation of potential evidence removed from site."





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**QUESTION 7**

From: Councillor Murphy

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“To ask the Portfolio Holder for the Environment if the council has investigated working jointly with Eastleigh Borough Council for waste collections, now that we no longer have a joint arrangement with East Hampshire? Eastleigh Borough Council already carry out kerbside glass collections, which our council hope to implement next year.”

Reply

“Eastleigh Borough Council carries out its waste collection service ‘in house’ and since they have no plans to tender their contract Winchester could not work with them under an arrangement similar to that with East Hampshire.”



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**QUESTION 8**

From: Councillor Mather

To: The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Cllr Ashton)

“Following the Chancellor’s announcement on Business rate relief, could you explain how you will be helping businesses in the district?”

Reply

“The Chancellor announced that he would be *“cutting bills by one-third for retail properties with a rateable value below £51,000, benefiting up to 90% of retail properties, for 2 years from April 2019, subject to state aid limits.”*

Further guidance will be issued by government on how those properties are to be identified and how the relief will be calculated but we are expecting this scheme to be similar to the *Retail Relief* awarded in 2014/15 and 2015/16. Provided the guidance is received and approval of the new scheme can be completed by February 2019 then we will award the relief in time for the issue of the new year’s rates bills mid-March 2019. This will be the earliest opportunity to award the relief to ratepayers which ensures that their bills for the year are accurate from the outset and that the lowest rates are paid by those businesses in need of the assistance.

It is our intention to award the relief automatically to ratepayers as identified by our business rates team, provided the government guidance allows it. This will eliminate the burden on ratepayers to apply for the relief and will reduce any delays which would be caused otherwise.”



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**QUESTION 9**

From: Councillor Wier

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (Cllr Brook)

“Given the growing abuse by developers of Council policies on housing mix designed to ensure housing supply caters in particular for small families, newly forming households and people looking to downsize, will the Portfolio Holder support the setting of maximum internal size specifications for 2 and 3 bedroom houses where planning approval depends on meeting Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 policy CP2?”

Reply

“The housing mix policy established in LPP1 policy CP2 was a result of evidence from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment undertaken to inform LPP1. With the preparation of Local Plan 2036 recently commenced this provides an opportunity to review the evidence base including how successful the policy has been in achieving what it intended to do i.e. ensure that sites provide for a majority of 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings.

As Cllr Weir indicates, the assumption in policy is that the actual size of a dwelling will be in a reasonable proportion to the number of bedrooms that it has, but there is no government policy guidance on the maximum size for 2 and 3 bed dwellings on which we can rely. Whilst this is something the Council could explore it would need substantial evidence (not just one or two examples) of a systematic problem in our district to convince a planning inspector that maximum controls were necessary in our Local Plan which the government did not consider necessary as a matter of national policy.

Members may recall that the original version of policy DM2 in LPP2 proposed a policy which went beyond government guidance by requiring a minimum gross internal floor area on all new housing including 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings. The planning inspector examining LPP2 advised that there was no evidential justification for this or support from national planning guidance and therefore this part of the policy was consequently deleted.”



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**QUESTION 10**

From: Councillor Weston

To: The Portfolio Holder for Professional Services (Cllr Godfrey)

“It was reported earlier this year on the LocalGov site that half of council workers in the UK are thinking of leaving their job as they do not feel secure, the workload is unmanageable, they have no confidence in the future of local services due to spending cuts, with 83% saying cuts have had a negative impact on their ability to do the job as well as they can, that the council no longer deliver quality services, with 48% saying their employer doesn’t make the right decisions for the public. ‘Local authorities have had to cut so many vital services that they have now reached a point where vulnerable children and the elderly struggle to get the help that they need, entire communities are suffering, and the public are being put at risk.’

Can the Portfolio Holder reassure us councillors as well as the public of Winchester District, that Winchester City Council is not facing these issues and let us know how are we preparing to embrace the future and ensure that Winchester City Council retains our committed and hardworking council workers?”

**Reply**

“The Council has faced significant financial challenges over recent years in response to reductions in central Government funding. The Council has risen to this challenge through strong financial leadership and stewardship of public funds, and this has enabled the council to retain, and at times enhance, services to the residents of the district. This strong financial position has enabled the council to be in a comparatively positive position to others, and this does assist in the range and scope of job opportunities that the council can offer.

Personnel Committee approved the Employee Strategy 2017 – 2020 at their meeting in November 2017; an update paper will be considered by that Committee on 22 November 2018, highlighting the significant progress that has been made to date in delivering a number of initiatives to support the recruitment and retention of staff. These achievements include:

- Introduction of a health care cash plan – this has been taken up by 155 employees
- Introduction of an employee discount scheme promoting increased participation in a wide range of leisure pursuits
- Bespoke Leadership Development programme for Senior and Middle Managers
- Complete refurbishment of City Offices. This was a key issue from the 2016 employee survey.
- Established corporate values through engagement with all staff at All Staff Briefing followed by focus groups
- All Staff Briefings hosted by Chief Executive and Directors to improve staff engagement
- Regular meetings with Unison to discuss key issues

The second paper to be considered by Personnel Committee sets out proposals to improve the overall employment offer of the council. Implementing these changes, including the above, will position the Council's overall employment package to be more closely market aligned to effectively compete within a highly competitive market."



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**QUESTION 11**

From: Councillor Rutter

To: The Portfolio Holder for Estates (Cllr Miller)

“The Winchester Talking Newspaper is going to be homeless by the end of the year. Despite a personal assurance to me from the Leader that a meeting would be arranged between the WTN and the Estates department to urgently look into whether there is any possibility of the City Council accommodating the WTN, even temporarily, no such meeting has yet been arranged. The clock is ticking, and without a base to record the weekly news and store their equipment, the WTN will not be able to reach out to their hundreds of vision-impaired listeners. When will the City Council Estates Department be meeting with them to discuss what we as a council can do to help?”

Reply

“The Council is in contact with the Winchester Talking Newspaper.

Our Corporate Head of Estates sourced some potential options for a longer term solution, spoke to those landlords directly and has shared those details with the Winchester Talking Newspaper.

We have offered to meet WTN if they need any assistance whatsoever.”



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**QUESTION 12**

From: Councillor Gemmell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“What initiatives is the Council undertaking in order to limit the use of single use plastics?”

Reply

“The most effective measures to reduce the quantity of genuinely single use plastics entering the waste stream will be taken by manufacturers and retailers reengineering their production and use. The Government announced measures in the 2018 budget to tax plastic packaging which does not include at least 30% recycled material from April 2022, and to place new obligations on businesses to ensure that the packaging they produce and use can be recycled. These sorts of measures to eliminate the use of plastics which are simply not recyclable because of the way they have been produced or used are very much to be welcomed.

Local authorities in Hampshire are responsible for waste collection and waste management and a project is currently underway to review investment in new infrastructure to improve recycling opportunities. These will take time to deliver, but will increase the capability to ensure that materials which can be recycled are recycled, whatever they are made of.

To help our local residents actively reduce the number of single use or ‘throwaway’ products they use the Council is working with Winchester BID to promote the uptake of reusable cups for hot drinks, and to encourage premises to allow members of the public to refill multi-use water bottles. Consideration is also being given to the introduction of one or more water fountains in Winchester city centre to provide a public resource for drinking water.

We know that many of our residents are very concerned to reduce their use of plastics in packaging and “disposable” products, and we will respond positively to local initiatives and ideas.”



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**QUESTION 13**

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“How many £22 parking permits does the council currently sell - and how many other residential parking permits does the council currently sell - and how many of each does it expect to sell once all agreed parking zones have been fully implemented?”

Reply

“At the time of the residents’ parking scheme charges review in 2017 the Council sold 2288 residents permits and 1924 visitor permits at £22. 734 second residents’ permits were sold and 2118 second visitor permits. These are of course the current charges but may be subject to review and revision in future as is the case with most charges made by the Council.

In addition, 1521 books of scratch cards were also bought by residents. Other permits sold include amenity permits (138) Guest house permits (30).

We are in the process of introducing new zones in Stanmore, Weeke and Winnall which are yet to be fully operational. It is not possible to say at this time how many more permits will be purchased as result of these schemes. We are also currently consulting with residents of Highcliffe regarding possible new zones. As part of the consultation process residents are informed that the price of permits is subject to periodic review.”





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**QUESTION 14**

From: Councillor Cook

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“Some Members of the Council have suggested that the Sport England model is out of date and favour with sport England themselves, could the Portfolio Holder explain why we used this method to access our present and future needs for the Bar End Project?”

Reply

“The Winchester District Sports Facilities Needs Assessment was completed in accordance with Sport England’s guidance and in close consultation with Sport England.

The Facility Planning Model was commissioned as the basis of this assessment. Further bespoke facility planning models were commissioned to provide an accurate picture of supply and demand for the key facility areas; swimming pools and sports halls.

This supply and demand model is the only model recognised nationally by Sport England. The reports were supplied by Sport England’s contractor Neil Allen Associates.

This Needs Assessment is not only about determining what should be in the new leisure centre. It is about setting out the facility needs for the district as a whole for the next 20 years.

Sport England will not consider supporting any facility developments if they are not underpinned by a Facility Planning Model analysis.”



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**QUESTION 15**

From: Councillor Learney

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“The October report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change made clear the need for “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” in order to avoid catastrophic climate change by as early as 2030.

At the planning committee meeting of the 31st October it was confirmed that the new leisure centre will have a carbon footprint of half as much again as the River Park Leisure Centre.

What mitigation measures are planned to compensate for this increase in order to meet both the City Council’s existing commitments to reduce the carbon footprint generated by its activities and the increased need for urgent action indicated by the United Nations?”

Reply

“The Council has recently completed its 2016/2017 Carbon Footprint report.

In summary, the report shows positive improvements in the Council’s effort to reduce its carbon emissions with a 22.5% reduction in absolute emissions from the 2009/10 baseline and a 9.1% reduction on the previous year. This also demonstrates that the Council is making good progress towards its target of a 20% reduction on 2015/16 levels by 2020/2021.

Data for 2017/2018 is currently being collated ready for the production of the report which will be shared once available.

In terms of the Leisure Centre, the design is one of a very energy efficient building which will achieve the highest possible rating whilst achieving the BREEAM excellent standard. Its carbon emissions per metre squared are around 27% less than the existing Centre based upon current estimates. The management of the new Centre will be crucial in terms of overall energy management and in reducing consumption and this will be a key focus for the Council and the operator once they are appointed.

As technology improves it is possible to introduce new energy saving measures into the Council estate. For example the recent refurbishment of the City Offices has seen LED lighting introduced throughout the building, bringing a significant reduction in energy usage and hence carbon emissions. The recently completed Chesil Lodge includes PV on the roof, CHP and the use of LED lighting to minimize carbon emissions.

The Council recently acquired the Vaultex site in Barfield Close to develop additional park and ride parking spaces for the City. The objective will be to encourage more visitors to the City to use the Park and Ride service to reduce carbon emissions in the City.

The Council will also continue to work hard to reduce its carbon footprint across its whole estate and will also look at innovative projects and potential investments which could further progress this objective.”



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 16**

From: Councillor Berry

To: The Leader with Portfolio for Housing (Cllr Horrill)

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Housing please update us on WCC housing plans following the Government's decision to raise the HRA debt cap?”

Reply

“To support the Council’s ambitious build programme, it has recently submitted a bid to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for additional borrowing permissions amounting to £52.5m, one of the largest bids outside of London.

It is not clear whether the latest announcement replaces the “bidding programme”, but the very welcome news received last week that the HRA debt cap had finally been lifted means we can now plan for the future with certainty rather than rely on a competitive bidding process.

Officers will now review the New Build plans in light of the latest announcement and recommend a revised programme for approval as part of the detailed Business Plan due to be considered by Council in February 2019.”



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**QUESTION 17**

From: Councillor Thompson

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“In view of the recent report by the IPCC on climate change indicating that this is now taking place far quicker than expected, what measures is the Portfolio Holder putting in place to ensure Winchester District becomes carbon neutral by 2047?”

Reply

“Clearly the latest report published by the IPCC underlines the threat posed by climate change and we all have a collective responsibility to address this important issue.

The Council is leading by example and is taking steps to reduce its own carbon footprint. The latest data covers the period for 2016/17 and shows that our carbon footprint for that year represented a 9.1% reduction on the previous year and is some 22.5% below the baseline year of 2009/10.

This illustrates that the Council is making good progress in reducing its carbon footprint with the aim of achieving a 20% reduction by 2020/21 relative to 2015/16 levels.

The wider District picture is, and always has been, more challenging not least because we live in an area which has a strong economy with an increasing population and these factors are not conducive to reducing overall emissions.

The Council can of course provide leadership and has taken steps to cut its own emissions as already mentioned as well as influencing wider emissions through measures such as supporting the generation of green energy by giving planning permission for a number of solar farms across the district in line with policies set out in our adopted Local Plan.

Greenhouse gas emissions are continuing to fall across the District, which is positive news. Whilst this is at a rate below the level we would like to see in order to provide a 40% reduction by 2020 relative to 2004 (our contribution to

the national aim of an 80% reduction by 2050), the reductions per capita is in line with the target.

I am keen to review how the Council takes forward this agenda and have asked for a report for Cabinet to consider in the New Year looking at existing measures and what more can be done locally to support this agenda which is particularly timely given the latest IPCC report.”



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**QUESTION 18**

From: Councillor Cutler

To: The Portfolio Holder for Built Environment (Cllr Brook)

“The siting of additional mobile homes at the Old Piggery, Firgrove Lane, North Boarhunt was reported to Planning Enforcement in 2013 and an enforcement case opened. Since then the numbers have increased so that there are now at least twenty six on the site, of which only four have planning permission. Why has no enforcement action been taken despite repeated requests from the Parish Council and ward councillors?”

Reply

“The site has a complex planning history, and has been the subject of an on-going enforcement investigation and planning application and appeal submissions.

The last planning application sought to regularise the use of the site, however this was the subject of an appeal against non-determination, and then subsequently the applicant withdrew the appeal.

The Council should be in a position on how to proceed pending the adoption of the Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Following the examination, the DPD is now subject to a series of Modifications which reflect matters in response to representations and discussion at the hearings. These Modifications are published for consultation for 6 weeks from 8 October **until noon on 23 November 2018.**

If the Planning Inspector agrees to the modifications and the DPD is adopted the Councils Enforcement Team will actively pursue appropriate enforcement action.”



## COUNCIL MEETING – 7 November 2018

### Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

#### QUESTION 19

From: Councillor Hutchison

To: The Leader (Cllr Horrill)

“Could the Portfolio Holder please give the number of employees in the Communications Department of the Council for each of the past three years, and the annual total cost of this staffing for each year?”

#### Reply

“Cllr Hutchison has asked for the number of employees in the communications department of the Council over the last three financial years.

In the financial years spanning 2015 to 2018 there have been four permanent members of staff employed in the Council’s Communication team.

In 2015/16 this was at a cost of £82,019, in 2016/17 £121,848 and in 2017/18 £76,211.”

FINANCIAL YEAR:	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Cost:	£82,019	£121,848	£76,221
Number of communications employees:	4	4	4





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**QUESTION 20**

From: Councillor Huxstep

To: The Leader with Portfolio for Housing (Cllr Horrill)

“Will the Leader state, now that the weather is turning colder, what arrangements are in place to safeguard the homeless in the District?”

Reply

“Each year, the City Council makes provision for additional emergency accommodation to be available for rough sleepers on very cold nights.

This year, the Council is providing funding and working with the Trinity Centre, effectively doubling the capacity available in previous years.

The Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) arrangements offer a bed for anyone that needs one should the weather fall below or feel below zero on any night. The Trinity Centre will open at 7pm on a SWEP night and will provide a cooked breakfast the following morning.”



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**QUESTION 21**

From: Councillor Cutler

To: The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Cllr Ashton)

“What steps have been taken to assess the risks to the economy of the Winchester district and to the Council’s financial strategy that will be caused by the UK leaving the EU?”

Reply

“Brexit is one of a number of factors which may have an impact on the economy of the Winchester district over the coming years. As such the position is kept under consideration both in terms of the financial strategy and through regular engagement with local businesses.

The most likely areas of key risks and potential benefits for the economy and financial strategy, such as tourism, construction, businesses and agriculture and will be kept under regular review. This is to ensure that any impact on the Winchester district is understood and any necessary feedback to central government is actioned in a timely manner.”