



COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2024

Questions by Councillors under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question.
- If a questioner who has submitted a question is unable to be present, the Mayor may ask the question on their behalf, or invite another Councillor to do so, or indicate that a written reply will be given and published on the website following the meeting. or decide, in the absence of the questioner, that the question will not be dealt with.
- Please note that following the response given by the Leader, a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for Councillor questions will normally be limited to 40 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting.

	From Cllr:
1	Lee (1)
2	Warwick
3	Williams
4	White
5	Godfrey
6	Laming
7	Langford-Smith
8	Horrill
9	Brook
10	Miller
11	Cunningham
12	Lee (2)



Winchester
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QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Lee (1)

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

“Hampshire Water Transfer & Water Recycling Project – concerns and missed opportunities

There are many concerns about this project:

- Absence in the proposed 40km pipeline with c40m construction corridor of a comprehensive comparative analysis of the life-cycle environmental, community, traffic and landowner disturbance impacts, over an extensive period.
- The extremely high financial cost with other opportunities lost.
- Absence of a fully considered alternative option for a modern new technology renewable energy desalination plant, with fewer environmental harmful impacts in the Western Hampshire high water consumption area.
- The current route south of Wickham and Bishops Waltham to Otterbourne, lacks consideration of opportunities for: the emerging Winchester Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure (LCWIP) plans; Biodiversity Net Gain beyond statutory 10%; addressing poor broadband and mobile network coverage; Local Area Energy Plan grid enhancements for renewal energy connections, climate resilience and rising energy demands.

Can WCC take action to propose an improved project option with smaller environmental and community impacts with advocacy, if the planned route must go ahead, for relevant agencies [1] to consider the identified opportunities and wider benefits?”

[1] Examples - Southern Water, SSEN, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust, HCC for Local Nature Recovery, broadband and telecommunication providers, HCC and Active Travel organisations for LCWIP



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QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Warwick

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

“How will the new government’s mandatory 1.5m housing target, review of previously turned down applications and planning policy reform impact on large housing site allocations across Winchester in our emerging Local Plan?”



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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Williams

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

“The Cabinet members will know how since being elected I have spoken about the urgent need for refurbishment of the Bishop’s Waltham public toilets. At a time when other local authorities look to close these essential public facilities, I am very pleased that the Liberal Democrat administration in Winchester has committed to investing in these facilities right across the District. That said, can I ask to when residents and visitors to Bishop’s Waltham can expect their public toilets to be refurbished so that they can enjoy a more modern facility?”



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QUESTION 4

From: Councillor White

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

“Guidance on minimising waste and recycling for local community event organisers.

Organisers of a recent, well-attended local fete in Newtown in the Meon Valley were very motivated to reduce waste as well as recycle as much as possible. However, although it seems that larger festivals and events are well-catered for with sustainable events advice and commercial companies that will manage and recycle the waste, many local fete organisers have found very little help for this smaller, community event.

Is there a toolkit or guidance from the Council, specifically aimed at minimising waste at these local events or help provided for fete organisers to recycle the waste generated, especially the hard plastics?”



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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Godfrey

To: Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management (Cllr Martin Tod)

“It is now halfway through the 5-year period agreed for the University of Southampton to develop and share their proposals for the River Park Leisure Centre site. There has been no public indication of these proposals, even during the listening event at the beginning of last year. Given how long public engagement and planning development on such important sites takes in Winchester, when does the Portfolio Holder expect a clear milestone plan to be published leading to the submission of a planning application?”



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Laming (1)

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

“Will the local plan be delayed due to the change in Government and possible changes to National Housing Policies?”



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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Langford-Smith

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

“People in Denmead are very concerned about unapproved development that is changing the face of our countryside. Despite reporting issues to WCC Enforcement Team, there appears to be no action and cases disappear from the radar. How can you assure residents that enforcement has teeth in Denmead?”



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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Horrill

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing (Cllr Chris Westwood)

“The Government has recently introduced new legislation for our Council homes to ensure appropriate levels of tenant representation and satisfaction and KPIs which the Council will be measured on.

Given this is a significant change and one which will impact most Councillors who represent wards with Council properties, why has the portfolio holder not arranged a member briefing to bring all Councillors up to speed?”



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QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Brook

To: The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance (Cllr Neil Cutler)

“There is frustration on all sides, with the lack of specificity and relevance regarding the current KPI’s that are set by the administration in relation to the strategic objectives of the council. Will the administration agree to an all-party task and finish group be set up to discuss the KPIs and the delivery of contracts to achieve the administrations key objectives to ensure they are monitored and delivered on time and in line with the desired outcomes?”



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QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Miller

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

“When will the council administration listen to residents and businesses about the impact of parking charges at weekends and evenings? They are driving customers away from the city and thus impacting the viability of businesses and social and leisure activities.”



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QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Cunningham

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

“What is the cut-off date for the decision to be made about buying carbon credits, in order not to miss the 2024 target on carbon neutrality?”



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QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Lee (2)

To: The Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management (Cllr Martin Tod)

“Green Economy Development and Sustainable Prosperity in Winchester district

Our neighbouring M3 & Solent Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are now being integrated into local authorities. M3 LEP into Hampshire and Surrey County Council. This split seems to be unhelpful at a pressing time for best transboundary coordination for sustainable economic development. It is hard to identify many disadvantages of the previous arrangements for local economic development following the abolished Southeast Regional Development Agency (SEEDA). Moving to even more hyper local arrangements at a critical time for accelerating joined-up green business transition and development seems unhelpful.

What steps are being taken to ensure this fragmentation of LEP processes/governance will not be allowed to undermine Winchester District's greener faster economic development and well-being during the current economic, climate and nature crises?”