



## COUNCIL MEETING – 16 July 2024

### Questions by the Public under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question (or may simply state to “refer to the order paper”). The order of the questions to be asked is as set out below and an officer will direct the questioner to the microphone when their name is called by the Mayor.
- 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 Councillor, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for questions will *normally* be limited to 20 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting and all members of the public who have asked a question will be notified accordingly.

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
|   | From:              |
| 1 | Wendy Wyatt        |
| 2 | Cllr Steve Delmege |



**Winchester**  
City Council

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**under Council Procedure Rule 19.1**

**QUESTION 1**

From: Wendy Wyatt

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

“The creative industries are a major economic driver, generating 1 in 7 jobs, that's 2.4 million jobs, and contributing £125 billion to the UK economy. They have grown by 50% since 2010.

Winchester is uniquely positioned to capitalise on this, with over 500 practising architects, a world-leading digital technology campus at IBM, two university campuses and an exceptional sixth-form college which attracts students from across Hampshire and beyond.

Winchester is home to significant creative talent, especially at the start-up stage. For example, Alice Daggett from Winchester School of Art has just won the prestigious Gold Medal at Graduate Fashion Week and completed work experience with a local design business. A new Film Office is planned for Hampshire to attract inward investment, and there is a thriving visual arts and designer-maker sector across the District.

It is important that we do not lose our talent to other areas, ensuring Winchester District remains an innovative hub for the creative industries.

There is a real opportunity to attract and retain the creative talent pipeline through Creative Enterprise Zones, which can act as an important beacon for an area's creative growth.

The Liberal Democrat manifesto supports the establishment of "Creative Enterprise Zones to grow and regenerate the cultural output of areas across the UK," and Labour has committed to sector support through their Creative Growth Plan. Given this, how will the Lib Dem-controlled Winchester Council embed creative enterprise into future regeneration projects from a space, skills, sustainability, and leadership perspective? And will it consider

establishing much-needed Creative Enterprise Zones to act as an important beacon for the wider district?”

### Reply

“Thank you for your question.

This administration is committed to doing all we can to encourage culture and the creative industries to thrive in our district. We recognise the valuable contribution arts and culture and the creative industries make to our communities and it is precisely why we have spent resources on upgrading Kings Walk to allow those small start-ups to flourish.

As a city and district we recognise that we have a real shortage of ‘maker-space’ and going forward we will be exploring how we can offer other opportunities for this type of space – for example the upper floors of Kings Walk.

I have read about how London is taking a lead in this area and creating enterprise zones to help support artists and creative businesses. This is exactly what we hope to achieve in central Winchester. Of course, here in Winchester our budget is very different to that of a London borough, but should opportunities arise, we will certainly look to create other areas where this can be achieved.

I completely agree that we need to encourage our home-grown creative talent to stay in our district, so being able to offer more facilities to allow them to do so is top of my agenda. Indeed, our aspirations around central Winchester Regeneration specifically state that we wish to deliver a mixed development which will include creative spaces together with community and cultural spaces.

Over the past year we have also invested significant time developing our new Cultural Strategy. This has been a shared vision for cultural development which has been co-designed by stakeholders and partners across the district and supported by Arts Council England. At its core the vision states – “Winchester district’s creative dynamism enriches lives and makes amazing things happen”. It aims to articulate Winchester district’s cultural offer and the benefits it provides to all.

It is worth noting that one of the key priorities is the economy and creative industries, together with the other 3, namely – education and young people, placemaking and events and festivals. So, placing the creative industries at the heart of all we do in terms of the value they bring to our communities and our regeneration projects is central to this strategy.

I am excited that now this strategy has been developed, it gives us and our partners a firm basis on which to build on what we already have across our district and make sure that arts, culture and the creative industries remain at the heart of our communities.”



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**QUESTION 2**

From: Cllr Steve Delmege (Durley Parish Council)

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

“Is the current CIL process “fit for purpose” when, based on the experiences of my Parish, the majority of small developments, typically single properties, do not pay the CIL despite them all increasing the size of the community?”

**Reply**

“Thank you for your question Cllr Delmege and good to see you again.

I know that you have taken up this matter with the Planning department already, and so you may be aware of the background to this levy.

Your Parish is in Zone 1 - in which no charge is made on a property. This is because it consisted of either Major Development areas which attracted S106 payments or countryside. These CIL zones were set in 2013 under the previous administration and it is costly to amend them.

I sympathise. Indeed, Worthys councillors have a small development in my own ward which didn't attract CIL, despite it being within a ward in zone 3.

The full detail of the CIL process, including the submissions and the Inspector's report can be seen on Winchester's website (at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/background-to-winchester-39-s-cil> )

During this LP process, we considered revising the schedule – but the uncertain state of Government policy towards CIL meant that it was cost ineffective to proceed. The last Government proposed an Infrastructure Levy to be collected after completion of a property rather than at the application stage – and we didn't want any CIL review to be caught up in a new process – and for it to be a wasted process.

We will keep this decision under review. As soon as we have clarity on the new Government's plans for infrastructure funding, we will be in a position to decide whether to try and include a revised schedule in our new Local Plan or whether it will need to be done after the new Local Plan is agreed."