



## COUNCIL MEETING – 6 November 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.

	<b>From Cllr:</b>
<b>1</b>	Horrill
<b>2</b>	Chamberlain
<b>3</b>	Godfrey
<b>4</b>	Tippett-Cooper
<b>5</b>	Bolton
<b>6</b>	Lee 1
<b>7</b>	Warwick
<b>8</b>	White
<b>9</b>	Brook
<b>10</b>	Langford-Smith
<b>11</b>	Lee 2



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 19.1**

**QUESTION 1**

From: Councillor Horrill

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

“How many empty homes does the Council have in total in the District and how many by ward?”

Reply



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**QUESTION 2**

From: Councillor Chamberlain

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

“In early October 2024 WCC and their waste partner Biffa implemented a significant revision to the waste and recycling collection routes.

Please can the Cabinet Member update us on how the implementation of the new routes across the district has gone from the Councils perspective, and whether there has been any significant feedback from our residents?”

Reply



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**QUESTION 3**

From: Councillor Godfrey

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

“The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance kindly gave a reassuring answer to my question on support for the most vulnerable at the last meeting. Can he now tell the Council what specific measures are now to be implemented to protect affected residents from the spending changes announced in last week's budget statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer?”

Reply



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**QUESTION 4**

From: Councillor Tippett-Cooper

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

“Despite some local authorities being forced to close public toilets, Winchester City Council last year announced a programme of works to refurbish a number of the District’s public toilets. How are these works progressing?”

Reply



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**QUESTION 5**

From: Councillor Bolton

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

“When canvassing in Bishop’s Waltham recently one of the matters that came up was the bin stores in the Houchin Street/Basingwell car park.

The parish Council and Town team carried out surveys that showed that the commercial bins left on the roads were unsightly and spoilt the approaches to the High Street. I understand that the City Council agreed to install bin stores in both the Lower Lane car park and the Houchin Street car park. This project was also backed by the Chamber of Trade.

The Lower Lane store was built with wooden fencing that hid the bins as required. The Houchin Steet store was bult with low metal fencing that was not going to stop the bins being seen. As a result of this traders have not used it.

I also understand that HCC want the commercial bins removed from Houchin Street as they want to create a pedestrian area.

Can you please give a date when the correct fencing will be installed and if possible what steps will be taken by the Council to persuade traders that they must either keep the bins on their own property or use the bin stores?”

Reply



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**QUESTION 6**

From: Councillor Lee

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

“Global temperatures are on course for a dangerous 3°C rise, with six out of nine planetary boundaries already breached, compromising our planet’s resilience and accelerating biodiversity loss. This highlights the urgent need for integrated adaptation and resilience strategies that also support climate mitigation. The focus on resilience and adaptation will be pivotal at this year’s COP29 (Climate) and COP16 (Biodiversity) conferences.

Despite the UK’s National Adaptation Programme, the Government’s resilience plans are insufficient for a 2°C rise, let alone 4°C. Fortunately, local authorities can play a key role in preparing communities and ecosystems for climate impacts. This is underscored by the Local Government Association who emphasize the need for councils to coordinate local adaptation and resilience needs and opportunities.

Additionally, the Climate Change Committee’s ‘Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk’ identified 60 risks and opportunities relevant to councils, reinforcing the need for integrated strategies. <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/accelerating-adaptation-action-councils-preparing-climate-change>

*Does the Council agree there is now a need for a Council 'Adaptation and Resilience Strategy', building on our Climate and Nature Emergency plans, to proactively manage climate risks and stay ahead of the climate risk curves?”*

Reply



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**QUESTION 7**

From: Councillor Warwick

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

“Is there any update on the naming of the King George V Pavilion after former Highcliffe resident and world cup football hero, Terry Paine?”

Reply





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**QUESTION 8**

From: Councillor White

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

“Waste is a climate issue; not only are there the emissions caused by the manufacturing of products that are then thrown away but also those released from incineration and landfill disposal of waste. Recent reports indicate that burning waste is now the UK’s dirtiest form of power, releasing the same amount of greenhouse gases per unit of energy as coal power.

Besides the work to increase recycling rates, what is the Council doing to encourage a ‘circular economy’ in terms of reducing consumption and supporting reuse and repair?”

Reply



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**QUESTION 9**

From: Councillor Brook

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

“Administration has placed a lot of emphasis on the need for more social housing within the district and increasing the Winchester City Council housing stock.

With discussions at a recent Scrutiny meeting regarding the use of temporary housing, I wondered how many children we have currently housed in temporary accommodation?”

Reply



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**QUESTION 10**

From: Councillor Langford-Smith

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

'The residents at Newlands have been waiting for a long time for appropriate facilities. Can the administration provide a firm date that the build of the Doctors Surgery will commence and detail what this administration has done to support the progress of this?'

Reply



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**QUESTION 11**

From: Councillor Lee

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

“In my Winchester City Council CMV ward, 70% of which falls under the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), we have two distinct yet complementary planning enforcement approaches. On October 29, 2024, there were 73 active enforcement cases in CMV, with 43% within the SDNP and 41% concentrated in a single parish, Soberton. Several cases have been unresolved for up to 8 years.

The high volume of unauthorized developments, often involving land use changes, leads to environmental damage, community stress, and increased burdens on our planning staff. If this high volume of cases is not addressed, we are putting both this Council and the SDNP at reputational risk.

Urgent solutions are needed, potentially including enhanced monitoring, prioritization, community engagement, ecologically sensitive enforcement, and possibly exploring ‘enforcement undertakings’ (similar to the Environment Agency model) as an alternative to prosecution.

*Can the Council, perhaps in collaboration with the Local Government Association (LGA), lobby for increased powers and resources to help prevent or reduce these high number of enforcement cases? Additionally, can we prioritize the reduction of CMV enforcement cases, particularly in Soberton, as an urgent matter?”*

Reply