

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2026

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	Signe Biddle

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QUESTION 1

From: Signe Biddle

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

What response did the council give to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's recent consultation on their Local Plan Spatial Strategy relating to the proposed development at Popham Airfield? Specifically, did the council maintain its objection to the allocation of land at Popham for development that it submitted to the previous version of the plan?

Reply

The city council's response was robust and challenged Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council about their choice of just two main sites for major development in their district. You will be aware that there is one to the east of the M3 and one to the west.

Micheldever and Wonston ward councillors were invited to work through the response with me and with the strategic planner so that it reflected their views too.

We expressed serious concern about the impact of the proposed Popham development on infrastructure within the Winchester City Council area, specifically the impact of future Popham residents travelling to Micheldever Station. If this journey were carried out by car, the volume of traffic would place a huge strain on parking at the station. If it were by bike or on foot, the journey experience would need to be improved considerably, with the costs covered by the developer.

We also noted with concern the need for water and power resilience in the area, and the emphasis on travelling west to the rural Micheldever Station rather than east to connect to Basingstoke, which is the natural focus for education, retail, jobs, culture, sport and better rail connections.

For those reasons, Winchester City Council urged Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council to liaise closely with Winchester City Council on this proposal throughout the process.

