



## COUNCIL MEETING – 2nd June 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 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 .
- 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	Dr Catherine Phipps
2	Phoebe Nunn
3	Hannah Smith
4	Myleta Wilkins
5	Vincent Fitzgerald
6	Jack Hargreaves
7	Ariana Saly



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#### QUESTION 1

From: Dr Catherine Phipps

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Winchester City Council has declared a climate emergency and recognised the importance of reducing emissions across all sectors. Food systems are increasingly recognised by the IPCC and UK Climate Change Committee as a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, with meat and dairy production having a particularly high environmental impact.

Since this issue was last raised with Winchester City Council in February 2025, more than 35 additional towns and cities worldwide have endorsed the Plant Based Treaty, including Southam Town Council in Warwickshire, which recently became the 7th UK council to support the initiative.

Winchester City Council has previously stated that it supports the broad principles behind the Plant Based Treaty, while raising concerns around committing to all of the detailed proposals contained within the initiative.

Given this, and considering that many councils have endorsed the general principles of the Plant Based Treaty while retaining flexibility around implementation and local decision-making, would Winchester City Council now consider becoming the next UK council to endorse the general principles of the Plant Based Treaty?



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**QUESTION 2**

From: Phoebe Nunn

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

The UK's legally binding climate targets will be impossible to achieve without addressing emissions from food systems. Research increasingly shows that shifting towards more plant-based diets can significantly reduce emissions while also delivering public health benefits.

As Winchester City Council continues implementing its Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, will the Council explore how food-related policies and procurement can contribute towards its climate goals, including increasing plant-based catering options at council-run events and encouraging greater awareness of sustainable diets within the community?



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**QUESTION 3**

From: Hannah Smith

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Studies have shown that diets rich in plant-based foods can help reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and certain cancers, while also reducing pressure on the NHS.

Given the growing evidence around the health benefits of plant-based diets, what role does Winchester City Council believe it can play in supporting healthier and more sustainable food choices through public awareness campaigns, partnerships with local organisations, and food provision at council events and community venues?



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**QUESTION 4**

From: Myleta Wilkins

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Many residents are facing ongoing cost-of-living pressures, and research has shown that staple plant-based foods such as beans, lentils, rice, pasta, vegetables, and oats can often provide affordable and nutritious meal options.

Would the Council consider supporting initiatives that help residents access affordable and healthy plant-based meals, such as community cooking workshops, partnerships with local businesses, or educational resources promoting low-cost sustainable meals?

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**QUESTION 5**

From: Vincent Fitzgerald

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Cities around the UK are increasingly supporting initiatives that encourage sustainable food choices while also benefiting local businesses and attracting visitors.

Alongside campaigns such as Veganuary and Climate Action Week, Plant Based Restaurant Week initiatives have been used in some areas to encourage cafés and restaurants to introduce new plant-based menu options or offer promotions and discounts on plant-based meals, helping residents try more sustainable food choices while supporting local businesses.

Would Winchester City Council consider working with Plant Based Treaty, local businesses, and community partners to support or promote similar voluntary sustainable food initiatives within the district?

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**QUESTION 6**

From: Jack Hargreaves

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Winchester City Council has already taken positive steps by committing to provide vegetarian catering by default at council events and meetings it organises, alongside wider commitments through the Winchester Food Partnership and sustainable procurement policies.

Given this existing leadership on sustainable food, would the Council consider building on these commitments by exploring further measures to support lower-carbon and plant-based food choices, including increased public awareness initiatives, greater availability of plant-based options at council-supported venues and events, and potentially endorsing the Plant Based Treaty as part of its wider climate and public health work?

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**QUESTION 7**

From: Ariana Saly

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Young people are increasingly concerned about climate change, biodiversity loss, and the future of food systems. Many residents want to see practical and positive local action that supports both environmental sustainability and public health.

Would Winchester City Council be open to meeting with local residents and campaigners to discuss how the Council could support more sustainable food initiatives locally, including the possibility of endorsing the Plant Based Treaty and learning from implementation examples already taking place in cities such as Edinburgh?