



COUNCIL MEETING – 28 February 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 14

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Hiscock

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“What is the evidence base for the need to provide 4 extra sports courts in the Southern Parishes, how was the data obtained and where are the proposed sites?”

Reply

The evidence base for the need to provide a 4 court hall in the South of the district is contained in the following documentation:

1. The Winchester District Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2017 – 2037 as considered by Cabinet on 13th November 2017
2. The Sport England Strategic Assessment of Sports hall Provision report carried out in October 2017.

This is supported by the following information:

- Meadowside Leisure Centre sports hall has 100% used capacity during peak periods. One of the reasons for this is that it is only a 3 court hall.
- The area surrounding Swanmore has access to fewer sports halls than the rest of the district.
- There are only three sports halls sites (with community access) located in the south of the Winchester District compared to 8 halls in the north of the District.

We are committed to ensure that all our residents have access to good sports facilities and it is right that we as a council take time to review provision of facilities across the district



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QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Leader with Portfolio for Housing (Cllr Horrill)

"In the budget being considered today, there are monies for 1,000 new council houses to be provided by the Council in the next decade, extending the Council's existing 600 home target. Can the Portfolio Holder please confirm how the Council is doing to date on new affordable homes, relative to its targets?"

Reply

"The Council's initial new homes target was to complete 300 properties in the period 2012-2022. This was subsequently increased to 600 as new funding was identified through the Housing Revenue Account business plan. In October 2018 the Government announced the lifting of the HRA debt cap which gave Local Authorities scope to significantly expand their new homes programme. Something the Council actively lobbied the government about.

This has allowed the Council to revise its target to complete a1000 new homes over the next 10 years.

To date the Council has,

- Completed 200 new homes with 13 under construction.
- Approval is being sought at Cabinet (Housing) Committee on the 20th March 2019 to construct 112 properties which will start in April 2019.
- We are negotiating with Homes England (as landowner) and Wickham Parish Council for a substantial scheme at Knowle Village and are working on a further 10 projects with a combined total of over 200 new homes.

Several long term opportunities are currently subject to discussion with developers including an Extra Care scheme for north Winchester and affordable housing on the Council's strategic sites such as Central Winchester and The Cattle Market.

The Council is the leading Local Authority provider of new Council homes in Hampshire following the HRA reforms of 2012."



Winchester
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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Learney

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Following the expansion of residents parking schemes in a number of areas of Winchester how much extra staff resource has been provided to ensure parking restrictions are properly enforced?”

Reply

In response to a range of parking issues raised by local residents and members in a number of areas of Winchester the Council has extended permit parking zones.

As members are aware, the County Council is reviewing future arrangements regarding the delivery of on-street and residents parking enforcement on its behalf. The City Council is interested in continuing to provide this service although with the draft Movement Strategy yet to be approved, it has been agreed with Hampshire County Council that further consideration of this issue will be deferred until the summer. This will also allow it to be considered alongside the approval of a revised parking strategy.

Once the outcome of these negotiations are concluded, and assuming we continue to deliver on-street parking enforcement, it will be appropriate to review the level of resource needed given the expansion of on-street parking restrictions in the city and elsewhere in the District.

However, in the meantime, we continue to carryout effective enforcement using our team of 16 parking enforcement officers.



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QUESTION 4

From: Councillor McLean

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Would the Portfolio Holder please update us on how safe the taxi services are in Winchester following recent events?”

Reply

“Whilst the taxi driver at the centre of the recent abhorrent sexual offence case was licensed by the City of Wolverhampton Council the Taxi was picked up from the Broadway rank.

This sad case is a reminder of the importance of the licensing process in terms of public safety and minimising the risk to the customers of our District. This incident has also caused shock within the Winchester taxi trade and they are keen to work with us to ensure that they maintain public confidence in their service.

We took the decision last year to review and revamp our taxi licensing policy to raise the bar of the District’s taxi offer. This will cover a variety of matters from public safety to the appearance and type of vehicles in the taxi fleet.

Indeed this work is already well underway and includes mandatory classroom based safeguarding training for all drivers licensed by the City Council which commenced on Monday 25th February. I should add that all drivers are already subject to regular advanced DBS criminal records checks prior to the issuing or renewal of their license. The prior offences criteria against which a licence will be refused or revoked will be updated in line with recently issued national guidance. We’re also examining other measures that might be included in our new policy such as in vehicle’ CCTV, more prominent driver identification inside the vehicle and the requirement for cashless transactions to eliminate the need for customers to source money late at night or to walk home.

The Leader wrote to her counterpart at the City of Wolverhampton Council last year raising concerns about cross border licensing and will be sending a further letter in light of the recent conviction of a driver licensed by them. She will also pursue the issue with the Minister and will ask Government to close the loophole that allows a driver to operate in one local authority area when licensed by another located elsewhere in the country.

This matter has also been subject to detailed discussions by a cross parliamentary 'Task and Finish' Group, which has made various recommendations to Government including that all taxi and PHV journeys should start and/or end within the area for which the driver, vehicle and operator are licensed. This would in effect ensure that the private hire trade would be geographically 'connected' to their local licensing authority. Government accepts this recommendation in principle but is considering how best to respond with a view to changing the regulations. It is also likely to introduce national minimum standards for taxi licensing but this should not mean that Winchester would be unable to set more stringent standards locally if needed. I would welcome and support any measures by Government which provide greater reassurance for our taxi users.

Taxi licensing is a top priority for the Council and I am confident that the work we are already doing will lead to policy and practice which bring significant improvements to our taxi fleet but we are also looking for a change in the regulations nationally which ensures vehicles are licensed within the area in which they operate."



Winchester
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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Leader (Cllr Horrill)

“Can the Leader and the Chief Executive assure this chamber that they will put every effort into finding the “well-placed source” of the leak of highly confidential papers to the Press, and an apparent second leak to an ex-councillor?

Can the Leader and the Chief Executive provide further reassurance to Members that they will release a full report, together with details of action taken, once the culprit or culprits have been found?

Given that only a very few people had access to these papers, this should not be difficult. It is an extraordinary breach of confidentiality and puts the Council’s reputation in jeopardy.

What organisation would want to deal with a local authority that cannot keep confidential commercial documents and information secure?”

Reply

It is very disappointing that the a matter before the Chamber this evening has been extensively reported in the local press.

The Chief Executive has initiated an investigation and should the route of the release of any confidential information be established, appropriate action will be taken.



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Huxstep

To: The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Cllr Ashton)

“Will the Portfolio Holder for Finance tell members how the welcome Business Rates scheme has been applied in our Council?”

Reply

“In the 2018 Autumn Budget the Government announced that it will provide a Retail Relief scheme for business rates over the next two years. The value of the discount will be one third of the rates bill. Properties that will benefit from the relief will be occupied hereditaments with a rateable value of less than £51,000, that are wholly or mainly being used as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments.

The Council will be reimbursed in full by the Government for the cost of all relief awarded.

Full details of the scheme and further description of qualifying criteria is detailed in the guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the business rates website at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/business/business-rates/retail-relief>.

The relief will be awarded automatically to ratepayers as identified by the Revenues team. This will eliminate the burden on ratepayers to apply for the relief and will reduce any delays which would be caused otherwise. The software for implementing the relief is expected to be provided by the software company at the end of this week. The deadline to implement this with the 2019-20 annual bills will now be tight but the Revenues team is still hopeful of achieving this and producing the new bills in the next week.”



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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Rutter

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“Can the Leader please confirm the gross liability the Council will be underwriting for the Bar End project for the whole of its anticipated life of 40 years? For the purpose of this question please include all costs and interest and all provisions such as any required to cover future repairs or plant replacement. Please do not deduct from this ‘gross liability’ any income or other monies due.

Reply

“The gross cost of the construction (interest and MRP) and the lifecycle costs is included in the Exempt information provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 4th February. This takes into account Partner funding but does not deduct the management fee which will be payable from the Operator.

This has been carefully considered as part of the Full Business Case which shows that these costs are met through an annual Management Fee from the operator. This fee also covers the ongoing life cycle costs of the building throughout its 40 year lifetime. The building has been carefully designed so that it will meet the 40 year lifetime and if well maintained will last beyond those 40 years.

The maintenance responsibilities are clearly set out in the contract with the Operator. A full Asset Management responsibilities matrix is included as part of the contract.”



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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Cook

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Sports and Leisure please tell us the total cost of the New Sports Centre and how much of that figure the Council will have to borrow as currently there appears to be some very bad press currently and transparency is totally paramount in all our Dealings as a Council and this project should not be any different?”

Reply

“All the costs associated with the Leisure Centre project are set out in the Full Business Case. This is commercial information but is available to members in exempt papers. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised all aspects of the Full Business Case on the 4th February 2019.

The Full Business Case was then considered and approved by The Leisure Centre Cabinet Committee on 11th February 2019.

The total project cost is included in the Full Business case includes a client contingency and some additional works to allow for a future development of the adjacent Depot site. The premise of the Business Case is that over the life of the project the income from the Operator will pay both the cost of the borrowing and repayment and the full cost of the asset management and life cycle costs of the building. Over the life of the building this will in fact generate a surplus.



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QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Murphy

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“The business plan for the proposed new leisure centre has been structured so that all the financial risk is borne by the Council. What other financial/operator models, such as a design-build-operate-maintain (DBOM) model, did the Council investigate and why is there no mention of any alternatives considered within the business plan?”

Reply

The financial risk is reduced as the Operator guarantees an annual payment to the Council. These risk considerations and all financial implications have been fully set out in the Full Business Case which has been subject to Scrutiny and agreed by the Leisure Centre Cabinet Committee earlier this month.

In December 2014 Cabinet was presented with a report setting out an outline facility brief and site options and procurement options, costings and programme considerations.

Construction options have been considered at several stages. In May 2015 RPT consultants were commissioned to set out options for redevelopment of RPLC and this included the use of DBOM along with other options such as Design and Build. The options appraisal was reported to Cabinet in September 2015 and RPT presented the findings and conclusions to an all members briefing in August 2015

Further options were set out and considered in the Outline Business Case.

The construction procurement was agreed by Cabinet on 13th November 2017.



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QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Weston

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“Could the Portfolio Holder for Environment together with Cabinet colleagues put a plan in place to deal with the fact that you cannot drive more than a meter on any rural lane or road without seeing litter? In fact a meter is too long in most cases. Our rural routes are a disgrace.

Could you please allocate a budget to litter pick our rural lanes and main commuter routes for example Tichfield Lane and the A32 once a year in early March before the spring growth.

Planned road closures will need to be in place but that is something that we have to put up with if we cannot stop the litter being thrown from vehicles. Local residents and communities’ litter pick their villages and lanes but the faster routes over 30mph are not permitted to be litter picked by the community so other measures need to be put in place.

We have one environment please let us look after it.”

Reply

“I am pleased to inform Councillors that following an inspection by officers of rural lanes and roads to identify litter issues, idverde and their litter hit squad are already litter picking rural lanes throughout the Winchester area where traffic management is not required.

We are also putting in place traffic management to enable litter picking on the A roads, especially those which have dual carriage ways and our B roads where it is required by law. The work that requires traffic management is scheduled for the end of March as it takes around three weeks to get the permission for road space and permits for working on the highway. Tichfield Lane and the A32 are included in the list of roads requiring traffic management.

The Council is also a member of Keep Britain Tidy and I can report that our local litter picking organisations are once again coming out in force to support the Great British Spring Clean.”



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QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Leader of the Council

“The operator contract is pivotal to the business case and future success of the Bar End Sports Centre. In order that members may fulfil their fiduciary duties and make sound and rational decisions about the business case and the budget for the project, it is imperative that all members receive a comprehensive explanation, from a solicitor, on how all the provisions within the contract function. What should be included is information on repairing covenants, income guarantees, break clauses, dispute resolution and so on. There is a particular need to understand the obligations being imposed upon the operator as regards the services they are required to provide to the district's residents.

Can the Leader please confirm that all members will receive such a detailed explanation and a complete copy of the draft contract, and have the opportunity to make representations in respect of the same, before any contract is formally entered into?

Reply

An Advisory Panel of experts and Members met on three occasions to review the procurement process and the requirements on the operator imposed through the contract. Members of the Leisure Centre Cabinet Committee have been fully briefed. This has been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Leisure Cabinet and Cabinet.



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QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Gemmell

To: The Portfolio Holder for Business Partnerships (Cllr Humby)

“What has happened to help support the businesses in their move from Bury Farm since she spoke to the North Whitley Forum several months ago - can we have a progress report please?”

Reply

“Since the North Whitley Development Forum in October the Council has taken the lead on a number of proactive support measures for the Bury Farm businesses.

A dedicated business support advisor has been contracted by the City Council to work with each business on their individual relocation needs and issues. They also act as a liaison between the businesses and the landowner Crest and their agents Savills, carry out property searches to find alternative accommodation and signpost to support information. Half the cost of contract has been secured from Crest.

There have been a number of personal site visits to the businesses by Members to keep them up-date and to hear their views and issues.

A specific business grant has been established to offer support for the extraordinary relocation costs faced by Bury Farm businesses, funded from a government business resilience fund.

To date 15 of the 17 businesses who are required to vacate by end of January or end of March have found some where else to go, albeit some of these have moved to other units on the Bury Farm site.

Work will continue to support the remaining businesses who are yet to be served notice to vacate.”



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QUESTION 13

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“How will the contracts for the construction and operation of the leisure centre - especially any terms that might lead to increased cost - be scrutinised by councillors ahead of signature?”

Reply

“The Leisure Centre Cabinet Committee members were briefed on provisions and mitigation which is in place through the contracts (on 24th January) to protect against an increase in costs. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th February 2019 also had the chance to question officers and experts during the 4 hours of questioning on all aspects of the project earlier this month.

Blake Morgan has provided external legal advice on the form of construction contract and on the contract provisions. Blake Morgan provide expert advice for Construction procurement and has also assisted throughout the process of procuring the design team so that all processes, warranties and provisions in all contracts align. Walker Morris has provided similar advice in respect of the Operation contract.

The construction cost is set within the contract and will only increase in very limited situations such as unknown ground conditions (which is unlikely as extensive testing/ assessment has been carried out) or if the Council changes the design during the construction period.

The management fee and the asset management responsibilities are all set out in the operation contract.”



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QUESTION 14

From: Councillor Cutler

To: The Leader (Cllr Horrill)

“The Government has provided the Council with a very generous grant to be spent on preparations for a no deal Brexit. What will the money be spent on?”

Reply

In common with other district councils a government a grant of £35,000 allocated across two financial years has been issued to Winchester City Council. The accompanying letter set out that the grant is intended to fund additional costs borne by the council as it prepares for the UK planned exit from the EU on the 29 March.”



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QUESTION 15

From: Councillor Weir

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“College and school students in Winchester joined the first global climate strike earlier this month. In the light of the growing concern among young people about the impact man-made climate change will have on their future well-being, what are the Council’s plans to mitigate the 50% increase in the carbon footprint of the planned new sport and leisure centre? Will the Portfolio Holder and Cabinet colleagues recommit to undertakings given by The Leader, at the time of the Paris COP 21, to “reduce the carbon footprint of the proposed new leisure facilities to as close to zero as financially and technically feasible, in respect of the use of the whole site, its construction, running emissions and user travel emissions”?

Reply

“The design of the Leisure Centre in relation to sustainability measures has been considered very carefully in both technical and financial terms.

The new centre has the highest environmental standards in regards to energy consumption and incorporates passive design and zero carbon technologies which are not present within the existing RPLC. WS&LP is on track to achieve BREEAM Excellent and we have been able to achieve a 17% reduction in CO² emissions beyond the Building Regulations Part L 2013 ‘baseline’

New facilities are being provided to encourage cycling and walking and the Operator in conjunction with the Council will be formulating a Travel Plan.”



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QUESTION 16

From: Councillor Thompson

To: The Portfolio Holder for Estates (Cllr Miller)

“What plans does he have for meanwhile uses of the former Register Office at Station Approach and when can we expect this building to be in use again?”

Reply

The former Registry Office hosted the Station Approach Public Consultation event over last weekend, when over 250 local residents, stakeholders and interested parties had the chance to drop in and hear the latest update on this proposal, and give feedback to the Council and Design team . The Station Approach development will bring Grade A offices and new jobs to support our city centre.

The consultation was a success and warmly welcomed in the Registry Office so we anticipate this building now being the centre of the public events for the project.

We have been able to encourage meanwhile uses in the buildings in Central Winchester, but Station Approach is on a much shorter development timeframe with an outline planning application hopefully submitted by the end of March this year. It is not viable to let the building for a short term use and in any case substantial adaptations and refurbishment work would be required.

As part of the Station Approach redevelopment it is proposed that the former Registry Office building will be retained (minus the newer addition) and hopefully extended to form a bar/restaurant.



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QUESTION 17

From: Councillor Hutchison

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“How do the proposals for parking at the new Leisure Centre fit in with achieving the objectives of the emerging Movement Strategy? In particular how do they contribute to achieving two of the three main objectives of the Movement Strategy: Priority 1 – to reduce City Centre Traffic and Priority 2 to support healthier lifestyle choices, active travel in particular?”

Reply

“The new leisure centre will contribute to sustaining economic growth in the city by creating new employment opportunities. It will also enhance the city as a place and strengthen our local communities by providing a meeting place for a wide variety of healthy activities resulting in an improved quality of life for thousands of people in the District

The Movement Strategy priorities are supported as follows:

1. Reduce City Centre traffic:

Customers will be encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to the new centre via safe routes and the implementation of the centre operator travel plan. The centre is located next to 2 large park and ride car parks enabling those parked to walk to the leisure centre from these sites. The new centre is located near to the motorway junction which will reduce the need for traffic to pass through the city centre to get there.

2. Support Healthier Lifestyle Choices:

The new centre will offer customers active travel options by providing safe, accessible and way marked walking and cycling routes to the centre as well as paths around the park site leading to the centre. Cyclists will be provided with large undercover bike stands. Park and ride users can also make good use of the leisure centre by utilising the centre as part of their journey to and from work.”



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QUESTION 18

From: Councillor Laming

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“I have frequently asked the Portfolio Holder about the funding arrangements for the new Sport & Leisure Centre and, on each occasion, I have been reassured that the funding partners have been in place from day one. I have also been told, every time I have sought reassurance, that the University’s proposed investment was £6m and that they were still prepared to go ahead. Would she please explain why this amount has suddenly been reduced? What are the underlying reasons that have caused this to happen?”

Reply

“The partnership contributions from the Pinder Trust and Hampshire County Council have been secured and in place for some time.

Professor Marriot confirmed at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th February that the University of Winchester was to contribute £1.7 million towards the project and that the University were pleased to be part of the success of the new centre; and would work in partnership with the Council and with the operator with regard to facilitating continued access to the site through the Milland Road entrance.

It should be noted that now that the UoW has signed a Funding Agreement the financial position shown in the Full Business Case approved by Leisure Centre Cabinet Committee has improved in terms of the overall financial benefit/ surplus to the Council during the life of the project”



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QUESTION 19

From: Councillor Rutter

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“What is the total amount that the management fee received by the operator for the new leisure centre for the whole 15-year term will need to be subsidised, so that the Council can meet its commitments regarding interest and capital repayments?”

Reply

All the costs associated with the Leisure Centre project are set out in the Full Business Case. This is commercial information but is available to members in exempt papers. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised all aspects of the Full Business Case on the 4th February 2019.

The Full Business Case was then considered and approved by The Leisure Centre Cabinet Committee on 11th February 2019.



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QUESTION 20

From: Councillor Murphy

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“Is it still anticipated that the car park for the proposed new leisure centre will operate on some form of refund system for users, and would this refund also apply to users of the King George V Playing Fields and the University Sports Stadium?”

Reply

“The Council will manage and operate the car park at the new Leisure Centre and will formulate a strategy which accounts for all parking needs in the area and takes into account the available space such as the park and ride sites and the future Vaultex site. The needs of all users including Sport Pitch users will be fully taken into account as will any impacts on local residents.”



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QUESTION 21

From: Councillor Gottlieb

To: The Leader (Cllr Horrill)

“Trying to scrutinise the draft Constitution, a 300-page document, and to compare it to the existing Constitution, is quite impossible to do in any competent way on an iPad. Can the Leader please kindly arrange for printed copies of the latest iteration of the Constitution and a track-changed copy to be issued to all members who request the same, together with copies of any subsequent iterations?”

Reply

“Members have been provided with the draft constitution on their iPads in order to reduce the environmental and financial cost of printing the document out in full. By accessing the constitution through the moderngov application it also means that members have the document at their fingertips at anytime without carrying around a large folder of documents. Members can of course print out some, or all, of the document themselves if they wish to. A covering report highlights the key changes to the draft constitution.”



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QUESTION 22

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Environment (Cllr Warwick)

“How are the County Council's plans for a full cost recovery approach to management of on street parking - agreed by Hampshire County Council as 'T19 Modernisation of the On-Street Parking Service ' on October 29, 2018 with a minor update on January 15, 2019 - reflected in the budget proposal and Medium Term Financial Strategy?”

Reply

“As members are aware, the County Council is reviewing future arrangements regarding the delivery of on-street and residents parking enforcement on its behalf. The City Council is interested in continuing to provide this service although with the draft Movement Strategy yet to be approved, it has been agreed with Hampshire County Council that further consideration of this issue will be deferred until the summer.. This will also allow it to be considered alongside the approval of a revised parking strategy.

Final decisions regarding retention of the agency arrangement or otherwise will take full account of the financial impact and will be reflected in the 2020/21 budget proposals.”



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QUESTION 23

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Professional Services (Cllr Godfrey)

“What impact would delay at Portsmouth docks have in the Winchester district in the event of a no deal Brexit - and what preparations and representations has the council made on this?”

Reply

“The Council is working closely with its partners in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum to assess the potential impacts due to possible delays and disruption at Portsmouth International Port in the event of a no deal Brexit after the UK planned exit from the EU on the 29 March.”



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QUESTION 24

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

“The final Sports Facility Needs Assessment from November 2017 says that *“The new Winchester Sport and Leisure Park (eight badminton court sports hall) is estimated to have 84% used capacity in the weekly peak period”*. Since then, the new Business Case agreed in February 2019 appears to have increased assumed usage levels by 25% vs. the Outline Business Case agreed in January 2018. Will the proposed 8 court sports hall have enough capacity to deliver the new business case given the dramatic increase in assumed usage of the leisure centre?”

Reply

Yes the 8 court hall will have sufficient capacity to meet the Full Business Case figures.

The figures included in the Full Business Case are based upon the preferred bidders modelled and costed figures for demand and usage based on the agreed facility mix. These figures were not available when the Outline Business Case was devised.



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QUESTION 25

From: Councillor Tod

To: The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing (Cllr Griffiths)

"The Council's paper on Brexit says "As a result of a no deal Brexit, there could be a sharp fall in exchange rates, resulting in a price increase in imported materials. This could impact on the costs of major projects that have already begun or impact on the viability of future capital projects." What effect would a 20% devaluation in sterling have on the costs of constructing the leisure centre?"

Reply

"The devaluation of sterling, in relation to Winchester Sport & Leisure Park, would be a risk borne by the contractor. The contractual agreement (NEC Option A) is a fixed price, lump sum contract, which means the contractor is signed up to deliver the scheme for the agreed contract sum irrespective of the potential consequences of BREXIT upon the British pound."