



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 15 January 2020

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Horrill

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management (Cllr Learney)

“Can the Cabinet Member for Housing explain why she saw fit not to attend the Nightshelter, Trinity or Emmaus AGMs to show her commitment to the partner organisations in the city which work with us to tackle the key issues of homelessness and rough sleeping? Is it that she had other political priorities?”

Reply

“My and Cabinet’s commitment is very clear - we have strengthened the commitment to work with partners to end homelessness in the Council Plan and through the homelessness strategy. During the autumn I have met individually or collectively with representatives of all our partners in this field. I have accompanied the street pastors into the early hours, taking the opportunity to talk to and provide refreshments to those still on our streets on a very wet and cold night. In the middle of November I took part in our annual homelessness count which again involved being out on the streets well into the night.

Like most Councillors I am frequently double or triple booked with evening meetings regardless of the level of political activity. While I would have attended if able, I was at a School Governing body meeting on the night of the Trinity AGM and undertaking training on the evening of the Winchester Nightshelter AGM neither of which could be rearranged. Neither I nor officers were invited to the Emmaus AGM.

It is a shame to see the time available for questions at this Council wasted with personal attacks such as this.”