



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 15 January 2020

Questions by the Public
under Council Procedure Rule 15(1)

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question. The order of the questions to be asked is as set out below and an officer will pass a microphone to the questioner when their name is called by the Mayor.
- 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 question or the reply.
- The total time allocated for questions will *normally* be limited to 20 minutes. For any question which cannot be dealt with at the meeting, a written answer will be provided, normally within one working week.

Questioner:

- 1 Sue Wood
- 2 Andy Lai



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QUESTION 1

From: Sue Wood

To: The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing (Cllr Porter)

“In March 2019 at Parish and Town Council briefings a timetable and the sequence of events for producing a new Local Plan to cover the period up to 2036 was shared. Work was started involving the Parishes and Town Councils and since the New Administration in May 2019 we do not appear to have been involved or consulted.

Imagine my surprise when reading an article in Winchester Resident Magazine December 2019/January 2020 that a consultation will be launched in early 2020 for Business and Residents to register an interest to be involved in helping to shape the future of the district through the development of the New Local Plan.

My question is what is the timetable and sequence of events for the Local Plan development and why is this administration failing to consult with Parishes and Town Councils who are democratically elected to serve on behalf of their residents, who already have a significant role in planning in their parishes and have a wealth of experience to offer?

As Chair of a Parish Council I find this position totally unacceptable and it does not meet this administrations standard on transparency and marginalises Parish Councils.”

Reply

“Let me reassure Ms Wood that Parish Councils have not been omitted from any engagement on the preparation of the Local Plan. Over the last few months we have commissioned evidence studies to better understand what issues the Local Plan will have to address in relation to development requirements of the district. The evidence base is crucial to informing discussions with our residents and stakeholders about the scope and shape of policies which have to look ahead at least 15 years.

We will soon be able to share that evidence with ward Members and parish councils and to provide an analysis of what it means as we consult on plan policies.

I appreciate that it is some time since we last met with parish councils but that delay has been necessary to gather the evidence and information which ensures that the next stage of dialogue is both informative and fully transparent. There have been no decision making processes or activities from which parish councils or anyone else has been omitted.

We will be writing to parish councils very shortly to provide an update and to invite them to sessions at which we can share our evidence and promote meaningful discussions about the next steps in the Local Plan process.”



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QUESTION 2

From: Andy Lai

To: The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing (Cllr Porter)

“Could the Cabinet Member please advise me of the Council's position on the proposed expansion of Southampton Airport especially relating to the impact on climate change and the local economy?”

Reply

“I am taking a report regarding the planning application submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council for the proposed expansion of Southampton airport to Cabinet on 22 January in order to agree our formal response to the proposal.

The report recommends that we raise objection to the development on the grounds of increased noise impacts upon the district's residents resulting from more flights and given the greater carbon emissions caused by additional aircraft movements. We have assessed potential benefits to Winchester but consider that the minimal positive effect on the economic prosperity of the district is far outweighed by adverse impacts on the environment.

The Leader of the Council also intends to write to the airport directly, with a copy for Eastleigh Borough Council, expressing broader concerns about the proposals to increase the capacity of this facility.”