



COUNCIL MEETING – 22 February 2024

Questions by Councillors under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question.
- 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 Leader, a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- The **total** time allocated for Councillor questions will normally be limited to 40 minutes.
- Written answers will be published to questions submitted (but not supplementary questions) following the meeting.

	From Cllr:
1	Bolton
2	Prest
3	Godfrey
3a	Warwick
4	Williams
5	Wallace
6	Cramoysan
7	Lee 1
8	Horrill
9	Brook
10	Langford-Smith
11	Pearson
12	Lee 2



Winchester
City Council

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Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Bolton

To: The Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement (Cllr Becker)

“Do the administration agree that the consultation proposal, Hampshire Together - modernising our hospitals and health services, conducted by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board and Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is NOT a political issue and do the administration agree that this council’s objective should be to encourage ALL residents to engage with the NHS to understand the true facts and make their views known to the NHS in this process?”



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QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Prest

To: The Cabinet Member for Business and Culture (Cllr Thompson)

“Walking through the city centre in the run up to Christmas it was easy to come to a series of conclusions: that the city was thriving; that the Christmas market stall holders and shopkeepers were doing brisk business; and finally, that whilst occasionally stretched to its limits, Winchester’s infrastructure, transport and parking absorbed the influx admirably. Indeed, a casual glance at last week’s Hampshire Chronicle reveals the High Street vacancy rate is at its lowest since 2019 and Winchester Cathedral experienced a 20% rise in attendance at its Christmas services. Can the Cabinet member for Business and Culture confirm for the Council this anecdotal evidence of a bumper Winchester Christmas with any hard data around footfall and visitor numbers in the festive period?”



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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Godfrey

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

“The Cabinet Member is aware of the inclusion of a residential housing allocation of 3,000 homes at Popham Airfield in the Reg 18 Local Plan Update by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. This new town proposal has caused great consternation among residents of my ward, particularly those in Micheldever Station, which adjoins the Popham Airfield site. Apart from the imposition of a large new settlement in the countryside on our boundary, the proposal includes several significant infrastructure requirements within Winchester District. What dialogue has taken place between Winchester City Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council over the inclusion of Popham Airfield in their Local Plan Update?”



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QUESTION 3a

From: Councillor Warwick

To: The Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement (Cllr Becker)

“Last September I asked the City Council’s leadership if the new Pavilion at the King George V playing grounds could be named after former England footballer, Terry Paine MBE. Terry’s name had been suggested some years ago when the pavilion was expected to be replaced. Terry was born in Winchester in 1939, grew up and played football in the Highcliffe area before representing Winchester City and Southampton FC. Terry was a member of the 1966 world cup winning squad and is not just a football legend, arguably the most famous footballer to come from Winchester and is also a truly respected member of the local community. I wondered if any progress has been made on a decision?”

QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Williams

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“Hampshire County Council are consulting on closing the Bishop's Waltham and Alresford Tips/HWRCs, how is this likely to affect fly-tipping and what action is planned to address potential increases that blight our rural communities?”



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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Wallace

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

“As a result of Climate Change, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. In fact, the latest data shows that since 1980 the number of extreme weather events around the world have increased more than three-fold. In the UK this is reflected in hotter summers and more intense rainfall, especially in winters, such as we experienced in Winchester last month.

Climate change is already being considered in planning for national infrastructure projects. For example, the new M3 Junction 9 project is considering average temperature changes of up to 5°C by the end of century, plus modelling on the effects of more extreme rainfall. In contrast, consideration of the impact of climate change to Local Authority planning approvals appears to have been limited to date, and when the Winchester district was hit by flooding last month, it was reported that some of the flooding occurred in newly built homes.

In order to mitigate the risks of problems now and in the future, please can you confirm what authority we have as the Local Plan Authority to seek higher standards of climate resilience in planning applications?”



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Cramoysan

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“When is the new GP surgery in Upper Brooke St, Winchester, going to open?”



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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Lee (1)

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“The challenges to ‘Go Green Faster,’ ‘Scale up actions and increase pace of delivery’ and ‘consider the impact on nature’s recovery in all strategic plans, policy areas and decision-making processes’ have been recognised in our:

- [Council Plan 2020- 2025](#)
- [CNAP report in Dec 2022](#)
- [Sep 2023 Nature Emergency declaration](#)
- [Emerging new Local Plan.](#)

The Council Plan says we will continue to listen and adjust our Plans over the lifetime of the plans.

New critical changes have emerged in the last 5 months that point to an urgent need to adjust our Plans as soon as possible, especially as:

- Our Nature Emergency declaration in Sep 23 is already out of date following the new State of Nature report
- Revelation the planet's [hottest year](#) has just been recorded. For the first time new records show global warming has exceeded 1.5°C across an entire year.

Why is 1.5°C significant?

This temperature target is crucial to mitigate the most damaging impacts of climate change- more severe heatwaves, flooding (far too evident locally), and droughts, affecting ecosystems and agriculture and our way of life.

The temperature change raises the challenge to start the adaptation process to the rapid changing climate conditions with higher threats to our infrastructure and our nature. The prolonged breach of the 1.5°C limit directly threatens biodiversity. Many species will now struggle to thrive.

We need to move away from self-congratulatory back slapping celebrations based on the Climate Emergency UK assessment¹ that Winchester is fourth in a lacklustre league table on climate action progress. We need to commit to faster action by starting a review and updating of our strategic plans, policy areas and especially our decision-making processes. Not tomorrow, not next month or next year but now! Our reference points for decision making in Cabinet and Committees are now critically out of date.

Question. Can I ask for a commitment to consider a full review of all our strategic plans, policy areas and decision-making processes as soon as possible and not as previously suggested in due course?"

¹ <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/methodology/#section-developing-the-scoring-system>



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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Horrill

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

“Would the Cabinet Member agree that building the right homes in the right places – protecting our precious countryside and building more in urban areas where demand is highest is a key strategic aim for this Council? Would she agree taking a brownfield first approach to deliver new homes where people want to live and work, without concreting over the countryside is a key strategic aim for this Council? If so, how does she intend to ensure these two strategic aims are built into our Reg 19 local plan?”



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QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Brook

To: The Leader (Cllr Tod)

“In July 2023, this Council unanimously supported the Debate Not Hate campaign and the leader released a statement that said, “We will continue to encourage healthy debate and discussion and we will challenge intimidation and abuse.” In light of this, why did the administration at the previous council meeting feel it was ok to speak to opposition Cllrs with sarcasm and contempt, and belittling them whilst responding to their fellow Lib Dem’s praising how wonderful they are, just because there is an election in May. Should the administration have put through an amendment back in July that said treating fellow Cllrs with respect and professionalism in the spirit of healthy debate only counts when not electioneering?”



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QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Langford-Smith

To: The Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement (Cllr Becker)

“Could I ask the Cabinet Member what measures are in place to ensure that there is the correct medical cover with regards to the Major Development Areas within our district to ensure that Winchester District residents receive the medical cover they deserve?”



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QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Pearson

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Learney)

“I note with interest the emerging changes in collection of Waste, and for Recycling. However the presentation by the ‘Lead - Environmental Services’ while detailing information in the recent Environment Act fails to say where, once divided into one of the several bins, the ‘food waste is destined to be sent, and the means of transport: Do we have an ‘anaerobic digester/s’ as possible destination/s? If not, does Project Integra plan on building any - or do we (I note that the Government has announced capital grants)? What are the possible locations of these ‘anaerobic digesters’?”



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QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Lee (2)

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing (Cllr Westwood)

“My questions relate to the unanswered question I raised at the recent Housing Committee, namely:

- Carbon/energy build and retrofit standards. We seem to have a myriad of standards - AECB CarbonLite Building Standard, Passivhaus Plus and Passivhaus/AECB etc. (AECB = Association for Environment Conscious Building).
 - *Can we clarify what standards our housing is actually built/retrofitted to, and the level of accreditation achieved. These are quite different standards for cost savings and climate impacts!*
- Register of total Carbon/energy savings. Where do we record the total Carbon/energy savings for all our new homes and those retrofitted to a higher carbon/energy efficiency standard? If done, how, and where are these recorded and published?
- Online database of case studies and successes. Can our housing upgrades be added to the ‘Low Energy Buildings Database’ – an excellent education and dissemination tool to celebrate and share our achievements and best practise.

As Full Council only allows me one question, I have highlighted the questions of concern above for fellow Councillors information which I request are answered separately to us all.

My single Full Council question is based on the low housing score we achieved in the UK Climate Emergency Action Scorecard - question 1.9 under ‘Buildings and Heat.’

Can the Council provide a service to showcase our recently retrofitted and/or Passivhaus homes to the public, with a show home programme including case study achievements in an online portal, such as, for example in the ‘Low Energy Buildings Database’ – an excellent education and dissemination tool.

If it helps in answering my question. I believe there may be external organisations such as WinACC or similar who could support WCC with volunteers to show/explain said properties to members of the public.”