



COUNCIL MEETING – 27 February 2025

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 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 Councillor, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original reply.
- 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	Alex Harman
2	Dr Catherine Phipps
3	Phoebe Nunn



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City Council

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QUESTION 1

From: Alex Harman

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

This year will be the first year we will exceed the 1.5 degrees global temperature increase, a limit set by the Paris agreement. This is not a political target, this is a physical limit of the planet. Given that our food system is a leading driver of the climate crisis, and recognizing the urgent need for action to stabilize our climate, will Winchester City Council endorse the Plant Based Treaty?

Furthermore, acknowledging the importance of transparency and education, will the council commit to actively communicating with the public about the environmental and health consequences of animal agriculture, empowering residents, including children and future generations, to make informed choices? Finally, to demonstrate a true commitment to reducing carbon emissions, will the council integrate the principles of the Plant Based Treaty into its existing Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, specifically exploring local implementations that prioritise increasing access to plant-based foods and raising awareness about the devastating impact of animal agriculture, thereby supporting a just transition to a more sustainable food system?

Reply



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QUESTION 2

From: Dr Catherine Phipps

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Winchester City Council has declared a climate emergency and have also identified animal agriculture as a driver of carbon emissions. Given that even if all fossil fuel production ceased today, food system emissions alone would still push us beyond the 1.5°C and 2°C Paris Agreement targets, and considering that food accounts for a third of all greenhouse gas emissions, with meat and dairy consumption being the largest contributors (and a recent analysis showing UK food emissions could be cut by 75% with plant-based diets), doesn't it make sense for Winchester City Council to prioritize addressing this crucial aspect of the climate crisis?

The IPCC has stressed the urgent need to transform our food system from an emissions source to a carbon sink. Cities and councils are vital in driving climate solutions, and local actions can have a significant national impact. Following the lead of cities like Amsterdam and Edinburgh, which have endorsed the Plant Based Treaty and implemented impactful changes like increasing plant-based options in public institutions and schools, including dedicated "Earth Days" with 100% plant-based menus, will Winchester City Council endorse the Plant Based Treaty, joining a growing global movement for positive environmental change and demonstrating our commitment to a sustainable future?

Reply



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QUESTION 3

From: Phoebe Nunn

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Recognizing the significant health implications associated with diets high in processed meats, classified as carcinogenic by the WHO, and considering the Plant Based Treaty's call for honest food labeling, including cancer warning labels on processed meats, what steps will the council take to promote transparency in food labelling within our community? Beyond simply informing consumers, how can the council leverage this information to support a shift towards healthier, plant-based diets, aligning with the treaty's emphasis on public health and preventative care? Will the council endorse the Plant Based Treaty as a commitment to prioritizing the well-being of our residents alongside environmental sustainability?

Reply