



## COUNCIL MEETING – 27 February 2025

### 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	Tippett-Cooper
3	Horrill
4	Lee
5	Brook
6	Godfrey
7	Langford-Smith
8	Warwick



**Winchester**  
City Council

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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 19.1**

**QUESTION 1**

From: Councillor Bolton

To: Councillor Thompson (Cabinet Member for Business and Culture)

Given the latest concerning economic outlook for businesses in Winchester.  
What is the administration specifically doing to counter the headwinds in order  
to stimulate growth?

Reply



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**QUESTION 2**

From: Councillor Tippet-Cooper

To: Councillor Becker (Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement)

The new River Park Pavilion announced recently by Winchester City Council will see a brilliant new sports and community facility in River Park, how are things progressing with this new project?

Reply



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**QUESTION 3**

From: Councillor Horrill

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

Can the portfolio holder please confirm that Winchester City Council is still committed to defending the draft local plan (2040) that has been submitted to the Inspector for approval this spring, when we are being swamped by developers who believe that they should have their site included?

Reply



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#### QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Lee

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

#### **Increase in risks to Climate and Nature**

Rising temperatures and biodiversity loss threaten community well-being and sustainable economic growth. We must continue to try and overcome bureaucracy, resource constraints, and weak government direction for **Climate and Nature Actions**, especially as Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation risk stalling/stopping vital initiatives. The absence of a National Climate and Nature Bill further delays coordinated action.

#### **Key urgent actions:**

- Urge Government to strengthen climate and nature mandates in the Devolution White Paper. Otherwise, Strategic Combined Authorities (SCA) will lack the mandate, resources, and accountability necessary to drive climate & nature actions effectively<sup>1</sup>.
- Provide suggested guidance for members and the public to enhance responses to the Hampshire/Solent devolution consultation.
- Consider improvements for cross-portfolio coordination within WCC to enhance actions on these interlinked crises as part of the new Council Plan.
- Establish an early interim Climate and Nature strategy and action plan with new Unitary partners, when known, to minimise delays of inaction during the reorganising transition. These plans can then be reverse engineered, where possible, into the emerging SCA framework Strategies.

Will the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency consider these proposals?

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<sup>1</sup> [www.seclimatealliance.uk/making-devolution-work/](http://www.seclimatealliance.uk/making-devolution-work/)



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**QUESTION 5**

From: Councillor Brook

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

Within the new enforcement plan, currently out for consultation, the communication section clearly states it could be weeks or months between key stages and therefore updates.

The enforcement team have a reputation for leaving cases long enough that they become not expedient to pursue and criticised for their inaction. Communication of the actions behind the scenes is critical for complainants and ensuring they are aware the case has not just been dropped or ignored.

How does this plan intend to change perception and make enforcement more effective?

Reply



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**QUESTION 6**

From: Councillor Godfrey

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Can the Portfolio Holder tell me how much Council money will be spent this financial year to help improve the energy efficiency of the homes of residents of property owned by the Council, by Housing Associations and privately?

Reply



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**QUESTION 7**

From: Councillor Langford-Smith

To: Councillor Tod (Leader and Cabinet Member for Asset Management)

Can the Administration give their views on the position of large Parish Councils on the reform within the Local Government Reorganisation?

Reply





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**QUESTION 8**

From: Councillor Warwick

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

I understand that plans to develop a 6000-home new town at Micheldever have been submitted to government this week. Will this proposal also be considered by the City Council within our next local plan process?

Reply

