



COUNCIL MEETING – 9th July 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	Warwick
2	Murphy
3	Horrill
4	Laming
5	Lee
6	Williams
7	Godfrey
8	Latham
9	Cunningham
10	Lee (2)
11	Laming (2)
12	Godfrey (2)
13	Lee (3)



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Question under Council Procedure Rule 19.1

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Warwick

To: Councillor Cramoysan (Cabinet Member for Recycling & Public Protection)

How many vehicles are licensed under the WCC Taxi (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) and how many of these are ultra-low emission vehicles?



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QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Murphy

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

This year we are celebrating 250 years since the birth of Jane Austen and are experiencing increased numbers of visitors in our City and district. While anyone living here will be aware of tourists being attracted to our District, both from within the UK and from abroad, the size of the contribution to our communities is much less visible. Can the Cabinet member tell us how tourism contributes to the local economy and the role it plays across our district?



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QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Horrill

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

On the 16th of April I sent an email to the portfolio holder for the Local Plan raising several questions about the Micheldever New Town. This email was never answered.

Can I therefore ask the portfolio holder to address the question I raised about the administration's position regarding the Popham proposal in the Reg 18 local plan consultation in Basingstoke & Deane.



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QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Laming

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

While we are all pleased to see that the council is strengthening the Enforcement team, and enabling them to take actions as necessary, my residents are very concerned with cases whose resolutions have been long overdue.

One case, in particular, has been ongoing for twelve years. It concerns a building which was started without planning permission as it had lapsed. Since then we have had three retrospective applications which were all refused: and three inspectors' reports, each of which have upheld the council's position, but no outcome has yet been achieved.

Twelve months ago we had a meeting with all of the ward councillors, yourself and a senior officer, where we asked that the Council have a plan in place should the owner not comply with the inspector's report. This should have happened in November.

Here we are eight months later and, as yet, there has been no action to resolve the problem.

Our residents need an outcome. They are left with a building about which it has been said that it is better suited to an airfield than a residential road. No fewer than three inspectors concur with that statement.



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QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Lee

To: Councillor Tod (Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration)

Winchester City Council is one of 12 councils working on proposals for new Unitary Authorities. Residents are now being asked for feedback through an online survey and drop-in sessions. However, the questions on priorities are limited and neither residents nor councillors have been shown the data that underpins the three options.

Will the data that underpins the proposed options be made available to residents and councillors?



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QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Williams

To: Councillor Becker (Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities)

Can the Cabinet Member please update residents and myself on the progress of refurbishing the public toilets in Bishop's Waltham?



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QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Godfrey

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate & Nature Emergency)

I am increasingly concerned by the mounting pressure on local businesses of multiple cost increases on top of the underlying cash flow pressures associated with falling consumer confidence - down 5.4% last month. Local businesses are feeling the pressure with rising National Insurance costs, reduced business rates relief along with a 4% decrease in footfall in Winchester over Q1 compared to last year, in contrast to a national rise in footfall of 2% over the same period.

The Q1 BID report specifically refers to parking being an issue and suggests extension to park and ride capacity. This administration could and should relax early evening parking charges and increase the park and ride capacity - two things squarely in their power to protect Winchester's economy. Will you act now before it's too late?



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QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Latham

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate & Nature Emergency)

I offer my congratulations to the Portfolio Holder, and indeed the entire Council, for the recent announcement by Climate Emergency UK that Winchester City Council is the best performing District Council in the country for action on climate change.

Drilling into the details though, whilst we receive the highest marks in the 'Buildings & Heating' and 'Planning & Land Use' categories, our lowest score - and in fact the only category where we score below the national average - is for 'Waste Reduction & Food'. In the interest of continuing with our goal to Go Greener, Faster can I ask what we will be doing to improve our score still further in this category?



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QUESTION 9

From: Councillor Cunningham

To: Councillors Tod (Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration) and Becker (Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities)

In recent presentations on Station Approach and River Park Leisure Centre there has been little or no regard to the fact that these are assets of the entire Winchester district.

It seems that the consultations on both do not seem to mention getting value for money for the whole district from these sites.

Like all consultations you only get answers to the questions that are asked. How are the views of the whole district being taken into account in these consultations?



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QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Lee

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate & Nature Emergency)

There appears to be no comprehensive assessment of the carbon, biodiversity, or wider sustainability considerations and impacts in the Local Government Reorganisation options. Relying on general Net Zero or Nature duties/impacts later is not enough, as it will be too late to influence the structural choices now being made.

Will the Council press for a full environmental impact assessment of the options before any final option is chosen, to ensure climate, nature and sustainability concerns properly shape the critical decision?



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QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Laming

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

Hampshire County Council (HCC) have recently sent out a consultation about the Oliver's Battery Primary School catchment area. It is stated that HCC is looking to extend it because of the likely increase in demand as a result of proposed development in the area. This proposed development mentioned is not included as an allocation within the local plan. Is the Cabinet member aware of this and would she be able to challenge HCC's basis for the consultation?



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QUESTION 12

From: Councillor Godfrey

To: Councillor Learney (Cabinet Member for Climate and Nature Emergency)

What steps have been taken to ensure that all solar panels, battery storage and associated infrastructure for installation on council properties are supplied from ethical sources?



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QUESTION 13

From: Councillor Lee

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

Council inspectors and private Approved Inspectors both certify building work, but Council inspectors are valued for their local knowledge, which usefully supports our residents, small builders, and our environmental standards. Local builders have raised concerns to me that non-reputable builders bypass standards, risking poor-quality and unsustainable construction.

What is the breakdown of building projects in the District using Council inspectors versus private Approved Inspectors, the problems identified with private inspections, and type/number of remediation actions Council has taken to uphold standards, support reputable builders and residents in delivering high-quality, sustainable construction?