



# Winchester

City Council

## COUNCIL MEETING – 24<sup>th</sup> September 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 | Godfrey    |
| 3 | Horrill    |
| 4 | Brook      |
| 5 | Cunningham |
| 6 | Miller     |
| 7 | Lee        |
| 8 | Godfrey    |



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**Question under Council Procedure Rule 19.1**

**QUESTION 1**

From: Councillor Bolton

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

The business case asserts that contract savings of around £25m per annum will be made across a variety of services including Waste, Highways etc. Please explain the basis of this assumption and can you provide detailed figures to back this up?



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**QUESTION 2**

From: Councillor Godfrey

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

What social care cost savings are forecast to be delivered by each new council given that the number of adult and children's service users remains the same and there will be 5 of each service rather than the current four?



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**QUESTION 3**

From: Councillor Horrill

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

In the recommended proposal from the administration the right sizing of the new organisation is a key driver of cost savings, indicated to be circa £32m. How many staff from which Councils and from which functions will these savings be delivered? Which Council services will no longer be delivered in the new unitary?



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**QUESTION 4**

From: Councillor Brook

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

How will £5.3m-£7.2m of IT system cost savings be delivered if the number of major service directorates will be 5 of each service rather than four? The number of IT licences would increase and in order to meet SLAs, the number of staff would need to increase, particularly as some councils have already made cost savings by sharing IT departments.



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**QUESTION 5**

From: Councillor Cunningham

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

With the waste collection arrangements in TVBC (in-house and cheaper), WCC (outsourced) and EHBC (shared ALMO). What detailed assumptions are made about delivery of savings of waste collection when the methods are so different?



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**QUESTION 6**

From: Councillor Miller

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

The report mentions implementation Costs of £128m-£155m are predicted over 6 years. Which Councils will provide this funding and how is it going to fall?

The contract savings are predicted to be £24m-33m pa savings. Which contracts will provide these savings and how is this broken down by Council? As there will be 5 Highway contracts in future rather than the current 4, can there be savings of consolidation.



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**QUESTION 7**

From: Councillor Lee

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

It is understood a risk register wasn't mandated by the Government. However, there are many concerns that the options appraisal focuses too heavily on financial modelling. But past LGRs show many other important issues/risks were not considered leading to future problems both financial and non-financial. Without a published risk table, it is difficult to get an overview of what was fully considered in determining the options by the 12 councils, their Officers and consultants. Can you explain how risks were captured, what they were, how they were assessed for determining the options before us tonight and what may have been missed?

Please consider the following plus any other missing key risks : Missing criteria set by government e.g., Carbon emissions and wider environment impacts, Incomplete assumptions, Evidence realism with comparators, Disaggregation frictions, Cultural resistance & legitimacy, Children's & adults' demand pressures, Multiple legacy systems & data quality, Transformation capacity, Procurement/contract management complexity and under-capacity, Audit & accounts backlogs, Estate rationalisation, HR/union agreement difficulties, Councillor workload and member-to-parish support ratios, Environment & nature/geography compaction, resilience during contingencies for – environmental and health (e.g., pandemics etc.) and Service hub locations and Neighbourhood/democratic governance guarantees.





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**QUESTION 8**

From: Councillor Godfrey

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

What assumptions have been made for forecasting the cost to each council of providing Home To School Transport after reorganisation, given that the majority of the current £75m pa paid by HCC is required by students in the 4 main rural districts, so impacting primarily on the finances of the Mid-Hants unitary under all three options?

