

Parish Council AGM report 2017

Victoria Weston Deputy Leader and Portfolio for Built Environment

How can we protect the City Council services

Fact:

- *The grants Winchester City Council receives from central Government stop next year.*
- Winchester City Council will lose another £1.4m of its annual funding in the next year, with all grant-funding ending after that.
- The City Council has lost £2m in funding over the past four years, with a further £1.5m of reductions expected by 2020
- The Council has to become self-sufficient in generating funds to ensure that service levels are maintained.

• **So we looking at:**

- • Doing things better (transformation savings)
- • Finding new ways of generating income (income strategy)
- • Using its assets to gain better returns (asset management plan)
- • Sharing in wealth created by a vibrant economy (growing the local economy)

The Council takes a more entrepreneurial shape

Launching an open-market shared ownership scheme and to create a strategic acquisition strategy.

Under the shared ownership scheme, the City Council will support local residents by providing equity to buy a property in the district for those who do not have the substantial deposit required for a house. Through charging a rent on the deposit element the Council will ensure a good financial return for the local taxpayer while ensuring that the Council's

investment is supporting the local area. The household will normally own 70% of the property with the Council owning a 30% share. The household could buy the Council out of its share in the future.

Acquisition strategy will see up to £15m invested in property by Winchester City Council to produce rental income that supports services for local residents and compensates for loss of Government grant.

The property investments will have an expected rate of return of 5-6% as part of its new strategy over the next three years.

Council's new Strategy

We have a new and aspirational Council Strategy based around five core outcomes, and supported by five new principles to deliver the Strategy, and which sets out a clear direction for the Council in the medium-term.

The outcomes are:

- Delivering an entrepreneurial approach to efficient public services
- Winchester District will be a premier business location
- Delivery quality housing options
- Improve the health and happiness of our community
- Improving the quality of the District's environment

Reflecting the aspirations for our residents, businesses and staff, this Strategy sets out our desire to provide greater focus on delivering quality public services over what we know will be a challenging three-year period. Careful consideration has been given to the views expressed during the consultation period and changes were made as a result of the consultation. This will be a 'living document' using feedback and ideas generated to help shape our work in the future.

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Changes ahead for parking in Winchester

Increased park-and-ride, dedicated spaces for ultra low-emission vehicles, use of new technology and differential pricing will be part of Winchester's future approach to parking following Cabinet's approval of an updated strategy. Parking charges in the city to increase the difference in price between city centre car parks and those further out, while freezing prices of park-and-ride tickets to encourage drivers to use the car parks most suited to their visit. The aim is for people making longer visits to park outside the centre. There has been no change to our rural market towns charges. For more information on the car parks in Winchester use the following link <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/parking/council-car-parks/>

Community Safety

Partnership approach is helping to keep communities across the Winchester district safe. Winchester City Council's Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services Team works side-by-side with the police, Council teams and others as part of the Community Safety Partnership to deliver a range of actions that reduce crime and disorder.

An annual review of the service highlights key achievements including:

- Supporting an immigration operation which led to an individual being detained
- Securing a closure order against a tenant for allowing premises to be used for drug-dealing
- Responding to anti-social behaviour in hotspot locations
- Taking part in a joint operation to engage with rough sleepers
- Using dispersal orders to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour
- Undertaking regular checks on

countryside areas

- Serving removal notices on illegal encampments
- Dealing with more than 160 abandoned vehicles and bicycles
- Investigating 35 fly-tipping cases
- Organising community, school and student activities

Recent Fly-tipping: Successful prosecutions.

Kilmeston Manor, Alresford. Builder convicted of dumping several caravans full of builders waste in various locations around Kilmeston and Cheriton, following renovations at Manor house. Fines and costs total £3,250.

Cott Street, Droxford. Builders waste found on bridle path across field. Local building company fined. Total fine and costs £3922.

Cott Street, Droxford. Large amount of uPVC windows, doors and frames. Double glazing company fined. Total fine £1,700

Chillandham Lane, Itchen Abbas. uPVC windows, doors and frames and some household items found on service road behind M3. Company Director and his business fined for dumping commercial waste as well as own personal waste. Total fines and costs £5,400.

Farm land in Shedfield and Southwick, and road side Netherhill Lane, Durley. House clearance type waste found in very large quantities. Male running house clearance type business fined. Total fines and costs £2,952.

Durley, Wickham, Bishops Waltham and Hambledon. Prolific fly tipper prosecuted by WCC, Gosport, Fareham and Portsmouth councils. 12 month custodial sentence and 5 year Criminal Behaviour Order.

We have 2 court cases pending and 3 current investigations that could lead to further prosecutions.

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Analysis by “The News” information from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs’s 2015/16 figures show: **Portsmouth** saw 1,099 incidents with a clear-up cost of £48,993 and £72,402 to enforce.

Havant had 1,130 incidents, costing £44,407 to remove and £39,270 to enforce. **Fareham** saw 325 incidents, which cost £20,007 to clear up and £11,748 in enforcement cost.

Gosport had 500 with £24,995 and £12,639. **East Hampshire** District Council had 509 incidents and spent £67,945 on the clear-up but just £132 on enforcement. **Winchester City Council** had 746 incidents, with £89,556 spent on clear-up and £1,023 on enforcement.

The figures also showed there were 62 ‘significant’ incidents, with multiple loads of rubbish dumped. Asbestos was found in 11 cases of the 4,309. Highways and council land were targeted the most, with 2,062 and 1,518 incidents respectively. Between the six councils, more than 1,100 warning letters were issued to suspected fly-tippers.

Our local support for a cleaner village. The National Great British Spring Clean event was supported by a handful of residents and I would like to thank everyone that took part and also all those very committed to litter picking during the year. The campaign has one simple ambition to bring together people from across the country to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and coastline. At Winchester City Council we work in partnership with our Street Cleansing contractor Id Verde to support this event. Litter pickers and bags were supplied and arrangements made for the collection of the rubbish sacks following the litter pick.

Planning and Local Plan

This has been found sound by the inspector and will be going to Full Council to be adopted in April. Winchester can demonstrate a 5-year land supply and having a sound plan is very important in shaping the development and where it will be in our district. Therefore all our major development sites have been allocated with only smaller infill and windfall sites that can come forward. We have a set of detailed development management policies that set out standards and principles against which planning applications can be assessed. We are working on the **Preparation of Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan** to sit alongside our local plan.

We are currently refreshing our **Statement of Community Involvement**. This sets out how the Council will inform and consult on both the plan making process and planning applications. The survey will be open on the City Council’s website from 9th March - 24th April 2017 and can be accessed via the following link: <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/policy-and-planning/sci-update/>

Winchester responding to Government housing plans

With over 200 Council homes delivered or under construction since its programme began three years ago, the City Council is now determined to build a further 300 homes by 2020. Winchester is in the upper quartile for housing growth in 2017/18 compared to other Districts. We have delivered 421 new homes April 2015- March 2016 for our district. One of the district’s largest affordable housing schemes has reached a key milestone - a ‘topping out’ ceremony at Chesil Lodge, the new Extra Care scheme for older people in Winchester. Extra-care

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housing consists of groups of individual houses or flats with communal facilities that allow residents to retain independence whilst having access to 24-hour care. The majority of the flats in Chesil Lodge will be for rent from the City Council with some shared ownership and open market flats also available. *With over 2,000 households on the Council's waiting list, we simply cannot build affordable homes quickly enough. With prices so high in this area, younger residents have little prospect of owning their home.*

We welcome announcements from the Government regarding house-building, which support the Council's aspiration to do all we can to help those residents in the district struggling to afford housing. Forest Glade, Heath Road, our exception site for affordable housing is now complete and nearly all occupied with families with a local connection.

West of Waterlooville MDA Development Update

As of December 2016 there were approximately 700 homes occupied on the development. The Council does not know when development of all 3,000 houses for the West of Waterlooville MDA will be completed as this will depend on housing market conditions. At current build rates it is anticipated that construction will continue beyond 2030.

Gold Standard award for local homelessness services.

Winchester City Council has become the first council in Hampshire and only the fifth in England to receive the Government's prestigious 'Gold Standard' award in recognition of its work in preventing and tackling all forms of homelessness. Winchester City Council Housing Service has

demonstrated that early intervention is a cost-effective way of preventing homelessness, which is a key priority for the Council and it also shows that Winchester City Council provides a fit-for-purpose front-line housing service in collaboration with its key stakeholders.

Car Club Opportunity In a bid to help employees and residents in the city centre make better transport choices, and also reduce air pollution in the air quality monitoring zone, a car club is being planned. Winchester City Council is inviting car club operators to bid for the chance to start a scheme in Winchester. Details of how to apply are available at <http://bit.ly/2kMAXje>

Signed-up members to the car club will have the chance to hire a car on an hourly basis for local, short journeys. This can be especially useful for business people who need to attend meetings away from their base, without needing to pay for a pool car that is infrequently used.

The car club specification calls on operators to make use of ultra low-emission vehicles to further help the positive environmental impacts of the scheme. They can make use of some of Winchester's existing and planned electric car charging bays across the city. Check online at <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/parking/vehicle-parking/> for more information about electric bay locations.

Anyone can sign up to a car club scheme, and Winchester City Council is especially keen to work with the business community to make it fit for employees to use, and reduce reliance on privately owned cars to commute to work. The key to success will be working with partners such as Winchester BID to liaise with the business community. Bids to run a car club in Winchester should be

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submitted by 29 March 2017, with details available online at <http://bit.ly/2kMAXje> For more information contact Kate Cloud, Head of Economy and Arts at kcloud@winchester.gov.uk or telephone 01962 848 563.

Central Winchester Regeneration

The first stage of the Central Winchester Regeneration project is to develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to act as a new planning brief for the area of Silver Hill and its environs. The SPD will have the benefit of a formal status in the local planning system. An Informal Policy Group (IPG) has been established to develop the SPD, which will then be considered by Cabinet for adoption.

The SPD will set out the type and layout of land uses that could be built on the site and will help to ensure that the development is fit for the future and will rejuvenate such a prominent part of the City.

Community Planning Event

www.centralwinchesterregen.co.uk

Kicks off this week with the community planning event Friday 24 March, 1.45pm - 5.00pm & Saturday 25 March 2017, 10.45am – 4.00pm.

Venue: Guildhall, Winchester

The local community is invited to the Central Winchester Regeneration Community Planning Weekend to help create a Vision for the future of this prominent part of the city. Winchester City Council (WCC) is seeking the comprehensive mixed use redevelopment of this area to bring real benefits to local people and create a positive legacy for the city. We want your help to create a Vision for Central Winchester at the Community Planning Weekend.

What will happen at the Community Planning Weekend? See the flyers available or contact Vicki Weston.

The Station Approach Regeneration

The Council wants to improve and revitalise the area of Winchester between the railway station and the Cattle Market, an area that is referred to as Station Approach. Our long-term vision for the sustainable development of the town's economy aims to make the best use of key sites for sustainable development, and this project is part of this vision.

The Scheme has a clear purpose, which is to ensure that Winchester remains a vibrant centre not just for tourism and heritage but also of employment and service delivery for its residents. We are discussing the provision of new grade-A office space, enhancements of the public realm and public transport facilities in the station area, improved pedestrian, cyclist and traffic flows through the site, location of parking provision and providing new homes all this with a rental income and/or a capital receipt for the City Council. We are beginning a procurement process supported by RIBA Competitions office. For more details and reports check out the Major Projects web site

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/projects/project/7>

The Replacement of the Leisure Centre

River Park Leisure Centre is now more than 40 years old and its ability to meet the needs of a growing population in Winchester is limited. The City Council has looked at various options for replacing or refurbishing it and has commissioned work from external consultants to test the various options. In September 2015, having looked at the cost and practicality of these

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various options, the Council agreed that the preferred option, if it is affordable and deliverable, would be a new leisure centre built at Bar End. The Council purchased the Garrison Ground at Bar End in December 2016. This will secure the future of the Garrison Ground for community sport and leisure use and means that part of the site can be evaluated as an option for the location of the city's new sport and leisure centre.

The current estimates from consultants indicate that a new leisure centre at Bar End would cost in the region of £35 million. It would take approximately three years to design and build. For more details and reports check out the Major Projects web site <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/projects/project/6>

Your administration at Winchester City Council.

Cllr Caroline Horrill

Leader with Portfolio for Housing Services
With responsibility for Housing Services, New Homes Delivery and Corporate Communications.

Cllr Victoria Weston

Deputy Leader with Portfolio for Built Environment
With responsibility for Development Management; Strategic Planning; Historic Environment; Building Control

Cllr Stephen Miller

Portfolio for Estates
With responsibility for Estates and Community Grants

Cllr Guy Ashton

Portfolio for Professional Services
With responsibility for Organisational Development; Business Management; Legal & Democratic Services; IMT.

Cllr Stephen Godfrey

Portfolio for Finance
With responsibility for Financial Services; Revenues & Benefits.

Cllr Rob Humby

Portfolio for Business Partnership
With responsibility for Business Partnerships; Economy & Arts; Tourism

Cllr Jan Warwick

Portfolio for Environment
With responsibility for Environmental Health & Licensing; Environmental Contract; Street Care; Landscape & Open Spaces; Traffic, Transport & Engineering; Parking

Cllr Lisa Griffiths

Portfolio for Health & Wellbeing
With responsibility for Health & Wellbeing; Community Safety & Neighbourhood Services; Sports & Physical Activity

Committees that your District

Councillor Vicki Weston sits on are:

Cabinet, Cabinet Housing;
Cabinet Local Plan (Chair)
Cabinet Traffic and Parking (Deputy);
Central Winchester Regeneration (Chair); EHDC/WCC Joint Environmental Services Committee (Vice Chair); Independent Review Report of Silver Hill Informal Policy Group; River Hamble Management Committee;

Attend Planning Committee on a regular basis as well as various other meetings that include Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Town Forum, West of Waterlooville Forum, North Whitely Development Forum and numerous ward councillor driven meetings with officers relating to my Portfolio.

Contact Cllr Vicki Weston
vweston@winchester.gov.uk