

COUNCILLORS LINDA GEMMELL, FRANK PEARSON and VICKI WESTON REPORT

Your administration at Winchester City Council.

Councillor **Stephen Godfrey**

Leader Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Policy; Policy and Projects; Financial Services; Revenues and Benefits;

Councillor **Victoria Weston**

Deputy Leader Portfolio Holder for Built Environment: Development Management; Strategic Planning; Building Control; Historic Environment; Corporate Communications

Councillor **James Byrnes**

Portfolio Holder for Transport & Professional Services Traffic Transport & Engineering; Parking; Organisational Development; Business management; Legal Services & Democratic Services; IMT.

Councillor **Caroline Horrill**

Portfolio Holder for Housing Services: Housing Services; New Homes Delivery

Councillor **Steve Miller**

Portfolio Holder for Estates: Estates Economy & Arts; Tourism; Community Grants.

Councillor **Frank Pearson**

Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Wellbeing: Environmental Health, Licensing; Environment Contract; Landscape, Open Spaces; Street Care; Health, Wellbeing; Community Safety, Neighbourhood Services; Sport.

Councillor **Rob Humby** Portfolio for Business Partnerships & Policy Co-ordination. Policy co-ordination; Business Partnerships.

Devolution

Currently there are three concepts on the table for devolution for Hampshire.

We started with an initial proposal for a combined Hampshire authority, which included all the district councils, national parks and police and fire departments, however this failed as many authority leaders did not want an elected mayor for the whole of Hampshire. This then led to the Solent Deal being formed which did not include Winchester and so the Heart of Winchester Deal is being developed with Winchester, Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, New Forest, Rushmore and Test Valley alongside the two National Parks. However last week the County Council announced that they are proposing a new Unitary structure for local government for the whole of Hampshire. Winchester City Council will be launching a public

consultation for all residents to help map out the route local government should take. For more details check out website:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/about/devolution/>

Feet First Campaign

The aim of Feet First, the City Council's corporate campaign, is to promote walking as the norm for short journeys or as part of a longer journey. Feet First aims to provide information, signage, leaflets etc to maximise potential for walking. If you already have an organised walk in your local area and would like help promoting it or would like to get involved or find out more about the Feet First campaign, email NLawrence@winchester.gov.uk

Change of Winchester City Councils Chief Operation Officer.

Stephen Whetnall, Chief Operating Officer, retired from the Council after a long and loyal service for over 27 years. Howard Bone, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, has taken over the role as Returning Officer for Winchester City Council's elections.

Grants

The grants are available as part of Defra's Rural Development Programme for England and LEADER is the method of delivering funding to projects through Local Action Groups, ensuring that individuals with local knowledge are involved in key decisions about how funds are spent. Further details about Fieldfare LEADER can be found at www.Fieldfareleader.org.uk For more information please contact Ken Brown on 01962 848 588 kbrown@winchester.gov.uk

Joseph Holmes has been appointed as Corporate Director (Professional Services) for Winchester City Council. He is due to start in late July 2016.

Mobile Libraries

No static libraries will close but as from the end of June 2016 the mobile library service will be replaced by a Home Library Service, delivered by volunteers for those customers who are unable to access a static library. If you can't get to a library because of ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities, then the Home Library Service will come to you! The service is free and you can find out how to apply by visiting www.hants.gov.uk/home-library-service or free telephone call 0300 555 139

CABINET ANNOUNCEMENTS 19th May 2016

City Council continues to provide excellent customer service

Following an independent inspection Winchester City Council has retained its status as an organisation which meets the national standard for customer service excellence.

The City Council received its full three-year accreditation in 2015, which was the second time for the Council as a whole.

This year, 2016, marks the first ‘annual compliance’ check. The assessor recognised that the Council exceeds the standard in some areas by awarding three additional categories known as ‘compliance plus’

The assessor confirmed that the Council meets the national customer service excellence standard and awarded three ‘compliance plus’ categories. The extra awards showed:

- There is corporate commitment to putting the customer at the heart of service delivery and leaders in the organisation actively support this and advocate for customers
- The Council uses customer insight to inform policy and strategy and to prioritise service improvement activity
- The Council encourages and empowers all employees to actively promote and participate in the customer-focused culture of the organisation.

External endorsement for Council’s project management approach

Following on from the Informal Policy Group that was set up to look at the recommendations from the Independent Review into Silverhill, Winchester City Council has received the final report of the second Local Partnerships review which assessed our approach to project management. Local Partnerships was invited to conduct a follow-up visit to their review in 2015 to assess whether the Council had delivered its earlier recommendations and to review whether the Council had the right skills and capacity to run major projects.

The independent team has found that “good progress has been made against all of the recommendations in the last review” and that “many of those interviewed stated that project and programme management had become much more central to the Council and the review team noted a

much stronger sense that the disciplines were a part of the culture - ‘the way things are done around here’.”

Mostly importantly, the report states that “In summary, the current professional skills and experience available within Winchester City Council seem appropriate for the size of organisation and appropriate external skills are brought in when required.

The report gives suggestions as to how we can further improve the way we run our programme of major projects, including continuing to provide clear communication of project milestones and publicising successful delivery of projects across the whole Council. “

Stanmore ‘houses in multiple occupation’ – new rules

New rules come into force this month which mean planning permission is needed to change properties in Stanmore to ‘houses in multiple occupation’ (HMOs).

The aim of the policy is to limit overall numbers and concentration of HMOs in this part of Winchester in the interests of maintaining a balanced mix of residential accommodation.

The policy and Article 4 direction was introduced in response to local concern that the number of HMOs in Stanmore was increasing and reaching a point where it was affecting the stock and availability of family accommodation.

Station Approach

The Council held a successful display of the two entries to the Station Approach Design Competition last week. Submissions from Design Engine and Hopkins were anonymously exhibited all week and approximately 500 visitors attended. Although this was not a consultation (a full consultation will follow once a contract is awarded), visitors left comments on the schemes to be passed to the Leader and Cabinet colleagues to understand the public’s view on the proposals for the type of development the Council is proposing and also on the submissions that were assessed by Officers and the Design Jury. Many visitors chose to leave comments or talk to Officers manning the display. I am pleased that so many people took time to view the designs and provide useful feedback on aspects of the project as a whole that we need to consider with the highest scoring

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scheme going forward, such as how it will relate to traffic at the Carfax junction and how the development will sit in relation to the heights of existing buildings. We welcome the airing of these issues as they flag up what needs to be dealt with as the project progresses to make sure that the development works for those living, visiting and working in and around the area.

As has been explained before – as this is a design competition, neither Cabinet nor the public are making a judgement on the design and viability of the two schemes **at this stage**. The scoring has been done by our respected and expert Jury on the design side, and by external cost consultants, valuers and senior Council Officers on the viability side. It is important that this process is followed correctly and is carefully considered and for that reason the highest scoring scheme will be presented in Cabinet in June rather than today. Having originally set aside three sessions for our Jury to consider the design of the scheme, it has transpired that further time needs to be allowed for the Jury to finalise their report.

Following a decision on awarding the contract at our next Cabinet meeting, Officers will hold a full public consultation on the highest scoring architect's design to develop a scheme that will be submitted for Planning in the early part of next year.

Chesil Street Multi Storey Car Park Carbon & Financial Savings

Electric consumption at Chesil Street multi storey car park has reduced with LED replacements. The Co2 saving that has been achieved to date (up to the end of February 2016) is 51 tonnes. Now that the upgrade is complete it is anticipated that 55 tonnes of Co2 will be saved each year.