

The Worthys City Councillors' Report to Parish Councils

October 2025

Inspector's letter marks positive step forward in Winchester's Local Plan

The independent Planning Inspector for the Winchester District Local Plan has published her initial findings following the recent examination hearings, marking an important milestone for the Plan and confirmation it can move to the next stage.

In the letter, the inspector indicates that the Plan is on track to passing the necessary steps for adoption, subject to some agreed amendments – known as main modifications. The Inspector has also confirmed the council's approach to dealing with unmet housing need – duty to cooperate - is sound.

An important part of the Plan for the Winchester district was the introduction of local energy efficiency standards that go beyond current or planned building regulations – part of the council's commitment to going greener faster, reducing carbon emissions and reducing energy bills for residents. The Inspector has also found, subject to the council's proposed modifications consistent with national policy, that the approach is justified and effective and therefore sound.

Leader of Winchester City Council, Cllr Martin Tod, says:

'I'm really pleased. At a time when other areas are facing the threat of unplanned developments on greenfield sites being given permission based on planning appeals, this update means the City Council remains in the best possible place to resist that. We wanted the highest possible environmental standards and protections, more affordable homes and to ensure that development in our area is properly planned - and this keeps us on track to deliver.'

Food waste recycling collections to start from this month

Households across Winchester will soon benefit from weekly food waste recycling collections as Winchester City Council begins to roll out the new service across the district. Starting from October 2025, the service will be launched in phases, with all households receiving a weekly collection by the end of March 2026.

Collecting food waste separately significantly reduces the amount of waste sent for incineration. Instead, it's taken to an anaerobic digestion plant where it will be converted into renewable energy and fertiliser for farms. The service is estimated to cut emissions by 1,900 tonnes of Carbon dioxide a year - or equivalent to driving 190 times around the world in a petrol car.

Collections will take place **weekly on residents' usual bin day** and households will receive everything they need to start recycling food waste up to three weeks before their collection starts, this includes:

A small grey kitchen caddy,

An outdoor bin with a locking handle

A starter roll of compostable caddy liners

Communal properties will be provided with shared outdoor wheelie bins

Many kitchen waste collection kits have already been delivered to households in the Worthy's, parts of which are included in the first stages of the roll-out.

Nine specialist food waste collection vehicles have been purchased, fuelled by hydrotreated vegetable oil instead of diesel. The new food waste recycling vehicles have arrived at the depot reducing carbon emissions by up to 94%.



Councillor Steve Cramoysan, Cabinet Member for Recycling and Public Protection said:

'We know that Winchester District residents are highly motivated to recycle their waste. A recent "Rethinking Recycling" survey showed that residents would welcome a household food waste recycling collection.'

'Most of us are really careful not to waste food, but some waste is unavoidable. For example, peelings, chicken or fish bones, coffee grounds or tea bags. This new service will enable our district to recycle food waste into energy, reducing carbon emissions and going greener faster, I encourage everyone to take part when their service starts.'

Residents will soon start receiving their bin calendars alongside a letter introducing food waste collections. They can find out when their food waste collections start on the council website at www.winchester.gov.uk/foodwaste

Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

26 September 2025

11 councils across Hampshire have today submitted a joint business case to Government proposing the creation of four new unitary authorities for mainland Hampshire. The submission, titled "Close enough to be local, big enough to stay strong", sets out a vision for modern, sustainable local government that delivers better services while staying rooted in local communities.

The proposal is backed by an overwhelming majority of councils in Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, Fareham, Hart, Havant, New Forest, Portsmouth*, Rushmoor, Southampton, Test Valley, and Winchester), representing more than three quarters of local authorities in the area.

Of the options in the joint proposal, Winchester has supported option 2, which includes a mid-Hampshire council comprising Winchester and its neighbours in Test Valley and East Hampshire.

You can read more here about the submission: [Majority of Hampshire Councils Unite Behind Plan for Local Government Reorganisation](#)

Cycling the 'Barton Line'

Jane Rutter joined members of Cycle Winchester, the Leader of the Council and two other local councillors, including Jackie Porter (who joined us on foot at two important junctions), this week to cycle along the 'Barton Line' – the newly connected safe cycling route from Andover Road through Kings Barton and Abbots Barton and into central Winchester at River Park.

We agreed several 'pinch points' and areas of concern, which we as Councillors have been keen to see addressed, such as the unfinished surface under the railway bridge, should be given extra priority to be fixed, to ensure that there are no barriers to the route being regularly used by local people to commute to school or work, and for leisure users.

Damage to some roads at Top Field

We have been alerted to damage caused by the development off Burnett Lane and alerted Officers who have met with Shorewood the contractor on site. They will be leaving site by end of October but will be addressing the following,

Before leaving the site Shorewood will:

1. Finish off the tie in of their access road with WCC's Burnet Lane as per the already agreed with WCC specification drawing.
2. Replace any broken tactile tiles that construction traffic has broken in pedestrian footpath crossings.
3. As a gesture of goodwill make good the kerb outside the resident's house.

It does look like this kerb drop is more down to the construction method than being damaged by a large vehicle.

4. Make good any damage to Burnet Road caused by construction traffic.

But this does not include the area of Burnet Lane where the water company has laid a trench for pipework. They have been in contact with the water company who have said that they will return to make good the sunken compacting under the road-blocks.

This is the area that the resident alleges Shorewood construction traffic have damaged. Officers will attend site towards end of September to assess progress by Shorewood.

Spaces of Sanctuary in the City of Sanctuary

Our Spaces of Sanctuary project at Winchester City Council is progressing well. We now have over 20 spaces signed up across the district which is great but we would like to encourage more, particularly outside of the city centre. We don't have any spaces in Kings Worthy and were wondering if you might be able to help suggest some.

Safe Spaces can be situated in various locations and venues, such as community centres, churches, doctors' surgeries, pubs, restaurants or even office buildings etc. The idea is to create a network of spaces that offers a variety of local options over as wide a timeframe as possible that people are able to access. More information about the project and a list of existing spaces is on our website here: [City and Spaces of Sanctuary - Winchester City Council](#).

We have lots of support for people offering spaces, including a new online training and a resource guide. So any help you could give with promoting this project would be much appreciated.

Jane Rutter, Steve Cramoysan and Jackie Porter

29th September 2025