

## Winchester City Council Report - February 2026

### Council to ask residents for views on future recycling

Winchester City Council is preparing for future changes in recycling and has released a survey asking for residents' views. The short survey will help the council understand residents' current knowledge about recycling and how much more they're likely to recycle in the future, when more options are available. At present, Winchester City Council is limited in what it can collect for recycling, due to the limited facilities that Hampshire County Council has to process materials. However, Hampshire County Council is building a new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) that will allow the city council to be able to collect a wider range of materials for recycling – such as plastic tubs, pots and trays. It is expected that this will be up and running in 2028. Winchester City Council would like to introduce this broader range of recycling options as soon as the facility is available in Hampshire. WCC is keen to hear from people living in all types of accommodation, including flats and shared housing, as well as from residents of all ages over 18. This feedback will help better understand both the opportunities and challenges of expanding recycling services.

Residents can complete the survey at [www.winchester.gov.uk/recycling-future](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/recycling-future) to provide their feedback on recycling across the Winchester district. The survey is available until midnight on Sunday 8 March.

### City Council's success with four separate fly-tipping offence prosecutions in single court day

This includes Calum Cole, 26 years-old and a resident of Chopin Road in Basingstoke, who was caught via CCTV surveillance fly-tipping a metal frame and broken glass in April 2025 at Port Lane in Hursley. He was sentenced to a fine of £900, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £360, prosecution costs of £500 and clear-up costs of £196, making a total to pay of £1,956.

Rather than pursuing FPNs, Winchester City Council is taking a zero tolerance approach to fly-tipping and will always look to prosecute whenever it is appropriate. In addition to the use of cameras, public reports are vital: Reports of fly-tipping can be made [via the council's website](#), via the Your Winchester app or by calling 0300 300 0013.

### Elections should go ahead - unanimous agreement

Winchester City Council's Leader, Councillor Martin Tod, has written to the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern MP, confirming that Winchester City Council does not support the postponement of Elections:

*Dear Minister,*

*Winchester City Council does not support postponement of the elections scheduled for May 7, 2026.*

*Further to your letter of 18 December 2025 regarding the elections scheduled for 7 May 2026, I am writing to confirm that Winchester City Council does not support the postponement of our local elections this May. We do not believe that we have any reason for postponement.*

*Indeed, we believe that elections should only be delayed in the most exceptional circumstances. To the best of our knowledge, in recent times, the City Council has only delayed elections during the two World Wars and during the pandemic. Winchester City Council held elections in 1972 despite the scheduled Local Government Reorganisation planned for 1974.*

*This Council also has absolute confidence in our officers' ability to deliver well-run elections for our residents, whether for county, city or parish, alongside the preparations for local government reorganisation – reinforcing our belief that there is no need for election delay.*

*The views I have expressed in this letter were unanimously endorsed by all councillors present at a Full Council meeting on January 14 on a cross-party basis.*

*Yours sincerely, Cllr Martin Tod Leader, Winchester City Council*

### Future development options for the former leisure centre site

Winchester City Council has shared further information about the next steps and potential future options for the former leisure centre site. Last year, the city council began an open process to find a partner to invest in

the site. Commercial Property Agents- Lambert Smith Hampton, were appointed to market the site and at this initial stage, 12 expressions of interest were received.

Winchester City Council committed to finding a new partner to invest in the site, on a long lease basis, as long as the following three conditions were met:

- The green space – whether park, sports or play area, tennis courts or access through the site - is wholly out of scope
- The public have a proper say during the process
- Provision of the skate park and indoor bowling must be absolutely protected

Residents will have the opportunity to read the updated project information and tell us what they think via our website:

[www.winchester.gov.uk/former-leisure-centre-site](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/former-leisure-centre-site)

### **Nominations open for Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards**

The search is on for individuals and organisations who have made a real difference in the Winchester district. Nominations for the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards are now open, offering an opportunity to recognise and celebrate those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others.

**The closing date for nominations is 15 February 2026.** The awards will take place on 12 March 2026 in Guildhall Winchester.

To nominate a person or organisation, you can find out more and complete the online form at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/councillors-committees/mayor-of-winchester/mayors-awards>

### **2026 District Small Grants application window**

The present round of applications to the District Small Grants scheme closed on 31 January. For any applications made by this deadline, monies are to be spent/allocated by end of March 2026.

To learn more and discover when future grants become available\* visit the WCC Grants webpage:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations>

(\*NB – the previous application window started in May 2025.)

### **CIL window now closed - Funding for community infrastructure projects**

The bidding window for applying for Community Infrastructure Levy funding is now closed.

To apply and to find out about some of the past projects that have received CIL funding, visit

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/apply-for-cil>