

## Council financial crisis deepens

The latest financial forecast from the Conservative City Council once again shows that the council's finances are spiraling out of control - with a predicted deficit of more than £7 million a year by 2023/24.

At the same time spending is set to increase by over £1.3 million a year for the next 2 years.

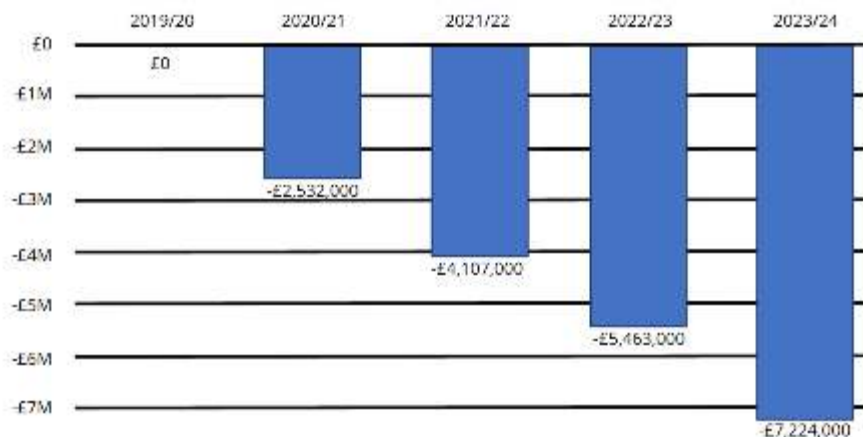
Local campaigner, Kim Gottlieb, commented "Despite repeated warnings from opposition councillors, the Conservatives have no long-term plan to close the gap in the council's finances."

## City advice surgeries

Liberal Democrats are committed to keeping their advice surgeries going every Saturday morning between 10am and noon in their office just off Hyde Street. Lynda says, "People really appreciate having the chance to come in and chat, and have someone listen to their issues and give them advice."

Look out for pop-up surgeries appearing elsewhere soon!

Winchester City Council's official Deficit forecast



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## Can your local Lib Dem team help?



Lynda Murphy  
City Councillor

[lynda.murphy@winld.org.uk](mailto:lynda.murphy@winld.org.uk)  
01962 854225



Kim Gottlieb  
Local Campaigner

[kim@gottemail.com](mailto:kim@gottemail.com)  
07831 232324



Dominic Hiscock  
County Councillor

[dominic.hiscock@hants.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.hiscock@hants.gov.uk)  
01962 860408

## Working for you all year round

Write to us at: FREEPOST WINLD, SO23 7TA

## ST MICHAEL FOCUS



Including Highcliffe, St Cross and the City Centre

## No deal on Glass Recycling

To borrow a phrase - Nothing has changed! Following pressure from the Lib Dems, the Conservative administration at the City Council has admitted that they still haven't signed a new waste collection contract for October. Doorstep glass collections are not guaranteed until the contract is signed.

Winchester Liberal Democrats have been campaigning for kerbside glass recycling for over seven years and were extremely disappointed when the Conservatives removed it from our last contract at the last minute. The council have now, finally, promised to include it in the new contract but still they are yet to sign it. As a responsible opposition we will continue to hold the conservatives to account to ensure they do not bottle it at the last minute like they did seven years ago!

## Join our campaign!

Share your photos of broken or inaccessible pavements on Instagram with the hashtag #atriptotheshops and tag @WinLD along with a description of where the photo was taken and we will map the problems



## £50 Parking Poll Tax

Conservative County Councillors have voted to hike the cost of the first City Council parking permit in a household to £50 - compared to £22 today. City and County Councillor Dominic Hiscock commented: "Council budgets are under real pressure, but there are much smarter options than this. The Conservatives are making big promises about council tax - and at the same time they're voting to hike up charges by much more than any possible tax increase."

## Kim Gottlieb: Liberal Democrat campaigner for St Michael's Ward

"I've had the privilege and pleasure of being the Winchester City Councillor representing Itchen Valley for the last 8 years, and Alresford since 2016. However, I've spent most of my time focused on issues located within St Michael including Silver Hill, Bar End sports centre, Chesil Lodge and the High Street. There's also Station Approach situated nearby. It therefore seemed to make sense for me to attempt to represent St Michael which contains much of the best of this wonderful city.

As I campaign over the next few weeks, I am hoping to learn much more about St Michael and to hear about individual concerns and personal issues which I will do what I can to address. If in the meantime there is anything you want me to know, please feel free to contact me at the email address on the back page"



## Street Level Wetlands

What you see (and sometimes feel), is the result of failing to properly maintain our street drainage.

We pay for maintained road gullies, but road safety for pedestrians and drivers is reduced because the gulleys are not regularly cleared of leaves and debris so that the water can subside.

We are campaigning to get what we pay for.

## Getting About - Walking & Cycling

There is good news for walkers and cyclists as Hampshire County Council is, at last, beginning to listen to the Lib Dems on making walking and cycling a better option around the city and the district. They are proposing a sub-programme committee. After years of pressure, we seem to be getting somewhere.



## 20's Plenty

20 sign,

After a winter break, neighbourhood speed watch will be restarting. Brave local volunteers are out in all weathers to remind people of the speed limits and the penalties for breaking them.

If you would like to join them, please contact Councillor Dominic Hiscock, using the details on the back of this Focus or at the Lib Dem office.

## Save our trees!

At the last full council meeting, Lynda was horrified to learn how many trees had been planted by Winchester City Council in the last two years: Even though 173 trees were felled in 2017 and 112 in 2018, only 18 trees were planted in 2017 and 2 in 2018!!!



Trees are an incredibly important component of our natural environment. As well as providing an invaluable habitat for wildlife, they reduce air pollution, store greenhouse gases and promote mental well-being.

Contact Lynda if **you** would like to help save our trees.



## Leisure Centre

"I share the view of many local residents that it would be great to have a spanking new and enlarged Leisure Centre but it has to be functionally right and commercially viable to succeed.

I have had discussions recently about the Full Business Case which I see as having some serious flaws. I still have concerns over the facility mix, the apparently high cost compared to similar centres, the high carbon footprint, and the project management, costing and contract..", says Kim.

## Plastic Power

Lynda was invited to the House of Lords in December to explain what she is doing to help our district reduce its single-use plastic and to say what she thought Westminster should be doing to help. Baroness Parminter later praised Lynda and her two colleagues saying they were "inspiring women doing great things on plastics". Plastic pollution is a national crisis. Companies must be persuaded to only use plastics that can be widely recycled. But there is something you can do to help. Next time you are thinking of buying something that contains plastic, remember the four R's: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse.**