



WINCHESTER MUSLIM CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Charity Registered Number: 1085124

ORGANISATIONAL SUBMISSION: WMCA to the Winchester LPP2 process

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT: "A MULTI-PURPOSE MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE FOR THE CITY"

SUMMARY

We wish to assist the Inspector with the following parts:

Part A: Proposals

Part B: Context

Part C: Needs

Part D: Basis for Council to Act

Part E: Social Impact



Part A: PROPOSALS

The WMCA considers that the suggestions below are **realistic, reasonable and consistent** with both the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance and the already published LPP1, the Cultural Strategy and Vision for Winchester and the Town Access Plan (applicable to all BME communities).

The **obligation** to ensure the vitality of the town center to include suitable sites for community and culture development, is written into the **NPPF (page 7)**. Further that **no compromise** should be made due to limited site availability.

- 1.1 Winchester City Council has already acknowledged the omission of the word '**Community**' from all the City Centre Policies (WIN1-WIN7) and upon our suggestion committed to re-entering this obligation into LPP2.
- 1.2 However, adding the word 'community' (after this significant omission) is a retrospective correction.
- 1.3 The effect of the omission has meant that community considerations have not featured in current:
 - 1.3.1 Cabinet Meetings (e.g. Friday 15th July 2016),
 - 1.3.2 Scrutiny and Oversight Committees (Monday 18th July 2016),
 - 1.3.3 Full Council Meetings and all professional and design briefs (to Grant Thornton, Vale Williams and MACE).
- 1.4 Our suggestion is that all of these matters going forward now feature consideration to the evidenced needs of the communities. [Please see our Appendix A]
- 1.5 As a generality, the clearly identified and evidenced need for a **MULTI-PURPOSE MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE** is allocated within the designated development sites within the schemes **WIN1-WIN7 within LPP2**.
- 1.6 In particular, due consideration is given to meeting the BME community needs through community assets such as the Registry Office.
- 1.7 If the Registry Office is not available or is to be demolished, then the WMCA would invite the Inspector to recommend to the City Council to allocate "appropriate space" to meet the needs of the communities listed in Point 10 above (equally applicable to all BME communities) within the designated preferred sites of Carfax and Cattle Market (WIN5, WIN6, WIN7).
- 1.8 There is opportunity afforded in the prospective re-evaluation of the Silver Hill Development area (WIN 4) and we ask the Inspector to seriously consider potential provision in this locality as a viable economic, social and community option.
- 1.9 In answering the Inspectorate's request for exactly what we want, we have listed specifically the options above. We would invite the Inspectorate to recommend to the City Council to go further and identify or generate further options and schemes within the designated policy areas WIN 1-WIN7 with full communication with the communities.



PART B: CONTEXT

1. Further to the Planning Inspector's request to inform the Planning Inspectorate of "exactly what you want", the WMCA is pleased to submit this supplemental document outlining the positive economic, environmental and social impacts of a MULTI-PURPOSE, MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE.
2. The Inspector's request signals the greatest empowering opportunity that the WMCA, part of a traditionally excluded group, has had from a statutory perspective.
3. There are examples from neighbouring local authorities evidencing their commitment in meeting their legal and statutory obligations towards BME minority communities - within those **City Centres**.

COMPARTORS

- Basingstoke Multi-Cultural Forum
 - owned by Basingstoke & Deane Council and run by Forum
- Basingstoke Hindu Society
 - we understand in Carnival Hall have the management of this Hall
- Eastleigh Asian Welfare and Community Association
 - peppercorn rent for City Council owned property in the City Centre
- Andover Muslim Community Association
 - community centre managed by the Muslim community (who pays a concessionary rent) and

PLEASE NOTE: ALL the above were provided with some form of use, assistance, concessions or reductions for, community buildings within the City Centre, by their Local Authority.

4. The WMCA wishes to emphasise that it wishes to proceed with our demonstrable conciliatory and collaborative approach, which it has already registered with the relevant City Council officers and Heads of Department.
5. It is very important to note that the arguments and suggestions put forward by the WMCA are equally applicable to other traditionally excluded groups in Winchester. For examples: The Nepalese Association, The Filipino Association and other un-represented 'new' communities which have now established themselves as recognised communities within Winchester.
6. In real terms, this applies to 5018 residents of minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds according to the 2011 Census. This figure does not account for migrant workers who may come to work in the City during office hours or hospital shifts or Students, and certainly is a figure that is already 5 years out of date. And we, just as other groups, have noticed an increase within our communities since 2011.
7. It is also crucial to recognise the **importance of the City Centre as the location** where these diverse communities work, live and make a contribution to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Winchester. The City Centre is also where the WMCA and other BME groups have historically concentrated their activities in order to facilitate accessibility for members in addition to reaching out to the wider community. For example, ONE BIG TABLE, was an incredibly well received multi-cultural event promoting volunteering in all communities, in particular the traditionally excluded, held in the Cathedral Grounds.



8. The BME community have an **urgent City Centre NEEDS** in the short to medium terms:

SIMPLY, the WMCA cannot sustain itself with all the activities for **2 reasons**:

- i. The cost and availability of the dispersed City Centre facilities do not meet our needs
- ii. We have now grown in numbers that we cannot now sustain ourselves

The WMCA membership is a diverse group of people coming from a range of ages, ethnicities and professions. Originally the members came from Winchester, but the services provided are now also being used by people from Alresford, Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford, Romsey, Stockbridge, Andover, Fareham and Southampton, the City Centre being the most accessible location.

Growth in numbers of people using WMCA services and activities has more than doubled in the 16 years that this organisation has been in existence. The Winchester Muslim Cultural community is growing continuously as more families are getting bigger, and as more Muslim Cultural people move to live and work in Winchester.

As a result, the WMCA has reached the point that without a permanent facility from which to operate in the City Centre, it may no longer be able to properly provide these services to the Muslim Community and its work to include the wider Winchester community may also be restricted and disappear. This community contributes significantly to the local economy through their award winning catering industry, office based work at the General Hospital, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police Authority, Winchester City Council and private practice. Their friends, families and visitors would be drawn to the City Centre to spend even more if there were a multi-purpose community centre.

NOTE: There is no other organisation in Winchester that caters for the needs of this minority community.

PART C: NEEDS

9. Before understanding the type of premises required, it is necessary to outline what those premises will be used for in terms of its activities for the benefits to Winchester to meet it's and other BME needs.

10. The WMCA is a registered charity (1085124) that was set up in August 2000 to carry out the following activities:

- Community Development
- Advance Islamic awareness,
- Promote Arts/Culture,
- Provide Education,
- Provide Facilities for worship,
- Relieve Poverty,
- Provide Recreation and Leisure Activities,

11. Activities and Facilities Required

The Table below highlights the types of activities and facilities that the community has carried out by hiring different City Centre based venues, in the past 10 years. However, each of the activities are dispersed



across the City or have become untenable to maintain because of the significantly increased numbers and higher costs involved in hiring premises.

We therefore require support from Winchester City Council to provide a space where:

Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities for gatherings that can accommodate up to 200 guests on special events including as part of a Place of Worship Community functions such as community meals Fundraising including for Mayor's Charities etc
Wash Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities for Washing and Cloakroom
Classroom / Meeting room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the University of Winchester to provide lectures to/with Graduate and Post Graduate students Language classes for children Further education for adults Cultural education to students of Winchester schools and colleges Meeting room facilities for Muslim women Inter-faith network Meeting room for external bodies
Library and Resource room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small library and learning centre for use by members and the wider community
Administrative Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central facility for WMCA and BME group communication and coordination, filing and storage of accounts, Charity Commission records, inter-organisational literature received and sent out Executive committee meetings
Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-faith concept garden for members and visitors to enjoy as a quiet contemplation area
Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall can be hired out to local community groups and the wider community to provide a much needed and accessible space, and to supplement income.

PART D: BASIS FOR COUNCIL TO ACT

1. Reasons for the City Council to provide within the designated development sites.

- 1.1 The **obligation** to ensure the vitality of the town center to include suitable sites for community and culture development, is written into the **NPPF (page 7)**. Further that **no compromise** should be made due to limited site availability.
- 1.2 The Registry Office is owned by Winchester City Council and is vacant and is identified in the LPP2 3.7.22 (page 37) as a building that should be retained.
- 1.3 The Registry Office can accommodate the above required facilities for an evidenced need of a Multi-Purpose Multi-Cultural Centre.
- 1.4 Winchester City Council already has examples of Community Owned assets that are given to Community groups on long leases at peppercorn rents such as the Winnall Community Centre. Furthermore, we are aware that these facilities are supported by Capital Grants.



- 1.5 The WMCA has already identified NPPF, NPPG and Winchester City Council Strategies that enable the provision of community facilities within the designated development area on a policy basis. Provision of a community center therefore allows the City Council to meet these policy targets.
- 1.6 Providing a community facility will not undermine the **economic viability** of the developments or the City Centre as previously outlined. In fact, logically there should be an enhancement to the economic prosperity within, and neighboring, these developments as a result of providing this cultural facility. This is evidenced from examples listed in Point 8 above (Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Andover and Southampton).
- 1.7 Economic viability can also be assured with proper consideration of a well structured Community Infrastructure Levy, as the excellent example of the Southampton model demonstrates. We welcome the Inspectors recommendations to the City Council in this regard in apportioning funds to meet the above community needs.
- 1.8 The WMCA is aware that Local Authorities (both Winchester and Hampshire) have funded support through Capital Grants to other communities, but not to BME groups in Winchester. The WMCA has also got some modest funds to assist with refurbishment, maintenance and day to day running of a community facility within the designated development areas of the City Centre.

PART E: SOCIAL IMPACT

The **NPPF (Page 17)** places an obligation on the Local Authority to promote healthy communities as stated in paragraph 70:

70. To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- *plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, **cultural buildings**, public houses **and places of worship**) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;*

[Emphasis added by WMCA]

14.2

- Social Inclusion
- Integration
- Community Cohesion
- Safe and Stable Communities
- Health and Wellbeing
- Education

These are powerful ideas and standards that should be delivered by an effective Local Authority through the provision of a multi-cultural facility in meeting its obligations in developing the City Centre.

14.3 The WMCA will be pleased to provide any further evidence in relation to any of the points above in assisting the Inspector.