

**COUNTY COUNCIL –14 September 2016**  
**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

<p><b>1. Questioner's name: Debbie Hicks</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>Can the relevant cabinet member please answer what they have done to make Gloucestershire Care Services and the Clinical Commissioning Group accountable to their voters and constituents across Gloucestershire in Stroud, Cirencester and The Forest of Dean who face difficulties travelling to Gloucester or Swindon because they cant afford travel costs, are disabled and elderly?</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust (GCS) and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group are accountable to the NHS, not to the County Council. I understand GCS are meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September to discuss this issue. Members of the public can submit questions to that meeting – more details are available on their website.</p>
<p><b>2. Questioner's name: Debbie Hicks</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>Can the relevant cabinet member please explain what they have done to protect local people in Stroud, Cirencester and the Forest of Dean from reduced services at local MIU's and hospitals confirm if they will honour their election and pre referendum pledges to protect the NHS?</p>	<p>The proposals to change the opening times of Minor Injuries Units comes from Gloucestershire Care Services Trust, not the County Council. Despite this, we've supported the consultation process, because this is something where it is important that Gloucestershire people have a say.</p>
<p><b>3. Questioner's name: Debbie Hicks</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>Can the relevant cabinet member please tell the public whether they are for or against NHS cuts and in light of the staggering 5345 people who signed the public petition in Stroud and Cirencester asking that their MIU's be kept open 24 hours a day, reflect the interests of their voters and constituents in how they vote today?</p>	<p>NHS funding has increased every year since 2010 by more than inflation. I would reiterate that any decision about the opening hours of Stroud and Cirencester Minor Injuries Unit is a matter for Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust, not the County Council.</p>

4. Questioner's name: Caroline Molloy

Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns

Gloucestershire's emergency services have already had cuts to Cheltenham A&E provision. We now face proposed widespread cuts to district hospitals acute/urgent provisions, AND a separate Out of Hours healthcare review with no guarantees that the same level of local service provision will be maintained, AND a separate 'Sustainability and Transformation Plan' being prepared now, in unminuted meetings of chief executives and so on, which is explicitly about delivering £100s of millions of cuts to NHS services locally as part of the Five Year Forward View. Whilst recognising the short term issue is one of staff shortages, and pressure from central government to come up with heroic levels of savings, I would like to ask the council's position on the following:

The Kings Fund have said "*major acute sector reconfiguration rarely saves – and frequently costs – money, and sometimes also fails to improve quality*". The Kings Fund has also said: "*Some reconfigurations make bold assumptions about managing demand and reducing length of stay. There is certainly scope to do this but experience suggests it is difficult and that unless very significant reductions in overhead costs can be made, it cannot be assumed that out of hospital alternatives are any cheaper. The direct costs of hospital care may in fact be lower unless significant costs can be shifted to carers or social care – neither of which are easy. In any case, switching to community settings just to save money risks increasing the burden on carers and adding to pressures on social care services, or disguising what are effectively poorer quality services.*".

Can the council advise how these risks will be avoided?

Acute Sector reconfiguration is something which the council has been a consultee on in the past, and where, in the case of Cheltenham Accident and Emergency night time closure, councillors have expressed concerns. Ultimately, however, these are matters which the council has no power to decide, and are the responsibility of the NHS.

<p><b>5. Questioner's name: Caroline Molloy</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>Nigel Edwards of Nuffield Trust said this month that healthcare senior financial managers think there are <i>"big risks around implementation and governance"</i> of these <i>Sustainability and Transformation Plans</i> and adds "Later in the process, some of the proposals may come as an unpleasant surprise to patients and communities." My research into these plans nationally leads me to fear the closures of minor injury units at night, coming on top of the Cheltenham A&amp;E downgrade and as yet unspecified further cuts to face to face healthcare services and units in Gloucestershire as part of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan, threaten the long term survival of many of our district hospitals. I fear they become nothing more than glorified nursing homes/pharmacists - or flogged off and sold for housing.</p> <p>Can the council guarantee that we will not lose our district hospitals, as full hospitals with medical beds and acute treatment options? What will it do to make sure this doesn't happen?</p>	<p>The Council does not control the NHS. Questions about their future plans should be addressed to Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust.</p>
<p><b>6. Questioner's name: Caroline Molloy</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>What opportunity have councillors had to see the Sustainability and Transformation Plans as they are developed (drafts submitted to NHS centrally in Jan, April and June)? Does the council feel it has been able to fulfil its democratic obligations to represent the public, given the widespread criticisms of this planning process?</p>	<p>Gloucestershire's STP is the responsibility of the NHS, rather than the County Council, although we do input into them, particularly on issues like adult social care, which are our responsibility. I expect that the NHS will publish the plan when it is completed, but it would be unusual to publish a document in draft. No doubt when it is published they will invite a wide variety of stakeholders to comment, including councillors.</p>

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**COUNTY COUNCIL – 14 September 2016**  
**Members' Questions**

<p><b>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>At the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference we were told that the 2% Social Care Precept, which will be added to Gloucestershire County Council Tax Bills, will only cover the recently increased costs associated with the introduction of the National Living Wage and no more.</p> <p>In other words, it will not address the chronic Local Authority overspend on Social Care in response to increased demand due to demographic changes.</p> <p>Is this true in our County?</p>	<p>The Council had already made provision for National Living Wage (NLW) within its draft budget when the option for a 2% Social Care precept was announced. Because of that, we've been able to use the Social Care Precept to address Care Act issues and provide more help for vulnerable people in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>In future, it is likely that more of the Social Care precept will support wage costs as a result of the living wage – but I would hope that Cllr Dobie would welcome the real benefits that the introduction of the Living Wage will bring to people across Gloucestershire.</p>
<p><b>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Could the Leader please provide a breakdown of the time spent (and cost of that time) by the following people on dealing with COXIT from the day it was first announced by the Leader of Cotswold District Council in February to 1 July: The Leader of the Council, all Cabinet members, the CEO, all Council officers.</p>	<p>A number of days of councillor and senior officer time were spent on responding to this proposal, but we do not maintain a time recording system that would allow us to provide more detail.</p>

<p><b>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Could the Leader please state the total cost of all other costs to this Council associated with dealing with COXIT including materials produced, travel expenses and venue hire.</p>	<p>Direct expenditure in responding to the "COXIT" proposal was relatively small at approximately £500, relating to an FAQ document.</p>
<p><b>4. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith:</p> <p>How many roads across the county have been shut for more than 6 months?</p>	<p>Nine roads have been shut for more than 6 months over the last two years. Four of these were developer works, one was a Highways England site, two are related to landslips, one is related to a weak bridge and one involves a weak retaining wall.</p>
<p><b>5. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</p> <p>At the 2015 February cabinet meeting, the cabinet unanimously decided, to put the former Bishops College on the disposals list.</p> <p>The county council have now put in an outline planning application to the city council to build 90 houses on the site.</p> <p>With thousands of new homes in the north of Gloucester being proposed as part of the Joint Core Strategy, do you not think the disposal of this site might be premature?</p>	<p>No, the site has been surplus to educational requirements for some years. Using it to provide more homes allows us to protect the public open space there, support the City Council in delivering its housing targets and raise funds we can use to support services that protect the most vulnerable people in Gloucestershire.</p>

<p><b>6. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>With so many new homes being built on the edge of Gloucester and within its boundaries over the next few years there may be a need for a new comprehensive school both in the north and south of Gloucester.</p> <p>Is it not time that you consulted with Gloucester's county councillors, head teachers and parents etc about providing a first class secondary education, both now and in the future, for children resident in the greater Gloucester area?</p>	<p>There is no forecast need for new secondary schools in Gloucester. Projected growth to 2020 ( the forecast peak in secondary transfer) can be met by expanding existing secondary schools local to the areas of growth.</p> <p>Councillors have been briefed on this issue and we maintain regular dialogue with headteachers. We take account of parental views by analysing their preferences for admission to schools.</p>
<p><b>7. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>With the country voting to leave the European Union (by a small margin) what advice would you give to the Prime Minister on when to invoke Article 50?</p>	<p>I would advise her to act on the democratic wishes of the British people in a timely and effective manner.</p>
<p><b>8. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>You are a member of GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership. I wonder what your advice would be to the board on whether they should lobby for Britain to remain a full member of the European Single Market?</p>	<p>My advice to the LEP board will be, as always, to focus its efforts where they are most likely to make a difference, and where they can best support Gloucestershire businesses and protect local jobs.</p>

<p><b>9. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Has the GFirst LEP sought advice from the businesses operating in the county that might be owned by European nationals or that employ EU citizens, about how the LEP can help them in this time of uncertainty about Britain's future relationship with Europe?</p>	<p>That would be something Cllr Hilton may wish to ask the LEP. I've forwarded his question to David Owen, their CEO, to assist him in doing so.</p>
<p><b>10. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>The GFirst LEP has an important role in developing Gloucestershire's business economy. Do you agree with me that this could be best done by holding its meetings in public?</p>	<p>Please see my answer to question 9.</p>
<p><b>11. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What is the breakdown of pupils in year 6 secondary school allocations for all Gloucester primaries for the last 3 years (by school).</p>	<p>I have asked officers to provide Cllr Millard with a copy outside the meeting.</p>
<p><b>12. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What is the travel to school area for pupils for each of the G15 schools - average distance and furthest?</p>	<p>The Council does not hold this information in this form.</p>

<p><b>13. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What is the cost of a school bus pass for those schools that have buses?</p>	<p>The council only holds information about the home to school transport we provide.</p> <p>Schools which arrange their own buses negotiate deals with private operators depending upon changes to demand from pupils (numbers and location).</p> <p>Some arrangements are similar to transport arranged by the council and may cost parents around £600/year – however, there are instances where parents will pay at least £1,200/year to use a school bus service. As Cllr Millard will be aware, there is a national bursary scheme to support less well-off families in meeting the costs of education.</p>
<p><b>14. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What is the average attainment for pupils in Gloucester at 16 and 18 (the GCSE and equivalent, English and Maths and Level 3/A level grades and points)? And for the County, by district?</p>	<p>The latest information will not be available until the data is published in early November.</p> <p>% of pupils achieving 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics:</p> <p>2015 GCSE  Gloucestershire = 62.7%  Cheltenham = 64.5%  Cotswolds = 70.7%  Forest of Dean = 52.9%  Gloucester = 56.5%  Stroud = 64.4%  Tewkesbury = 66.3%</p>

	<p>2015: A Level          Gloucestershire = 21.9% (749.0 points)          Cheltenham = 32.1% (709.6 points)          Cotswolds = 19.5% (792.6 points)          Forest of Dean = 9.3% ( 650.7 points)          Gloucester = 23.5% (828.5 points)          Stroud = 26.6% (809.0 points)          Tewkesbury = 9.9% (705.9 points)</p> <p>The data is for pupils attending schools located in these districts, as opposed to pupils' home addresses</p>
<b>15. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What are the percentages of pupils a) in receipt of free school meals? and b) the pupil premium for the G15 schools?</p>	<p>19.55% of pupils are eligible for free school meals</p> <p>22.24% of children are eligible for pupil premium in G15 schools</p>
<b>16. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What are the achievement levels of pupils who are eligible for free school meals at KS2 (Literacy and Numeracy) in 2015/2014/2013?</p>	<p>The percentage of children eligible for free school meals achieving Level 4 in Reading and Writing and Maths was:</p> <p>2013 = 64%          2014 = 65%          2015 = 66%</p>

<p><b>17. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What percentage of children eligible for free school meals achieved 5 or more A* - C grades (GCSE) in 2015, 2014 and 2013 in the County?</p>	<p>Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE including English &amp; Maths was:</p> <p>2013 = 36.9%</p> <p>2014 = 32.1%</p> <p>2015 = 33%</p>
<p><b>18. Questioner's name: Cllr Stephen Lydon</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b></p>
<p>What has been the total net spend per head on residents by the authority in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016? How does this compare to other County Councils in the SW?</p>	<p>Total net spend per head of population was</p> <p>2012/13 £598 (SW County Council Av. £602)</p> <p>2013/14 £625 (SW County Council Av. £620)</p> <p>2014/15 £597 (SW County Council Av. £570)</p> <p>2015/16 £575 (SW County Council Av. £560)</p>
<p><b>19. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>The Conservative administration has now run this Council for 11 years, but figures released at a recent Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee show alarming levels of deprivation, please can the Leader of this Council tell me what is being done to tackle these inequalities?</p>	<p>Cllr Hodgkinson is referring to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, a national set of measures of deprivation for small areas across England relative to each other. Whilst the measures provide useful information, it has its limitations. For example, it doesn't measure changes over time, and it only ranks areas against other areas – there will always be areas at the bottom and the top of the list.</p> <p>We use information like this, together with other evidence, to target resources to protect the most vulnerable people. We have specifically used the IMD data to target extra help for worse-off areas in a wide range of services including children's centres, libraries and health care. Vulnerable people can live in any of our communities.</p>

	Inequalities are multi-faceted and complex. Tackling them requires strong partnership working. For example, tackling health inequalities is a priority for the multi-agency Health and Well Being Board through the new Sustainability and Transformation Plan.
<b>20. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne  Please can the Leader of this Council also share his long-term plan for addressing such shocking levels of deprivation?	It is important to note that many of the most important measurements in the IMD are the responsibility of district councils, the NHS and central government, rather than the county council. Nevertheless, we will continue to use relative deprivation as a key tool in making decisions about council services on an ongoing basis, and focusing our efforts, as we've stated for some years, on protecting the most vulnerable people in our community.
<b>21. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne  I was surprised that parts of the county usually seen as wealthier also feature highly in the deprivation league table, please can the Leader advise how his administration is going to ensure there's a level playing field when it comes to accessing services in our county?	I am surprised that Cllr Hodgkinson, as a councillor for some time, wasn't previously aware of the IMD figures. They have been regularly published for a number of years, and play an important role in council decision making. The picture it presents hasn't changed markedly from the previous survey. Of course, there are criteria where rural areas do worse than urban areas – these are often in relation to issues like access to services, which will inevitably be more difficult to deliver to a sparse population. It is recognition of this that the council has invested heavily in broadband for rural areas, allows a much higher subsidy level for rural bus routes, and invests significantly more per head in repairing rural roads. It is important to put this context however – every single part of the Cotswolds is in the least 60% deprived portion of the country, and many areas are among the least deprived.

<p><b>22. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>Last year a cyclist was killed in an accident on the A40 Golden Valley and on Friday 26 August the road was closed when another cyclist was seriously injured on the same stretch of dual carriageway. In light of the evident danger to cyclists, will the Cabinet member now write to Highways England to urge them to bring forward plans to create a new cycle way paralleling the A40 Golden Valley as an alternative safe and speedy route between Gloucestershire's two main conurbations?</p>	<p>I know all of us are deeply saddened by these incidents. Officers are already working closely with Highways England to identify a package of cycle improvements on the corridor between Cheltenham and Gloucester. Regular meetings are being held between officers and Highways England to progress the improvement scheme as quickly as possible and Highways England will make a final decision about the scheme and the associated funding in January. As Cllr Dobie will be aware, the MP for Cheltenham Alex Chalk is a keen cyclist and co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group. He, and the MP for Gloucester, have already been a supporting our scheme, and I hope councillors from all parties will do so as well.</p>
<p><b>23. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible please give me a list of all consultants/consultancies contracted by the Council since 2013, broken down by year?</p>	<p>Every time the council uses a specialist engineer, a specialist surveyor or an external solicitor, we are using a consultant. Doing so saves taxpayers money, because we can pay for a specific task, or a specific piece of advice, rather than employing someone permanently.</p> <p>Summary information on number of Consultants / Consultancies contracted by the Council is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2013/14 126</li> <li>- 2014/15 56</li> <li>- 2015/16 50</li> </ul>

<b>24. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>
Can the cabinet member responsible please give me the cost of each consultancy contract used by the Council since 2013?	Summary information is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2013/14 £1.6m</li> <li>- 2014/15 £1.5m</li> <li>- 2015/16 £1.2m</li> </ul>
<b>25. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>
Can the cabinet member responsible please detail how much the Council has spent on consultants for the Gloucestershire devolution bid?	Nothing.
<b>26. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>
Can the cabinet member responsible please detail how much the Council has spent on consultants for the failed Cotswold – West Oxfordshire Unitary bid?	Nothing.
<b>27. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
How many Families have been involved in the Families First project (nationally known as Troubled Families) since the programme was first introduced?	The number of families involved in Phase 1 of the programme (April 2012-March 2015) was 900. Phase 2 of the programme, which began in April 2015, is aimed at much wider group of families with multiple problems. In line with government expectations the programme is not run as a stand alone service - instead we are working to ensure the programme's whole family approach is being adopted by frontline workers across both Council and partner agency services. The Family Support Workers from Phase 1 have been integrated within our wider early help services to form Families First Plus teams, working alongside Early Help Coordinators, Community Social Workers and Employment

	Advisers. To date there are over 1000 families involved in the expanded programme.
<b>28. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
How long has support been given to each family and how many have returned for more support and after how long?	<p>The length of support provided depends on the level of need.</p> <p>For families with high level needs requiring an intense and persistent level of contact the average length of support was between 6 and 9 months. In Phase 1 this applied to approx. 300 families</p> <p>For families with moderate level needs or who had stepped down from intensive interventions the average length of support was between 3 and 6 months. In Phase 1 this applied to approx. 450 families</p> <p>For families with lower level needs the average length of support was around 3 months. In Phase 1 this applied to approx. 150 families.</p> <p>Within the first 3 years of the Troubled Families Programme, Gloucestershire achieved outcomes for their DCLG target of 900 families. None of these families were able to re-enter the original programme, or may enter the expanded programme, once a claim had been made for their successful outcomes. The expanded Troubled Families Programme has been integrated within early help services across Gloucestershire, so families presenting with additional support needs are offered support via early help, but not included within the Troubled Families expanded programme cohort. Fewer than 10% (90 families) of Phase 1 families have returned to Families First Plus for additional support in the 18 months following the end of the programme. The support required is in most cases unrelated to the original reasons the family were on the programme. National evaluation of Phase 2, the expanded programme is still ongoing.</p>

<b>29. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
Were there any signs in the last six months that the financial status of 4Children was beginning to look unstable? What monitoring was done to indicate that this could happen?	In recent months we were made aware of failures by 4Children to pay some creditors. This was closely monitored to ensure there was no impact on services. On the 17 <sup>th</sup> August we were notified by 4Children that they were going in to administration on 31 <sup>st</sup> August. The Council was only able to terminate the contract once it was made aware that an Administrator was appointed. Following this the Council has moved swiftly to ensure the transfer of staff and services in-house (in the case of the Cotswolds) and to Barnardo's (for Gloucester North) with no interruption of support for families.
<b>30. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
With Barnardos taking over this contract until March 2017 will all staff terms and conditions continue as they were before?	The transfer of staff from 4Children to Barnardo's is covered by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 ('TUPE'). The pay and other contractual terms of employment of the transferred staff are protected in accordance with those regulations. Transferred staff who are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) will be enabled to remain in the LGPS through an Admission Agreement; staff who were members of 4Children's pension scheme will be automatically enrolled into Barnardo's pension scheme.
<b>31. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
On how many occasions has AMEY missed the 28 day deadline for repairing potholes in the County?	In July Amey repaired 99% of 28 day safety defects on time. Of the 1104 defects repaired only 6 defects were repaired outside of the 28 day timescale.

<b>32. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>								
Will UBICO pay the full Living Wage to all its employees?	In 2015/16 all Ubico employees were paid above the Living Wage as set by the Living Wage Foundation. It is also their policy not to use zero hour contracts. They are committed to providing local employment opportunities and supporting the local economy.								
<b>33. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>								
How many interim officers were employed in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015?	<p>We do not hold any data here prior to April 2013.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1120 582 1758 734"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>Total Interim Officers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>156</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>190</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>194</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	Total Interim Officers	2013/14	156	2014/15	190	2015/16	194
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<b>34. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul McMahon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>								
Can the cabinet member responsible please give me an update over the Government's plans to increase the area in which the badger cull is taking place in Gloucestershire?	<p>Natural England is the competent authority for badger control licensing for the purpose of preventing the spread of bovine TB. This is a central government function carried out without consultation with the local authorities concerned.</p> <p>The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs have issued a publication dealing with the minimum and maximum number of badgers to be culled within Gloucestershire (Ref: '<i>Bovine TB: Setting the minimum and maximum numbers in licensed badger control areas in 2016.</i>' Advice to Natural England. August 2016)</p> <p>The published range of badgers required to be culled in the new cull area within Gloucestershire is minimum 1463, maximum 1986. These figures are based on an estimated population within that area and are subject to revision as more evidence regarding the actual</p>								

	badger population becomes available during the cull.
<b>35. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul McMahon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
Environment Scrutiny committee passed a motion calling on the Cabinet member to provide better protections against fracking in the County – what has the Cabinet member done with these concerns	<p>The draft Minerals Local Plan (MLP) contains a specific policy relating to oil and gas, including hydraulic fracturing ('fracking'), which was prepared in response to the Government's decision to issue oil and gas licenses in Gloucestershire, (Policy MW06). It should be noted that there are no applications for hydraulic fracturing in the County at this time. It is my view that the draft policy represents a prudent and balanced approach to updating the MLP, given national policy and the potential environmental and amenity issues currently in existence.</p> <p>The committee's views were discussed by Cabinet. There was significant concern, following officer advice, that the proposed changes from Environment Scrutiny risked making the whole MLP "unsound". Were that to happen, it would stop the council from adopting the plan, which would give it very little weight in deciding any mineral planning application in Gloucestershire. It would also have no weight at all in deciding any application in the area that was unsound – i.e. in deciding any application for fracking.</p> <p>In other words, the advice from officers was that the committee's proposal risked seriously reducing the council's say over any applications for quarrying, and risked removing all the protections included in the MLP around fracking. That was not a risk that Cabinet believed it ought to take.</p> <p>I appreciate that members of the scrutiny committee had strong views on this subject – but we can only set our planning policies within the framework that is decided nationally.</p> <p>The Draft MLP will be subject to 8 weeks public consultation, starting on 29<sup>th</sup> September and ending 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016, and of course we will look very closely at all comments – but we can only make</p>

	changes that are within our legal powers to make.
<b>36. Questioner's name: Cllr Graham Morgan</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
To: Cllr Nigel Moor  The government have decided to drop the requirement that schools should be fitted with fire sprinklers. Does the Cabinet member agree with the government in this matter? Or will he join me in condemning this move that the government have taken?	This is a proposal, put out for consultation, by civil servants, rather than ministers. As the consultation only finished last month, there has yet to be report on the outcome of the consultation, it's not correct to say that the government has decided anything. I have no doubt that ministers will look very closely at the views expressed before reaching a decision.
<b>37. Questioner's name: Cllr Graham Morgan</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
To: Cllr Nigel Moor  Are there any schools in Gloucestershire that do not have fully fitted and working sprinkler systems in place? If so, which ones?	Number of Schools in the County –  Secondary Schools - 39 Primary School - 248 Special Schools - 12  Total = 300  Number of Schools with sprinklers – 6 Number with a watermist suppression system – 3  Total without = 289  I'm happy to provide Cllr Morgan, or any other councillor, with a list of the specific schools outside the meeting.
<b>38. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
To: Cllr Paul McLain  How is the administration going to improve the transition from youth	The Ofsted/CQC inspection report recognises that the Gloucestershire local area is fulfilling its responsibilities towards

<p>to adult SEND services (following on from the OFSTED report)?</p>	<p>children and young people (0-25 yrs) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.</p> <p>However, to improve transitions further, and in response to feedback from families, a 0-25 SEND team is being created and is expected to be in place by the end of the year. This will enable young people to remain with a single team throughout their transition to Adult Services.</p>
<p><b>39. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Paul McLain</p> <p>What is being done to help families develop a better understanding of personal budgets?</p>	<p>I have provided Cllr Williams with a briefing in response to this question, which I would be very happy to share with any other councillor who wishes.</p>
<p><b>40. Questioner's name: Cllr Tim Harman</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>Will the cabinet member outline his plans to improve the surface of the High Street in Cheltenham replacing the unsightly "black top " with high quality paving. Also will he agree to convene a meeting in Cheltenham with appropriate Officers of the County Council and Cheltenham Borough Council to determine a plan for a better High Street</p>	<p>This is a long-standing issue, and I would like to thank Cllr Harman, and the local MP Alex Chalk, for bringing it to the council's attention so forcefully. This is clearly a significant annoyance to local residents, and I have asked for works to be put in place to address the situation. Our plan is to concentrate on one area at a time, starting on the High Street between Rodney Road and the entry to Regent Arcade and working out from there. There are three areas with different slab types and Amey are proposing to start on the one with the most common sizes, which minimises supply issues. Works will start on Monday the 26th September.</p> <p>We have a quarterly meeting arranged with Cheltenham councillors and officers will share details and further information on progress then.</p>