

**COUNTY COUNCIL –13 February 2019  
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

<p><b>1. Questioner's name: Tim Davies</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Leader of Council</p> <p>An open letter setting out the case for an Independent Inquiry into the Javelin Park Incinerator Contract was sent to you and the Chief Executive, Peter Bungard, on 7th January 2019. This open letter has now been signed by over 350 civic leaders and citizens in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Will you accept this reasoned call for a low-cost and independent inquiry that could, in a balanced way and setting aside political arguments about the project, come to a clear view of the facts surrounding the award, re-negotiation, and structure of the Javelin Park Incinerator/Energy from Waste facility contract?</p>	<p>This council is already paying for an extensive external audit report, at the request of many of the same people who are now requesting more money be spent on a different enquiry, and some of who are engaged in a legal action on the subject as well. Under the circumstances, I don't support yet more spending on this.</p>
<p><b>2. Questioner's name: Steve Gower</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</b></p>
<p>How many deaths have there been recorded in supported living accommodation in Gloucester in 2018.</p> <p>Has the figures historically been higher in any previous year.</p> <p>Who monitors these figures and do the figures give any concerns of any individual establishments?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•8 deaths in Accommodation Based Support Schemes in Gloucester City</li> <li>•No</li> <li>•Accommodation Based Support (ABS) providers commissioned by the council are contractually obliged to send this information to GCC within 48 hours of a death in service.</li> <li>•The deaths have occurred in our 18+ ABS services for individuals with complex and multiple needs.</li> </ul>

•There is no concern regarding any particular provider – the main causes of deaths are linked to age, serious health conditions, substance misuse and/or a combination of all three.

**3. Questioner's name: Lisa Spivey**

**Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith**

To Cllr Vernon Smith:

You will undoubtedly have heard of the tragic events of last July, where a Meysey Hampton resident died in a car crash, caused by a gentleman who was visiting the area. The incident is, of course, particularly tragic for the victim, as well as the friends and family, but also for the gentleman responsible, who remains scarred by the events.

It will not have been lost on you that, in autumn of last year, the responsible driver was cleared of the more serious charge of death by dangerous driving, after the judge threw out the charges, claiming there was no case to answer since, "The road markings seem to have ceased to exist, thanks to Gloucestershire County Council's care for the road." He further expanded stating that he was, "shocked and surprised by the state of repair of that road."

Can I ask Cllr Smith to explain to me the inspection process that was in place prior to this accident, and what process is now currently in place, to prevent such failures in highway maintenance, including the covering of signage, from occurring?

We are very aware of the traffic accident in July 2017 and our sympathies are with the families of those involved. The road is inspected by our highways safety inspection teams and was inspected prior to the accident. Inspectors are trained to identify safety defects from potholes, signs, street lighting, road markings, trees and other street furniture that may be a hazard. Although the judge has not written to us, we have fully taken on board their reported comments. Following discussions with the police in the after the accident, the stop line road markings at this site were renewed in July 2017. The give way signs, splitter island and road marking bollards were found to be in good working order. The Council makes every effort to ensure roads are maintained to as safe a standard as reasonably possible.

4. Questioner's name: Rob Brookes	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>I am a casual and practical cyclist. I use my bike for most of my shopping and trips around Gloucester which is relatively easy for me as the City is flat and the routes are ok and much better than in the past which is great. But compared to many continental cities and towns I have been to, our cycle paths are very poor. Where we have them they are bumpy, often hard to see which part is for pedestrians and which part is for cyclists, often only white lines on busy roads with cars frequently parked on them, and nearly always give priority to cars, ie if the road becomes too narrow for a cycle path and a car it is the car that gets priority.</p> <p>I am reasonably competent and able adult cyclist and so, as do most of us, negotiate those difficulties but if we want to encourage more people particularly children and families to use their bikes we have to make cycling safe and easy to get from A to B, particularly to schools, shops and work. You are intending to spend £150 million on roads over the next 5 years. The Dutch government spends well over £30 per person per year on cycling infrastructure, which would translate to more than £90 million over the next 5 years. The Dutch now use cycling as the main mode of transport in many of their cities. So this has clearly been successful and their example is being followed by many European Countries but not so much in Britain. A reduction of nearly half, in our use of cars on roads would have a dramatic effect on increasing the health of the residents of Gloucestershire and would also decrease dramatically the need for such a large road budget. Could you tell me what the budget for cycling infrastructure is in Gloucestershire and why, considering the benefits you yourselves recognise in your transport plan <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2223/9-pd-2-cycle-nov-2017.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2223/9-pd-2-cycle-nov-2017.pdf</a> is the budget so low for cycling infrastructure in comparison to roads in general.</p>	<p>We're putting over £150m into resurfacing to improve the quality of our highways overall. That will help all road users – but particularly cyclists who can find poor roads dangerous and uncomfortable.</p> <p>We are working hard to invest more in specific cycle schemes as well - These include cycleway improvements in Lydney, a safer route between Bishops Cleeve and Cheltenham and a £3.6million package of cycle improvements linking Gloucester, Churchdown and Cheltenham. Away from the highway we have secured over £1 million of external funding with partners such as the Canal and River Trust to deliver a high quality route along the Gloucester Sharpness canal this year. Our budget also includes funding for Bikeability, helping over 5500 young people this year to learn the skills that are essential to ride confidently, and £100,000 of capital for other improvements including equipment to help us track progress and support future bids for investment.</p> <p>There are always areas where we can improve – so we are working more closely with cycle user groups and have recruited a new Think Travel Coordinator. This new post will help us develop our future cycling network (the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan), create more cycle friendly routes and explore potential for public bike share schemes.</p>

<p><b>5. Questioner's name: Roy Messenger</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p>With reference to a full council meeting in 2016 and the meeting with myself and others, Can Richard Boyles inform the full council how many meetings he has had with Gloucestershire police or any other force, in regards to Badgeworth group of schools and the abuse and has anybody else, he is aware has had meetings with the police in regards do the name group of Schools from the council</p>	<p>I have had one meeting with Gloucestershire Constabulary and Wiltshire Constabulary officers to discuss this case.</p> <p>The council officer leading on this matter was Cathy Griffiths (former Head of Quality) who has since left the council. Cathy's calendar indicates attendance in 2018 at relevant police operational meetings on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> June, and 2<sup>nd</sup> October. There were also meetings with police regarding the operation on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016.</p>
<p><b>6. Questioner's name: Roy Messenger</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p>Is Richard Boyles aware that the original investigation team in 2015 took a view the Gloucestershire County Council may have a case to answer after many requests from the said Council and was turned down on many occasion over the first year of the investigation that was confirmed to me in a meeting with the lead investigator into the abuse at these schools and only wanted the council to supply the information required. Is he aware that his department pushed the police to be letting the council be part of the police investigation which I was inform by him that this was the case. It would be right now that the investigation and with the is over and with the CPS that he ceases or contact the investigation team as this would be seen to be having preferential treatment into allegations that will be levelled to the County Council as I am aware the meetings were to share information. I would also wish to know the dates you began speaking or having meetings with the investigation team and when did you personally get involve.</p>	<p>My first involvement in this matter was when Cllr Paul Hodgkinson raised it in Full council questions on 6 December 2017. After the full council meeting I met with GCC officers and then met with the Police and then subsequently met with you and others here at GCC.</p> <p>For clarity, although GCC is fully cooperating with the police investigation, the council is not part of that investigation, nor has it sought to be.</p>

<p><b>7. Questioner's name: Roy Messenger</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p>In 2015, Gloucestershire County Council released a press statement to inform the BBC and ITV that they had stopped sending boys to the schools as early as 1971 as they were high concerns. Can you inform me and the members here today why the council continued sending boys to the schools after the date you have given to the BBC and ITV as this seems to be a conflict of dates supplied on one hand, we have proof they were sending boys to the schools after this date, as one of them still lives in Gloucester and what you are telling the Press in the other. But more importantly why has the council both legal department and his department not return letters to other councils to confirm to them that this was the case. I am aware the at least 5 councils including my County council haven't heard a word. My County council have sent 3 letters and up until today received no reply</p>	<p>We do not have a record of the council continuing to use the independent Badgeworth Court Group of schools in that time period. If Mr. Messenger can provide us with more information on this we will be able to investigate more fully and provide a more detailed response.</p>
<p><b>8. Questioner's name: Roy Messenger</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p>With reference to council briefing email dated Date: 27.10.2017 from the council to Cllr Paul Hodgkinson In this chamber in late 2017 Mr Richard Boyles stated he would help id staff and find if they are still alive. please can he tell me if this has been done. As I have managed to trace all my caseworkers in this time frame. What have you done to contact former council staff who are still alive have you interviewed them? If so when? As I am aware that some are still alive. As we have traced them.</p> <p>Also, in this briefing it states "The Information Management Service Manager advises that to look into more of the detail will take some considerable time, therefore if the Council wanted to commission an in-depth report to pull together the full picture, we would need to look at how this could be resourced."</p>	<p>I am not clear from the question whether the workers described by Mr. Messenger are those that worked with him in the Badgeworth Group, or whether this relates to employees of Gloucestershire County Council. Our records have clearly identified that Badgeworth was an independent provision and would therefore not have had Council staff employed there. Furthermore, a check on Liquid Logic does not bring up any records for Mr. Messenger so we cannot identify any previous caseworkers through this route. I am led to understand though from our complaints department that, as a child, Mr. Messenger was placed by an authority elsewhere in the country with the Badgeworth Group, so again we would not be able to identify the staff of another LA through local investigations.</p>

<p>I would suggest that instead of doing work once and doing it again for an report, that a full report should be started by the council to get to the full facts. Are you willing to request this today to the council? As since November 2017 two have died and one is in a hospice this needs done urgently.</p> <p>Finally, could you tell me why the council should take advantage of taking documents from the police without the recognised Court procedures for these documents as these documents would need to be produced by any claimant to the council, I feel this is an abuse of privilege having access to documents where the claimants don't have free access. Do you agree the council should use the correct procedures not shortcut them?</p>	
<p><b>9. Questioner's name: Sandra Holliday</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>How much of the additional money allocated by the government for road repairs was spent in St Mark's Ward in Cheltenham and which roads if any benefited? The conditions of some of the roads in my ward are appalling and as such I would seek answers to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When was Tennyson Road last resurfaced totally and when will it be resurfaced going forward?</li> <li>2. When was Bedford Avenue last resurfaced totally and when will it be resurfaced going forward?</li> <li>3. When was Buckingham Avenue last resurfaced totally and when will it be resurfaced going forward?</li> <li>4. When was Norfolk Avenue last resurfaced totally and when will it be resurfaced going forward?</li> <li>5. When was Edinburgh Place last resurfaced totally and when</li> </ol>	<p>Our £150m investment programme has seen significant resurfacing across much of our road network. That is a five year programme – and, whilst the first year concentrated on main roads later years will focus more on C and unclassified roads.</p> <p>In the St Mark's area we have invested over £69,000 resurfacing parts of Princess Elizabeth Way and I am told that we have a £145,000 scheme planned for Tennyson Avenue this year. Buckingham Avenue and Norfolk Avenue were assessed last year and are currently earmarked as schemes in the rolling programme for 2021/22. I will ask officers to look at the other roads in the area.</p>

will it be resurfaced going forward?	
<b>10. Questioner's name: Sarah Lunnon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
<p>Is the Leader of GCC content that the budget before Council today provides the funding needed to address the climate emergency that we are now witnessing?</p>	<p>Becoming a more sustainable county is one of our ambitions outlined in the Council's 'Looking to the Future 2019 – 22' strategic plan.</p> <p>Cabinet in December made it clear that climate change is an urgent issue and that we want to take a leading role in the county, challenging ourselves and others to take further steps towards becoming carbon neutral. We demonstrated our commitment to Gloucestershire's future in signing up to Government's Emissions Reduction Pledge, underlining the Council's already proactive and ambitious approach to reducing its carbon emissions and help respond to the urgent need to tackle climate change.</p> <p>We will also be hosting a stakeholder Climate Change Symposium jointly with Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership on 21st May, with the ambition for Gloucestershire as a whole to be carbon neutral by 2050. The outcomes from the Symposium will be used to update our Climate Change Strategy. We cannot do this alone. We are, however, making significant progress in having reduced our corporate carbon emissions by 52% in 11 years, which is significantly ahead of Government's voluntary target for local government and the wider public sector.</p> <p>To achieve these gains involves difficult decisions, balancing people's behaviours with appropriate policies and working together to implement those changes. Whilst this may present short-term financial challenges, decarbonising our economy will have significant medium and long-term benefits for our economy, population and environment.</p>

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**COUNTY COUNCIL – 13 February 2019**  
**Members' Questions**

<p><b>1. 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>I understand that the Local Resilience Forum (of which the County Council is a key player) is preparing for Brexit scenarios including 'No Deal'. Can you please list in detail the preparations and decisions taken by the Local Resilience Forum to date for Gloucestershire regarding Brexit.</p>	<p>The, police-chaired, local resilience forum has been primarily considering the, over 100, technical notices from central government, and considering their implications for the county. The forum have not identified any significant implications warranting an escalation of our emergency response capability. This is being reviewed on a weekly basis.</p>
<p><b>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>Will the Leader be given a ceremonial box of Moreland matches to start the incinerator at Javelin Park?</p>	<p>I understand England's Glory matches are now made in Sweden, a country which is committed to the idea of energy from waste, so perhaps that symbolism would be appropriate. Like Sweden Gloucestershire will soon achieve the diversion of over 90% of its waste from landfill, reducing our production of harmful greenhouse gases by the equivalent of 40,000 tonnes per year.</p>
<p><b>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b></p>
<p>How much gross revenue would be generated overall for Shire Hall from the currently mooted increased GCC on-street parking charges in Cheltenham alone (permit and pay-as-you-park)?</p>	<p>We estimate approximately £250,000 -£300,000 additional gross revenue, before deducting operating costs. All on street parking income paid to the county council goes back into our parking services first. Whatever then remains is spent on highways maintenance and transport services only.</p>
<p><b>4. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b></p>
<p>What is the annual cost to GCC for administering/enforcing the above on-street parking in Cheltenham?</p>	<p>We do not disaggregate costs for every element of the parking service to district level. We estimate the total cost of all on street pay and display and permit services in Cheltenham to be £741,000 p.a.</p>

<b>5. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b>
How much net annual profit would Shire Hall make from the above, should the increased future charges be approved?	The forecast effect of these changes is approximately £170,000-£205,000 additional net surplus for reinvesting in improving parking, highways and transport services.
<b>6. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b>
How much of that profit has been spent in the past annually on the roads/footpaths/cycleways of Cheltenham (as a gross figure and a proportion of the county as a whole) and how much of the increased profit would be spent on the town in future?	We spend over £40m per year on highway, spread across the entire County. Spending varies from year to year depending on factors like government grants, successful bids and developer funding as well as general fluctuations in available revenue. Some of the activity is planned capital spend whilst some is revenue funded reactive repairs like potholes which are managed by gangs that work across the county. We take a County-wide whole-life asset management approach to managing carriageways and footways and our prioritisation of spending is needs-led and not simply split out equally to each district. Because of the way maintenance activities are undertaken it is not possible to track all spending by district so providing any sort of meaningful figures would require significant officer time. What I can give reassurance on is that officers go to great effort to ensure that spending reflects the needs within each area. I am also happy to meet with any member with the relevant highways officers to go through spending in their area in detail. Indeed, this year's full carriageway resurfacing programme is available to all members on the Council's website if they want to see what schemes are being delivered in their area.
<b>7. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
To Cllr Vernon Smith:  On the tragic accident on the A417 last July, what internal investigations have taken place into this particular incident and what were the findings into this catastrophic failure?	Please see the response to public question 3 on this subject.

<b>8. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>To Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>On the matter above, the judge ruled that, "The reality is that if everything had been in order the prospects of an accident would have been diminished." As such, what learnings have been taken away by the Highways Team such that Gloucestershire's highway network is never again the key factor in a tragic incident such as this?</p>	<p>Please see the response to public question 3 on this subject.</p>
<b>9. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Last September, you stated that you would not waste tax payers' money on hypothetical planning around a no deal. Given that the Government has now asked all councils to prepare for a no deal Brexit, would you like to revise your previous comments and can you explain why?</p>	<p>No – indeed this clearly demonstrates that spending GCC funds on this months ago, before any technical documents were available, would not have been a good use of taxpayers' money.</p>
<b>10. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>Over a 6 month period in 2018 the residents of Chalford High Street (a narrow, single-track road) suffered enormous stress and inconvenience when the road was closed due to disruption following the installation of the Fastershire broadband programme. Efforts were made by the parish council and residents, with the contractors (Gigaclear and their sub-contractor Complete Utilities), to arrive at an agreement for clear communication with the parish council and the residents about how any future work would take place. In the last 2 weeks, the sub-contractor Complete Utilities have once again begun work on the High St, without prior warning to the parish council, or the residents, including work starting at 6.30 in the morning.</p>	<p>I appreciate the frustrations local residents can have with utility works – particularly when they are long-lasting. GCC works to coordinate street works where we can – but utility companies have a statutory right to lay and maintain apparatus.</p> <p>For major schemes such as the broadband rollout, we work with utility companies and help them find the best approach in order to complete the work, at this stage we apply conditions, such as manual control of traffic lights at peak hours to reduce congestion.</p> <p>The works promoter (utility in this case) is responsible for informing residents and businesses that works are going to take place in the area, this may be in the form of advanced warning signs or a letter drop</p>

<p>How does the council ensure Streetworks contractors maintain good relationships with residents where they are causing disruption?</p>	<p>with contact details, so that if anyone has a concern they can call the company direct. Many people will contact GCC directly if they have a question about the works, this suits us as it makes us aware of any potential problems that may occur at the works site.</p> <p>The last work mentioned in the question relates to Complete Utilities working on an urgent repair on their network as 150 customers were off supply. All utilities have a statutory right to carry out urgent/emergency work without notification in advance, where it is not practical to provide it.</p>
<p><b>11. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>In their covering letter* when supplying the report published on 20th December 2018, showing an approximately 30% increase in the cost of the Javelin Park contract when it was renegotiated in 2015/16, Ernst and Young state "Our work has been limited in scope and time and we stress that a more detailed review may reveal material issues that this review has not identified."</p> <p>When even the Council's own consultants are highlighting that there may be material issues of note that need to be explored in relation to the Javelin Park project, and contract renegotiations, will the leader now back the creation of an independent inquiry into this project, in line with the call set out in the open letter of 7th January?</p> <p>If he will not, will he explain which existing council processes have addressed the five points outlined in that letter?</p> <p>*<a href="https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/542390/response/130444/5/attach/2/E%20Y%20Scope%20for%20Dec%2018%20report.pdf">https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/542390/response/130444/5/attach/2/E%20Y%20Scope%20for%20Dec%2018%20report.pdf</a></p>	<p>This is standard wording included in all EY reports in the United Kingdom.</p>

<b>12. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Was the signature of a revised contract in 2016, leading to an approximately 30% increase in total project costs, carried out in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015?</p>	<p>As Cllr Smith is very well aware, this is currently the subject of a legal action against the council, and I will have to withhold comment until its conclusion.</p>
<b>13. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<p>Which other local authorities in the country make use of a 'Real Average Gate Fee' to benchmark their waste disposal?</p>	<p>That is a question Cllr Smith would have to address to other authorities. Using real average gate fee means that factors like the money the council will make from electricity generation are taken into account – and therefore a more accurate illustration of the cost to the taxpayer if provided.</p>
<b>14. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<p>Why was the choice made to compare the RAGF calculated by Ernst and Young to WRAP data from 2016, when 2017 data was available?</p>	<p>The Contract was signed in 2016 and hence the prices shown and the comparator are for that period.</p>
<b>15. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris Coleman</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>It is approaching six years since I first raised the issue of the dangerous junction of Alstone Lane with Alstone Croft in my Division. I have had site meetings with Local Highways Officers, entered into various correspondence with them and other GCC representatives, spoken directly to the Cabinet member and even submitted an FOI request to try to get to the bottom of why no progress has been made.</p> <p>£30,000 from 'my' 2017 Highways Local funding remains allocated to the scheme which would see the dangerous junction closed to traffic in accordance with the long held wishes of local residents. The</p>	<p>I appreciate Cllr Coleman's concerns about the time this has taken. I believe officers have explained to that there is not a simple solution here. Highway officers have been working with road safety colleagues, CBC councillors, the police and local residents to try to find a suitable solution to the problems with this junction.</p> <p>I am very happy to arrange a meeting with Cllr Coleman to discuss taking this forward.</p>

<p>scheme continues to have their support as well as that of the local Borough Councillors.</p> <p>Why is the scheme still marked as being “In Design”? When will the work actually be completed? Is a near six year delay to what is a really straight forward scheme acceptable?”</p>	
<p><b>16. Questioner’s name: Cllr Eva Ward</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent’s name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p>In March 2018 this Council agreed to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of single-use plastics (SUPs).</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member tell us about the progress made to date in this matter and provide a list of our plans and targets to achieve this aim?</p>	<p>We have already eliminated a significant amount of SUP from our catering services contracts within Shire Hall, and the external school’s catering contract. All plastic cutlery has now been replaced with either reusable material or recyclable alternatives, most plastic food containers have been replaced with recyclable alternatives and we are working to have eliminated all of these by the end of March 2019. On the rural estate we are working with our tenants and the wider farming community to reduce then eliminate the use of SUPs on our tenanted farms for things like wrapping for hay bales and storage bags for feed etc.</p> <p>We are also working closely with our major framework contractors in order to reduce the amount of SUPs in use as part of the construction process. These are industry wide issues and we are dependant on supply chain partners taking action in this respect. We continue to put pressure on them to do so.</p>
<p><b>17. Questioner’s name: Cllr Eva Ward</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent’s name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p>In what ways has the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership managed to promote the reduction of single-use plastics across the County?</p>	<p>The Joint Waste Team (JWT) has focussed on reducing single use plastic through recent promotional campaigns. Tips and advice were posted using #wastefreewednesday to social media and also to the Recycle for Gloucestershire website. This included advice around smarter shopping, on the go plastics, what happens to the plastic you recycle and what else you can do as residents. Our football world cup campaign in the summer also had a focus around recycling plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans during the world cup specifically where we thought there may be an increase in beverage containers.</p> <p>Over the next year, the JWT will continue this focus around single use</p>

	<p>plastics. For example, the JWT will be supporting 'Plastic Free Coleford' (an initiative between Coleford Town Council and the Forest of Dean District Council). This project is very much in its early stages with actions yet to be defined but is likely to look at engaging with parents, schools and retailers in the town to reduce the use of SUPs locally. Learning and outcomes could be shared allowing for similar projects to grow across the county.</p> <p>Further communications and campaigns for 2019/20 are currently being planned, but will retain a focus on reducing SUP.</p>
<p><b>18. Questioner's name: Cllr Eva Ward</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p>Would the Cabinet Member support the establishment of a task group to examine all options to become a 'single-use plastic-free' Council and reduce SUP use in the County?</p>	<p>Yes – very much so.</p>

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