

<b>Cabinet</b>	
<b>Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 10.00 am</b>	
<b>Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester</b>	

<b>Item</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Questions at Cabinet Meetings</b> (Pages 1 - 6)</p> <p>Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.</p> <p><b>Written questions</b></p> <p>To answer any written questions from a County Councillor, (or any person living or working in the county, or is affected by the work of the County Council), about any matter which relates to any item on the agenda for this meeting.</p> <p><b>The closing date for the receipt of written questions was 4.00 pm on Thursday 3 October 2019</b></p> <p><b>Please submit any questions to <a href="mailto:jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk">jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></b></p> <p>A written answer will be provided for each written question received (to be presented to the questioner and to Cabinet (in advance of the meeting. The questions and answers will be taken as read at the meeting and need not be read out.</p> <p>At the discretion of the Leader, each questioner in attendance at the meeting will be allowed to ask one supplementary question at the meeting (in response to the answer given to the original question).</p> <p>A copy of all written questions and answers circulated at the meeting will be attached to the signed copy of the minutes of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Urgent questions</b></p> <p>An urgent written question may be asked by a member of the public about any item on the Cabinet agenda for that meeting which the Chairperson considers could not have been reasonably submitted by the deadline for the receipt of written questions, provided he or she gives notice of the question to the Chief Executive by 12 noon the day before the meeting.</p>	Leader of Council

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**MEMBER QUESTIONS  
CABINET MEETING – 9 October 2019**

<p><b>Question 1: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 6: Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>Page 63 Para 17</p> <p>Where is the £9.78 million over-spend going to be funded from?</p>	<p>£5m will be covered by a combination of savings delivered elsewhere in the council and by extra government grant received. We are continuing to explore further savings opportunities within the department, failing which any remaining will be met from reserves.</p>
<p><b>Question 2: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 6: Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>Page 63 Para 18</p> <p>The report references further scrutiny of the budget position by the LGA and Peopletoo in September.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm the findings (preliminary, if final report not available) from this external challenge?</p>	<p>No. We don't have any feedback yet, formally or informally.</p>
<p><b>Question 3: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 6: Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p>Page 63 Para 19</p> <p>The over-spend on the external placement budget is reported as £5.498 million (25.3% above budget). No-one is questioning the need to spend the funds as required to protect our counties children. However, could you explain how this overspend of 25% was not predicted and budgeted for appropriately earlier this year?</p>	<p>The external placement budget is inherently demand-led, and with a single placement costing as much as £8100 per week, you can see how difficult forecasting is in this area. I am proud that Gloucestershire stands behind the most vulnerable children in our area – these variances are exactly why we allocate money to reserves.</p>

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CABINET MEETING – 9 October 2019**

<p><b>Question 4: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 6: Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><b>Page 63 Para 21</b></p> <p>Understanding how measures have been put in place to reduce the reliance on agency staff, can the Cabinet Member please provide a quarterly breakdown of the staffing budget spend/overspend in the last 3 years.</p>	<p>The forecast overspend variance for safeguarding and leaving care teams by quarter is as follows:-</p> <p>2017/18 - Q1 £0.9m, Q2 £0.8m, Q3 £0.6m, Outturn £0.7m 2018/19 - Q1 £1.9m, Q2 £2.6m, Q3 £3.4m, Outturn £3.4m 2019/20 - Q1 £3.3m, (September forecast) £3.3m,</p> <p>To reduce the reliance, and therefore the additional cost of agency staff, changes have been made to improve processes for recruitment, put in place more effective advertising, as well as the launch of the social work academy to support the training and development of social workers and to improve retention. Additional newly qualified workers above establishment have been recruited to during the summer of 2019 to develop our own workforce and increase the number of permanent staff.</p>
<p><b>Question 5 Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 6: Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><b>Page 65 Para 28</b></p> <p>On the waste overspend – while Javelin Park was offline in August, can the Cabinet Member confirm what the cost of the alternative tipping arrangements came to and what proportion was covered by UBB?</p>	<p>We are still awaiting some weighbridge tonnages. As a result, the costs of contingency are still being finalised and can be shared once the detail has been analysed and agreed.</p>

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CABINET MEETING – 9 October 2019**

<p><b>Question 6: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 6: Financial Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><b>Page 66 Para 42-43</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the shortfall in savings at the end of the year is expected to be nearly £5 million – more than a quarter of the overall savings target for 19/20 and double the carry-over from last year?</p>	<p>We have delivered £16.5m in 19/20, but it is getting harder to deliver some savings in frontline services, especially children's services</p> <p>Our savings plans are reviewed annually, in order to understand where savings are no longer deliverable or where changing circumstances mean there is a delay to savings being achieved. The remaining £2.5m relates to our previous savings programme – Meeting the Challenge 2 (MTC2). These are savings that were not achieved within the MTC2 period, but which there is still a prospect of delivering in future years. Their deliverability will be reviewed as part of this year's MTFS process. To set the amount into context, it equates to less than 4% of the total MTC2 target of £73m.</p>
<p><b>Question 7: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 7: Producing the Council Strategy and Medium Financial Strategy 2020-21</b></p> <p><b>Page 78 Para 15</b></p> <p>With the funding increases announced in the spending review, can the Leader please confirm the number of schools in Gloucestershire that will still see themselves with less funding than 2015 levels by 2020/21.</p>	<p>Details of how the £14bn increase to school funding will be allocated have yet to be released. However, the Government has announced that every secondary school will receive a minimum of £5,000 per pupil next year, with every primary school getting a minimum of £4,000 from 2021/22.</p>

**MEMBER QUESTIONS  
CABINET MEETING – 9 October 2019**

<p><b>Question 8: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 10: Adoption of a Waste Tipping Away Policy</b> <b>P104 Section 2</b></p> <p>What conversations were had with Ubico and Amey during this consultation with Waste Collection Authorities?</p>	<p>The consultation was undertaken directly with district councils and did not extend to their third party contractors. However, discussions regarding tipping away have been held at Joint Waste Committee meetings, at which Ubico were present.</p>
<p><b>Question 9: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 10: Adoption of a Waste Tipping Away Policy</b> <b>P104</b></p> <p>Has consideration been given to the impact on Waste Collection Authorities if they choose to change providers?</p>	<p>Impacts will be considered on a case by case basis as service developments or changes take place. The policy provides a framework against which the costs of tipping away would be calculated.</p> <p>A change of collection contractor would not normally result in tipping away issues. These would normally result from a change to the tipping destination to which Waste Collection Authorities are directed by the County Council.</p>
<p><b>Question 10: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 10: Adoption of a Waste Tipping Away Policy</b> <b>P107 Section 4</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member detail how these recommendations compare to other tier 2 authorities and what consideration has been given to this?</p> <p>What consideration has the county council given to supporting Waste Collection Authority aspirations to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste heading to landfill/incineration?</p>	<p>Comparison has been made with a number of authorities including Essex, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Oxfordshire, who have adopted this model with consideration to their local circumstances (such as the journey times involved). Gloucestershire would apply similar considerations on a case by case basis.</p> <p>This tipping away policy only applies to waste streams for which a direction to a tipping location is made by the County Council.</p>

**MEMBER QUESTIONS  
CABINET MEETING – 9 October 2019**

	<p>The practice in Gloucestershire is that district councils make their own arrangements for the collection, tipping and onward sale of recycling materials. In lieu of providing tipping locations for recyclables, the County Council instead pays recycling credits to each district (as well as an additional, discretionary incentive payment for the reduction of residual waste).</p> <p>In addition to providing financial incentives for increasing recycling and reducing waste, the county council also remains committed to working in partnership with district councils on waste reduction and recycling projects and communications.</p>
<p><b>Question 11: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 11: Establishment and construction of a new 75 place special school for children and young people (aged 11-16) with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that this new school will take account of the motion passed on 11 September, and that this public building will be carbon neutral through all phases of its life-span?</p>	<p>In accordance with the agreed council motion, officers will ensure the design brief for the new SEMH school supports the council's move to zero carbon.</p>
<p><b>Question 12: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 13: Schedule of Proposed Disposals</b></p> <p><b>Page 150 (Tackling Climate Change)</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member explain why the report claims the "Carbon Emissions Implications" of this agenda item are "neutral", when proposed disposals without any restrictions on developments will inevitably be negative?</p>	<p>Changing ownership of property has no direct carbon implications.</p>

**MEMBER QUESTIONS  
CABINET MEETING – 9 October 2019**

<b>Question 13: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</b>
<p><b>Agenda Item 13: Schedule of Proposed Disposals</b></p> <p><b>Page 150 (Tackling Climate Change)</b></p> <p>At the September Council Meeting, Motion 844 passed, which committed GCC to “work with district councils to ensure that all residential and commercial developments in Gloucestershire support the move to zero carbon.” Can the Cabinet Member confirm what regard has been given to this commitment with this item?</p>	<p>We are currently assessing the implications of Motion 844 in relation to the proposed disposals programme and will reflect these in future disposal reports. Significant development schemes take many months and in some cases years to develop and implement and it will take time to develop strategies for delivering in accordance with the motion.</p>