

**COUNTY COUNCIL –14 February 2018**  
**Members' Questions**

<p><b>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>With the number of potholes at an alarming level on the back of a colder winter, residents are rightly angry at bills for shredded tyres and damaged suspension. We are all spending time swerving to avoid craters in the road, making driving dangerous and unpredictable. New ways of repairing roads are being launched including using plastic instead of tarmac - which not only lasts much longer but reuses plastics which have been much in the news recently as polluting the planet.</p> <p>Will you be actively looking at using plastics, thereby promoting reuse and stopping this yearly cycle of unsafe road surfaces?</p>	<p>The County Council trialled a “plastic road” in Innsworth last year. We're now watching it very closely to see how it performs. The real improvement to our roads, however, will come from the massive increase in new resurfacing that our £150m investment in Gloucestershire's roads will allow.</p>
<p><b>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p>The first meeting of the Emergency Services Collaboration Governance Board was due to be held at the end of January.</p> <p>Could you tell what positive outcomes came out of the meeting?</p>	<p>The inaugural meeting of the Gloucestershire Emergency Services Collaboration Board (GESCB) was held on the 26 January 2018.</p> <p>The meeting was constructive and outcome based with a positive relationship between the county council and the OPCC.</p> <p>Discussions were based around the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Budgets</li> <li>• Opportunities for collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Estate</li> <li>○ Equipment</li> <li>○ Organisational functions</li> <li>○ Operational opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• National Emergency Services Collaboration Report</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspirational and future plans</li> <li>• Prioritisation of activity and next steps</li> </ul>
<b>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
Could you tell me what plans you have to improve road safety in the county, in particular, by working in collaboration with the police and ambulance services?	We are continuing our work with Gloucestershire Constabulary and the Tri-Force roads policing team in relation to road safety matters. Opportunities to expand and develop effective collaboration across all three emergency services are being discussed as part of the newly formed Gloucestershire Emergency Services Collaboration Board.
<b>4. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
What does this council do to help prevent drowning?	Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service delivers a number of local initiatives directly related to drowning prevention based on national campaigns throughout the year, supported by the National Fire Chiefs Council and the Royal Life Saving Society.
<b>5. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
Could you provide an update on the usage of the SkillZone by local schools?	<p>Safety Education has been delivered at SkillZONE for 3164 school children to date in 2017/18 and the projection to the end of the financial year is 4047 children during 157 visits.</p> <p>2016/17 - 5187 2015/16 – 4996</p>
<b>6. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
When will Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service get its first inspection under the new Home Office inspection regime?	We believe it will be in Spring 2019.

<b>7. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
Does the County Council have any plans to reduce on street parking charges in any part of Gloucestershire?	<p>The long-standing practice of the council has been to look at the parking charges district councils impose for off-street parking, and to base our on-street parking charges off that. We do so for two reasons. Firstly because off-street car parks are safer and have less impact on congestion than on-street parking – and it would be perverse to incentivise the on-street over off-street. Secondly because we appreciate the importance that car parking revenue has for district councils, and don't wish to compete with them.</p> <p>With that in mind, I have committed to review the length of charging in Cheltenham should the Liberal Democrat administration there implement its manifesto pledge to allow free town centre parking after 6pm, with a view to the county council matching this on-street. I do not believe Cheltenham Borough Council have any plans to do so at present.</p>
<b>8. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
What is the total amount paid out by this Council in compensation for damage to vehicles from poor road surfaces in the last 12 months?	£5,837.47.
<b>9. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
What have been the specific benefits to individual named organisations and companies in Gloucestershire from the visit to China made by the Leader, Chief Executive and any other GCC member of staff a couple of years ago? Please remind me of the total cost to GCC of that visit.	<p>To the best of our knowledge, three of the four businesses involved with the visit went on to have active discussions, with one business, Prospect Training, going on to export services to the Chinese market.</p> <p>Specifically Prospects are growing their partnership in China, now covering football education, on-line delivery, translation and coaching focussed training. The Department for International Trade</p>

	<p>are aware and supportive.</p> <p>Royal Agricultural University are in ongoing discussions with some major Chinese organisations about partnership activity but these discussions, as I'm sure you will understand, can take a considerable amount of time to come to fruition.</p> <p>It is our role to create the environment for successful business, which I believe we have done.</p>
<p><b>10. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>There is general acceptance that the section of Cheltenham High Street from Rodney Road to Bath Road is in a shockingly poor state and urgently needs fixing. If Cheltenham Borough Council hadn't taken the lead in planning and funding this work, how much would the County Council as Highways Authority have to pay to bring it up to an acceptable standard?</p>	<p>The County Council is the highways authority, responsible for keeping roads and pavements in a safe and usable condition. The aesthetic condition of the roads and pavements, along with other "street scene" issues is the responsibility of Cheltenham Borough Council, although we do our best to support them in addressing them. Cheltenham Borough Council is currently commissioning a major resurfacing scheme to address the appearance of the High Street. The county council has committed £340k, which is our expected maintenance savings for the next ten years, as well as around £25k in officer support to the project. We understand that the funding available should be sufficient to bring the High Street up to a good aesthetic standard, so long as Cheltenham Borough Council selects a sensible pallet of materials.</p>