

COUNTY COUNCIL – 28 November 2018
Members' Questions

<p>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>In its previously submitted Cheltenham Local Plan, Cheltenham Borough Council showed the buildings of the future Leckhampton secondary school located on land near to Shurdington Road owned by the Church of England. Local green space boundaries were also made clear in this plan. Given that responsible Cabinet member Lynden Stowe and his colleagues subsequently decided to go against this plan by relocating the school buildings onto land owned by the county which was previously envisaged solely as playing fields/green space, will GCC now be formally challenging the Cheltenham Local plan at the future public enquiry - arguing the case for less local green space?"</p>	<p>We've been clear since the start of this process that the council was going to use its own land, and purchase extra land if necessary. The developers in control of the land to the South of Shurdington Road will not willingly sell, and our detailed survey work shows that the secondary school can be delivered comfortably on our land.</p> <p>GCC has requested that CBC amend its local plan accordingly, and will keep working to ensure children in Leckhampton, and surrounding areas have access to a high quality local school.</p> <p>.</p>
<p>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Why has GCC made a Cabinet decision to drop its previous plan to construct the school buildings of the new Leckhampton secondary on private land previously earmarked for building, instead now shoehorning those school buildings onto fields originally envisaged solely as playing fields/local green space?"</p>	<p>Because our surveys show the school can be comfortably delivered on our own land, the developer will not sell us land south of Shurdington Road, and legal advice is that compulsory purchase is unlikely to be successful.</p>
<p>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>GCC Cabinet members, led by Lynden Stowe, decided on the above change of plan at a meeting on 11 September. Why did it take more than three weeks for this decision to be shared with the relevant councillors (both County and Borough) representing the people of Leckhampton?"</p>	<p>It would have been inappropriate to make any announcements prior to the expiry of developer options on the land, which ended on 1st October 2018. Doing so could have resulted in the council incurring unnecessary costs.</p>

4. Questioner's name: Cllr Kate Haigh	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles						
Of the social workers at GCC, how many are newly qualified and how many are unqualified and currently in training?	We employ 30 newly qualified social workers, 112 social workers, and 34 senior social workers. A varying number of social work students attend as part of their university courses. (All figures FTE).						
5. Questioner's name: Cllr Kate Haigh	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles						
What proportion of visits by unqualified social workers are unsupervised, and what proportion of visits by newly qualified social workers are unsupervised?	We do not collate data to this effect, Student social workers initially undertake visits with qualified workers and gradually take on some types of visits alone. The same is true for newly qualified workers, however, the pace at which they will visit independently will be much greater. Unqualified workers do not hold primary case responsibility.						
6. Questioner's name: Cllr Kate Haigh	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles						
What is the average size of caseloads for a) qualified, b) newly qualified and c) unqualified social workers?	<p>Students on placement do not hold primary case responsibility but hold secondary case responsibility alongside a qualified social worker.</p> <p>Average Caseload per FTE</p> <table data-bbox="1084 1066 1704 1174"> <tr> <td>Pre-qualified Social Worker Group</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newly Qualified Social Worker Group</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qualified Social Worker Group</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </table>	Pre-qualified Social Worker Group	3	Newly Qualified Social Worker Group	12	Qualified Social Worker Group	16
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7. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor						
It has been four weeks since the decision to close all of the counties recycling centres for one day a week. Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the public reaction to this restriction of access?	To date (21 st Nov), GCC has received five customer comments related to the new HRC opening hours policy.						

8. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Can the Cabinet Member explain how much money is in the strategic waste reserve?	The Strategic Waste Reserve contains £39.779 million of which £38 million is to fund the EFW (Energy From Waste) contractual contribution. The remaining balance will be used as a smoothing reserve relating to the full life contract of the EFW facility and an investment in compactors at Household Recycling Centres.
9. Questioner's name: Cllr Alan Preest	Respondent's name: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin
The NHS has, following a consultation and a Citizen's Jury process, confirmed that the new Community Hospital for the Forest of Dean will be sited in the Cinderford Area. Whilst welcoming this investment in extra services for the Forest of Dean, as County Councillor for Lydney, I am concerned about the future Health Care provision for the South Forest GL15 postcode area specifically. Can I ask the Chair of Health Scrutiny to draw these serious concerns to the attention of both Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust, and encourage them to provide local people with reassurance as to what future Health Care provision will be available in the GL15 area and to what timescales?	The Clinical Commissioning Group has made a commitment to Lydney people as part of their planning process – and my committee will be looking very closely to see that it is delivered upon. I will ask the CCG for a progress update and a timescale for the future and update Cllr Preest in due course.
10. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne In early September my councillor colleagues and I asked for confirmation of the work Gloucestershire County Council was undertaking for Brexit. At that time, you confirmed the council was not undertaking any independent work to prepare for any Brexit scenario, including the worrying potential of a no-deal Brexit. Some 80 days since my last question, and with just 120 days to go	As I explained last time, the Local Government Association (LGA) continues to lead the discussions on behalf of the sector as a whole. The LGA's Brexit Task Force, a cross-party body, is working on the detail. Examples of progress to date include: securing Government agreements to bring local government's role in EU law-making across to the UK; HM Treasury agreeing to cover the costs of EU Structural Funds until 2021; and confirmation that settled status will continue for EU Nationals until 2020. They work with the MHCLG Brexit Delivery Board established by the Secretary of State. More detail is available on

<p>until our departure from the EU, can you please tell me if these plans have progressed and the precise details of what these preparations entail?</p>	<p>the LGA website.</p> <p>It is also worth mentioning the Post Brexit England Commission, established by the LGA which is looking at devolved powers. We are holding a number of regional discussions to get input into views for local government in the longer term.</p>
<p>11. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Alex Chalk, MP for Cheltenham, recently stated that the case for a People's Vote was greatly enhanced if the Brexit deal were to stall within Parliament. Meanwhile Survation's poll earlier this month found that support for Leave in the county had dropped from approximately 51 per cent to less than 46 per cent – a near 9 point lead in favour of Remain, including 5 of the 6 Gloucestershire districts now backing Remain.</p> <p>Considering the statements from the Conservative MP in this county, and the clear will of the majority of the county's residents, do you regret your decision to reject September's motion calling for a People's Vote?</p>	<p>I appreciate Brexit is an issue close to the heart of Cllr Hodgkinson and his colleagues, but I don't propose to use this council as a debating chamber for national political issues over which are rightly a matter for parliamentarians.</p>
<p>12. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>To: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>Neighbouring Swindon Borough Council has recently informed residents that it is no longer planning to collect plastic for recycling and will instead instruct them to place it in the residual waste where it will eventually be incinerated. Swindon Borough Council has claimed it is doing this because it cannot guarantee that the collected plastics will be recycled after being exported.</p>	<p>District councils have the primary responsibility for the collection of recyclates from the waste stream – with the county council working to promote and support recycling. The various councils have contracts with UK-based merchants and reprocessors who are themselves licensed and regulated by the Environment agency.</p>

<p>Can the Cabinet Member describe the work he has done, along with our waste partners, to trace recyclable waste collected within the county and to ensure that it is indeed recycled?</p>	
<p>13. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>A recent survey from Stonewall found that over half of LGBT people (52 per cent) had experienced depression in the last year, and that LGBT people faced widespread discrimination in healthcare settings. Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health confirm what efforts are being undertaken within Gloucestershire County Council to support LGBT members of staff?</p>	<p>We are aware of the discrimination and disproportionately poorer health outcomes experienced by some people who are LGBT+ and therefore they are a priority group for us to consider when we plan services.</p> <p>Gloucestershire County Council supports a successful and progressive LGBT+ network called Prism. It is run by employees and membership includes both those who identify as LGBT+ and 'allies' who don't themselves identify as LGBT+ but pledge to support those who do. Prism provide support to their members on an informal basis and work with HR to address any concerns that their members wish to raise. They work closely with other staff networks to ensure that we are supporting staff to be who they are in all areas of their life. Prism have developed a number of policies such as a recently launched Transgender Policy which outlines support available. Prism are members of Stonewall and therefore benefit from the services they offer.</p> <p>All GCC employees can access the 24 hour Employee Assistance Programme should they need counselling support with any concerns they may have in their work or personal life. Public Health organise Time to Talk drop in events for GCC staff to raise awareness of mental illness amongst employees and to promote emotional wellbeing. Prism are frequent stall holders at these events.</p> <p>Public Health also lead the Gloucestershire Suicide Prevention Partnership which includes representatives from GayGlos (the LGBT+ support group for Gloucestershire) and Gloscats (the transgender support group in Gloucestershire) and provides an opportunity to consult with stakeholders on programmes of work and service changes which may affect the LGBT+ community. We also fund ASIST Suicide First Aid training to members of this group amongst other opportunities.</p>

	We are currently planning events to mark World Aids Day on 1 st December.
14. Questioner's name: Cllr David Brown	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Martin Surl has now answered the questions the council sent to him following the council meeting on 16 May. Given that, is the Council Leader now happy to follow the original Liberal Democrat motion, committing to write to the Home Secretary to request more money for the police, particularly since employer contribution to police pensions is going to hit the police budget so hard?</p>	I am sure that the police and crime commissioner is capable of lobbying on his own behalf if necessary.
15. Questioner's name: Cllr Simon Wheeler	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>I note with great concern that, despite the policy position of Cheltenham Borough to introduce wide area 20 mph limits as the limit of default in residential areas (with minimal or no physical measures), no practical moves in this direction have been forthcoming from this Council.</p> <p>a) Will the Cabinet member confirm that £62K of Asda development money remains ring-fenced? And if so, whether or not this could be applied across all of Benhall and the Reddings, and most of Up Hatherley, maybe wider to create a 20mph limit wide area scheme?</p> <p>b) Will the cabinet member please also confirm when he and officers plan to engage with Borough officers and councillors, and with the County member on this subject, preferably in form of a working group?</p>	<p>I hope Cllr Wheeler has read the reporting of the recent DfT study, which shows no evidence to support the claim that 20 MPH zones make for safer roads. This follows on from previous studies of the Portsmouth scheme, which had similar findings.</p> <p>Nonetheless, I have agreed to establish a review group with members and officers to explore good practice for 20mph zones and find ways of applying this in Gloucestershire. Districts and the police are key stakeholders we will be writing to in the next month.</p> <p>It is important we use the Asda section 106 contributions in accordance with the terms of that agreement and are realistic about the costs of 20mph zones. A scheme covering the very large area to which you refer would cost considerably more than £62k.</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council carried out a consultation regarding an area wide 20mph limit for Cheltenham to seek resident's views in November 2017, to which Gloucestershire County Council responded.</p>

	<p>There is no commitment from the County Council to consider such a scheme. If Cheltenham wishes to take a scheme forward with their own funding then the County would be happy to engage but I would not support diverting funds from road safety measures with a proven track record of improving safety, to area-wide 20mph scheme without a demonstrable link to benefits for safety, air quality or congestion. The £62k of Asda development funding remains available, however the costs of implementing across the Town based on similar schemes is likely to be in the range of £1million to £2.5million and no further funding is available for such a scheme.</p>
<p>16. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>How much has the county council received in fines from vehicles illegally travelling through Boots Corner shared space in Cheltenham since the 18 month trial began in June this year?</p>	<p>After an initial period where warning letters were issued, Enforcement started in August. The net income, after costs, over the last 4 months is around £150,000. The rate of income is dropping as people become more used to the new arrangements, and this decrease is expected to continue.</p>
<p>17. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>I thank the cabinet member for agreeing to my request at the last council meeting that profits from the fines from the Boots Corner trial be reinvested in footpaths and cycle facilities in Cheltenham. Please can I ask how Cheltenham County Councillors will be able to access this funding to secure schemes in their divisions to encourage walking and cycling?</p>	<p>Any extra funding will be allocated in the normal way to projects in Cheltenham. I would encourage councillors to engage with their local highways managers in the normal way.</p>
<p>18. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>From speaking to my constituents, I understand that drop kerbs not being installed throughout Cheltenham is a barrier to accessing the town centre and other local facilities. Where this is the case,</p>	<p>Officers are already working on developing a programme of works for next year to address this issue. I would encourage councillors to engage with their Local Highways Managers on issue like this.</p>

<p>people in mobility scooters or wheelchairs have to go into the road. Could I request that an audit of pavements is done in Cheltenham to ensure there are no gaps in the vital provision of drop kerbs and the funding for this comes from the fines from Boots Corner?</p>	
<p>19. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>The use of business permits in residential areas like St Luke's Cheltenham for all day commuter parking cause significant problems for residents, particularly the elderly, infirm or those with small children. This is because vehicles parked all day means there is little churn in spaces so if residents need to go out when they come back they have no chance of parking anywhere near their homes. In other areas which are more commercial such all-day commuter parking is no much of a worry. In light of the uproar from business parking permit holders about the recent changes to the terms and conditions of the use of business permits and the continued concern in St Luke's that their permit scheme does not work fairly for residents, can GCC review and improve its business permit parking policy to address both the concerns of business as well as local residents?</p>	<p>The recent change to digital business permits should reduce the potential for fraudulent use of such permits, which will give us a clearer idea of the impact of business parking across the whole county. We consider all users of parking in implementing reviews, with a particular focus on residents, whilst trying to balance the needs of all.</p>
<p>20. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>Following on from question 14) from the last council meeting, could the cabinet member please tell me what is the progress of work to prioritise areas to review parking in Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>We have recently sent out a questionnaire to all county councillors asking for their priorities, this has also been sent to Cheltenham Borough Council. The return date for the questionnaires is the 30th November.</p> <p>A cabinet paper on the process, which will also release the funds for carrying out any reviews, will be brought to January's cabinet meeting.</p>
<p>21. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>I have received a number of complaints from members of the</p>	<p>The website is designed to allow residents to report concerns to us as</p>

<p>public about technical issues around the Boots Corner partial closure trial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That they have not received an email confirming the comments they have made on the Boots Corner trial via the online portal b) Why are people are being asked to tick a box at all in order to proceed and make comments – surely they should all be considered as part of the consultation c) That when completing the online feedback form for the Boots Corner partial closure trial, that people can proceed without ticking a box to say if they want their comments considered as part of the formal process d) That some people have not received the initial letter of fine for going through Boots Corner until they received a final warning and £90 fine <p>What is being done to find out the extent of the technical problems which some are saying mean they don't think their comments have been recorded at all or recorded as part of the official feedback and what is being done to address them?</p>	<p>well as to submit formal responses to the consultation. We are happy to address any concerns residents have about the process. Any concerns about enforcement notices should be directed to through our parking team which can investigate the concerns. We are aware of a short period when the website was not sending out confirmations but this has since been resolved. Any responses sent to us through the website have been recorded as part of the consultation.</p> <p>Specifically in relation to point d – there is a clearly regulated process for appealing against the PCN process. Where we have been contacted by individuals who report not receiving their original PCN letter, we have reset the process back to that stage to allow payment at the lower rate, or appeal against the PCN.</p>
<p>22. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>I have raised concerns that no traffic monitoring is taking place on the straight section of St Luke's Road or on Montpellier Terrace before and during the Boots Corner trial closure. The result of traffic not being monitored on St Luke's Road at this location is significant. The monitor on College Road is on the section between the junction with St Luke's Road and Bath Parade, which means all of the vehicles which are cutting through the very narrow St Luke's Place and then on to Bath Parade are not being counted. According to the traffic data they won't exist but unfortunately, the impact of this displaced traffic is very significant. Since I requested</p>	<p>We are currently undertaking traffic monitoring as part of the CTP Phase 4 trial at sites across the town. Additional traffic monitoring on St. Luke's Road Place and St. Luke's Place is planned in conjunction with the wider monitoring programme to investigate the concerns raised.</p> <p>Once the data has been collected and analysed, if necessary, options to address any issues will be investigated.</p>

<p>this additional traffic monitoring has it been installed? I honestly believe the junction of St Luke's Road with St Luke's Place is now very dangerous to cyclists and pedestrians for reasons I have outlined to officers and councillors in emails. Has any effort been made to observe these problems (worse at peak times) and if so what resource is available to mitigate this issue?</p>	
<p>23. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>What measures are being considered to reduce congestion on Rodney Road, High Street and Winchcombe Street which are subject to higher levels of traffic since the Boots Corner trial started?</p>	<p>We are currently developing some possible measures such as additional traffic calming and signage that will discourage use of Rodney Road.</p>
<p>24. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>How many primary schools are running the daily mile?</p>	<p>There are currently 127 primary schools or 52% running the daily mile, involving 22,500 children. This is an increase of 11,000 children and 59 schools from 2016.</p>
<p>25. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</p>
<p>GIS now employs a broad range of employees including people with disabilities. Is GIS monitored in the same way CQC monitors care homes?</p>	<p>All service areas in the Council have monitoring processes in place to ensure high standards are achieved and maintained but GIS is not monitored in the way in which CQC monitors care homes as it is not a registered care service. GIS is an operational delivery service within GCC and delivers the Integrated Community Equipment Service. They employ 106 members of GCC staff and 63 of these have a disability and come within the DWP Supported Employment placements which GIS receives a grant towards these placements. At GIS, there are two dedicated officers' with specific responsibility for monitoring supported employment working between the 2 sites. GIS Healthcare receives Supported Employment grants from DWP. Quarterly Development Plans are completed by the supported employment employee and their team</p>

	<p>leader and sent to DWP. GIS have achieved the Disability Confident Employer award. They have also achieved the Silver Award for Investors in People, highest quality award ISO9001: 2015 and CECOPS Award (Community Equipment Code of Practice Scheme). All the awards have a high element of people management included within them.</p>
<p>26. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</p>
<p>Are GIS employees included in the GCC staff survey?</p>	<p>Yes. GIS employees are invited to complete the GCC staff survey and paper copies are provided for those who are unable to access the online questionnaire. All Mitcheldean employees took part and approximately 50% of Gloucester staff completed the recent survey.</p>
<p>27. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</p>
<p>If there was unacceptable behaviour at GIS how would GCC hear about it?</p>	<p>The standard GCC policies apply to staff and managers at GIS in the same way as in other departments of the Council. All employees attend individual meetings with their line managers and this would be the opportunity for them to raise any problems. If the concern was about their line manager, then the issue should be taken to the more senior manager. Staff also have access to their Union representatives and can use that channel to raise any concerns. The Adult Services Joint Consultative Forum meets every two months and this provides an opportunity for Directors, Human Resources and Union Representatives to meet and discuss current topics and any specific concerns. GIS have close contact with both GCC HR and with the Occupational Health Staff. GIS management have invited senior HR officers to our sites and today we are arranging visits by OH staff to visit us.</p>
<p>28. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>The media team seems to have been depleted in recent months and with that considerable experience. Are we confident that there</p>	<p>The council has moved to a communications team, with all team members working across a range of disciplines, including media. There</p>

<p>is sufficient capacity to cover all eventualities particularly with the onset of winter when we can expect the usual highways and health issues to occur. It is the intention to maintain this section at its current level or will the team be strengthened?</p>	<p>have been a number of appointments to the team following recent departures, with new members of staff joining in coming months.</p>
<p>29. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>If there was more money in the budget, which area of the council would the Leader invest in first?</p>	<p>Next years' budget will be published in December, and I look forward to receiving Cllr Williams' comments once it is.</p>
<p>30. Questioner's name: Cllr Kate Haigh</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</p>
<p>What checks and balances exist within GCC to ensure that members of staff don't fall prey to online scams?</p>	<p>We work on a number of fronts to protect staff and councillors – technology security defences, device controls, anti-virus/spyware detection, awareness raising etc. We are also developing new cyber training.</p> <p>We all have a role to play to protect the Council and we all need to be vigilant and suspicious with emails.</p>
<p>31. Questioner's name: Cllr Graham Morgan</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>Will the 52 bus service from Drybrook to Mitcheldean continue to run until the report that has been called for by the Leader of the Council is published, and will children's bus passes be honoured until that time?</p>	<p>Following representations from Councillors Robinson & Hale, and from the local MP, we are continuing to look into this issue. However, we will take steps to ensure that bus transport is available on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>There are two bus services which transport school children. The first is commissioned by GCC for children eligible for assistance with transport to school, which any children who are not eligible can also use through the Council's 'spare seats scheme'.</p> <p>The second is a commercial bus service which children can use on a pay as you go basis.</p>

<p>32. Questioner's name: Cllr Eva Ward</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Earlier this month Bristol City Council declared a Climate Emergency, and set a target of being Carbon Neutral by 2030. This came in response to the latest Independent Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) report which warns that we have only 12 years within which to cut carbon emissions by 45%. Gloucestershire County Council has made good progress in a number of areas on reducing it's own Carbon Emissions, and has recently recognised it's leadership role in the county on environmental issues through changes to the Cabinet. Does the Cabinet member believe that Gloucestershire County Council should explore following the lead of Bristol, and building on progress to date, substantially raise our ambition of reducing carbon emissions across the county?</p>	<p>The Council already has an ambitious target to reduce its corporate carbon emissions by 60% by 2020/21 against 2006/07 levels. This mirrors the trajectory of the UK's 80% reduction target. As reported to the November meeting of Environment & Communities Scrutiny Committee, the Council's carbon emissions reduced to 55% in 2017/18.</p> <p>Completion of the LED Street Lighting rollout and the Shire Hall refurbishment, which includes solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, and the trial of ultralow emission pool cars will continue us on track to meet the target. Options for further investment in renewable energy generation across the Council's land and buildings are being investigated. A report is due to go to the next meeting of Cabinet in December recommending that Cabinet signs up to Government's Emissions Reduction Pledge, committing to report annual performance to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and publish on the Council's website. This report also proposes reviewing the Council's ambition and the effectiveness of its policies in delivering sustainable development in Gloucestershire, with a stakeholder workshop to be held by the end of March 2019.</p>
<p>33. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>SchoolCuts.org.uk estimates an average funding fall of £147 per-pupil in Gloucestershire Schools between 2015/16 and 2019/20. Adjacent to my division, Thomas Keble school has seen cuts estimated at -£279 per pupil per year since 2015/16. Can the Cabinet member confirm the level of average per-pupil funding cut seen by Gloucestershire schools in this period.</p>	<p>The allocation per pupil for a Gloucestershire secondary school in 2018/19 is £4,069, an increase of £16 per pupil over 2015/16. No decisions have been taken yet for 2019/20.</p> <p>Comparisons between 2015/16 and the current year are difficult to make because of the change from a local formula to the National Funding Formula. No decisions have yet been taken for 2019/20.</p>

34. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
I understand that Local Authorities have some flexibility in how far they apply the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) during 2019/20. Can the Cabinet Member detail any deviations from the NFF being considered by Gloucestershire County Council for next year, the reasons for these changes, and their anticipated impact on average per-pupil funding for general and high-needs pupils.	I refer Cllr Smith to refer to the Schools Forum papers, which are available on the council website and include the consultation paper issued to schools on this issue.
35. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
Can the Cabinet Member confirm how much additional funding Gloucestershire Schools are set to receive as a result of the Chancellor's in-year boost for schools, announced in the Autumn Budget, and whether he feels this will contribute to 'little extras' or may need to be used to pay for core costs.	Based on the Chancellor's announcement that secondary schools will on average receive £50,000 and primary schools on average will receive £10,000, we expect the total for Gloucestershire schools (including academies) to be around £4.5m. Details of the grant are due to be announced in the New Year.
36. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
Is it theoretically possible for shortfalls in the general or high-needs school budget lines to be met through the County Council re-allocating funding from other non-education budget lines into the school budget in its 2019/20 budget setting?	Funding for schools is provided by central government through a ring-fenced government grant – the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The expectation is that councils will work with their Schools Forums to ensure that the DSG is allocated effectively and fairly. Under the General Power of Competence, the council can support a range of services – but we have to be realistic about our financial ability to do so. The proper resolution for this issue is for the government to complete the process of delivering fair funding to Gloucestershire schools, which is something actively supported by all Gloucestershire MPs.
37. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor

The vision for a sustainable county was the most discussed topic by Gloucestershire residents in the Vision2050 consultation. The Big Conversation consultation report notes that “Many [respondents] believe it [sustainability] is a fundamental requirement of any plans for future development.”, with support for a zero-carbon County by 2050 or earlier (Bristol City Council have just committed to zero carbon by 2030). The report also notes that “Most consultation respondents support the ambition of improving public transport networks to and in Gloucestershire. A significant number of respondents support these improvements because they would like to see a reduction in car usage and pollution.”

However, the Looking to the Future strategy includes just one commitment on Public Transport (relating to Severn Vale), and promotes a number of road building schemes that are likely to increase car usage, and that are inconsistent with tackling air pollution. The strategy states that we want “More efficient use of resources and more use of sustainable energy”, but does not offer a single concrete commitment in relation to this.

Can the Cabinet Member describe which measures in the strategy are intended to contribute to increased use of sustainable energy across the county?

Does the Cabinet Member consider that the emphasis placed on Highways Delivery in the Looking to the Future chapter is consistent with the consultation responses received during Vision 2050?

Has any assessment taken place to identify how far proposals in the Looking To The Future strategy will impact positively or negatively on carbon emissions originating in Gloucestershire? Will any such assessment take place?

Will the proposed ‘Highways skills academy’ include curriculum that supports a focus on reducing the carbon and air pollution

Looking to the Future sets out our strategic vision and intentions. In this strategy document we are committing to core values to ensure that the schemes we develop help Gloucestershire to become a more sustainable, healthy and inclusive county. We are also saying that we will promote active travel, including walking and cycling and looking for opportunities to accelerate the uptake of cleaner vehicles. Our investment of £470k in Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and role in delivering new cycle infrastructure in the county demonstrate our commitment to a transport system which is no longer dependent upon fossil fuels but which uses electricity generated from renewable sources and reduces local air pollution.

We are looking to develop a Highways Skills Academy to develop robust apprenticeship opportunities for the construction and highways industry in the County. We are only in the early days of setting up relationships with partner organisations and have not considered what training or skills courses will be available through the academy but these are likely to focus on how we develop a workforce that is fit for the future. The academy will involve working with local education suppliers as well as our contractors including Ringway, Tarmac, Skanska and others involved in helping us delivery highway services in Gloucestershire.

impacts of our transport infrastructure?	
38. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Street Trees</p> <p>§6.34 of the Technical Specification for New Streets states that <i>“The Council will normally adopt well-designed landscaping on highway verges and other highway-related land providing that the Developer pays a commuted sum to cover the long-term maintenance of the scheme.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the Cabinet member detail how inclusion of trees and grass-verge areas affects the level of the commuted sum, giving an average cost to developers per-tree if possible? • Is the way the commuted sum is calculated consistent with encouraging developers to plant trees, and create verge spaces that can be managed for biodiversity? 	<p>We look after over 15,000 street trees. They are really important and attractive part of many urban areas– but they do bring significant long term maintenance costs to the council. In recognition of this we ask for a £660 contribution, to help ensure council taxpayers aren't subsidising property developers. There is no charge for grass verges.</p>
39. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Roads and cycle spending</p> <p>How much has been spent from the highways budget on building new cycling infrastructure this year to date? What proportion is spending on cycling infrastructure forecast to take from the overall highways budget by the end of this year?</p>	<p>£1.025M of funding is anticipated to be spent on specific cycle schemes this year. Cycle infrastructure is also upgraded as parts of other projects, for instance the Metz Way scheme currently on site includes about £700,000 of improvements aimed at cyclists. There are numerous other schemes that include cycle upgrades or benefits to cycling. It is our intention to spend the entire allocated budget this year but this will be subject to weather during the last quarter of the year's programme.</p>
40. Questioner's name: Cllr Joe Harris	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
<p>A year ago residents in Cirencester were promised an on-Street parking review that would start 'in the summer'.</p>	<p>The review will not be carried out until after the Town Centre issues have been resolved and the impact of the off street parking changes</p>

<p>We're now in November and still no closer to the review starting.</p> <p>When will the on-street parking review begin?</p>	<p>being proposed by the District Council are fully understood.</p>
<p>41. Questioner's name: Cllr Joe Harris</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>Cirencester Town Council have spent millions of pounds upgrading Cirencester market place, reinvigorating the town centre after years of underinvestment from the County Council. You could argue that the Town Council have done the County a favour.</p> <p>At GCC's request the Town Council undertook a comprehensive and independent road safety audit and were ready to implement its findings when GCC suddenly moved the goal posts. This is the final obstacle in the entire scheme being signed off.</p> <p>County Council officers have stated that the Traffic Regulation Order, that will make changes to restrictions on Cricklade Street and make it easier for disabled people to park in the Market Place, cannot be progressed until the scheme is signed off.</p> <p>What is the cabinet member doing to ensure that the scheme is signed off as quickly as possible?</p>	<p>The County Council commissioned an independent Pedestrian Safety Review to assess if the scheme is compliant with the requirements of the Equalities Act. The report was issued to Cirencester Town Council to be reviewed in conjunction with their Safety Audit. CTC were going to establish a list of proposed works which GCC and CTC could agree on before going to consultation. CTC were then going to arrange a public meeting open to all stakeholders to agree a way forward. GCC are waiting for a formal response from CTC on their comments in relation to the Pedestrian Safety Review.</p>
<p>42. Questioner's name: Cllr Joe Harris</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>In June 2017 I allocated Highways local money to repair broken paving slabs that had been driven over in Coxwell street. The broken slabs were becoming dangerous and causing a nuisance for local residents.</p> <p>After waiting for over a year the new slabs were finally installed two weeks ago.</p>	<p>We are currently arranging for the suppliers representative to visit site to discuss the failure and arrange for remedial work. In the interim the site will be made safe for pedestrian use.</p>

<p>Within two days of installation the paving slabs have broken.</p> <p>Does the cabinet member think this is good enough and why are Highways using such inferior materials?</p> <p>I would have been happy to contribute more Highways local funding to use higher quality materials.</p>	
<p>43. Questioner's name: Cllr Joe Harris</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>I was delighted to read that Siddington Road was due to be resurfaced this month.</p> <p>I've recently learned that this has now been shunted off into the New Year with no fixed date. Will the cabinet member ensure that this is resurfaced as soon as possible and release a date this side of Christmas.</p>	<p>I welcome Cllr Harris' support for the council's £150m investment into our roads – and the real difference that is making. This particular scheme has been delayed because a utility company has told us they need to dig the road up and replace the gas main early in 2019/20. Once that has happened, we will resurface the road.</p>
<p>44. Questioner's name: Cllr Joe Harris</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>I'm delighted that the new building at Paternoster School has recently been completed with funding from GCC.</p> <p>Many of the buildings at the school however are still portacabins that aren't fit for the 21st century.</p> <p>I've had discussions with the school who are keen to complete 'phase 2', will the cabinet member make the completion of the a priority?</p>	<p>A substantial redevelopment of Paternoster School costing £2.8m has recently been completed, which is part of the Council's £100 million investment in our schools. The project has provided a range of high quality and enhanced facilities for children with special needs at the School.</p> <p>Given the School's imminent conversion to academy status, it will be for the Regional Schools Commissioner and Education and Skills Funding Agency to determine what funding is provided for further phases.</p>
<p>45. Questioner's name: Cllr Brian Oosthuysen</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>To: Lynden Stowe</p>	<p>This question can best be answered by reference to the website https://glos2050.com</p>

<p>Which of the vision 2050 proposals are being progressed, what structures are being put in place to oversee the work?</p>	<p>This contains the final reports from all the work to date, and the Gloucestershire 2050 Concordat which is owned by the partners of Leadership Gloucestershire and describes how the Vision 2050 proposition will be taken forward.</p> <p>It should be remembered that the “projects” presented as part of the Big Conversation were primarily intended to initiate public engagement and alternative ideas. All of the projects except for a Cotswold Airport will be explored further, but will have been modified through the six month public engagement.</p> <p>In terms of structures to move forward, three Boards are currently being scoped to cover the Central Gloucestershire area, the Severn Vale, and Rural Gloucestershire. Proposals for these Boards will be considered by Leadership Gloucestershire during the first half of 2019.</p>
<p>46. Questioner’s name: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>The alarmingly high level of school exclusions in the county – far in excess of our regional and statistical neighbours – has quite rightly been the subject of close scrutiny within the county council. What has been less reported, however is the particularly high level of school exclusions in Cheltenham alone, including children within primary schools.</p> <p>With the majority of primary schools still being under Local Authority control can the Cabinet Member confirm what the county council is doing to arrest this alarming trend in Cheltenham></p>	<p>The rise in the number of school exclusions is a national issue and the Government has commissioned a review of exclusions, which is being lead by Edward Timpson.</p> <p>Whilst Gloucestershire County Council has no jurisdiction over exclusions within schools, supporting vulnerable children is a priority. Officers are working closely with schools and academies across the county to reduce the level of exclusion.</p> <p>This work includes raising school and governor awareness of good inclusive practice and supporting schools with alternative strategies to exclusion e.g. early help and restorative practice and is enabling a whole family/community response to supporting vulnerable children in the area.</p> <p>As a result of this work, just 1 primary aged child has been excluded in Cheltenham since September, with 9 others averted.</p>

47. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles
<p>There is a concern that some academies within the county are abusing the exclusion system in order to improve their average results.</p> <p>Recognising that academies are not under Local Authority jurisdiction, what actions is the Cabinet Member taking to work with all of Gloucestershire's schools – but especially Cheltenham where the numbers of secondary exclusions are growing much more rapidly than the rest of the county – to ensure they are using exclusions as an action of last-resort</p>	<p>The Director of Education has written to the Regional Schools Commissioner regarding the actions she is taking and seeking assurance that her officers will be rigorously monitoring and challenging poor performance in academies.</p> <p>In addition to this, and the council's supportive work in all schools to reduce exclusions, officers are working closely with Ofsted to identify those schools that have a disproportionate number of pupils being excluded prior to national examinations to agree appropriate actions.</p> <p>Exclusions data has been shared with the Head Teacher associations and there is a programme of meetings with Chairs of Governors/Head Teachers of identified schools to provide challenge and support.</p> <p>As a result of this work, 12 secondary exclusions have been averted in Cheltenham since September. Whilst progress is being made, it will be the changes to national legislation which are under discussion that will enable greater impact.</p>