

Cabinet	
Wednesday 17 June 2020 10.00 am	
Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester	
AGENDA	

Item	Discussion	Portfolio
4	<p>Questions at Cabinet Meetings (Pages 1 - 24)</p> <p>Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.</p> <p>Written questions</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>The closing date for the receipt of written questions was 4.00 pm on Thursday 11 June 2020</p> <p>Please submit any questions to jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk</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 will not be read out. At the discretion of the Leader of Council, each questioner in attendance/joining the meeting will be allowed to ask one supplementary question under this item (in response to the answer given to the original question).</p> <p>A copy of all written questions and written answers circulated at the meeting will be attached to the signed copy of the minutes of the meeting.</p> <p>Urgent questions</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

Please note: in response to the Covid19 Emergency, this meeting will be conducted as a remote access meeting.

To ask a supplementary question at the meeting, (following submission of a written question), please contact Jo Moore at jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk by midday on Monday 15 June 2020.

The meeting can be viewed on the Gloucestershire County Council website at the following link: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Cabinet

Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE, Cllr Richard Boyles, Cllr Carole Allaway Martin, Cllr Tim Harman, Cllr Patrick Molyneux, Cllr Nigel Moor, Cllr David Norman MBE, Cllr Vernon Smith, Cllr Lynden Stowe and Cllr Kathy Williams

17 June 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

CABINET MEETING – 17 June 2020

<p>1. Christopher Chiswell</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 9: West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme</p> <p>Cabinet will today consider Phases 3 and 4 of the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme. Whilst delivering a number of exciting opportunities, the scheme stops abruptly at the A40/B4633 Gloucester road junction, leaving no safe route to the station and Cheltenham town centre. This missing link is due to the failure in delivery of the Lansdown Road pedestrian/cycle link to the railway station, marked as a dashed line on the plans. Any active travel route is only as good as its weakest link.</p> <p>When will a safe, segregated link to the Honeybourne Line be available to realise the opportunity of this new infrastructure, and avoid the current need for vulnerable road users from West Cheltenham to need to take their chances on the Gloucester Road up to the station?</p>	<p>Great Western Rail have been making progress on the Lansdown Road link to the Station; Approval in Principle has been secured from Network Rail, some enabling works have taken place and detailed design work is progressing.</p> <p>However, the link is relatively complex and does require access to Network Rail land. A funding shortfall has been identified to complete the scheme and GWR is working closely with the County Council and Cheltenham Borough Council to review the opportunities to address this.</p>
<p>2. Christopher Chiswell</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>What active transport ambitions and measurable targets has the council adopted in the context of COVID-19 and its application to the emergency active travel fund?</p> <p>How have citizens been involved in shaping these to date, and what opportunities will the council provide for citizens to have a voice in the councils plans moving forwards on this?"</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council, in partnership with district councils, is improving walking and cycling routes across the county to help residents socially distance safely during the Coronavirus pandemic. Three initial sites have been installed in Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Bourton on the Water, with a further site being developed in Gloucester. We have also asked district councils to tell us their top three sites which they believe will meet the criteria and benefit their residents. The County Council have asked residents to share their feedback via our website and as proposals are developed we will continue to work closely with districts and communities.</p>
<p>3. Virginia (Ginny) Kirkham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p>	<p>Walking and cycling, along with modal shift to other more sustainable forms of transport form an integral part of the draft Local Transport Plan</p>

<p>In light of Covid 19 and the cleaner air the pandemic has afforded, will the council pledge to improve and increase walking and cycling connectivity/infrastructure in Gloucestershire over and above current ambitions?</p>	<p>(2015-2041) which can be found on our website. The policy framework set out is intended to encourage the resourcing of smarter choices and transport mode shift by building on the new attitudes and opportunities for transport in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>The council is working closely with district councils to improve walking and cycling routes as a direct response to the current Covid-19 crisis. These improvements will encourage cycling and walking around the county, reducing car journeys and cutting congestion. Longer term, they will also improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions by promoting sustainable transport and active travel in a necessary and practical way.</p> <p>GCC has also just publicly consulted on a revised Local Transport Plan for Gloucestershire which discusses provision for cycling in 3 categories, ambition (cycle desire lines), Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan or LCWIP (local) and LTP Schemes Priorities (strategic). The schemes identified in the LTP will continuously be developed to put GCC in the best position possible, to bid for funding opportunities, as they arise.</p>
<p>4. Virginia (Ginny) Kirkham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Will the council lead the way in allowing homeworking and flexible hours to reduce road congestion at peak times, which in turn will allow cyclists, pedestrians and car users to use the roads more safely? Will they help and encourage other Gloucestershire companies to do the same?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>54% of our employees (54%) are working fully from home with many others working at home for part time. This is a huge step change for the council and our staff – but one that I really think offers huge benefits – not just environmentally and for congestion, but also for productivity and for quality of life. It also builds resilience in the event of further outbreak.</p> <p>We, and I’m sure the government, will certainly be looking ways to promote home working going forward.</p>

<p>5. Virginia (Ginny) Kirkham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>In light of the Covid 19 Pandemic, will the Cabinet consider pressing the pause button of the plans to reroute and turn the A46 into a dual carriageway, as with more homeworking, cycling, the success of technology (zoom/Microsoft Teams), the “new normal” will likely result in less vehicles on the Ashchurch stretch of the A46 in the long run?</p>	<p>The A46 is a trunk road, and the responsibility of Highways England, rather than the council.</p> <p>The long term implications of the Covid-19 pandemic are not yet fully understood. We will continue to monitor traffic levels and consider the implications of the “new normal” for the transport system in the future.</p>
<p>6. Virginia (Ginny) Kirkham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Do the council agree with Grant Shapps when he says that air pollution is a hidden killer and that “Clean air should be as big a priority for us in the 21st Century as clean water was for the Victorians in the 19th”?</p>	<p>Improving air quality is an important priority for Gloucestershire County Council and is an underlying theme in the draft Local Transport Plan (2015-2041) which can be found on our website.</p>
<p>7. Virginia (Ginny) Kirkham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Looking at the document “Gloucestershire, Looking to the Future’, that you provided a link for, on page 7 you list Gloucestershire’s priorities. Sadly there is no mention of Climate Change and how important it is to dramatically reduce carbon outputs.</p> <p>Will you commit to publicly now, and in future publications, stating Climate Change reduction is a top priority for Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>I would refer the questioner to agenda item 6, which seeks to write the importance of climate change, and the council’s commitment to zero carbon into our corporate strategy.</p>

<p>8. Jan Mallett (Chair of Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group (TAAG) https://taagroup.co.uk/)</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>In the light of the current pandemic are GCC looking again at the ‘Local Transport Plan’ in terms of future developments and reassessing the need for major road developments?</p>	<p>Covid-19 has impacted significantly on transport and the way we travel.</p> <p>However, at this point in time, the long term implications of the Covid-19 pandemic are not yet fully understood. We will continue to monitor traffic levels and consider the implications of the “new normal” for the transport system in the future.</p> <p>Following a recent public consultation, the County Council will be amending various aspects of the LTP and it will be updated with the latest transport information that is available. The revised LTP will be reported back through Cabinet later this year and Full Council early next year.</p>
<p>9. Jan Mallett (Chair of Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group (TAAG) https://taagroup.co.uk/)</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 10: M5 Junction 10 Improvement Scheme</p> <p>We understand that as a general guideline LLM schemes should aim for the local contribution to be at least 15% of the total scheme costs and that the local contribution of each scheme will be for discussion as the scheme develops but what local contribution is the Council expecting/planning for?</p>	<p>15%.</p>
<p>10. Jan Mallett (Chair of Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group (TAAG) https://taagroup.co.uk/)</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 10: M5 Junction 10 Improvement Scheme</p> <p>We understand that GCC are proposing to spend just over £3.7m on development of the OBC as the SOBC submission was too late to get DfT funding. How is this to be funded and can the council provide their justification for this level of spend at this uncertain time.</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council regularly invests business case funding to develop major transport projects. The business case funding for the J9 scheme was approved at full council in February 2019 and February 2020.</p>

<p>11. Jan Mallett (Chair of Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group (TAAG) https://taagroup.co.uk/)</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 10: M5 Junction 10 Improvement Scheme</p> <p>Hereford County Council had planned a Southern Link road and bypass, but with the elections last May and a new administration, there has been a Transport Strategy Review. Councillor John Harrington, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport has said : “Any measures taken to address travel issues, such as congestion and poor air quality, must be positive for Hereford and the whole county, and are consistent with the council’s declaration of a climate emergency” Will GCC take a similar, bold decision to review the planned M5/A46 scheme in light of the Paris Climate Change agreement and the Council’s own declaration of a Climate Emergency?</p>	<p>Reducing carbon emissions from transport is important, and the best approach to this is through the transition to lower, low and no emission vehicles. This transition is the only way that we will be able to meet our national climate change goals, and is something that this council supports.</p> <p>The County Council’s adopted Local Transport Plan (LTP) and emerging review of the LTP have a wide range of policies to address congestion and improve air quality throughout Gloucestershire.</p>
<p>12: Molly Scott Cato (formerly Green MEP for South West England and Gibraltar)</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>It is clear that the government’s Test-and-Trace system is behind schedule and failing to meet targets. Without the ability to trace cases, any emergence from lockdown entails a risk of increased spread of the coronavirus. The experience of Councils such as Ceredigion demonstrate that such local systems are viable and can result in impressive reductions in infections and deaths. The progress made by Councils such as Cumbria show that such local systems are within the powers and capacity of local authorities.</p> <p>What steps is the Council taking to use its public health expertise to establish a Gloucestershire-wide system for testing those infected with Covid-19, tracing and isolating their contacts, and supporting those who are in quarantine?</p>	<p>The NHS Test and Trace scheme is an integral part of the national strategy to support the country to begin to move to recovery from the lockdown measures and local Public Health teams are fundamental to making this work. The Council’s Public Health team continues to work closely with PHE to prevent, identify and contain incidences of infectious disease and Covid-19 is no exception. PHE will continue to lead the contact tracing aspect of the Test and Trace service and locally the Gloucestershire Outbreak Management Plan will be the vehicle by which locally we manage the consequences of cases and outbreaks. For example supporting people to self isolate by ensuring they have access to food and medicines.</p> <p>In order to develop and implement the plan, GCC’s Director of Public Health and her team are working closely with PHE, district councils, local NHS colleagues and the Local Resilience Forum to ensure the local system can respond effectively and efficiently to local cases.</p>

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MEMBER QUESTIONS

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Question 1: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent: Cllr Tim Harman
Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery How many people were assisted to transfer from hospital to a residential care home by the integrated brokerage team during the months of March, April and May?	March: 42 total, 8 residential and 34 nursing April: 80 total, 39 residential and 41 nursing May: 88 total, 38 residential and 50 nursing
Question 2: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent: Cllr Tim Harman
Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery How many of these transfers (please refer to question 1) were subject to a 72 hour and 48 hour COVID-19 test before the transfer took place; and when did this double testing begin?	Every previously CV19 positive patient was tested before discharge. In addition, all patients discharged in May and 50% of those discharged in April, were tested.
Question 3: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent: Cllr Tim Harman
Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery How many people who were transferred to a care home during the months of March, April and May have subsequently died?	Of the 210 people discharged, 29 sadly subsequently died. This is from all causes.

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Question 4: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Section 2.2 Children’s Services</p> <p>In these incredibly difficult times, what is the council doing to ensure those children in care, who are also leaving school, do not end up falling out of the system and into isolation? Do measures include the extension of foster placements?</p>	<p>The children’s social care service has maintained workforce resilience and capacity and continues to provide a full range of support and intervention with children in need of support, protection and care.</p> <p>In respect of children in care, who are classified as ‘vulnerable children’ by the Department for Education, they have continued to be prioritised with a continued offer of schooling, as well as on-line learning and activities.</p> <p>The Virtual School continues to undertake a key role in ensuring that the needs of all children in care are met, including those who are due to leave school after what would have been their final year after taking GCSEs and A Levels.</p> <p>Children’s social care continue to work closely with all schools, carers and young people to complete a COVID-19 risk assessment which focuses on school attendance and related issues. There is extensive checking and cross referencing with Education data to identify any gaps or discrepancies to ensure that children do not fall out of the system and into isolation. Visiting arrangements with children remains service priority to maintain.</p> <p>For older young people in care who have already turned 18 during the pandemic, and for other young people who are due to turn 18 shortly, arrangements have been made to extend their existing placements with foster carers or residential care homes to build stability and continuity of care. Older young people continue to be tracked to ensure they are not adversely impacted as a result of the pandemic and the inability to progress their transition arrangements at this time. This will continue to be reviewed at regular intervals until such time as transition arrangements can be progressed once again.</p>

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<p>Question 5: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Section 2.2 Children’s Services</p> <p>What conversations are being had with the LEP to make sure those children in care who are not attending school do not fall into long-term category of NEET?</p>	<p>The NEET team work closely with the Virtual School and in turn the LEP in regard to the education provision for Children in Care to ensure that we prevent these young people dropping into the NEET category. In addition, a case responsible officer from the Care Leavers team liaises directly with the LEP to ensure that information is shared and solutions found for any challenges.</p> <p>As part of our Covid response, the NEET team have been accessing on-line traineeships for young people 16 to 18, and are providing virtual coaching and mentoring sessions and support, such as CV development. The Basic Skills Tutor has also been providing online sessions. Plans are in place for a gradual and safe return to more face to face delivery.</p> <p>In terms of young people who are known to the Youth Offending Service and may also be children in care, an education circle is in place which brings relevant partner agencies together to ensure that these more complex young people are also offered appropriate educational provision.</p>
<p>Question 6: Cllr Rachel Smith</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda items 9 and 10: West Cheltenham Transport Improvement/M5 Junction 10 Schemes</p> <p>Please provide the carbon emission and air pollution modelling for both the Cheltenham West Transport Plan (agenda item 9), and the M5 Junction 10 Improvements (agenda item 10).</p>	<p>I have asked officers to provide this information to you.</p>

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<p>Question 7: Cllr Rachel Smith</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda items 9 and 10: West Cheltenham Transport Improvement/M5 Junction 10 Schemes</p> <p>In relation to both these schemes (agenda items 9 & 10), how have potential long-term changes in transport demand as a result of Covid 19, including shifts to work from home and potential recession impacts on development of housing and business sites, been addressed in the assessment of these plans?</p>	<p>The assessment horizon outlined in the Full Business Case for the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme is for the medium to long term, when the significant levels of local development will be in place before 2031. Therefore, the analysis of the future years would be no different taking into account COVID-19, other than a small change to the level of background traffic. The levels of traffic are such that the change from COVID-19 would not have a significant impact on the future year assessments. The scheme also incorporates a Travel Plan aimed at encouraging modal shift to sustainable travel including promoting working from home with local employers.</p> <p>For M5J10; the transport modelling done to date used three forecast years based on pre-existing models – 2021, 2036 and 2041. Clearly, potential long term changes in transport demand will not be known for some time, as travel patterns will take time to stabilise. All highways schemes are appraised using Government guidance, which at the present time remains unchanged.</p>
<p>Question 8: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Lessons learned: Item 5, which concerns itself with the response, restart, recovery and re-imagination of services, fails to reference any self-reflection over opportunities missed by GCC or steps not taken by the County Council. As we tentatively restart both services and our economy, does the Council Leader not believe it is critical to spell out lessons learned – particularly with a high chance of additional spikes in cases in Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>It is of key importance that everyone, the council, government and society generally all learn the lessons we can from Covid-19. The time for that is when we have resolved the emergency – not whilst it is still ongoing. Things appear to be moving the right way at present – but we must avoid any complacency.</p>

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<p>Question 9: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Lessons Learned: While it is absolutely critical to spell out the incredible work done by our council colleagues – particularly those in social services – does the council leader regret not making any reference in the report to the huge number of lives lost to Covid-19 in the county (estimated at over 560 at the time of writing) and the number of families that have lost loved ones to the pandemic?</p>	<p>The county council has been keeping you, other councillors and the public regularly updated about the progress of this disease – including those people who have very sadly lost their lives whilst suffering from it. A time will certainly come for remembering those people - but again, whilst the emergency is ongoing, all of our focus must be on the lives we can yet save.</p>
<p>Question 10: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>School transport – Section 3.3.2</p> <p>With primary schools already opened again to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 – and with further year groups expected soon – can the Cabinet Member responsible please advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What the current situation is for school transport? b) When school transport might resume fully? and c) What precautions will need to be put in place to ensure the high chance of transmission between students is mitigated when schools return fully? 	<p>Home to school transport has been continuing to operate throughout the lockdown period for a small number of key worker and vulnerable children.</p> <p>The re-opening of primary schools to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, has placed very few demands on school transport. From 15 June children in Years 10 and 12 will start to have some on-site education but numbers will be low (25% capacity) so usual transport will be able to accommodate these numbers whilst complying with social distancing measures.</p> <p>The DfE has now announced that there will be no expectation that any additional year groups will return to school before the end of the academic year and therefore transport demand will remain relatively stable during this time. All transport is provided in line with PHE, DfE & DFT guidance, whilst ensuring our most vulnerable children are able to benefit from accessing school – this includes social distancing and infection control measures.</p>

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	<p>Parents are also encouraged to transport their own children, with reimbursement from the council.</p> <p>A more detailed risk assessment on the impact of all children returning to schools during the autumn is currently being undertaken. Key factors in planning for this will be national guidance in relation to social distancing and the capacity of the overall transport fleet which could be available to us.</p>
<p>Question 11: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>School transport – Section 3.3.2</p> <p>With schools already open / opening soon, and school transport methods restricted, what specific measures has GCC taken to encourage active travel and prevent the mass use of cars for the school run?</p>	<p>With the limited school offer in place there has been little change to how children have been transported to school. Many primary aged children live within walking distance of their school and this is their usual method of travel.</p> <p>To date, children who require transport have been accommodated on usual transport routes. There has not been a particular increase in parents driving their children to school.</p> <p>All schools have travel plans that encourage active travel and this is something which has been promoted nationally and locally to the public and by schools directly to parents using the school provision.</p>
<p>Question 12: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>School transport – Section 3.3.2</p>	<p>It is expected that as numbers of children with SEND attending special schools increases before the summer, this will place additional vehicles in the system to ensure social distancing is maintained as far as possible. We anticipate this could be a further 80 vehicles as the use of multiple occupancy taxis is removed.</p>

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<p>Can GCC confirm roughly how many additional cars we might expect to see on the road during school drop off and pick up times should restrictions remain on school transport methods and no active travel alternatives be positioned?</p>	<p>Transport from the autumn will be dependent upon announcements from the Government on the number of pupils returning to school and social distancing measures.</p>
<p>Question 13: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Cheltenham Races (Background section of report)</p> <p>In the “Background” section, there is reference to the first case of Covid-19 reported in the county, but there is no reference to the potentially significant mass gathering that may have accelerated transmission.</p> <p>We have heard the Director for Public Health detail the conversations she had with the Jockey Club ahead of Cheltenham Festival – however can the Cabinet Member please explain his understanding of Government advice at the time surrounding mass gatherings, and specific encouragement that may have come from Ministers to the Jockey Club for the Festival to proceed?</p>	<p>The county council has no role in either licencing or permitting the Cheltenham Festival. It is not my place to paraphrase or summarise the advice of Public Health England.</p>
<p>Question 14: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Cheltenham Races (Background section of report)</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member detail any conversations he had with the Jockey</p>	<p>I had no such conversations.</p>

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<p>Club or other organisers about whether the Festival should have proceeded?</p>	
<p>Question 15: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Cheltenham Races (Background section of report)</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member advise whether, in hindsight, he believes the Festival should have proceeded?</p>	<p>There will clearly be many lessons to learn following Covid.</p> <p>Much of the press coverage of this issue focused on comparisons between Covid levels in Gloucestershire and the rest of the South West, whereas comparisons with neighbouring counties, and with statistical neighbours show Gloucestershire has had similar, or in some cases, lower, levels of Covid.</p>
<p>Question 16: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Highways maintenance: Section 2.5</p> <p>Over the last three months can the Cabinet Member for Highways confirm the number of potholes repaired across the county?</p>	<p>Over the period 1st March to 31st May 2020, 7047 potholes were repaired, plus a further 1695 other safety defects.</p> <p>Additionally, we have continued to carry out resurfacing schemes as part of our £150m investment in our roads – which is the only long term solution to improving our roads.</p>
<p>Question 17: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Highways maintenance: Section 2.5</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the number of potholes repaired</p>	<p>For the period 1st March to 31st May for the previous 3 years the figures are:</p> <p>2017 15,841 2018 20,690* 2019 9253**</p>

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<p>over the same three months for the last three years?</p>	<p>*In 2018 county roads were severely affected by the “Beast from the East”</p> <p>**this period covers the change in highways contract when defect recording systems changed</p>
<p>Question 18: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling initiatives – Section 3.6</p> <p>During the public questions Q&A session on 7 May, the panel stated that they had no plans for pop-up cycle lanes or to try and prevent traffic levels from returning to normal. Yet, over this same period, more progressive local authorities had already made dramatic changes to their highways to capture the public appetite for active travel.</p> <p>Does the council leader regret the delay in bringing plans forward, and is he concerned that we may have missed this once in a generation opportunity to change travel habits in the county forever?</p>	<p>It is clear from the research that we have carried out that some of the pop up schemes which hit the headlines were where double or triple lane routes with significant available road space available were able to be repurposed with lanes dedicated to modes other than cars. The County Council is progressing with plans to make changes to the Gloucestershire network to capture the opportunities in our own county.</p>
<p>Question 19: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Track and trace - Section 3.7</p>	<p>Whilst the lockdown measures were very effective at stopping spread, they have also had an impact on people’s health and wellbeing and the economy. The NHS Test and Trace scheme is an integral part of the national strategy to support the country to begin to move to recovery from</p>

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The Chief Operating Officer of the NHS's test-and-trace scheme recently confirmed that the system will not be fully operational until the end of September at the earliest.

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health confirm what implications this may have for Gloucestershire, including for children who will be expected to start the new school term many weeks before this is in place?

the lockdown measures. It is already operating in the South West, with NHS call handlers contacting anybody who has a positive test for Covid19 to advise them on next steps around self-isolation, and to identify any contacts. Contacts are defined as people who have been within 2m for more than 15 minutes, which emphasises the need for ongoing social distancing being the primary way to prevent onward spread of the virus, but using isolation where this has not happened.

Any positive cases that are identified that are connected to a school setting, for example a teacher, or a child who has been in school in the previous few days, are notified to Public Health England. This team are skilled in managing such situations, and they will involve the Local Authority in the risk assessment and management in the school setting. Since the schools have returned in the last couple of weeks, we have been notified of 8 possible situations in schools, only one of which was positive following testing. Public Health England managed the contact tracing and gave advice to the school, and were supported by the Local Authority to inform elected members and issue reassuring public messages. We have already seconded two GCC staff to PHE South West to help supplement their capacity, with other LAs in the SW doing the same.

Nationally, it is recognised that whilst cases in the community are currently low, this kind of local response needs to be further strengthened and upscaled to prepare for a possible second peak in the Autumn or beyond. This is why £300 million has been allocated to Upper Tier authorities to develop Covid19 Outbreak Management Plans and ensure. Gloucestershire's share is £2.2 million and this will be used to supplement local teams to respond to incidents and outbreaks.

We are currently working hard to have a draft plan and supporting resource by the end of June to supplement the existing systems in place. Social distancing measures and hand washing will remain key strategies for preventing outbreaks in schools, but we are confident that we can

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	support schools as they start to return to more normal activities if outbreaks do occur.
Question 20: Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr Tim Harman
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Track and trace - Section 3.7</p> <p>In contrast to Germany's successfully developed approach to test and trace, the UK Government has been pursuing a more centralised approach using inexperienced staff working for Serco. Meanwhile, Gloucestershire County Council's Public Health team benefits from a competent, professional and experienced team of disease contact tracers.</p> <p>Do you agree that the system would be improved if GCC's Public Health team played a more leading role?"</p>	<p>The national NHS Test and Trace scheme is already operating and linking strongly into Public Health England who in turn link with our Local Authority teams. Any positive cases contacted by the national Test and Trace service that are deemed to have a potential for higher risk, or need careful local support (e.g. a case in a school or a possible case in a homelessness setting), are escalated from the NHS call handler level to Public Health England regional health protection teams. It is these teams who will do the complicated contact tracing; a role they are experienced in as health protection professionals that usually manage outbreaks of a range of infectious diseases. In the South West we work very closely with PHE and have already seconded two staff to supplement the regional team resource of contact tracing.</p> <p>Our local role as a Local Authority is then to support Public Health England and the NHS Test and Trace team to provide local understanding and knowledge and ensure that the public and stakeholders understand and can be reassured about a situation. We will also be working to ensure that people who might be asked to self-isolate because they have been in contact with a confirmed case have essentials like food and medication. This is where our Outbreak Management Plan that we are expected to prepare by the end of June will assist in ensuring the roles and responsibilities of all partners are clear and that the system works seamlessly together to prevent the onward spread of infection.</p> <p>We also need to balance providing enough support to ensure that we have a system that is effective and responsive, with a distribution of work that doesn't put our support of other important public health functions at</p>

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	<p>risk; for example if there were another major public health incident (e.g. food poisoning outbreak) we might need our local contact tracing capacity to be available to us; similarly the public health team needs to maintain its business critical functions of supporting the health and wellbeing of the population through provision of essential services such as mental health, drugs and alcohol and sexual health.</p> <p>Therefore, we feel that Gloucestershire County Council has been involved in leading alongside other Local Authorities in the South West in developing and understanding how the totality of the track and trace system will help and support our local population. Covid19 unfortunately does not respect geographical boundaries and so a national service helps to ensure a consistent response, with Local Authorities and Public Health England working together to supplement and support the public in more complicated settings in the area.</p>
<p>Question 21: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Track and trace - Section 3.7</p> <p>It was declared that all staff and residents in over-65s care homes would be tested by 6 June.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm this target was met?</p>	<p>This was an offer to care homes – it was not mandatory for them to take up the offer. All care homes in Gloucestershire were contacted and supported to access the national portal to get their residents and staff tested.</p> <p>As of 10 June, 74% (161) of Gloucestershire’s Care Homes have registered with the Government’s care home testing portal, with 95 having completed the testing. The process for issuing test kits, collection and results is nationally managed through an online portal.</p> <p>The county council has worked to provide extra support, with, a further 21 receiving testing via the locally developed accelerated care home outreach scheme, in which the fire service supported the delivery and demonstration of swabbing to care homes that had specific urgent needs as identified through the local Care Home Quality Review Group (e.g. an</p>

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	ongoing outbreak).
Question 22: Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr Tim Harman
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Track and trace - Section 3.7</p> <p>It was suggested by council officers that weekly testing in over 65s care homes would be sufficient to track and trace cases in these residences.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that all staff and residents are now receiving weekly tests / what percentage of staff and residents are being tested each week?</p>	<p>The testing strategy for care homes has been nationally recommended and led. Currently, all care homes regardless of type can request a one-off batch of kits to test their entire population of residents and staff. These kits are ordered online and actioned as part of a national system that will deliver the kits to the home and arrange for collection later that week. The results are returned directly to the home. This is designed to provide reassurance that the home is currently free from COVID-19 and to remind that staff and residents should then continue to be vigilant for new symptoms.</p> <p>There has been some speculation that this approach could move to a more regular testing regime to effectively screen staff and residents for new disease. However, guidance on this is being sought nationally as there are both practical and ethical considerations of such a scheme, and the possibility that false reassurance might be given if tests are negative (because no test can be 100% accurate and this particular test, the antigen test, can only detect current disease).</p> <p>It is important to note that when any home suspects that any of their residents or staff may have COVID19 symptoms, they can ring Public Health England who will offer advice and issue testing kits that will be rapidly delivered and tested within 48 hours to help confirm an outbreak so that appropriate infection control measures can be put in place.</p>

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<p>Question 23: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Excess Deaths</p> <p>Item 5 is very notable by the absence of any reference to the number of deaths registered in Gloucestershire to date. Recognising the difficulties in gathering accurate data on the number of deaths in the county as a direct result of Covid-19 – can the Cabinet Member for Public Health confirm the number of excess deaths in the last three months, compared to the same period over the last three years?</p>	<p>I refer Cllr Dobie to the answer to question 9.</p> <p>Using ONS data we have compared the mortality in the county by week with the 5-year average for the same week (2015 – 2019). This allows for “smoothing” of effects such as heavy seasonal flu years, or Easter weekend moving. This analysis allows us to see if there are more deaths than we would expect per week in the county. Importantly, the counts are of deaths by all causes combined, meaning that the uncertainty of what is or is not a registered death attributable to COVID-19 is less relevant.</p> <p>Between the w/e 28th Feb and w/e 29th May there were 2201 deaths provisionally registered in the county. The 5-year average mortality for the same period is 1792, suggesting that there were 409 additional deaths during this period. It is important to note that we do not know for how many of these excess deaths COVID19 was a contributory factor.</p> <p>Members can view a summary of local cases and excess deaths information at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zaYh9hHa8</p>
<p>Question 24: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>London Road in Gloucester was proposed for an emergency cycle lane in the first tranche of measures to promote active travel and social distancing. This scheme was first disclosed on w/c 18 May – the same</p>	<p>More detailed investigations for this scheme have shown that further work is required to bring forward a safe solution that achieves real change and additional space for cyclists and pedestrians. Design work is underway.</p> <p>The local member has raised a number of concerns with the proposals, including objecting to a reduction in parking, which officers are also looking at closely.</p>

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<p>week the first schemes were rolled out in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.</p> <p>One month later, can the Cabinet Member please confirm the status of this emergency scheme?</p>	
<p>Question 25: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>Regarding the emergency cycle-lane on London Road, can the Cabinet Member please confirm whether or not this scheme has required a TRO?</p>	<p>We don't know yet. Detailed design work is underway to determine whether a TRO will be required.</p>
<p>Question 26: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>Regarding the emergency cycle-lane on London Road, can the Cabinet Member please confirm how many days it took to get the emergency TRO drawn up and approved?</p>	<p>Please see my answer to Question 25</p>
<p>Question 27: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p>	<p>Please see my answer to Question 25</p>

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<p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>Regarding the emergency cycle-lane on London Road, can the Cabinet Member please confirm how much the emergency TRO cost?</p>	
<p>Question 28: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>Regarding the emergency cycle-lane on London Road, can the Cabinet Member please confirm if GCC made use of the TRO fund proposed by the Lib Dem group and approved by the County Council in February?</p>	<p>If a TRO is required it will most likely be funded from the Emergency Active Travel Fund.</p>
<p>Question 29: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>Regarding the emergency cycle-lane on London Road, can the Cabinet Member please confirm if the emergency TRO was drawn up using existing powers held by the County Council, or if the team made use of new guidelines from the Govt?</p>	<p>Please see my answer to Question 25</p>

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<p>Question 30: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>Regarding the emergency cycle-lane on London Road, can the Cabinet Member please confirm whether this model for fast-tracked TROs could be used across the council to promote additional active travel schemes?</p>	<p>The new TRO guidelines from government outline how authorities might be able to comply with the need for appropriate consultation during the COVID19 restrictions. There are provisions for accelerating the process where there is a proven link/need for the purposes of COVID19. Therefore the County Council will use the new guidelines where these are appropriate.</p>
<p>Question 31: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Walking and cycling – Section 3.6</p> <p>Following the delivery of the first tranche of emergency schemes to promote social distancing in our towns and city, can the Cabinet Member please confirm when the next tranche of emergency walking and cycling schemes will be rolled out?</p>	<p>It is expected DfT will invite applications later this summer, but no more specific timescale has been announced as yet.</p>
<p>Question 32: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Section 3.3.2:</p> <p>Has GCC considered helping schools to return to full occupancy, while</p>	<p>Children Services' recovery planning has been running alongside our response arrangements for some time and is guided by central government advice and public health colleagues at national and local levels. This has enabled us to continue to support vulnerable children and families and, working with our schools and early years providers, ensure that vulnerable children and those of key workers can access</p>

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<p>maintaining social distancing rules, by leasing alternative unoccupied public/ private buildings within the school's vicinity (i.e. community halls or restaurants)?</p>	<p>early years and education provision.</p> <p>The DfE recently announced that schools returning to full occupancy will not take place before the autumn. The council's planning for a return to school in the next academic year is dependent upon further guidance from the DfE. The council has been key in supporting schools to accommodate children as needed during the pandemic. 96% of primary schools have widened their offer to children in line with DfE guidance since 1st June using their current accommodation. This has progressed through a risk assessment process, taking account of pupil need, school capacity, social distancing and infection control measures.</p> <p>Community buildings are being explored where age appropriate resources and facilities are available. It is envisaged that under current DfE plans, such measures will only be needed in exceptional circumstances where schools are predicting a significant increase in pupil numbers over the next 5 weeks. Any third party premises used for this purpose would have to comply with nationally determined standards that apply to regulated educational settings, unless these are waived by central government. A further factor is that many schools are academies and accountable to central rather than local government.</p>
<p>Question 33: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Covid-19 Response & Approach to Recovery</p> <p>Section 3.3.2:</p> <p>Has GCC considered supporting schools by encouraging those who used to teach, or are capable of doing so, to return to the workforce to help teach smaller groups?</p>	<p>Consideration is being given to some qualified council employed staff being offered to schools to increase teaching capacity should this be needed. In addition, we have been working with other agencies to identify other staff available to provide support or assistant roles.</p> <p>All schools currently have sufficient teacher capacity to meet the numbers of children attending school but this is kept under regular review.</p>