

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 24 June 2020  
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

<p><b>1. Questioner's name: Brooke Fisher</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>After seeing the uncalled for and racist murder of George floyd, we know that Gloucestershire is aware of what is going on.</p> <p>What are you doing to protect and show that the black people whom live in Cheltenham and Gloucestershire are safe, loved and equal ?</p> <p>How are you going to make a significant change?</p> <p>What are you doing to make sure black peoples voices are heard ?</p> <p>How are you going to guarantee that black lives matter?</p> <p>How are you going to make sure black people are safe?</p> <p>What are you doing to make sure that our police are not racist and biased?</p> <p>What are you doing to make sure that those whom have been stopped, arrested, treated unfairly solely because of the colour of their skin are given justice ?</p> <p>What is your plan of action when it comes to racism towards not only black people but people of colour ?</p>	<p>The murder of George Floyd was a crime that really shocked me, and I'm sure the whole council. Gloucestershire County Council has a long track record of working to address racism and other forms of prejudice in our county – but there remains work to be done to address systematic racism at all levels in society. We need to listen and learn from the BAME communities in Gloucestershire and our BAME employees; work with and support them and our partners including the NHS and Police to achieve change. As employers, we work hard to address prejudice in recruitment and employment, backed up by an effective Black Workers' Group. As a council, much of our work is communities who are disadvantaged – working to support them to develop their own solutions and this does make a real difference in people's lives. In particular, I would highlight our support for refugees and asylum seekers and our role in tackling modern slavery as things we can take some pride in. There is more to do, and we will keep trying to play our part.</p>

2. Questioner's name: Molly Scott Cato	Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman
<p>I am sure that councillors are as concerned as I am about concerns raised about the government's Test-and-Trace system by the expert scientists on the Independent Sage committee. They are clear that to be most effective a contact-tracing system would be 'led locally, coordinated by directors of public health' and that it 'should be embedded as much as possible within existing networks, and utilise local authority and NHS actors such as health commissioners, primary care, local hospital laboratories, school nurses and environmental health officers.'</p> <p>I note that GCC has recently received £2.2m to support local contact tracing but that this is being dedicated to supporting 'a tailored plan to manage local outbreaks' based around spread of coronavirus in institutional settings, so that our ability to monitor the spread of infection in the community of Gloucestershire still depends on the failing national system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 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?</li> <li>· What is the process and timeframe for PHE to alert GCC to a local outbreak and what is the threshold for new cases before this happens?</li> <li>· How much detailed data about recent cases of Covid-19 is received by the county council and how rapidly is this shared with GPs?</li> </ul>	<p>Gloucestershire has been allocated a £2.2 million share of the national Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant. The purpose of this grant is clear: it is to be used by local authorities in England to both mitigate against and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19. It is not to set up local Test and Trace services.</p> <p>Gloucestershire County Council has been involved in leading alongside other Local Authorities in the South West in developing the totality of the track and trace system. Our local role as a Local Authority is to provide local understanding and knowledge and ensure that the public and stakeholders can be reassured about any outbreaks that occur. We will also 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. We also have a key role in ensuring messaging about social distancing and hand washing is maintained, and that as we move out of lockdown, places are "COVID safe".</p> <p>When a case is identified, people are contacted by trained call handlers to help them understand what to do next, and identify who they have had contact with. If, for example, the person then identifies that they work in a care home, the information is passed to the top level of the Test and Trace service. In the South West, this is staffed by Consultants in Communicable Disease Control from Public Health England (PHE) and their highly trained and experienced staff. PHE will notify the Local Authority as soon as possible (usually the same day) of any outbreaks, which are when two or more people test positive and are known to have had contact with each other/someone else they have both spent time with. All test results will also automatically go into an individual's</p>

	GP records.
<b>3. Questioner's name: Flo Clucas</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
<p>Can the Leader of the Council please respond to the request from residents, to make Hyde Lane Cheltenham, safer.</p> <p>Residents on Hyde Lane are extremely concerned at the speed of traffic, both motor vehicles and motor cycles.</p> <p>The use of the word 'Lane' is very much a contradiction in terms. It is now without any doubt a main arteria <b>road</b> and whilst signs would indicate 30/40 mph speed limits the reality is that motorcyclists think it is ideal for replicating Isle of Man TT speed trials and motorists similarly have a complete disregard for the safety of other road users and pedestrians.</p> <p>There are permanent cost effective speed calming options available, for instance the installation of speed bumps at a couple of suitable spots along the Lane's 30 mph area. These could be of the rubber removable type that are simply bolted down onto the road and are very cost effective.</p>	<p>There is a vehicle activated sign installed upon entering the 30mph section of Hyde Lane. The County Council uses a number of criteria to prioritise potential safety improvement schemes. This allows us to rank schemes across the whole county to ensure that we are directing resources to the most needed areas. I would suggest Cllr Clucas discusses the matter with the county councillor for the area who I'm sure would be happy to advocate on her behalf.</p>
<b>4. Questioner's name: Chloe Turner</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<p>In 2018, the Council committed to eliminate all single use plastic within county council managed buildings and facilities by 2020, and to seek to encourage the elimination of single use plastic within its supply chain by 2025 - what progress has been made please?</p>	<p>A single use plastics task force was set up, chaired by Cllr Ward, in order to deliver on the Councils commitment. Significant progress has been made in this respect including the removal of all single use plastics from all GCC catering provision. We continue to work closely with our contractors and supply chain in order to remove all single use plastic use by 2025.</p>

<b>5. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>Could the Cabinet Member responsible please confirm whether GCC intends to support the Covid-19 recovery of Cheltenham's award-winning Evening and Night-Time Economy and the businesses in its core shopping area by implementing temporary road closures and pedestrianisation in appropriate locations that would allow businesses to expand on to the pavement, thus facilitating a viable reopening with social distancing in place?</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council has requested submissions from all district councils for their top 3 priorities for encouraging modal shift and supporting social distancing. District councils have also been provided with support in the form of a toolkit of measures which could be considered to support their role in helping business reopen on High Streets, to supplement the funding they received from Government. The County Council is also awaiting confirmation of the Active Travel Fund allocations which may be able to support some trial schemes going forward.</p>
<b>6. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, questions were raised about Gloucestershire County Council's Highways Planning Liaison Officers failing to adequately support Cheltenham Borough Council Planning Committee meetings. Sadly this situation has not improved. Could the Cabinet Member responsible please explain why GCC failed to provide an officer support to assist with the determination of application 20/00273/FUL, which was heard on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020, where the primary material planning consideration was parking?</p>	<p>Over the past year it has become normal practice for GCC highway officers to attend Cheltenham Borough Council's planning committee meetings. During this period no concerns have been raised by either the director responsible for planning or the head of planning at CBC.</p> <p>On this occasion GCC was asked to attend with 3 working days notice. Due to the lockdown the officer was unable to obtain childcare however he agreed with CBC's head of planning that replies would be given for any advance questions. When these were raised on 26<sup>th</sup> May full answers were provided by our officers within 2 hours. Furthermore our officer spoke with the head of planning the day before the committee to ensure CBC officers had all the information needed and no concerns were raised.</p>

<b>7. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, after the committee papers had been published in advance of the Cheltenham Borough Council Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the GCC Highways Planning Liaison Officer sought to withdraw the informative which stated “<i>You are advised that the Local Highway Authority has recommended to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) of which the development forms part and shall be treated as car free/low-car and the occupiers are ineligible for resident parking permits as well as visitors parking permits if in a residents parking scheme.</i>” which they had requested be attached to planning application 20/00273/FUL when they made initial representations on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020; what caused GCC to review the utilisation this parking scheme?</p>	<p>The original informative was drafted at the request of a highways officer who has since left the authority. It was reviewed by the new team leader and withdrawn as it could not be enforced either through planning or highways laws and was therefore open to challenge.</p> <p>Clarification from the Parking Team also confirmed there was some on street capacity within Zone 12 hence no reason to exclude future occupants from being able to exercise their legal rights to apply for a permit under the existing Traffic Regulation Order. Therefore the informative was withdrawn.</p> <p>As this was an informative this change made no difference to the recommendation.</p>
<b>8. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b>
<p>The Cheltenham Zone 12 Westend permit parking zone in which Cheltenham Planning Application 20/00273/FUL is situated, is approximately 800m wide and approximately 600m wide, in their updated reasons for withdrawing the advisory from the planning application, GCC state that the parking utilisation of the scheme is 42%, this is based upon the available parking in the whole area and the number of permits issued. Could the Cabinet Member explain why a global figure for a large parking area has been used, when the planning considerations are localised and the application site is in a large cul-de-sac segregated from most other parts of that parking zone?</p>	<p>This is based on information received from colleagues who administer the parking zones. It is accepted that there will be variations within streets in the zone, and there is locally available capacity within a short walk.</p>

<b>9. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b>
<p>How many permit parking spaces does GCC believe are available in:</p> <p>a) Great Western Road, Cheltenham?  b) Park Street, Cheltenham?  c) Market Street, Cheltenham?</p>	<p>a) Great Western Road, Cheltenham – 23  b) Park Street, Cheltenham – 42  c) Market Street, Cheltenham – 45</p>
<b>10. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b>
<p>How many residents parking permits are currently issued to addresses in:</p> <p>a) Great Western Road, Cheltenham?  b) Park Street, Cheltenham?  c) Market Street, Cheltenham?</p>	<p>a) Great Western Road, Cheltenham – 21  b) Park Street, Cheltenham – 37  c) Market Street, Cheltenham – 56</p>
<b>11. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b>
<p>Over the past year, how many parking tickets has GCC issued for parking on yellow lines in:</p> <p>a) Great Western Road, Cheltenham?  b) Park Street, Cheltenham?  c) Market Street, Cheltenham?</p>	<p>In the 12 months up to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the number of PCNs issued were:</p> <p>a) Great Western Road - 16  b) Park Street - 31  c) Market Street - 51</p>
<b>12. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</b>
<p>Could the responsible Cabinet Member confirm whether new developments within permit parking zones that are designated as “car free” by a Local Planning Authority can have that condition enforced by the County Council’s Parking Permit management systems?</p>	<p>We have checked with the CBC planning officer who has confirmed that Cheltenham Borough Council does not have a “car free” policy of any form. It would therefore be difficult for GCC to turn this application down without a CBC policy in place given that there is on street parking available in the area. If we did and the application went to appeal we would almost certainly lose with</p>

	possible consequential costs to the Council.
<b>13. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>During the Cheltenham Borough Council Planning Committee hearing to determine planning application 20/00273/FUL, the applicant or their agent agreed to the reinstatement of the informative that the GCC Highways Planning Liaison Officer has requested and the requested be removed. This application was approved by the planning committee with that informative. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please explain for the benefit of the concerned local residents how GCC will resolve this, and most importantly whether the County Council will ensure that this development is car free.</p>	<p>It is unfortunate that the planning committee chose not to accept the wording put forward by GCC officers representing the highway authority that this is their prerogative.</p> <p>The Highway Authority has satisfied itself that there is no harm as a result of the proposal whether that is a car free development or not.</p> <p>The informative is purely for information, and as such it is not enforceable either under planning law or highways law.</p>
<b>14. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>During lockdown, the lack of motor vehicle traffic has highlighted serious deficiencies in the ability of some traffic signals to detect and change when they were approached by cyclists on their single piece of permitted outdoor exercise. Can the responsible Cabinet Member please confirm that demand-triggered traffic signals should operate within a reasonable time when approached by just a cyclist, including those using bicycles manufactured predominantly of advanced composite materials such as carbon fibre, and could I be advised what will be done to ensure that this is the case?</p>	<p>Most traffic signals use loops sunk into the carriageway to detect approaching vehicles and trigger a green light. In recent years bicycle manufacturers have reduced the steel content of bikes and increased use of carbon fibre. Whilst this has made them lighter it has also made them harder to detect as cyclists approach traffic signals. This is a national issue with no simple solution.</p> <p>In the past we have trailed overhead detection however this has been unreliable. Therefore we advise cyclists to wait over the stop line loop to maximise the likelihood of being detected.</p> <p>Where problems persist we are happy for cyclists to contact our traffic signals team. We will always ask an engineer to check if the loop is working correctly and to increase the sensitivity if appropriate.</p>

<b>15. Questioner's name: David Willingham</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>The torrential rain on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020, has shown some problems with blocked drains affecting St Peter's ward in Millbrook Street (at the junction with Great Western Terrace) and on Malvern Road, affecting Malvern Walk and the Honeybourne Line. These have repeatedly been reported to GCC, but the problems have not been resolved. Could I seek an assurance from the Cabinet Member responsible that investigations and clearance of these drains will be expedited to reduce the risk of flash flooding causing damage to property?</p>	<p>Gloucestershire experienced torrential rain and thunderstorms from 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> June with significant cloud bursts over areas of the county. Teams have been working around the clock to deal with reported incidences of surface water. Gullies across the network will be overwhelmed in these situations and it takes time for the volume of water to subside. The gullies in Millbrook Street do get affected by leaf fall which blocks gratings but have been jetted historically and no blockages to the system were identified as part of these works. The gully system here connects to the watercourse at the bottom of Great Western Terrace which is suspected was also overwhelmed in the recent events. At Malvern Road a jetting job picked up a blockage issue and a CCTV survey was ordered to gather more information.</p>



**COUNTY COUNCIL – 24 June 2020**  
**Members' Questions**

<p><b>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p> <p>In June 2019 I asked this question:</p> <p>The county council consistently states in the media that the incinerator will save greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>When were these figures last updated, and in particular have they been updated to take into account the reduction of food waste going to landfill?          And got this answer:</p> <p>We have previously calculated that Javelin Park will result in the reduction of the equivalent around 40,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum. This calculation will be reviewed once the facility is operational and any change is likely to be positive. The current figure is based on the county achieving recycling rates of 60% which takes into account food waste being diverted from landfill.</p> <p>My question today: Has a review of the greenhouse gas emissions from the incinerator now taken place? How much CO2 is the incinerator producing? How close are we to achieving the 60% recycling target?</p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p> <p>No further review of the carbon savings from the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility has been undertaken.</p> <p>The countywide recycling rate for 2019/20 was 50.64%.</p>
<p><b>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p> <p>In February this year at budget scrutiny I asked the cabinet member for Highways if he was satisfied that enough money had been allocated to highways drainage schemes, given the increases in heavy rainfall and flash-flooding we experience as a result of climate</p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p> <p>In 2019/20 the drainage budget was £2.2m, and the amount spent was £2mk.</p> <p>In 2020/21 the drainage budget is £2.4m, at this point in the year we have paid for £243k of works, with a further £1.3m ordered.</p>

<p>breakdown. He stated he was satisfied. Please can the cabinet member provide me with figures for the amount budgeted for drainage in 19/20 and 20/21 and how much was spent on highways drainage in 19/20, and how much has been spent so far in 20/21?</p>	
<p><b>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p>What actions have taken place under the climate change strategy since it was published?</p>	<p>The ten 'Actions by April' have been largely completed. A summary of progress against action is shown below.</p> <p>Whilst there has been some disruption during the Covid-19 pandemic we are aware of potential new opportunities and challenges presented for climate change and the environment in the Recovery stage. We are working closely with partners on the Environment and Climate Action Group to identify these and support the delivery of our carbon reduction targets.</p> <p>Action 1: Agree with Leadership Gloucestershire and other partners how we will work together to bring about a co-ordinated approach in response to the climate emergency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A jointly funded post has been agreed by Leadership Gloucestershire, hosted by Gloucester City Council and funded for 3 years by partners. The post would have been filled in March/April 2020 but due to Covid-19 it was agreed at the time not to advertise the post. It is due to be advertised by the City Council in the near future.</li> </ul> <p>Action 2: Million Trees Challenge - commit to planting a million trees by 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is in development with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT), Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership, The Woodland Trust and Forestry England.</li> </ul>

Action 3: Establish £1m 'Action Fund' to incentivise carbon reduction and air quality improvements

- The funding is in place, principles drafted and mechanism being finalised.

Action 4: £1m energy efficiency invest to save loan fund

- Funding is in place with legal agreement drafted for partners.
- 2 expressions of interest received
- Scheme to be promoted to public sector partners.

Action 5: Buy only 100% renewable electricity

- Implemented

Action 6: Generate electricity from the Javelin Park Energy from Waste facility to power around 25,000 homes a year

- Implemented..

Action 7: Host and support Gloucestershire Youth Climate Panel

- Implemented.

Action 8: Review the Local Transport Plan (LTP) in view of the climate change emergency and consult on the revised LTP in January 2020 (including policies for all transport modes: public & community transport; cycle; freight; highways; rail; walk)

- Following a recent public consultation we will be amending various aspects of the LTP and it will be updated with the latest transport information. The revised LTP will be reported back through Cabinet later this year and Full Council early next year. Final approval of the LTP has been delayed to allow time for the LTP to incorporate the governments Decarbonising Transport Report which is due to be released

in November.

Action 9: Tender a contract to deliver over 200 new electric vehicle charging points by 2023, as part of a county-wide Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy

- ULEV Strategy drafted, shared with Environment Scrutiny Committee in March and ready for adoption.
- Western Power Distribution assessing grid capacity at potential sites.
- Soft market testing underway to inform the financial business case and define our tender requirements.

Action 10: Recruit staff to deliver the Strategy

- Interim project officer started in March pending permanent recruitment.

Progress with medium and long term actions:

Action 11: Work with our partners to ensure that all new public buildings and residential and commercial developments support the move to zero carbon and improve resilience

- Developments by the council's Property Services and Education are being reviewed to accommodate this.

Action 17: Establish baseline carbon emissions for Gloucestershire

- Completed.

Action 18: Investigate the feasibility of District Heating Networks, (Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH); Gloucestershire Quays (GQ); Javelin Park (JP)), to deliver at least one by 2025

- GQ – detailed technical and economic viability assessment completed. Developing a bid to BEIS for Detailed Project Development funding, including feasibility funding for an

	<p>additional site in Gloucester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GRH – on hold as GRH focuses on Covid-19 response.</li> <li>• JP – opportunities continue to be explored, but no viable options have been developed to date.</li> </ul> <p>Action 20: Identify ways to reduce carbon emissions in our £150m highways investment plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial meeting held with Devon CC to explore scope for a collaborative programme with other SW highway authorities to identify decarbonisation opportunities in highways services (construction, maintenance and operations).</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p>Is the cabinet member for Children and Families satisfied that children in this county identified as at risk, in need or otherwise vulnerable are safe?</p>	<p>Children's social care services continue to work together with multi-agency safeguarding partners to safeguard and protect vulnerable children in need of support, protection and care. Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable children continues to be a service priority.</p> <p>Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered, or is at risk of suffering, significant harm, multi-agency professionals work together to ensure that children are safe. Intervention and support, in accordance with the local child protection procedures and statutory guidance, continues to be provided by all social work operational teams.</p> <p>Accordingly, services continue to be delivered and this is without applying any of the related easements contained within The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. The children's social care workforce continues to have capacity and has remained resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

COVID-19 business continuity planning arrangements have been in place since the Prime Minister's announcement on 23 March 2020. Immediate steps were taken to establish visiting and keeping in touch arrangements with identified children in need of support, protection and care. The vast majority of visits continue to be undertaken safely on a face to face basis. Social workers are able to adhere to the national advice and guidance from the Government and Public Health England to prevent the spread of the virus in order to maintain contact with vulnerable children, young people and families. When a child or parent/carer is symptomatic or has a diagnosis, alternative arrangements using ICT/digital methods of communication are used.

Visiting performance data is reported and scrutinised on a weekly basis by SLT in REACT Meetings with Ofsted and the DfE. Gloucestershire's visiting performance data is strong and compares very favourably against other local authorities in the South West Region.

All court care proceedings are being held virtually on a remote basis as are child protection conferences and statutory reviews of arrangements for children in care. A weekly report is prepared to oversee the nature and level of incoming contacts and referrals being considered by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and whilst this shows less activity when compared to pre-COVID-19 activity the rate of contacts and referrals are starting to increase.

The Council has promoted a public campaign to emphasise that just because children may be out of sight this does not necessarily mean that they are out of harms way. Member of the public, neighbours and local communities has been reminded about how

	<p>to contact the MASH if they have welfare concerns about a child.</p> <p>During the pandemic, there has been a presumption that vulnerable children will be encouraged and supported to continue to attend nursery and school. Allocated social workers and school staff continue to risk assess and support presenting needs, risks and circumstances for all children on roll. Attendance performance data relating to vulnerable children is also scrutinised in the REACT meeting with Ofsted and the DfE on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Children's Services has established a Vulnerable Children and Young People's Cell through which a new cohort of 'new vulnerable' children has been identified. There are 700 more children now eligible for Free School Meals and additional support is being provided to address increasing food and energy poverty. Plans are also being made to ensure children continue to be supported over the summer holidays.</p>
<p><b>5. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</b></p>
<p>Moving the meetings online means more members of the public can engage who might otherwise not be able to travel to Shire Hall. What is in place to ensure public participation through use of technology continues once we are able to resume meetings in Shire Hall?</p>	<p>To be honest, I don't think this is something we have fully considered as yet, but it is something we will look at moving forward.</p>
<p><b>6. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</b></p>
<p>I have had reports of an increase in on street drinking and general anti social behaviour. It has been suggested that the culprits are the ex-street homeless that Councils have taken into accommodation during the Covid-19 crisis. I would like to think this is not the case, is there any evidence to support this suggestion.</p>	<p>Whilst housing is a district council responsibility, in light of the crisis, the county council stepped in to underwrite the emergency response to homelessness, investing £800k to provide accommodation. Over 300 individuals have been helped as a result. We are now working to support district councils as they move to ensure provide future accommodation for these people.</p>

	Homeless outreach, the community drug and alcohol service, and other relevant support agencies continue to support and encourage engagement by those clients with complex needs and chaotic lifestyles. This includes both residents and non residents of the emergency accommodation who may be visible on the streets.
<b>7. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</b>
Is it known how many schools are planning to remain open during the school holidays?	<p>All schools in the county have opened over the April and May holidays to support those children needing provision and I am grateful to all school staff who have forgone their holiday entitlement to enable this to happen.</p> <p>Current DfE guidance is that schools are not expected to open over the school holidays.</p>
<b>8. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</b>
Now it is certain that vouchers for 'free school' meals are to continue through the summer holidays please could the vouchers be delivered to phones, not all recipients have a printer to print them, there use by date extended so that they do not expire after 7 days, and that the Council uses its best endeavours to ensure that the vouchers are accepted by the widest possible range of shops.	The voucher scheme is run nationally by DfE. I have asked officers to draw your concerns to their attention.