

COUNTY COUNCIL – 17 March 2021
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Questioner's name: Alick Miskin	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Is it acceptable or democratic, for 'Senior Officers', without reference to or consultation with relevant local county councillors, to peremptorily axe ongoing processes to extend 20mph limits that town and parish councils have been working on, with their Highways Managers, in some instances for 8 years? In Rodborough's case, this was done 50 minutes before a crucial progress meeting.	There have clearly been some crossed wires here on this issue. This was raised with me last month, and I've since clarified there is no intention to withdraw cooperation. I asked officers to re-engage with the Parish Council and since then they have written to you, met with you virtually and have agreed to meet you on a site visit in early April.
2. Questioner's name: Alick Miskin	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Is the timing of this axing, so close to the May elections, something that these 'Senior Officers' considered, given how much political capital has been invested in these processes by the town and parish councils concerned?	There was no intention for any axing to take place, and I'm glad that, once this has been drawn to my attention, we've been able to clarify things.
3. Questioner's name: Alick Miskin	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Given how relatively easy and inexpensive it is to introduce 20mph limits as an obvious way to encourage Active Travel when compared to, say building new infrastructure, why are 'Senior Managers' so opposed to such lower speed limits, even where local councils such as Rodborough and Nailsworth have fully supported and consulted-on plans ready to go?	The council is supportive of introducing 20mph limits where they will make the greatest difference to road safety, levels of active travel and will be enforced by the police.
4. Questioner's name: Steve Gower	Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams
Everybody is entitled to a home is part of the Housing First Project. Will the council embrace the housing first project and all of its principles in their homelessness scheme?	Whilst homelessness is primarily an issue for our district colleagues, the county council is committed to working with partners to address homelessness through a variety of housing

<p>And who is the independent body scrutinising all those participating in the scheme, such as HSE,CQC etc introduced in Gloucestershire 2021</p>	<p>and support solutions. This includes involvement in commissioning support through accommodation based support services, community based support, Housing Led and Housing First Type models.</p> <p>District council scrutiny committees provide democratic oversight of this important issue.</p>
<p>5. Questioner's name: Peter Wormington</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>In its 'Overarching Strategy' Gloucestershire LTP says:</p> <p><i>"Promoting behavioural change will be the key to achieving the ambitions of this plan to convince more people to walk, cycle or use public transport."</i></p> <p>At the recent Stroud Cycling Forum chaired by Siobhan Baillie MP support for behavioural change and active travel came from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigel Lloyd-Jones representing the Police and Crime Commissioner who described their policy of "<i>Safe and social roads</i>", allowing people to move around our communities in safety and with as much ease and convenience as possible. • Police Detective Superintendent Paul Keasey who raised his concern about the lack of dedicated infrastructure for cycling. • Andrew Parker-Mowbray, Road Safety Hub Team Leader, who said that a key concept of the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership is that roads should be suitable for 12 year olds to walk and cycle. • Stroud Active's recent report into cycling in the Stroud valleys concluded that: <p><i>"The provision of quiet, off-road or segregated routes are likely to be necessary to increase the proportions of leisure cyclists who cycle</i></p>	<p>Local community initiatives to encourage active travel, i.e. walking and cycling safely are in line with GCC's Local Transport Plan (LTP) and climate change objectives.</p> <p>GCC officers from across teams, including Transport Planning, Highways, ThinkTravel, Road Safety and Parking/ TRO teams, will seek to understand the concerns each local community experiences, review the safety and other data and agree appropriate solutions. Our ambition is to encourage active travel and sustainable transport whilst improving safety for all road users.</p> <p>As ever we must focus our resources on the places with the biggest road safety problems, the people who are most likely to be harmed and the proposals that are known to be most effective.</p>

<p><i>utility journeys.”</i></p> <p>The Chair of Chalford Parish Council has recently started the process to introduce 20mph limits within the parish. He has also been campaigning for safety measures around key road junctions on the routes to schools.</p> <p>I have two questions:</p> <p>What practical help is GCC able to give to parishes like ours, that want to promote behaviour change and build ‘safe and social roads’ for all road users, including 12 year old cyclists?</p>	
<p>6. Questioner’s name: Peter Wormington</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Will GCC be able to give priority to the building of these ‘safe and social roads’, above the existing priority of “keeping the traffic flowing”?</p>	<p>I’m committed to making it easier and safer for people to choose to cycle and walk – but I would reject the suggestion that means we need to stop traffic flowing.</p>
<p>7. Questioner’s name: Nigel Adcock</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Having recently had the opportunity to take a drive between Woodmancote and Bourton on the Water via the A40 I am horrified at the number of trees felled.</p> <p>I would like to ask the following questions</p> <p>Are trees inspected for Ash dieback before felling?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>8. Questioner’s name: Nigel Adcock</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>What proportion of trees have the disease?</p>	<p>From surveys within Gloucestershire we estimated over 40% of all ash trees currently have the disease. However, expert</p>

	consensus estimates somewhere between 75-95% of all ash trees will eventually become infected.
9. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
I doubt that all trees felled are Ash. What is the proportion of non Ash trees being felled?	We only fell non-Ash trees if they are either identified as being in a dangerous state, or if removing surrounding Ash has left them susceptible to being wind blown. This only happens with the approval of a professional tree inspector. The proportion of non-ash trees being felled is minimal.
10. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Why when the target to replant is ambitious are road side verges being excluded?	They aren't excluded at all. There are some sites where safety concerns mean we can't replant – but in most cases we are replanting nearby.
11. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Trees have landscape value. Individual trees have taken decades to grow and add this landscape value. What measures are being put in place to enhance the landscape value of trees and contribute towards the 13% crown cover target?	I agree entirely – that's why we're replanting at least two trees for every tree felled as part of our response to ash die back. As a council, we're committed to planting 1,000,000 extra trees, and supporting, along with many partners, the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership's goal of planting the equivalent of 35,000,000 new trees.
12. Questioner's name: Molly Scott Cato	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
There is great concern in the local community about the recommendation from the Academies Enterprise Trust that Severn View School should close at the end of the summer term. The school	As an academy, decisions about Severn View Academy are the responsibility of the academy trust to which it belongs, in this case AET. It is the AET Trustees are the responsible body for ensuring the viability of the school, the education of the pupils

serves a community that is deprived of a wide range of community facilities and the loss of the school will be another blow. It is also important to note that the school has provided a site for other social services including the recent summer playscheme to repair damage from Covid closures.

Residents want to have the following questions about the school closure answered:

- What is the explanation for the school closure: is it based on financial considerations?
- What plans have been made to ensure that the children currently at Severn View will find place in other local schools?
- Are there as yet any plans for the site, perhaps enabling it to maintain its role as providing services to local families?

within the school and decisions about its future. When the school became an academy in 2012, the Local Authority ceased to have responsibility for the school itself, but retained the land and leased this to AET. The Local Authority retains a number of statutory functions and responsibilities in relation to pupils in academies which include ensuring that there are sufficient pupil places, co-ordinating the annual admissions round and the process for agreeing EHCPs. The Department for Education, via the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) is responsible for intervening in academies that Ofsted has judged inadequate; encouraging and deciding on applications from sponsors to operate in a region; taking action to improve poorly performing sponsors; taking decisions on the creation and growth of multi-academy trusts and deciding on the transfer of an academy from one trust to another.

The reasons provided by AET for the proposed closure relate to the very small numbers of children at the school (currently just 21 on roll) and that it is no longer viable. Further questions on this matter should be addressed to the AET or the RSC.

An assessment of primary school places has been carried out in the Stroud area and there is sufficient capacity in other schools to accommodate all of the children currently at Severn View. If the decision is taken to close the school the Local Authority will work with parents at the school to identify alternative school placements in the area.

The RSC team will assess whether there is any use for the land by an academy or multi academy trust in the first instance. If no academy need has been identified and approval to closure is given by the Minister on behalf of the Secretary of State, the land will revert back to the Local Authority.

13. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Why is it that really obvious sections of pavement (across Winchcombe and Woodmancote Division) have been totally resurfaced when not necessary?	All schemes are assessed and ranked against all others before we invest in them. For footways the ranking criteria considers various factors including usage and defect repair volumes. I'm happy to look at any that Mr Adcock believes weren't necessary.
14. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Why is it that small sections of pavement in real need of repair have had no attention at all?	Footways are inspected and kept safe by way of a defect identification and repair process as is the entire highway network. Any areas of deterioration should be reported for assessment.
15. Questioner's name: Nigel Adcock	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
How much of the figure advertised on blue Council boards has been wisely spent on areas that definitely needed resurfacing?	Schemes are selected on engineering need and priority. No resurfacing has been carried out where it has not been required.
16. Questioner's name: Chloe Turner	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>I asked a question of the council's Pension Committee last week as to what steps the council is taking to encourage its pension provider to divest from fossil fuel investments. In short, the answer seems to be none, but instead to rely on the approach taken by the provider, the Brunel Pension Partnership.</p> <p>This might be fine, except that BPP only support "divestment from specific fossil fuel and other carbon-intense companies, if they present a material investment risk", while account managers are expected to "justify their investments in those companies with higher greenhouse gas emissions" – it's difficult to imagine on what grounds such continued investment might be justified - by particularly high returns?</p>	<p>It's important to be clear that, unlike the council's investments (where we have a policy of not investing in fossil fuel related investments), the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Scheme is owned by the pensioners and employees of over 200 employers.</p> <p>The Brunel Pension partnership investment of the assets of the Gloucestershire Pension Fund, are widely regarded as leading the way with their approach to responsible investing. Brunel believe that they can play a critical role in changing behaviours by actively engaging with companies rather than automatically</p>

<p>And while BPP mention plans for a “climate stock take”, this is not even due to take place until 2022. Is it good enough for Gloucestershire County Council to go along with this passive approach, as a council that has committed to combatting the climate emergency and reaching carbon neutrality in its own operations by 2030? We are already experiencing the early signs of climate change in Gloucestershire, in the changing seasons and more frequent extreme weather events, but for low-lying coastal regions across the globe, the difference between even 0.5 and 1% of warming will be a difference of life and livelihood. Can the council take a more proactive approach towards divestment?</p>	<p>divesting. Where partnership working does not prove to be effective then divestment will be considered.</p>
<p>17. Questioner’s name: Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>a) As councillors will be aware, the grass verges along our highways are a key natural resource – 700 species of wild flower grow on road verges, nearly 45% of our total UK flora, and the 300,000 of rural road verges across the country are equivalent in area to our remaining lowland species-rich grassland. Is there an agreed common approach to verge management among the various levels of council involved across Gloucestershire? If not, could there be, and does or could GCC and those councils adopt the approach to verge management as outlined by UK conservation charity Plantlife, and set out in their manual for those involved in the management of road verges https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/road-verge-management-guide?</p> <p>b) Also, research undertaken by citizen scientists across the UK who have taken part in Plantlife’s <i>Every Flower Counts</i> survey - the largest-ever survey of the humble lawn - reveal not only the astonishing diversity of wild flowers growing on Britain’s lawns, but that incredibly simple changes in mowing can result in enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators. Would the council consider promoting Plantlife’s #NoMowMay campaign for residential lawns https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/no-mow-may-how-to-</p>	<p>GCC produce a detailed Highways and Biodiversity Guidance document. This is a useful reference for all those who carry out works on county roads and Public Rights of Way. The document is in line with Plantlife’s best practice guide (2019) but covers a much wider range of topics than just verge management alone.</p>

get-ten-times-more-bees-on-your-lockdown-lawn?	
18. Questioner's name: Alex Hegenbarth	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>Thanks to the hard work and tireless campaigning of local Borough Councillors Helen Munro and Richard Stanley, Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council, and residents, the new primary school in Bishop's Cleeve will be built near to the new developments that need it.</p> <p>In the Gloucestershire County Council press release dated 8th December 2020, it states that an initial two forms of entry (60 reception children) will be ready for 2023/24. Can the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, and Skills please outline the timeline for the new school, including when the planning application will be submitted?</p>	<p>There must be an election in the offing when Liberal Democrat councillors start name-checking each other in public meetings. I'm not sure that many members of the public will see this as a substitute for real action, but that is a matter for you.</p> <p>I would expect initial public engagement to start from May, with an aim of a planning application, all being well, by August.</p>
19. Questioner's name: Alex Hegenbarth	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>Despite the initially plan by the County Council to see the new primary school built on Kayte Lane – the opposite end of Bishop's Cleeve to where many of the new homes have been built – I am glad to see that the dedicated campaigning of local Liberal Democrat Councillors, Parish Councillors, and local people have seen the new school site being moved near to the new developments.</p> <p>Regarding location, a number of residents have raised concerns that the entrance to the site will be located in the neighbouring estate. Such an important local project should progress with full public consultation, as I am sure you will agree.</p> <p>Therefore, can the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, and Skills please confirm when the public consultation will be taking place?</p>	<p>The county council has always been happy to consider a range of sites. I'm sure that Cllr Hegenbarth will continue to try to take the credit from Cllr Bird and others whose efforts on this issue have certainly been the most apparent to me.</p> <p>I refer Cllr Hegenbarth to my previous answer.</p>
20. Questioner's name: Alex Hegenbarth	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>In January 2020, Lib Dem Borough Councillor Helen Munro held a meeting with County Officers who confirmed to her that the initial primary school places estimate was completely inadequate as it hadn't</p>	<p>School Place Planning across the county is robust and the county has an excellent track record of ensuring there are</p>

<p>taken into account the hundreds of new homes that are planned and already have been built in the village.</p> <p>Those who will attend the new primary school planned for the village will continue to grow up so in order to avoid the above mistakes in the future, please can the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, and Skills advise what work is being done to understand the projected numbers of children in the village that require secondary school places, whether it is envisaged that additional capacity will be required, and how this need will be addressed?</p>	<p>sufficient school places in the right locations. This has been evidenced by the high percentage of children who are able to get a place at their preferred school or local school each year. I will be taking a paper on school place planning to cabinet later this month, where I'm sure Cllr Hegenbarth will find more detail on this important subject.</p>
<p>21. Questioner's name: Alex Hegenbarth</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>As Bishop's Cleeve continues to expand and as country roads now form part of newly created residential areas, it is important that the surrounding roads have the appropriate speed limits to keep people safe.</p> <p>With residential streets growing off Gotherington Lane as part of the Homelands estate, the shift from a 30mph zone to the national speed limit (which used to rest on the edge of the village) now sits in the middle of the estate and poses a risk to residents in the area.</p> <p>In order to avoid a potentially fatal accident, when will the County Council and/or its Highways team be carrying out, in consultation with residents, a thorough review into the division's speed limits?</p>	<p>I've asked officers to look at this issue and to review speed limits in the area.</p>
<p>22. Questioner's name: Penny Kent</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>An investigation by Channel 4's <i>Dispatches: Dirty Truth About Your Rubbish</i> (08.03.2021) into energy-from-waste incineration plants found that there is a direct correlation between regions tied into incineration contracts and low recycling rates. In England more waste is now burned than recycled. Producing electricity from waste is more carbon intensive than producing it from gas, and second only to coal, and as</p>	<p>The Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility has been scaled to treat the County's household residual waste (the waste left after householders have reduced, reused and recycled all they can) for the next 25 years. The facility has ended our reliance on landfill, with over 90% of the County's waste now being diverted</p>

<p>coal is phased out, energy from waste will become the dirtiest form of electricity production in the UK - by 2035 more carbon intensive than landfill.</p> <p>On March 1st the Welsh Government declared a moratorium on new waste incinerators. Will Gloucestershire County Council, knowing these facts, also declare a moratorium on new waste incinerators and upscale recycling in Gloucestershire as quickly as possible?</p>	<p>from landfill. As a result it has significantly reduced the carbon emissions associated with Gloucestershire's household residual waste.</p> <p>The county and district councils in Gloucestershire remain committed to reducing, reusing and recycling. This month, for example, has seen the council support a national campaign to reduce food waste as well as launching a "Clear on Plastics" campaign to help reduce plastic waste.</p> <p>Our continued waste reduction and recycling efforts mean that more waste is collected for recycling in Gloucestershire than is sent for energy recovery. The county's recycling rate of 50.6% remains above the national average of 45.5%.</p> <p>The county and district councils have committed to work together to develop a new Resources and Waste Strategy for Gloucestershire. This will include public consultation and would be an appropriate place to consider the merits of a proposed moratorium on new waste incinerators.</p>
<p>23. Questioner's name: Chris McFarling</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Addressed to the Leader of the Council and the member responsible for "taking decisive action in tackling climate change".</p> <p>Many Gloucestershire residents are increasingly concerned that authorities are not doing enough now to keep the earth from overheating and avoiding the destruction of the biosphere that will result.^{1,2}</p> <p>The World Meteorological Organisation has alerted us of the accelerating risk that global temperatures will break the 1.5°C limit in the next four years³ as pledges are broken and carbon reduction targets are missed.</p>	<p>(a) To achieve our target of net zero corporate emissions by 2030 (an 80% reduction in CO2 emissions on our 2006/07 baseline) requires an estimated reduction of 2595t on GCC emissions compared with the level in May 2019 when we declared a Climate Emergency.</p> <p>(b) As of the end of March 2020, the last full year available, we had reduced our corporate emissions by an estimated 594t, or 23% of the savings needed to reach our 2030 target.</p>

<p>As actions speak louder than words, could you please tell me;</p> <p>a) how many tonnes of carbon emissions (CO₂-eq) Gloucestershire County Council has actually saved since declaring a climate emergency on 15th May 2019?</p> <p>b) what percentage does that represent of the emissions savings needed to reach the Council's 2030 carbon zero target?</p> <p>c) how does the massive investment and commitment to future carbon emissions through the incineration of waste (and recycles) and the building of new road infrastructure in Gloucestershire, impact on the Council's and the County's carbon budget, target and footprint?</p> <p>1. https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/yougov-poll-finds-majority-british-public-want-uk-lead-world-tackling-climate-change/</p> <p>2. https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2021/Worlds_largest_survey_of_public_opinion_on_climate_change_a_majority_of_people_call_for_wide_ranging_action.html</p> <p>3. https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/new-climate-predictions-assess-global-temperatures-coming-five-years</p>	<p>Since then Covid has impacted on office use and travel so we anticipate a significant further reduction in emissions in 2020/21.</p> <p>(c) All major infrastructure schemes comply with statutory requirements for appraising and mitigating carbon emissions. Further work on Gloucestershire's baseline carbon emissions is planned this year and funded in the 2021/22 budget.</p>
<p>24. Questioner's name: Christopher Chiswell</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Please could I ask a question for this month's council relating to Item 11, LTP recommendation.</p>	<p>LTP performance indicator LTP PI-2 Number of peak hour vehicle journeys has a target to restrict annual growth to 1% per</p>

<p>"Monitoring indicator LTP PI-2 says that the council accepts a 1% yearly <u>increase</u> in peak hour vehicle journeys between now and 2041 (LTP v10 final, page 233). The ISA (integrated sustainability assessment) commissioned by the council for the LTP (https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2093549/appendix-c-integrated-sustainability-appraisal-report-v20.pdf) said that this indicator should be a yearly <u>decrease</u> (page 154 11.1). Why has the council rejected the recommendation to aim for a decrease in peak hour vehicle journeys, and chosen to instead define a net 20% increase in peak hour vehicle journeys by 2041 as acceptable?"</p> <p>In case it is queried, this question has not been addressed in either the written response or subsequent question at the last council meeting - PI2 is not referenced in either, the supplementary written response addressed only carbon emissions and not vehicle numbers, and the LTP indicators have undergone further clarifications since last being shared.</p>	<p>annum which remained unchanged in this LTP review. What I want to see is a reduction in the emissions from transport, by the progressive transition to low and ultra low emissions, coupled with the decarbonisation of our electricity grid.</p>
<p>25. Questioner's name: David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>The Council's online Public rights of way mapping seems to have placed Cheltenham Footpath 24 incorrectly 20m too far to the northwest. The alleyway, that historic mapping suggests is the correct route of this footpath, is a fly-tipping, crime and anti-social behaviour hotspot, and the local community have both the planning permission and funding for gates to restrict access this alleyway to address these issues. However, none of this can be dealt with until GCC make a determination about the PRoW matters, and facilitate the extinguishment of the PRoW. Could I get an assurance from the Cabinet Member that this work will be taken forward as a priority to help the community I represent to deal with this issue?</p>	<p>I've asked officers to look at this as a priority – but please do bear in mind that there are unavoidable statutory timescales at play. It might be faster to raise this with the CBC to consider using a Public Spaces Protection Order and gating, which could be delivered much more speedily.</p>

26. Questioner's name: David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>In the forthcoming municipal year the average band-D household in St Peter's ward will pay £1,409.22 in council tax to GCC, yet the GCC online mapping for Planned Capital Highway Maintenance Work shows that for 2021/2022 there are no schemes at all in St Peter's ward. When local roads including Arle Avenue, Great Western Terrace, Millbrook Street, Pates Avenue, St George's Road, St Peter's Square, and parts of Gloucester Road are all riddled with potholes and surface defects, could the Cabinet Member please explain why a whole ward has been so completely neglected and given no investment at all by the County Council?</p>	<p>Schemes are selected and ranked based on sound asset management principles. There is no allocation of funding made by Ward or District. All potential sites are ranked against each other based on condition and engineering need each year.</p> <p>We have to prioritise to make sure that the limited resources at our disposal bring the greatest benefit to highway users.</p> <p>It would not be correct to say that there has been no investment in the area. There are schemes that have ranked highly enough to attract funding in the local area. Tewkesbury Road, Gloucester Road, Arle Road and Alstone Lane are examples</p>
27. Questioner's name: David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>A constituent has contacted me about the state of the section of Gloucester Road between St George's Road and Queen's Road, because the noise and vibration caused by heavy vehicles using this busy B-road hitting the numerous potholes and road surface defects is detrimentally affecting their quality of life. Their past correspondence with GCC suggests that this section of the B4633 was put forward for resurfacing just over two years ago, but that there are still no works currently scheduled for the next two years. Could the Cabinet Member please explain why this section wasn't completed when this the Tewkesbury Road end of Gloucester Road was resurfaced in 19/20, and given the officer recommendation that works are required, also confirm when this section of Gloucester Road will be resurfaced?</p>	<p>I'm surprised that the local county councillor hasn't raised this issue with me.</p> <p>I am told that this section of Gloucester Road has been assessed for a scheme. It does not have a construction year allocated due to its current ranking based on engineering need.</p> <p>It was not resurfaced in 19/20 as its condition showed residual service life remained.</p> <p>Data is re-run and schemes re-ranked each year to make sure that those in greatest need of repair are attended to first.</p>

28. Questioner's name: David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>In the approximately 100m of Tennyson Road between the junctions with Shakespeare Road and Shelly Road in St Mark's ward, there are something like twelve separate potholes and numerous other surface defects, patches and failed patches. Could the Cabinet Member please advise at what point it becomes more cost effective to stop patching and to completely resurface roads that just keep failing, and also advise when this section of road is scheduled to be resurfaced?</p>	<p>Again, I'm concerned that the county councillor for this area hasn't raised this with me. I will ask whether they have drawn it to the attention of officers.</p> <p>I understand we're looking to resurface this area, but haven't identified a timeline yet.</p>
29. Questioner's name: David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Could the Cabinet Member please advise me of the current status of repairing and reinstating the Grade II listed Ornamental Street Light in the centre of the Gloucester Road / Queen's Road roundabout near Cheltenham Spa station, which was first reported to GCC as being defective on 15th November 2018?</p>	<p>The lantern has been with a specialist lighting company for refurbishment since February 2020. This task has been hindered significantly due to a number of factors, including the need for bespoke manufacturing processes and temporary factory closures. It is due for return from refurbishment within the next three weeks and arrangements will be made to have it reinstalled on its return.</p>
30. Questioner's name: Rebecca Trimnell	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Please can you tell me why no free parking permits have been given to the residents of Parliament Street whilst the major roadworks are taking place?</p>	<p>We can't compensate people or businesses for disruption caused by roadworks – they're an inevitable part of having functioning highways. Despite this, I've asked officers to look again at this case, to see if we could have done more to help the small number of affected residents. I understand that, after significant technical delays, the scheme is well under way, and is expected to be completed this week. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank residents for their patience with this work – which was much needed.</p>

31. Questioner's name: Andrew Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Phil Awford
<p>As a resident of Bishop's Cleeve, I am questioning the Planning Committee's award of a 5-year temporary permit to Gilder Environmental Services to build and operate a new open air slurry/bio-solid waste treatment at land 'west of Wingmoor farm'.</p> <p>I make the following points in support of my question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient weight appears to have been given, by the planning committee, to the views of Tewkesbury Borough Council and the Parish Councils of Stoke Orchard and Tredington, Bishops Cleeve, Gotherington, Elmstone Hardwicke and Uckington – who all were against granting planning permission – with no sign in the public minutes that these views were discussed in the decision making process – this particularly disappointing given that Councillor Bird is both a Tewkesbury Borough and County Councillor for Bishop's Cleeve ward and division. • An error of fact when Mr Cannery, Senior Planning Officer, stated there were no existing odour issues at the site, when it is well known there are ongoing issues with odour that local residents have frequently complained about – as Councillor Bird should have been aware and I note also that Environment Agency checks have had to be extended on current operations around Wingmoor Farm due to the persistent complaints of strong odours from the local population. <p>I believe that the decision-making process did not give sufficient consideration to the existing concerns and issues surrounding Grundon operations and did not take into account the clear views expressed by Parish and Borough councils and that the information provided by the council to the planning committee was inaccurate.</p>	<p>When referring to permit, I assume that you mean planning permission? Any questions concerning waste permits, which deal with the ongoing operation and pollution control of the waste sites, are for the Environment Agency as issuing Authority. (As well a planning permission for development, all waste sites will have a such a permit).</p> <p>Planning Permission 18/0032/TWMAJW (Gilder Environmental) was originally reported to Planning Committee in January 2019 but was deferred to be considered by Planning Committee in March 2019. The application was presented to members and they were made aware of all salient locational issues, the main issues to consider in the determination of the application and the main representations. Following debate by the members it was resolved to grant planning permission.</p> <p>As the members of Committee were the decision-makers for this application it was a matter for them to consider the weight to accord to any issues that were relevant to the application. In relation to the second bullet in the question, when reading the minutes of the meeting, this indicates that the case officer was asked a question regarding the odours from the current Gilder operation at Toddington, not in relation to odour at the application site. When planning applications for these developments were made, odour control was considered through the location, design and operational practices set out in the proposals. Where planning permission was granted, the Waste Planning Authority would have considered these controls to be satisfactory. Following implementation of a planning permission, ongoing odour management control then becomes an issue for the EA through their permitting, licensing and monitoring regimes – which waste operators need to seek</p>

<p>I ask the planning committee to review its decision, with a view to revoking the 5-year Gilder permit for slurry and bio-waste treatments.</p>	<p>approval, alongside the planning permission.</p> <p>With regards the review of this decision, while there are no specific mechanisms to review the planning decision made by Planning Committee for the Gilder site, when planning permission 18/0032/TWMAJW has run for 5 years duration, given the time limited condition, the operator will need to apply again should he wish to continue operating at that site.</p>
<p>32. Questioner's name: Andrew Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>I also ask the council begins a full review of all hazardous waste treatment permits allowed at the Grundon site. With populations in the immediate area now exceeding 20,000 people, many of the permits of operation are no longer appropriate.</p>	<p>Any questions concerning waste permits, which deal with the ongoing operation and pollution control of the waste sites, including those for hazardous waste are for the Environment Agency as issuing Authority, not the county council.</p>
<p>33. Questioner's name: Alan Mossman</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>To: The Leader of Council</p> <p>Thank you again for your answer to my question at the last meeting of council and for your reply to my letter in the 3 March Stroud News and Journal (SNJ).</p> <p>In your letter to SNJ you repeat the claim that the County Council's carbon footprint is 97% of what it was in 2006-7. I have read the GCC press release of 7 Dec 2020 [https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-december-2020/gloucestershire-county-council-cuts-carbon-emissions-by-97-per-cent/] and the documents referenced and I cannot understand how the figure of 97% was arrived at. Please would you ask the officer who prepared the calculation to let me have her or his full workings and assumptions. I'd love to understand the</p>	<p>All of the council's work on its carbon reduction is based on national assessment criteria used by all councils. I'd note, even without the significant carbon reduction provided by Javelin Park, Gloucestershire County Council's carbon emissions have reduced by 73% since 2006. This is by far the largest reduction delivered so far by any council in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Our revised LTP puts a stronger emphasis on active and sustainable transport schemes. There are now a total of 165 LTP schemes; 57 are Active Travel and Health & Wellbeing, 51 are Public Transport, and 57 are Highway schemes which are primarily schemes that mitigate against significant new development planned in adopted Local Plans.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to reducing the impact of transport on</p>

basis for the claim – particularly the creative accounting around the biogenic carbon emissions from the incinerator against the 2019 advice from IPCC. (in 2019 IPCC released a Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (page 8, final paragraph), which states, "if incineration of waste is used for energy purposes, both fossil and biogenic CO2 emissions should be estimated".)

My question relates to your repeated assertion that investing in additional road space is a public good. For at least 30 years the idea that traffic expands to fill the available roadspace has been well understood (The Lewis–Mogridge position was formulated in 1990 and observes that as more [roads](#) are built, more [traffic](#) consequently fills these roads. Speed gains from some new roads can disappear within months, if not weeks. Sometimes, new roads help to reduce traffic jams, but in most cases, the congestion is only shifted to another junction (Wikipedia). My own understanding of this goes back to research by Adams in the 1970s. He looked at urban as well as inter-urban routes. A major example was the week in 1971 that the M4 was completed from London to the Severn Bridge traffic crossing the Bridge increased by 10%.)

What is your evidence that increasing available roadspace is the best way to help reduce the carbon footprint while improving the air quality, health and opportunities for active travel of all of us who live and work in County?

climate change, our vision is to improve accessibility across Gloucestershire through low carbon modes. For journeys that are unavoidable by motorised transport, we are committed to encouraging a switch to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) and strive to facilitate this through enabling access to a charging infrastructure network.

34. Questioner's name: Alan Mossman

Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith

What is the Highways Department doing to ensure that the proposed B4063 Gloucester Cheltenham Cycleway meets all the criteria set out in LTN1/20 for at least 95% of its length?

The County is fully committed to complying with the requirements in LTN1/20 and the scheme has been designed to accord with the design requirements set out in the guidance. Highway widths are heavily constrained along much of the route

	<p>meaning that road widths are being narrowed to achieve at least the minimum widths to comply with LTN1/20 whilst recognising the constraints. An LTN1/20 assessment has been undertaken and all proposals are to be subject to rigorous third party technical review.</p>
<p>35. Questioner's name: Alan Mossman</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>B4063 is not the main road between Cheltenham and Gloucester – that is the A40. Carriageway widths in UK are generally greater than those elsewhere in Europe where vehicle sizes are identical. Reducing vehicle speeds allows vehicles to travel closer together both laterally and allowing for 2 sec between vehicles. This both increases traffic density and makes for safer driving.</p> <p>Will the Highways Dept consider reducing traffic speeds (to say 30 mph) and lane widths along the B4063 so that pedestrian and cycle tracks can meet the width criteria set out in LTN1/20?</p>	<p>Speed limit must legally comply with the DfT Circular for Setting Local Speed Limits, which wouldn't allow 30mph along the length of that road. We are looking at measures to allow a reduction from the current 50mph limit to 40mph along the eastern extent of the scheme.</p>
<p>36. Questioner's name: Alan Mossman</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>If Highways are unable to produce a B4063 design that meets the requirements of LTN1/20 for 95% of its length will the department use the investment to develop alternative projects that will meet the LTN1/20 design criteria while continuing to look for workable solutions on the B4063 alignment?</p>	<p>Officers expect to produce a design that adequately complies with LTN1/20.</p>
<p>37. Questioner's name: Sandra Holliday</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>St Mark's Ward in Cheltenham has some roads and pavements in an appalling condition.</p> <p>Could you please advise which roads in the St Mark's ward will have highway improvement work carried out in 2021/22?</p>	<p>Schemes are selected based engineering need and priority ranking countywide. Every scheme is effectively ranked against all other needing work.</p>

I am concerned that both Buckingham Avenue and Norfolk Avenue were programmed for resurfacing in 21/22 but were both put back to 23/24 onwards as I was informed that they compete against all other schemes based on a ranking across all roads in the county. Please provide an update on their current status.

Another road, Bedford Avenue is a well used road due to a school at its junction with Alstone Lane. Residents and people using this road and footpaths do not feel safe due to its condition. When will it be improved?

When will the remainder of Tennyson Road between Brooklyn Road and the A40 be resurfaced?

The aforementioned road are not exhaustive and if it helps I would be willing to accompany the Cabinet Member around the area so that they can see for themselves what unsafe conditions residents have to negotiate.

Bedford Avenue has been scheduled for 2021/22 and the other roads are in the programme, but not at such an advanced stage.

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COUNTY COUNCIL – 17 March 2021
Members' Questions

<p>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Shaun Parsons</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Does the Cabinet member for Environment & Planning agree that whilst there is much to commend in the LTP it does not adequately address the recommendations made by the Cotswolds Conservation Board during the consultation regarding HGV movements associated with the cluster of quarries between Naunton, Bourton -on - the - Water and Toddington.</p> <p>Would he agree furthermore with The Board that this issue should be addressed much more explicitly in the LTP particularly with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy LTP PD3.1 – Freight Network • Connecting Places Strategy CPS3 – North Cotswolds <p>The Board considers that the LTP should explicitly commit to ensuring that HGV movements associated with this quarry cluster are managed and addressed in a way that minimises adverse impacts on the Cotswold National Landscape and on the amenity of local communities. This should include establishing a robust baseline of current HGV movements and undertaking an assessment of the cumulative impacts of HGV movements across this cluster.</p>	<p>LTP policy in the Cotswold CPS3 was reviewed following feedback from the LTP public consultation and the issue of HGV freight routing in and around quarries was considered as part of the LTP Review and responded to in the consultation. The LTP has identified this in the Issues & Opportunities, in the supporting evidence to the LTP (see Annex 1.0 – LTP Summary Evidence Base).</p> <p>We have further strengthened LTP policy, PD3.1 - Gloucestershire's Freight Network, to extend GCC's role in partnership with designated neighbourhood forums. GCC will continue to work collaboratively with local planning authorities and other partners to ensure the effective implementation of adopted transport related land use policies with development proposals that could impact on the county's functioning freight network. Gloucestershire's Advisory Freight Route Map sets out the strategic primary route corridor for the freight network. GCC continues to monitor HGV flows on the freight network.</p> <p>As far as monitoring of the quarries is concerned, GCC have policies on the response to alleged breaches of planning control, and how we monitor all minerals and waste sites and our powers limited to the quarry sites.</p>
<p>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>The ash dieback felling of trees has been sad to see but people understand the need for it. Whilst I have heard about the aim to replant trees in the impacted areas I want to raise with you concerns expressed by residents about the way areas have been left after tree felling. In particular the sides of the A429 between Bourton and</p>	<p>In line with Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership, Ash Dieback Position Statement, a set amount of vegetation including wood and chippings, are left on site for biodiversity reasons. Many small species including insects, fungi and soil animals benefit from the</p>

<p>Northleach and also around Fossebridge. The areas now look stark, untidy and in places messy. Can you please list how these areas will be tidied up, rewilded and replanted along with a timescale in order to make sure this part of the Cotswolds becomes a green and pleasant area once again?</p>	<p>creation of such material. The practices we are using are sympathetic and are encouraging natural regeneration and, in time, appropriate replacement tree cover. Where it is safe to do so large mature stumps will also be left at a reasonable height, along with some cord wood. We have identified the presence of red data species such as violet click beetle, on a number of sites. These rare insects are found in the heart of decayed ancient trees, and in Britain found only within beech & ash trees.</p> <p>Surveys have been undertaken at several felling locations, and findings report promising evidence of natural regeneration at all sites. We will continue to encourage regeneration from the natural seed bank present in the soil, especially where infected ash trees have been removed in large numbers.</p> <p>Suitable areas have been, and will continue to be, identified for replanting. Forestry Commission guidance is being followed and we intend to replant at least two trees for every tree felled. Where possible we would like to plant on Highway land, however this approach has to be carefully considered as many of the ash being felled are self seeded in origin and so are often not in the most appropriate or safe locations on the highway verge. We need to establish the right tree in the right place for the right reason, through both active planting and natural regeneration as appropriate.</p> <p>With regard to the specific location identified, several Highway verge locations along the A429 Fosseway have been identified for replanting and this work will be undertaken in March 2021.</p>
<p>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Andrew Miller</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>Is the cabinet member for Education aware of the plans for the SAND academy to take over Tuffley Primary school on 1 April 2021?"</p>	<p>Tuffley Primary School is due to convert to academy status and will join the SAND Trust as a sponsored academy on 1st April 2021.</p>

4. Questioner's name: Cllr Andrew Miller	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Can the cabinet member for Highways list the many and excellent improvements to roads and pavements in the Tuffley County division in the last four years arising from the Council's £150m commitment to Gloucestershire Highways?"</p>	<p>4/81530 Calton Road, Gloucester 4/81556 Laburnum Road, Podsmead A38 Finlay Road & St Barnabus R/bt, Gloucester 3/8010 Tuffley Lane (from the Gladiator PH to Railway Bridge), Gloucester - Phase 2 4/81539 Romney Close, Tuffley 4/81549 Podsmead Road (Woodpecker Road Jct to just before Masefield Avenue) 4/85515 Oakbank Tuffley 4/85515 Gurney Avenue, Gloucester A38 Cole Avenue (Podsmead Rd to St Barnabus R/bt), Gloucester (2610)</p>
5. Questioner's name: Cllr Andrew Miller	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Can I congratulate the cabinet member on the achievement of the Council in resurfacing Seymour Road, and does he agree with me that persevering through a number of a technical obstacles has been well worth the patience and effort for the people of Linden and those who use that road?"</p>	<p>Thank you Cllr Andrew Miller, I whole heartedly agree, our structural maintenance team along with the contractors Tarmac and Ringway have done a fantastic job in delivering a great scheme.</p>
6. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>I was saddened to see the news that our Chief Fire Officer has left for Berkshire, and I wish him the best of luck with his endeavours. I am, however, worried about the culture of this council that has led to the loss of so many directors in the last four years. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm how many senior staff have left during this term?</p>	<p>Eight directors have left the council since May 2017. Some have retired and some have gone onto bigger and better things – which reflects well on the reputation of our council.</p>
7. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>Does the Cabinet Member share my view that the loss of council talent should be a concern for council residents, and what is he going to do to ensure Gloucestershire County Council is a magnet organisation?</p>	<p>Council officers changing role is a normal part of the running of any council, or indeed any business.</p>

8. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Can the Cabinet Member please confirm how many trees have been planted in Gloucestershire since the Full Council meeting on 17 February?	By the end of the month, 7780 trees and 2,400 hedging plants will have been planted. Cllr Hodgkinson will forgive me but, despite his keen interest in this area, I don't propose to ask for daily totals.
9. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Since our last meeting on 17 February, can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the number of trees the County Council has chopped down – either through Ash Dieback programmes or in GCC's capacity as the Highways Authority – and what proportion have been replaced?	As of 11/03/21 GCC Highways have removed 3,358 trees which posed a safety risk to the public highway. By the end of March 2021 we will have replaced trees at a rate of almost 3 to 1.
10. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
How many Electric Vehicles does the county now operate in its own fleet?	At least 13 vehicles: 3 battery EVs and 2 hybrid EVs in our staff pool car fleet (only one pool vehicle is not electric). 8 hybrid EVs that we lease for use by NSL our parking enforcement contractor. GFRS has started taking delivery of hybrid Volvo XC60s.
11. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
What has been the carbon saving from the greater use of EVs by the Council?	We do not yet hold this data but it will be collected as part of a corporate fleet review that is currently underway.
12. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
How many procurement processes have included a requirement for use of electric or low emission vehicles?	In the past two years we have included these in our contracts for parking, highways and pool cars.
13. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
How many electric or low emissions vehicles are being used on behalf of the council through procured services?	Our parking contractor uses 8 hybrid EVs and our highway term

	maintenance contractor, Ringway, has recently acquired 4 battery EV vans.
14. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
Open Contracting How many of the report recommendations put forward and accepted from the Open Contracting Task Group have been implemented?	There were seven recommendations. Progress has been made against all 7. 5 have been fully implemented and 2 are partially implemented and ongoing.
15. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
Which actions, if any, remain outstanding?	<p>The outstanding actions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness sessions on procurement for members – These will be delivered as part of the new member induction following the elections. • Financial checks take place when requested by commissioners/contract managers and plans are in place to introduce a regular programme of checking during the next 12 months. • Providers are expected to comply with the Government's Code of Conduct on Whistleblowing. This requirement will be integrated into the standard Selection Questionnaire for suppliers within the next 3 - 6 months. <p><i>(The final two actions relate to a single recommendation)</i></p>
16. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Grass Verges How many of the report recommendations put forward and accepted from the Biodiversity Task Group been implemented?	Significant progress has been made on all eight of the recommendations made by the Biodiversity Task Group. One area which has not moved forwards as far as desired was that whilst a useful trial project was implemented to trial cut and clear techniques on roadside verges, only a limited number of sites are suitable with the equipment currently available on the market.

17. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Which action, if any, remain outstanding?	Installation work on road studs to better identify and mark protected verges on the ground as well as via an electronic register is still to be completed and will be actioned as soon as practicable.
18. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
What has been the impact of the actions taken?	The Biodiversity Task Group has provided a useful focus to ensure Gloucestershire keeps biodiversity central to the considerations of projects and operations. Specific outcomes include that the County Council's Biodiversity Guidance has been updated to follow the Plantlife publication. This document is used by many partners and is alongside engagement and additional information provided directly to town and parish councils in the form of an information sheet last year. Useful discussions have also been undertaken with our partners and providers with the result of trialling the introduction of some flexibility into the grass cutting schedule with the aim of improving biodiversity.
19. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>Single Use Plastics Task Group</p> <p>At a meeting of full Council in March 2018, a motion was unanimously carried to: Eliminate all SUP within County Council managed buildings and facilities by 2020, and seek to encourage the elimination of SUP within its supply chain by 2025. Was the 2020 commitment met?</p>	All single use plastics have been removed from our catering supplies and provision in GCC buildings and as part of the GCC procured schools catering contract. We have been working with our supply chain on all construction and property maintenance projects in order to reduce or remove SUP as fully as currently possible. All new construction and maintenance contracts and frameworks have a requirement within them to do this.
20. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
What progress has been made towards eliminating single use plastics within the supply chain?	See above.

<p>21. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</p> <p>Climate Emergency</p> <p>Whilst the Cabinet like to talk a lot about the Carbon emission cuts in the Council's own estate (which is of course a necessary step for leadership on climate action, but should not become laurels to rest upon), this accounts for less a fraction of one percent of the carbon reductions needed across Gloucestershire.</p> <p>- The motion passed by Council on 15th May 2019 to declare a Climate Emergency resolved to: "Deliver a carbon neutral county by 2050, and work with partners to identify what measures would be needed to deliver a stepped target of 80% carbon reduction by 2030 to reflect the IPCC report on climate change."</p> <p>Almost two years on, what progress has been made against this commitment, and what stepped targets for county-wide carbon reduction have been identified?</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>May I refer you to the detailed report agreed by Cabinet in December 2020 which sets out progress in delivering against the Climate Change strategy and our five year rolling action plan. This includes proposals in 2021/22 to study transport decarbonisation in the county. With over one third of emissions being transport generate the findings of this report will be critical to inform stepped targets for all carbon reductions by 2030 and 2045.</p> <p>As part of our Climate Change Strategy we also agreed to contribute towards a county-wide climate change coordinator post to work with districts on measures to reduce carbon emissions across Gloucestershire. Following discussions at Leadership Gloucestershire in January 2020 it was agreed that this post would be hosted by Gloucester City Council. We have been keen to see this important role filled and understand that interviews have recently taken place.</p>
<p>22. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</p> <p>The motion also committed the council to</p> <p>"Call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards this 2030 target."</p> <p>· "Lobby national government to commit to 100 per cent carbon neutrality by 2050."</p> <p>"Consider its contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon/environmental cost' on competing bids. "</p> <p>What progress has been made on these items.</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>GCC is committed to the UK100 pledge to accelerate the transition to a net zero society. UK100 brings together local authorities to collaborate, share knowledge and engage with government on matters such as policy development, target setting and resources. Alongside this, as a member of the Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body, we are working with other local authorities in our region to support the transition to reducing carbon emissions at local and regional levels.</p> <p>Changes to the council's decision making processes aim to ensure that climate change implications are considered and recorded in procurement and policy decisions. For example, the new schools we are building will be carbon neutral.</p>

<p>23. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</p> <p>(3) The motion further committed the council to:</p> <p>“Ensure that our major plans, such as the local transport plan, have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions.”</p> <p>What is the estimated carbon impact of the actions contained in the latest Local Transport Plan?</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>As part of Gloucestershire's LTP review, an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken. The subsequent Post Adoption Statement concludes that “Overall it is concluded that the additions and amendments made to the LTP in response to consultation have improved its overall sustainability performance and as such, the LTP's vision for Gloucestershire of ‘A resilient transport network that enables sustainable economic growth by providing travel choices for all, making Gloucestershire a better place to live, work and visit’ can be achieved in a sustainable and integrated fashion.”</p> <p>In addition the LTP commits to undertake further work to map out a pathway to carbon zero for Gloucestershire.</p>
<p>24. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p> <p>The amended Council Strategy, approved four weeks ago, confirms the County Council's commitment to “tree planting that will see 35 million new trees planted across the county by 2030.” Given this pledge, can the Cabinet Member please confirm his understanding of how many trees need to be planted each and every day</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>The 35 million trees pledge is Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership's target, which the county council, along with district councils (including Cotswold) are committed to supporting.</p> <p>With the greatest respect for Cllr Hodgkinson, despite his interest, I will not ask officers to spend their time producing daily figures for him.</p>
<p>25. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p> <p>What is the outcome of the study carried out by Severn Trent, in collaboration with the county council, into the August 2020 floods that impacted on parts of Kingsholm?</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>Officers have received feedback from Severn Trent Water (STW) on the initial investigations they have carried out on their network in this area. These have not shown any immediate issues requiring repair, and it would appear that the assumption it was down to sheer volumes of water accessing the existing network was correct. STW are currently extending the area of investigation and will be looking into improvements to the capacity of the network following a multi-agency meeting.</p>

26. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>Does the county council own any land at Javelin Park that is not used by UBB and which may be free for non-incinerator uses?</p> <p>If so what is the size of the unused land?</p>	<p>No, all land at Javelin Park is allocated for use by UBB.</p>
27. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>Has the county council received the annual report from Allstone about their search for an alternative site to relocate their stone crushing, recycling, aggregates and skip hire business to?</p>	<p>The operator has been in regular discussions with council officers prior to making their anticipated formal submission.</p>
28. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
<p>When will the Kingsholm parking review be completed?</p>	<p>Our consultants have created a portal to enable consultation to start in May on proposals for yellow lines to improve safety and accessibility in Kingsholm. Subject to the response of the local community the review could be completed this year.</p>
29. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>After so many years of Tory control why are there as so many potholes all over the county?</p>	<p>Given that Cllr Hilton and his colleagues proposed amendments in last year's budget that would have cut pothole repairs, and proposed amendments in this year's budget that would have slashed vital drainage budgets, that protects areas in his own division from flooding, residents might be glad of the continued Conservative investment into our road network – rather than the cuts that Cllr Hilton and his colleagues proposed.</p>
30. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Patrick Molyneux
<p>What plans do you have to build a new non-selective secondary to serve the north of Gloucester?</p>	<p>The Gloucestershire school places strategy will be coming to cabinet later this month, and will provide more details on anticipated future school need.</p>

31. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Will you join me in condemning the persons who vandalised the speed survey equipment on Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester?	Yes – entirely.
32. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
What discussions have been had with the county council over plans to locate an eco-park at the site of the Hempsted Landfill facility?	These are exciting proposals that could see a significant boost to green energy production in Gloucester, and the planting of hundreds of thousands of trees. Whilst the council hasn't been formally involved to date, this is an extremely interesting proposal which will make a significant difference to our area.
33. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams
How many care home residents tested positive for Covid since the start of the outbreak?	815.
34. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams
Given the lack of testing available at the start of the pandemic, can the cabinet member and public health team provide an estimate of how many care home residents caught Covid in the first 6 months?	In the 6 months 26/02/2020 to 26/08/2020 there were 18 confirmed cases amongst care home residents, with the first case not being confirmed until 29/05/2020. Based on the information we hold it is not possible to estimate the number of cases of Covid-19 in care home residents prior to routine testing being implemented.
35. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams
What proportion and total number of care home residents have now been vaccinated?	Based on the data submitted by care homes, 89.4% of residents homes have had the vaccine. It is important to note that individuals are asked to wait 28 days after confirmed Covid-19 infection to have their vaccine. Some of these residents may have had active or recent Covid-19 infection when the home was visited which has delayed their vaccination.
36. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
	The risk of a pandemic has been on the Local Resilience

<p>What was in the Council's Risk Register about pandemics in 2019?</p>	<p>Forum's Risk Register (of which GCC is a statutory partner) for a number of years, as well as in the Public Health team's risk register. In both cases, the risk is owned and managed by the Director of Public Health. The risk of a pandemic is not just a GCC risk to plan and prepare for and so the planning and preparedness has been led by the Director of Public health on behalf of the Local Resilience Forum. During this time the Gloucestershire multi-agency pandemic influenza response plan was updated in line with national guidance and exercises were carried out to test key elements. Whilst there are differences between influenza and Covid-19, the process of preparing and testing of local plans enhanced local understanding of emergency planning and health protection processes and also developed and further strengthened local partnership arrangements. Both of these outcomes have helped deliver a strong integrated response to Covid-19 in Gloucestershire.</p>
<p>37. Questioner's name: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Looking back, do you think that Cabinet should have done more to ensure the mitigations were in place for a major pandemic within Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>I'm sure all of Gloucestershire's councils will look to learn lessons from the pandemic to put us in a stronger position in future.</p>
<p>38. Questioner's name: Cllr Kate Haigh</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Question to Leader</p> <p>In 2017 the Council newly elected Council formed with 10 women members out of 53 in total and there are now 2 out of 10 female members of his Cabinet. Minority groups are also mostly underrepresented, as are younger people. What steps has he taken to encourage a greater diversity of people coming forward for election and does he agree that more diversity in the photo on the steps of Shire Hall in May would be a positive step for Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>The make up of this council is a matter for the electorate, not for me.</p>
<p>39. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>Parking problems on residential streets is an issue which blights</p>	<p>We are aware of the pressures caused by parking for all road</p>

<p>neighbourhoods, causes community friction and can make it difficult for people with disabilities or families with small children to get around. What progress has been made with the parking review (by division) and has he given any consideration of greater enforcement where parking blocks pavements.</p>	<p>users, especially for people with disabilities but also for people walking, cycling and businesses reliant upon deliveries.</p> <p>As part of this year's capital programme we are continuing to fund work to update and improve the parking regulations in Cheltenham (All Saints), Stroud town and Gloucester (Kingsholm). These are being quality reviewed and will be ready for public consultation this summer.</p> <p>Outside of London, pavement parking which causes an obstruction is enforceable by the council only where there are yellow lines or similar restrictions in place (backed by a Traffic Regulation Order). Where there are no lines or restrictions only the police have powers to enforce this. Last year the government announced that it would enact Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 for areas outside of London. We are waiting for confirmation as to when this will happen but it is good news for everyone because it will allow the police to focus on other priorities and enable councils to deal with antisocial parking wherever it obstructs the pavement.</p>
<p>40. Questioner's name: Cllr Brian Robinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>The Councils investment in roads over the past 4 years was designed to improve our road network. Will the cabinet member confirm the impact of this investment on the backlog of road repairs in Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>In the past four years, we've reduced the proportion of classified roads in red condition by 34%, and the proportion in amber condition by 17%. Overall, over 200 miles of road (has been improved – very nearly enough to stretch from Gloucestershire to Scotland.</p>
<p>41. Questioner's name: Cllr Brian Robinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>The impact of Covid has affected people's emotional well-being as well as their physical health as many people have been denied the companionship of friends and family even if they did not catch Covid. Will the cabinet member for public health confirm help to address this will be a future priority for this council and outline steps the Council will be taking.</p>	<p>From the outset of the pandemic, the Council has worked with its partners to prioritise support for mental health and wellbeing; and this work is continuing. Mental wellbeing is already a priority in the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing strategy, and we will work with partners to embed our learning from the response to Covid-19 in our plans going forward, and in the county's existing all-Age Mental Health and Wellbeing strategy.</p>

At present our priority is responding to the ongoing impact of the pandemic on mental health, and there is a recognition that we need to consider support in the short, medium and longer term. While some people's mental wellbeing will recover as restrictions are eased, others will experience ongoing effects, arising from experiences such as bereavement, ill-health, PTSD, financial insecurity and job loss.

We are taking a number of steps to address the mental health impacts. The multi-agency Mental Health Cell established in response to the pandemic and co-chaired by Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is continuing to meet on a fortnightly basis to share intelligence on local need and co-ordinate our response. The cell has a number of sub-groups, including the children and young people's strategic response group and the workforce wellbeing group which brings together HR representatives from across the ICS.

Public Health commissioners are also reviewing options for continuing the new open access mental health provision commissioned by the Council in response to the pandemic for a further period of time (subject to the relevant approvals). The new services, introduced in Spring 2020 include an anonymous 'drop in' helpline (TIC+ Chat) for children and young people experiencing issues with their mental health, such as anxiety and low mood; and two digital mental wellbeing platforms; Qwell for adults and Kooth for 11-18 year olds, providing anonymous access to online counselling and self-care resources.

It is vital that we continue to raise awareness of the support available, and in January the Council worked with the CCG and Gloucestershire Health and Care to launch a new year long campaign: '*Be Well Gloucestershire*'. The joint campaign is designed to provide information on looking after your mental wellbeing; and will include a range of promotional activities over the next 12 months, including a new website and radio advertising.

As we move forward, it is important that we embed support for

wellbeing in communities recognising the important role that connections with others play in our wellbeing. The Council will shortly be confirming the recipients of the new GloW (Gloucestershire Wellbeing) community grant scheme. Funded by NHS England, the grants will support community based and led initiatives aimed at supporting social connections and reducing isolation with a particular focus on those individuals likely to be most vulnerable to poor mental health.

Finally, we will be working to refresh the county's Suicide Prevention Strategy; working with the county's existing Suicide Prevention Partnership Forum.