

**CABINET – 22 December 2021
PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

<p>1. Questioner's name: Sally Thorpe</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>I am very involved in my local Climate action network in Nailsworth and am aware of the challenges to get effective action on the climate emergency and welcome the commitment of the County Council.</p> <p>I note the concern in the reports that the target of an 80% reduction in carbon levels by 2030 (from 2005 levels) for the whole of Gloucestershire will not be achieved." The challenge is to get everyone who lives, works and visits the County to do their bit."</p> <p>I am worried that the proposals in the paper will struggle to address this and I am asking the County Council to set up a County wide citizens assembly to stimulate wider public responsibility for the climate emergency. There is a great deal of expertise available to do this.</p> <p>The proposal for an Expert Advisory Panel and Climate Emergency response group are very welcome and should be enacted with urgency.</p>	<p>The Council has recently appointed officers whose expertise is community engagement on sustainability issues. They are developing the community engagement plan, which will include reviewing the options available to best engage communities to bring about the changes needed to reach Net Zero by 2045.</p> <p>The formation of an Expert Advisory Panel will be proposed by the Council to the Climate Leadership Group, to be established in 2022.</p>

2. Questioner's name: Linda Castle and Sarah Sawyer	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>Agenda Item 5: Draft Council Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy (For Publication and Consultation)</p> <p>As the Medium term financial strategy has not yet been published, can we ask if the cabinet member expects there to be a capital receipt from the sale of the land in Leven close, Longlevens to be included in these reports for 2022-2023 or in any forecasts for the next few years. Has a buyer been found for this land?</p>	<p>A buyer has been found and the sale of the land in Leven Close is nearing completion. We do expect the receipt in the current financial year.</p>

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Question 1: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda item 8: Procurement of Energy Contracts (GCC Estate and Schools))</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Members please confirm that they appreciate the key difference in buying electricity from a supplier that builds new sources of green energy, as opposed to simply trading REGO certificates?</p>	<p>Yes, as set out in paragraph 15 of the cabinet report.</p>
Question 2: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda item 8: Procurement of Energy Contracts (GCC Estate and Schools))</p> <p>Do the Cabinet Members worry that the current arrangement looks like greenwashing, without the electricity spend making any contribution to companies that build new sources of renewable electricity?</p>	<p>A certificate issued under the REGO scheme provides evidence to the final customer of renewable energy generation. The REGO scheme is administered by Ofgem, who require market participants to provide proof of renewable energy supply and regularly report their findings to government. I have no concerns over the probity of this system, but do accept that as REGOs can be traded, they do not ensure that the actual energy purchased by a customer is renewable. As part of the procurement, the council will explore the potential to purchase renewable energy from a renewable generator.</p>
Question 3: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda item 8: Procurement of Energy Contracts (GCC Estate and Schools))</p> <p>Of the £4.7 million spent on electricity in 2020/2, can the Cabinet</p>	<p>The electricity supplied under the contract is under a 'green tariff' premium of 0.025 p per kWh over and above the price of standard grid electricity. For 2020/21, the green tariff premium for electricity use by the Council was £3,722</p>

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<p>Members please confirm the total amount spent on REGO certificates?</p>	
<p>Question 4: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda item 8: Procurement of Energy Contracts (GCC Estate and Schools))</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Members please confirm that they have investigated green gas?</p>	<p>As part of soft market testing for this future procurement, we explored the option to purchase renewable sourced gas. It was concluded that this is an immature market. We will continue to monitor this area and of course explore purchasing green gas in the future.</p>
<p>Question 5: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the next Leadership Gloucestershire Climate Leadership Group meeting will elect a chair, and whether a rotating chair (reselected every 6 months) was approved by all, or a majority, of attendees at the first meeting?</p>	<p>The Chair arrangements for the meeting are being finalised. There was a consensus for a rotating chair but partner agency officers were asked to look again at the frequency of the rotation and method of selection. The intention is that this is resolved by the next meeting of the group on the 7th February.</p>
<p>Question 6: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>The Cabinet Member will note that the key targets for Gloucestershire County Council, on P51, identifies “Gloucestershire</p>	<p>This target was part of County Council’s Climate Change Emergency Declaration, Motion 836 – Carbon action plan motion, 15 May 2019, where the Council resolved to: <i>“...[Commit] the Council to following the scientific advice of the Committee on Climate Change ...and deliver a carbon neutral</i></p>

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<p>to be NetZero by 2045, with a reduction in carbon emissions by 80% by 2030.” Does he recognise this 2030 target?</p>	<p><i>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.”</i></p> <p>This was reflected in the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy approved by Cabinet on 20 December 2019.</p> <p>Cabinet has since brought the Net Zero target forward to 2045 on joining the UK:100 local authorities initiative, as stated in the report. The revised Vision and targets are set out in paragraphs 2 and 4.</p>
<p>Question 7: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>Is this 2030 target one which he continues to strive for, and does he think it is achievable?</p>	<p>Yes, and as mentioned in the report (paragraph 18) this remains extremely challenging to achieve. Success will be dependent on effective partnership working, prioritisation, support from government and a step change in the scale of capacity and resources to deliver, which the Council is actively working to bring.</p>
<p>Question 8: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>What is the Cabinet Member doing, working with other key organisations and local authorities, to ensure that the 2030 target remains alive?</p>	<p>The county council was instrumental in putting forward proposals for a Gloucestershire Climate Change Coordinator post and funding half of the cost. We sit on the senior level Climate Leadership Gloucestershire group, drawn from Leadership Gloucestershire partners plus leaders from the NHS Foundation Trust and Local Nature Partnership, which first met on the 12th of November 2021. Together we will seek to develop the actions needed for the county to achieve net zero, including the</p>

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	<p>mechanisms needed to deliver this ambition. The workplan to deliver this ambition will be developed over the coming months, led at the most senior level by the Council and its partners.</p> <p>Alongside this there are a number of existing networks and areas of collaboration between the Council and partners including on waste, planning, energy efficiency, transport and biodiversity (including tree planting).</p> <p>We have also provided a key role in coordinating wider public engagement through the Greener Gloucestershire campaign. In the run up to COP26 62 social media posts were issued; the reach was 1.2 million unique individuals, with 306 likes, 141 shares/retweets and 570 clicks to further information. We also grew our newsletter subscribers to 1,477.</p>
<p>Question 9: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>Do you agree that the “80% reduction in Gloucestershire’s emission” should be reinserted into all key phrases throughout these reports, in order to reassure the public that this target has not been dropped? I.e. on P.52 – “Developing carbon emission reduction pathways for all the main sectors to reach Net Zero by 2045 <i>and achieve an 80% reduction in Gloucestershire’s emissions by 80%</i>”</p>	<p>The report is clear on the targets and their importance, which will be reflected in the actions.</p>

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<p>Question 10: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>In the County Council’s Corporate Strategy, on P.17, it states that GCC will “Deliver the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy that will see 35 million trees planted by 2030.” This figure also appeared in the 2020 Climate Change annual report, yet it does not appear anywhere in this annual report. Has the Cabinet Member decided to quietly drop this target and, if so, does he think the Corporate Strategy was misleading?</p>	<p>We support the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership in their ambition of 35 million trees and have always made it clear that we will do this by working with our partners.</p> <p>I have highlighted below exactly what it says in the Council Strategy:</p> <p>Reduce Gloucestershire’s carbon emissions by 80% by 2030 and secure a carbon neutral county by 2045. We will do this by working with our partners through Leadership Gloucestershire to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Gloucestershire Climate Change strategy; • Deliver the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy that will see 35 million trees planted by 2030; • Install over 200 electric vehicle charging points by 2023; • Strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy; • Grow our low carbon economy; • Help our residents, businesses and partners to radically reduce carbon. <p>Our own council target is to plant 1 million trees by 2030. We have already secured £1m to get this underway and we are on track to achieve this.</p>
<p>Question 11: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p>	<p>See response to question 10.</p>

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<p>If the Cabinet Member does recognise this figure, does he also recognise that we are now well over 4 million trees behind target?</p>	
<p>Question 12: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>P54 para 18. The report states that Local Authorities have “direct powers or influence over more than 30%” of the county’s emissions. On those areas alone, are we on target to meet the 80% reduction by 2030?</p>	<p>The aim of the emission pathway work in our action plan this year is to provide a stronger evidence base to show where we are, where we need to be, and what decisions are required to achieve this target.</p> <p>It can be seen from the emissions graphs in the report that where the Council has direct control, progress is ahead or on target. However, ‘Local authorities are directly responsible for between 2 - 5% of their area’s emissions but have direct powers or influence over more than 30%.’ As such, the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy target of being Net Zero by 2045 with an 80% reduction by 2030 remains extremely challenging to achieve.</p> <p>Success will be dependent on effective partnership working, prioritisation, support from government and a step change in the scale of capacity and resources to deliver.</p>
<p>Question 13: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree it is regrettable that the report is littered with references to the county being Net Zero by 2050?</p>	<p>The target of 2050 instead of 2045 has been included once in error (paragraph 18) and will be corrected in the meeting minutes.</p>

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<p>Question 14: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>Are the county's transport emission reductions on target to be reduced by 80% by 2030?</p>	<p>Achievement of these targets will rely upon action by a wide range of stakeholders including individual members of the public, businesses, public sector organisations and the whole of government.</p> <p>Gloucestershire County Council adopted its new Local Transport Plan (LTP) in March 2021 with a strengthened carbon reduction target committing to reduce per capita transport carbon emissions to zero by 2045.</p> <p>We will continue to work with partners to reduce transport carbon emissions, as outlined in LTP Policy PD 0.1, including the development of a more detailed 'Carbon Reduction Pathway' in 2022. At the same time we are making changes on the ground to enable local communities to travel more sustainably, with over £30m of investment in new cycling infrastructure, investment in bus services through our Bus Service Improvement Plan, supporting schools and businesses with their travel plans and we are about to award a contract for over 1000 electric vehicle charge points.</p>
<p>Question 15: Cllr Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda item 8: Procurement of Energy Contracts (GCC Estate and Schools))</p> <p>In relation to the council's procurement of renewable electricity for its</p>	<p>Currently we produce four times more renewable electricity than we consume.</p> <p>Half of the energy from waste that we produce and all our solar PV</p>

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<p>schools and estate, and to the extent it can't be locally sourced: Cllr David Gray's answer to my question at full council last week left me extremely concerned that the council does not seem to be committed to a procurement route where the REGOs originate from the same renewable source/generator (and ideally one that invests in new renewables projects), this being the only genuinely renewable route.</p> <p>Given the council's Vision for a carbon neutral county by 2045, will the Cabinet Member for Environment pledge to source genuinely renewable energy for this purpose?</p>	<p>energy is classed as renewable.</p> <p>In 2020/21 renewable energy generation from Javelin Park was 62,600,500 kWh and our electricity consumption was 14,887,562 kWh (reduced because of our solar PV electricity generation)</p> <p>Our intention is to source renewable energy for the grid electricity that we consume that is not renewable and we are starting the procurement process to allow this to be an option to the authority.</p>
<p>Question 16: Cllr Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>I note that projects have not come forward from public sector bodies for the £1m Salix energy efficiency invest to save funding – what work is being done to make these bodies aware of the existence of the fund and to support in bringing projects forward?</p>	<p>These bodies have been made aware of the funding, and the Council will continue to offer this to public sector partners.</p> <p>The council has itself used SALIX with great success to enable investment in major energy reduction and energy efficiency programmes such as LED street lighting. This has helped us to achieve a 77% gross reduction in corporate carbon emissions by 2020 compared with our 2005 baseline.</p>
<p>Question 17: Cllr Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>Climate Action Plan: "Action 3.11 - 30% Modal Shift across all sustainable modes in 10 years" – this is such a core part of the</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council's (GCC's) Local Transport Plan (LTP) clearly identifies the need to develop a 'Carbon Reduction Pathway'. The purpose of this pathway would be to map out steps and interim targets to deliver on the LTP commitment to reduce per</p>

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<p>Climate Strategy yet has no specific actions or even interim targets are assigned to it in the section entitled 'Proposed Actions 21/22 to 26/27' of the Climate Plan.</p> <p>The 2019-20 (latest available) annual monitoring review of the Local Transport Plan shows that both cycling and bus take-up are already both behind target, so clearly this area needs focus. I note that the Bus Improvement Strategy aims to increase usage by 10% on pre-Covid levels by 2025, while the Local Transport Plan has the Performance Indicator Target to increase cycle use within the county by 50% from 2015 to 2031 (PI-8), so at a minimum it would be helpful to use interim targets based on these PIs within the Climate Plan to 26/27.</p>	<p>capita transport carbon emissions by 2045.</p> <p>GCC recognises that significant changes and investment are needed to deliver the mode shift needed to achieve its carbon reduction targets. While a lot still remains to be done, Gloucestershire has started on this journey through its ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and by securing over £30million towards the delivery of a cycle 'spine' linking Cheltenham and Gloucester and beyond.</p> <p>As you will know Covid has had a destabilising effect on transport patterns, and bus use in particular, making it much harder to establish a reliable baseline. However I am willing to look into setting interim targets for cycle and bus use as you suggest.</p>
<p>Question 18: Cllr Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>A report published this month by the all-party parliamentary group on air pollution (APPG) concluded that ultrafine particles released by incineration at scale constitute a significant health hazard. The Chair of the APPG comments in the summary that "it is clear from these presentations that the UK Government's strategy needs fundamental change to decrease not increase overall waste incineration, in line with efforts to drive down the production of waste and increase reuse and recycling, towards a sustainable future that fully respects human health and climate change."</p> <p>In addition, a recent report from the National Infrastructure</p>	<p>Waste reduction, reuse and recycling remain the council's top priorities. The Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility deals with household residual waste – the waste left over after the County's residents have reduced, reused and recycled as much as they can.</p> <p>A) The council is guided by the Environment Agency (EA) which is the regulatory body for emissions monitoring requirements.</p> <p>The Energy from Waste facility is one of the newest in the country and meets the latest emissions standards that the facility has to achieve. These are based on the Industrial Emissions Directive and are set out in the environmental permit granted by the EA.</p>

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committee warned that rising greenhouse gas emissions from waste incineration would prevent the UK meeting its net zero targets by 2050.

In view of the above:

a) When will the council begin monitoring for ultrafine particulates from Javelin Park?

b) How does the Cabinet Member for Environment reconcile the conclusions of these reports with the inclusion of Javelin Park as a positive contributor in the council's Climate Change Strategy?

Any additional monitoring requirements will be set out by the EA through the permitting process and both the council and the site operator are committed to meeting these requirements both now and in the future.

B)

The council has a responsibility to manage household residual waste, which in Gloucestershire currently amounts to around 130,000 tonnes a year.

One of the main objectives of the residual waste project was to end the County's reliance on landfill. The Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility achieves that purpose diverting over 97% of the County's household residual waste from landfill. Reducing landfill is critical to our climate change strategy as methane released from decomposing matter is over 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. The residual waste that cannot be recycled is now treated at the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility, generating enough electricity to power some 25,000 homes. Electricity generation was not the sole purpose of the facility, but is a benefit, and is a reliable source of energy that is deemed approximately 50% renewable.

This is making a positive contribution to the council's Climate Change Strategy.

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<p>Question 19: Cllr Chris McFarling</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda item 8. Procurement of Energy Contracts (GCC Estate and Schools)</p> <p>With global warming accelerating and the need to reduce carbon emissions becoming ever more immediate, will cabinet ensure that a critical check is made to guarantee that the source of electricity supplied to schools and the GCC estate, in a long term contract, is indeed from a truly renewable source and not greenwashed? (Some companies trade Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin certificates (REGOs), which authenticate green energy itself. However, REGOs can be detached from the clean energy itself and sold separately. This becomes a problem if trading these ‘green’ certificates is all the supplier does as the energy actually supplied could come from any source. This is known as greenwashing)</p>	<p>I refer to my response to Question 2.</p> <p>We are aware of the greenwashing concern and have asked our current supplier for REGOs and renewable electricity matched from source but they do not have it available. We intend to start the procurement process in the new year to allow this to be one of the options available to us.</p>
<p>Question 20: Cllr Chris McFarling</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda item 8. Procurement of Energy Contracts (GCC Estate and Schools)</p> <p>Could cabinet members confirm that energy from waste is not as low carbon as energy from solar or wind technologies? (In Gloucestershire, energy produced from petroleum products such as plastics, and organic fuel sources such as wood products in the waste stream, involves the burning of fossil fuels or carbon dense materials, which have been transported by diesel trucks to a facility which does not have carbon capture technology fitted.</p>	<p>I understand the point you are trying to make however you are not comparing like with like. Energy from waste has enabled us to divert some 97% of Gloucestershire’s residual waste from landfill. This removes a significant source of emissions of methane, which is over 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.</p> <p>Electricity generation was not the sole purpose of the facility, but is a benefit, and is a consistent source of energy that is deemed approximately 50% renewable.</p>

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Question 21: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>Agenda Item 12: Financial Monitoring Report</p> <p>How will Cabinet finance capital expenditure incurred in the relocation of Stonehouse Library, now it has been announced that the former site will not to be sold as agreed in the capital programme (and as stated in the report of the decision made by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries), in order to generate a capital receipt of £300,000 towards this expenditure?</p>	<p>In 2019/20 the council committed to fund £300k capital to refurbish the building to accommodate the library and use S106 developer contributions £111k to fit the library space out. This scheme is fully funded and is not dependent upon the sale of the old library site. Capital receipts are reviewed on a quarterly basis.</p>
Question 22: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>What is the current membership of the Youth Climate Panel and, following the application process which closed in September 2021, what is the work as stated in the Action Plan, that is being undertaken, or to be undertaken, to review its membership and recruit new panel members?</p>	<p>As you will appreciate the pandemic has significantly curtailed the work of the Gloucestershire Climate Youth Panel. During this time many original members have moved on to higher education and jobs outside of the county and some are now over the upper age limit of 25.</p> <p>We have commissioned Creative Sustainability to re-establish the panel and recruit a coordinator to engage new members and support development of the panel.</p>
Question 23: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p>	<p>The senior level Climate Leadership Gloucestershire group, drawn from Leadership Gloucestershire partners plus leaders from the</p>

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<p>What action are GCC undertaking, or plan to undertake, as stated in the Action Plan to support and seek agreement from partners to the Climate Leadership Group to establish an Expert Advisory Panel and Climate Emergency Response Group?</p>	<p>NHS Foundation Trust and Local Nature Partnership, first met on the 12th of November 2021. It will seek to develop the actions needed for the county to achieve net zero, including the mechanisms needed to deliver this ambition.</p> <p>This senior level group fulfils the role envisaged of a Climate Emergency Response Group. It will consider suggestions for, and determine the correct governance needed to support the development and delivery of, the strategic actions needed to deliver net zero.</p> <p>The formation of an Expert Advisory Panel will be proposed by the Council, to be established in 2022.</p>
<p>Question 24: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5 - Draft Council Strategy & Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>With deadline for questions in just two hours, why has the agenda item 5 not been published, so that members can read it in good time to put in written questions?</p>	<p>This item was delayed because the Local Government Finance Settlement (on which the budget depends) was not available at time of publication, and was only received on the afternoon of Thursday 16 December. In anticipation of this, the Monitoring Officer wrote to Group Leaders on Monday 13 December to inform them that the paper would be delayed, and that, in the interests of transparency and accountability, urgent questions would be accepted on this item.</p>
<p>Question 25: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5 - Draft Council Strategy & Medium Term Financial Strategy</p>	<p>The proposed net revenue budget for Trading Standards 2022/23 is £893k, an increase of £60k when compared to the budget in</p>

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<p>What is the proposed revenue budget for the Trading Standards Service and how does it compare to the budget set in 2010/11 and 2015/16?</p>	<p>2015/16 of £833k. There is an overall decrease of £1,183k when compared against the 2010/11 revenue budget of £2, 076k.</p>
<p>Question 26: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5 - Draft Council Strategy & Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>What is the current assumption for inflation as outlined in the MTF for 2022/23?</p>	<p>The MTFS planning framework (Annex 4 of MTFS) states that budgets are only adjusted for inflation where there is a contractual commitment. Inflation assumptions vary between different contracts and are based on the inflation indices defined in each individual contract. The MTFS contains inflation assumptions which are based on the latest inflation projections. If inflation projections change between now and when the budget is finalised then the budget can be adjusted accordingly prior to final approval by Full Council in February 2022.</p>
<p>Question 27: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>In the report on highways investment it says that you plan to extend the proposed Gloucester to Cheltenham cycle route through the city centre to the Docks.</p> <p>Does that mean you plan to run the cycle route through the busy pedestrianised areas of Northgate Street and Southgate Street?</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is delighted to have been awarded our full bid of £12.822m Levelling Up Fund money to support significant transport improvements through Gloucester city, connecting what has been known as “the missing link of cycle routes” in the heart of the county. This new cycle route will link the docks to the city centre and (via the B4063) into Cheltenham.</p> <p>We are currently in the process of developing the designs for this route which will follow Government design guidance to create a safe, continuous, direct route for cycling. The pedestrianised areas of the route along Southgate Street and Northgate Street already</p>

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	fully permit cyclists to use the route and the scheme will seek to reinforce the message that cyclists can continue to cycle with care through the pedestrianised area.
Question 28: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>The report mentions the contract to install 1,000 Electric Vehicle charging points and that the residential areas of Gloucester and Cheltenham with little or no off street parking will be in phase 1, starting in April 2022.</p> <p>When do you plan consult the local county councillors on the suggested locations for the charging points within their divisions?</p>	<p>Officers have a list of potential sites based on the public contacting us at electricvehicles@gloucestershire.gov.uk and requesting a charger.</p> <p>The contract is on track to be awarded early in the New Year. As soon as it is signed the contractor will start site surveys of these sites to ensure viability of the suggested areas for installation in terms of power supply, meeting the criteria for OZEV grants, potential demand for charging and the physical character of the pavements etc. This is scheduled to be completed in February then we will engage members in the viable locations.</p>
Question 29: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>Agenda Item 5 - Draft Council Strategy & Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Does the administration plan to increase the cost of residents' parking permits or will they remain frozen at the 2021/21 rates?</p>	<p>There is a budget assumption to increase all fees and charges by 3% within the MTFs, therefore the cost of the parking permits is expected to increase by 3% for 22-23.</p>

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<p>Question 30: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10 – Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>The cabinet member plans to spend £1m on refitting the council chamber.</p> <p>Does he plan to consult all members of the council about the design and layout of the proposed chamber?</p>	<p>Yes, Councillors will have an opportunity to voice their options / provide feedback on the proposed designs.</p>
<p>Question 31: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>For understandable reasons, the County Council’s baseline and the baseline used by Districts is different. As we move to work more collaboratively, how will these differences be combatted?</p>	<p>We are working together through the countywide officer group to provide greater consistency and standardisation in the scope and measurement of our own emissions – our baselines will always be different as we all started at different times and some differences are inevitable as we have different core functions in our scope.</p>
<p>Question 32: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>You reference the recruitment of a dedicated Tree Project Officer, “to be appointed before the end of 2021”. Has this appointment taken place?</p>	<p>Yes, the preferred candidate was appointed on 14 Dec and is expected to be in post at the end of January. Officers in the Sustainability Team and Highways have made significant progress in the meantime identifying land for trees and taking deliveries of trees for planting this season.</p>

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<p>Question 33: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>How many times has the Youth Climate Panel met, and how do you intend to develop the group?</p>	<p>I refer to my response to Question 22. The Youth Panel met prior to the pandemic however its business was seriously disrupted by the pandemic, when it met once informally. Since then there have been changes in membership as young people have moved and we have commissioned Creative Sustainability to develop the group.</p>
<p>Question 34: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p>To date, how much of the £1m Action Fund has been allocated, and on what? What factors are taken into account when considering if a bid is valid?</p>	<p>We have allocated more than the entire £1m Action Fund to projects. This fund will help us to build capacity and develop a robust evidence base to inform policy decisions, develop strategy and to secure additional funding. It is also used to pump prime work that will support climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countywide coordinator £60k • Million trees challenge £420k • Pathways to net zero £150k • School Streets £100k • Libraries green zones £45k • Air Quality £100k • Greener Fleet and EV £105k • Climate Youth Panel £20k • Renewable electricity £5.5k

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Question 35: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p data-bbox="107 331 1059 405">Agenda Item 9: Glos. Climate Change Strategy Second Annual Report & Action Plan 2022/23 - 2027/28</p> <p data-bbox="107 443 1025 552">How are you looking to “expand green staff travel”? What efforts have been made to encourage staff to ditch their car in favour of public transport, cycling or walking?</p>	<p data-bbox="1108 331 1917 405">As well as initiatives set out in the report, such as cycling infrastructure, measures to date include:</p> <ul data-bbox="1108 411 2051 785" style="list-style-type: none">• Purchased 2 e-bikes to add to the GCC pool bike hire at Shire Hall• Promotional campaigns on Staffnet and in Talk Smart, the staff newsletter and to the wider public through the Greener Gloucestershire initiative by all councils.• Launching the ‘Love To Ride’ platform to encourage new riders and existing riders to cycle more including commuting.• Gloucestershire employers are encouraged to include their staff in challenges under ‘Thinktravel’, which also has an interactive travel planning portal. <p data-bbox="1108 823 1585 858">Other planned measures include:</p> <ul data-bbox="1108 865 2065 1273" style="list-style-type: none">• Scoping analysis to identify how staff could commute by walking, cycling, public transport or carshare.• Offering 200 staff the opportunity to have personalised travel advice online.• Active Business Network will focus on gaging businesses to encourage and enable sustainable and active travel across the county.• Up-to-date travel surveys will also be conducted in Spring 2022 for 12 key businesses situated near the B4603 to understand travel patterns and barriers to sustainable travel and how we can support behaviour change and modal shift.

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<p>Question 36: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>What “do nothing” or “minimum cost” options have been considered for the Council Chamber?</p>	<p>The lack of accessibility within the council chamber means that the “do nothing” option is not deemed as viable. The council is going to work through the option selected with group leader or their representative.</p>
<p>Question 37: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>Why are these options not presented in the report?</p>	<p>The lack of accessibility within the council chamber means that the “do nothing” option is not deemed as viable. The council is going to work through the option selected with group leader or their representative.</p>
<p>Question 38: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member provide a priced list of separate aspects of the quote?</p>	<p>Mechanical & Electrical upgrade - £286,068</p> <p>Demolitions, asbestos removal - £88,765</p> <p>New acoustic wall, floor, ceiling finishes - £323,155</p> <p>New Platform lift to entrance steps and associated works - £27,830</p> <p>New Seating, benching and raised timber floor levels - £186,640</p> <p>Fees and contingency - £74,734</p> <p align="right">TOTAL £987,192</p>

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<p>Question 39: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>Did the council approach multiple contractors for quotes?</p>	<p>In order to secure the best value for money for all capital building works on its properties, and to comply with procurement regulations, the Council procured a Framework Agreement in Jan 2020. Procuring works on a case-by-case basis would cost the Council more money for those works individually and overall, as well as taking significantly more officer time. At this stage, estimates have been provided to enable the decision to proceed to be taken by Cabinet. Once Cabinet has agreed to proceed, the contract for these works will be let through this Framework Agreement.</p>
<p>Question 40: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>What companies will be considered for the chamber refurbishment works? Will the tendering process be fully transparent and shared with councillors?</p>	<p>The GCC major framework will be used to procure the works and all work packages will be individually priced, and as always be an open book policy with GCC.</p>
<p>Question 41: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p>	<p>Yes, the Council Chamber has been individually priced and there is no cross subsidy between projects.</p>

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<p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the Council Chamber refurbishment has been individually priced, and there is no cross-subsidy between this project and other refurbishment works being undertaken elsewhere on the Shire Hall estate?</p>	
<p>Question 42: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm the cost of the Council Chamber refurbishment in relationship to the total cost of refurbishing the Shire Hall estate – both as a total figure and as a percentage?</p>	<p>Refurbishing the council chamber is part of the wider Shire Hall improvement work that began in 2014. This consisted of £8m of council funding, and £4m of LEP funding. We have also invested £1.1m on solar panels (paid for by grants), and £2.9m on delivering a new Children’s Social Care reception. In addition we have invested £2.4m in health and safety works, bringing the total to £18.5m. Therefore, the council chamber improvement (just under 1million) is 5.4% of this overall figure.</p>
<p>Question 43: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>What seating options are being considered to ensure people of all shapes and sizes can sit comfortably?</p>	<p>No decision has yet been made about seating. Various options are being explored. The point about seating needing to be adjustable is noted and will be taken into account. We will work on this with members as discussed at group leaders</p>
<p>Question 44: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p>	<p>We’re pleased that it’s recognised that a more flexible chamber with modern AV and video conferencing will provide opportunities</p>

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<p>What opportunities will there be in the future for using the space for income generation? Has this been factored into the plans?</p>	<p>to generate income. Once the works are completed, this will be fully explored. In the meantime, the existing chamber is already used by external bodies on an occasional basis.</p>
<p>Question 45: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>Opportunities for feedback have been extremely limited, with group leaders only shown this a few weeks before this is brought to Cabinet. What opportunities will Councillors have to provide feedback on the plans?</p>	<p>Yes, Councillors will have an opportunity to voice their options / provide feedback on the proposed designs and costs through the discussions mentioned above with group leaders or their representative.</p>
<p>Question 46: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Accessibility Improvements to the Council Chamber</p> <p>What is the estimated completion date?</p>	<p>The estimated timeline for the project is up to 28 weeks from start date.</p>
<p>Question 47: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: Financial Monitoring Report 2021/22</p> <p>In January I asked the Cabinet Member responsible for Children’s Safeguarding for reassurance that this year we had set a realistic budget, after 3 years of multi-million pound overspends. He assured</p>	<p>As part of the forecast overspend reported of £8.302m for Children’s Services, the net external placement budget position (after the impact of COVID) totals £6.13m. There are a number of reasons why the budget continues to be under pressure which includes the state of the external care market, a number of very</p>

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me that, with an additional £4million added to external placements, his team had set “the right budget”.

Given this assurance, how can the cabinet member explain this further £8.302 million overspend?

complex cases requiring high levels of support, impact of the pandemic leading to less foster carers being available and the pressure on family life leading to more children in care. The budgeted cost of an external placement was set at £105,200 per annum but due to the above reasons the current forecast is reported as £114,500 and children in care numbers in September were 831 compared to April 2020 at 754. Any forecast on a demand led budget will always be open to change due to the unforeseen nature of work within social care. The proposed MTFS for 2022/23 invests a further £6m into placements to try and address the pressure currently being reported. Gloucestershire is not alone in facing these pressures as these are national challenges which are experienced in other LAs.

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URGENT MEMBER QUESTIONS

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<p>Question 1: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Draft Council Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy (For Publication and Consultation)</p> <p>On 8 December the Council Leader stated that “Cabinet remains committed to delivering the Council Strategy in its entirety”. On that basis, can the Cabinet Member explain why the revised Corporate Strategy has ditched all references to cutting the county’s emissions by 80% by 2030?</p>	<p>The Council Strategy focusses both on those things that the Council will do to reduce its own carbon emissions and also on how it can encourage and make it easier for local businesses and residents to do the same. This includes a commitment to work with residents and partners to reduce Gloucestershire’s emissions to net zero by 2045, with an ambition to see carbon emissions reduced by 80% by 2030 . The wording of the Corporate strategy will be amended to reflect the commitment already made in the Councils Climate Change Strategy.</p>
<p>Question 2: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Draft Council Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy (For Publication and Consultation)</p> <p>Given the leader’s comments on 8 December, can the Cabinet Member explain why the revised Corporate Strategy has ditched all references to planting 35 million trees by 2030?</p>	<p>This target is owned by the Local Nature Partnership as a whole, and not solely Gloucestershire County Council. We remain committed to working with the partnership to achieve it, as shown by the Council’s recent success in securing £300k from the Emergency Tree Fund Grant Scheme, run by the Woodland Trust, to plant trees across the county. Within that, the Council has repeated our commitment to planting 1 million trees by 2030. The wording of the Corporate Strategy will be amended to reflect the commitment already made in the Councils Climate Change Strategy.</p>

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Question 3: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>Agenda item 5: Draft Council Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy (For Publication and Consultation)</p> <p>I noted with interest the video issued by Gloucestershire County Council to promote key items from the draft Corporate Strategy and Council Budget being brought to Cabinet. Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether an external company was used to produce any aspect of this video and detail the total cost of the film?</p>	<p>We worked with Unit 1 Films, who operate as part of the University of Gloucestershire (as a social enterprise). Final cost will be around £1.6k. This was because the member of the comms team who led on filming and editing took up a different new job earlier in the year. The vacancy in the role will cover the cost. The video content will continue to be used going forwards to help raise awareness and understanding of these two key elements of council business.</p>