

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 25 March 2015**  
**Members' Questions**

<p><b>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>Please could the Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood tell me whether it should be the responsibility of GCC Highways representatives in each area of Gloucestershire to arrange regular (monthly or quarterly) meetings with County Councillors to discuss progress on outstanding Highways Local projects and/or other work scheduled for their division in the upcoming period?</p>	<p>The Highways Member Communication Protocol sets out that Local Highways Managers are to offer their local Member a face-to-face meeting on a quarterly basis. In addition Local Highways Managers also meet or speak with their local Members on a much more frequent basis and wherever possible update them on the progress of outstanding works.</p>
<p><b>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernard Fisher</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>Please could the Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood tell me how many Class 'A' and 'B' road drains have been cleaned in the last 12 calendar months?</p>	<p>9,800 gullies so far this year.</p>
<p><b>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>It has been revealed that the county is negotiating with housing developer RHL over land to the North of Church Road in Leckhampton (planning reference: B/2015/033534/PRE). When, as the relevant county councillor, I asked for further details I was told by the officers "At this stage the proposal is confidential as it is commercially sensitive" and then "I have spoken to RHL who have</p>	<p>There's nothing cloak and dagger about this from a GCC perspective. The planning application is seeking pre-application advice from Cheltenham Borough Council, and, as is usually the case for developments of more than 10 houses, GCC has been contacted to give its views on highways. There can be legitimate reasons why pre-application advice is commercially sensitive – this is something you are probably best talking to the borough council about.</p> <p>The Council does own land on fields adjacent to the application site</p>

<p>said they would rather [their] discussions with GCC remain confidential for now."</p> <p>There is great interest amongst my constituents about mooted housing developments in this part of Leckhampton, which lies immediately adjacent to the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There is also considerable scepticism post the incinerator decision about "commercial in confidence" being used to cloak deals which should properly be subject to democratic scrutiny. In light of these public concerns will the Leader now reveal what is going on between GCC and RHL (and other builders) regarding mooted housing developments on Leckhampton Fields?</p>	<p>referred to above. This land was declared surplus to operational requirements by cabinet initially on 6th February 2013 and then again on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 when approval was also given to dispose of the site on the open market. The land has since been marketed and negotiations are continuing with the bidder who tendered the most favourable terms.</p>
<p><b>4. Questioner's name: Cllr Nigel Robbins</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>a) Please could the Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood tell me what the remit is for the Independent Review that is currently being undertaken by a named individual of the Amey Highways Contract?</p> <p>b) Please could the Cabinet Member inform me the timescale of this review?</p> <p>c) Will the final report be made public?</p>	<p>The Council has not commissioned an independent review of the Highways contract.</p> <p>AMEY have employed, on a temporary basis, an ex Network Manager and previous Divisional Surveyor to assist them in managing the backlog of minor works and to augment their operational and customer services staff by providing a key contact for GCC members.</p>
<p><b>5. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernard Fisher</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>Please can you tell me whether all of the highways budget for 2014/2015 has been spent?</p>	<p>We are still working on determining the 2014/15 outturns with GCC finance and with Amey.</p>

<p><b>6. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> <p>Can you confirm whether or not you have read from beginning to end, the un-redacted copy, of the contract between Gloucestershire County Council and Urbaser Balfour Beatty to build a waste incinerator at Javelin Park?</p>	<p>The council took top-level legal advice on the Javelin Park contract – the legal opinion of expert independent solicitors is what the council's decision-making on issues like this ought to be based on.</p>
<p><b>7. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</p> <p>Can you confirm whether or not you have read from beginning to end, the un-redacted copy, of the contract between Gloucestershire County Council and Urbaser Balfour Beatty to build a waste incinerator at Javelin Park?</p>	<p>I would echo the Leader's comments. I too have full confidence in the officers and professional advisers who support the contract and have consistently provided with excellent advice on the contract.</p>
<p><b>8. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for Adult care tell me what level of funding will provided for respite care in the coming financial year and how does this compare to the last two years?</p>	<p>In the main Adult Social Care does not have a specific budget for respite care but will include provision for it, when appropriate within individual support plans as need dictates. However the Council does, through the implementation of the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers also have a £0.95 million contract for short breaks to assist people to maintain their caring role. The budget for this is set to remain unchanged in 2015/16 but we are working closely with Carers Gloucestershire and Guideposts (who deliver this contract) to assess whether this, alongside other interventions, should increase given the Councils' broader responsibilities for Carers as set out in the Care Act 2014.</p>

<p><b>9. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>It has recently been reported in the media that care providers are effectively 'clipping' the time patients receive from carer workers by booking care appointments back to back. In order to get to each client on time the length of time spent with each client is 'clipped'. Can the cabinet member responsible for Adult Care tell me whether or not this practice is occurring in Gloucestershire and if so which providers have adopted this practice?</p>	<p>We are not aware of any instances when care appointments are booked back to back but we do know that travel time particularly in the rural areas can be an issue. With this in mind we are trialling the use of electronic call monitoring within our disability service areas and intend to roll this out as part of the new contract arrangements for all domiciliary care due from April 2016.</p>
<p><b>10. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for Children and Young People tell me on average how many foster carers does a child in care have before being found a permanent placement and what is the highest number of temporary placements that a child been allocated before being permanently settled?</p>	<p>The majority of children in care have had fewer than 3 placement moves before being permanently placed. Of the 310 children who have been in care for at least 12 months to the end of February, 36 (11.6%) have experienced three or more placement moves in the last 12 months. This is an improvement on the 2013/14 reported out-turn of 16%, and is currently below the latest reported statistical neighbour average of 13.8% and in-line with latest reported national average of 11.0%</p> <p>There are 133 children who have been in care for 2.5 years or longer to the end of February, of whom 89 (66.9%) have been in the same placement for at least two years. Again, this is an improvement on last year's out-turn of 64.0%, and is above statistical neighbour average of 64.7% and in-line with national average of 67.0%.</p> <p>Further more detailed analysis will be needed to identify the average number of placement moves before children are placed permanently, and to determine the highest number of placement moves for one child.</p>

<p><b>11. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>It has recently been reported in the local media that Gloucestershire County Council's handling of a child in care case was described by a family court judge as an "extreme example of institutional failure'. Can the cabinet member responsible for Children and Young People assure the Council that this case has been reviewed and as part of his answer will he outline what lessons have been learnt? Will he produce a report for councillors establishing what went wrong and what is being done to ensure such failures do not happen again in the future?</p>	<p>Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this case. At my request the council has already completed a review. I am disappointed about the Judge's views and the delays that occurred in this case – both with the Council and the courts. Inevitably this is a complex situation and it is important to protect the privacy of the young people involved. I have therefore made the full report available to Shadow Portfolio holders and the chair of Scrutiny Committee. I would make two general comments – the review supports the recommendations made by the Council in respect of adoption, especially given the Council's strong record in this area. Secondly, the review highlights the impact of social worker shortages at case level – this makes the current scrutiny task group work even more important.</p>
<p><b>12. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>With regards to the recent child in care case that was heard by Judge Wildblood, can the cabinet member responsible for Children and Young People provide the council with his assessment of whether or not this is an isolated incident and is he concerned that other children in our care are being failed?</p>	<p>The review has specifically considered whether there are wider system failures and concluded that this is not the case. This is a case that has been in the courts for a long time, predating the recent family court reforms.</p> <p>In the 6 months from July 2014 to February 2015 there were 14 contested final hearings – in all of these cases the Council's plans were accepted by the court.</p> <p>I am very proud of the improvements we have made which have previously been praised by Judge Wildblood. In addition our work on adoption has received national recognition from DfE. Between April 2014 and March 2015, 48 children have been successfully adopted.</p>
<p><b>13. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for Children and Young People tell whether or not he believes the failings in the recent child</p>	<p>There are currently 25 full time equivalent social worker vacancies and 26 agency staff employed. I am pleased that we currently have</p>

<p>in care case that was heard by Judge Wildblood were caused by heavy caseloads in Children Social Services and will he update council on whether recent efforts to reduce social workers caseloads have been successful? As part of his answer will he remind councillors of how many social worker vacancies remain unfilled?</p>	<p>16 applicants for vacant posts. As I have said above, the national social worker shortage played a significant role on the recent court case.</p> <p>The Director of Safeguarding and Care has put a caseload management strategy in place. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing all current cases.</li> <li>• Bringing youth support staff into Gloucester city teams.</li> <li>• Revised Recruitment &amp; Retention strategies.</li> <li>• Employing Medicare to provide additional capacity to work with children in need cases.</li> </ul> <p>A new Early Help strategy as part of the CYP plan is also intended to reduce the pressure on Social Care. Caseload levels in some teams are concerning and I will be monitoring the situation closely.</p>
<p><b>14. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</b></p>
<p>I note from the Financial Monitoring Report that was presented to Cabinet in February that there is a £3.1 million under spend in Services to Adults with Learning Disabilities and £4.9 million overspend in Services for Older People. Can the cabinet member responsible for Adult Care reassure the council that officers are not deliberately under spending the adult learning disabilities budget to address the over spend in the services for older people budget? As part of her answer can she remind councillors of what is the current overspend in Adult Budget?</p>	<p>The under spend in Learning Disability Services is not connected to the overspend in older persons services. The vast majority of under spend in learning disability services has been due to the re-negotiation of existing block contracts for care. These contracts have been re-negotiated to ensure value for money and to extend personal budgets to all recipients of services. Personal budgets mean choice and control. Other savings have come to us by assisting people to achieve employment. As you know Gloucestershire is double the national average in terms of people with a learning disability in paid work and more independence is both better for the individual and better for the taxpayer. We assess needs on an individual basis so we know that where needs have increased in learning disabilities we have increased funding. But the reality is, if we do the right thing and we help people achieve their potential it costs less and is better for them.</p> <p>Next year we will be introducing Electronic Call Monitoring and this will ensure we will only pay for services that have actually been delivered to our service users. Again this is better for service users</p>

	<p>and better for tax payers. So in short we expect these good practices to continue to lead to better value in the year ahead. The current overspend in the overall Adult Budget is £5.3m.</p>
<p><b>15. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</b></p>
<p>I note from the Financial Monitoring Report that was presented to Cabinet in February that there is £0.5 million overspend in the Mental Health Services. Can the cabinet member responsible provide council with her assessment regarding whether our Mental Health Services have the resources to meet demand and, as part of her answer, can the cabinet member remind councillors what is the council's current projected spend on Mental Health Services for the coming financial year and explain to council why an overspend in Mental Health Services occurred in 2014/15?</p>	<p>The overspend in the mental health budget relates specifically to the external care budget which is managed within the contract in place with 2gether NHSFT. This area of expenditure has experienced an increase in cost pressures resulting from an overall increase in activity/demand and the level of complexity of service user needs.</p> <p>The Commissioners team are working on benchmarking all elements of mental health expenditure with other comparable Authorities to understand better our relative spend across all areas of expenditure for adult mental health services to ensure we have appropriate levels of investment across the mental health care pathway for our population.</p> <p>The budget for adult mental health in 2015/16 is £6,443.00. We anticipate this will be sufficient level of investment to meet needs from the service provision we commission. However, the external care budget element within the overall expenditure will continue to experience budgetary pressures going forward into next year and the Council is working with the Trust to put in place financial recovery plans that will bring our expenditure in line with available budget.</p>
<p><b>16. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Kathy Williams</b></p>
<p>I note from the Financial Monitoring Report that was presented to Cabinet in February that there is an overspend in Services to Adults with Physical Disabilities of £0.9 million. Can the cabinet member responsible provide council with her assessment of why this overspend has occurred and does she expect this overspend to continue in the coming financial year?</p>	<p>The main cause of this overspend has been a delay in the programme of reassessments to ensure that packages of care match improvements in people's level of independence. Although some of the work did take place in 2014/15, the full year effect of which will reduce the on-going impact of this shortfall. The programme is also now being updated to take account of the revised requirements of the</p>

	Care Act 2014 which commence on 1 April 2015.
<b>17. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
Can the cabinet member responsible for Children and Young People remind council what proportion of the Dedicated Schools Grant is spent on supporting children with SEN and how do we compare to similar Local Authorities?	20.9% (£84.6m) of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2015/16 is allocated for special educational needs. This covers the whole of the High Needs block together with formula allocations to mainstream schools for SEN through the Schools Block. High Needs block spending is line with the England average. Formula allocations to mainstream schools, particularly for secondary schools, are well above the England average The Schools Forum is currently reviewing the mainstream funding formula as a whole and will be making recommendations to Cabinet in October.
<b>18. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
Can the cabinet member responsible for Children and Young People remind the council how much it costs a school to have a pupil assessed for SEN provision and can he tell council how many pupils were assessed in 2014, 2013 and 2012?	There is no charge to schools for carrying out an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. This is funded by the County Council.  The number of pupils assessed in 2012, 2013 and 2014 were 335, 365 and 255 respectively.
<b>19. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b>
The retention and recruitment of social workers is becoming a real concern and it is vital that all councils learn from the lesson of Rotherham. Can the cabinet member for children and young people tell me whether or not in his opinion calls to jail social workers who fail to act upon suspicions of child abuse will help attract more people to the profession and can outline how the council would change its working practices should the policy be made into law?	I do not think calls to prosecute social workers and other staff will help. Whilst I am sure we would all agree that people, including officers and members, should be accountable for their actions, I cannot see how such a plan will help us to recruit and retain staff to work with children.  We will have to see what any final legislation requirements are before deciding how to implement. This administration's commitment to safeguarding has been demonstrated by the £1.8m we have invested since 2013. Our new



	Principal Social Workers will also help to raise the profile of social work and build relationships with the University.
<b>20. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Andrew Gravells</b>
Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Public Health explain why Gloucestershire County Council does not have a health inequalities strategy and can he tell councillors what plans if any are there to draw one up, who will be involved in the process and by when will we have a strategy in place?	Tackling health inequalities is one of the five priorities in the Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The delivery plan for this strategy features an action card for tackling health inequalities. The delivery plan is being refreshed. This work is being led by the Director of Public Health in their capacity as chair of the Strategy Implementation Group for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The revised delivery plan will be completed by March 2016.
<b>21. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>
With regards to the cabinet's plan to build an incinerator at Javelin Park can the cabinet member responsible tell council which officers and elected members have read the council's contract with UBB to build and operate the incinerator?	The vast majority of the contract has been published on our website for a considerable time. We have no records as to which councillors or officers have chosen to read it.
<b>22. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>
With regards to the cabinet's plan to build an incinerator at Javelin Park, can the leader of the council tell me where in the council's constitution or in current legislation does it prohibit elected members from reading contracts cabinet members and senior officers have signed on behalf of the county council?	<p>The law on a Member's Access to Information is set out in the Local Government Act 1972. There is a detailed section "Rules on Access to Information about the County Council's formal Business" in Part 4 of the Constitution. The meanings of "exempt" and "confidential" information are set out in the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>The Leader has asked the Chief Executive to seek legal advice with a view to making more information available to Councillors on a pink paper basis.</p>

<b>23. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
With regards to the cabinet's plan to build an incinerator at Javelin Park, can the leader of the council confirm whether or not he is has read the unredacted contract he signed with UBB?	Please see the answer to question. 6.
<b>24. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b>
With regards to the cabinet's plan to build an incinerator at Javelin Park, can the cabinet member responsible for waste reassure the council that no recyclable material will be burned at the facility?	The construction of the Javelin Park Energy from Waste plant is part of achieving our target of 70% recycling by 2030 which will be one of the highest in Europe. Under any system there will always be some material that could be recycled which is not. We will keep working with district councils to ensure as much recyclable material as possible is removed from the waste stream.
<b>25. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
With regards to the county council's highways contract with AMEY, can the cabinet member tell me how much worse does the performance of AMEY have to get before GCC cancels the contract?	Amey have been working well at making improvements to their delivery since we took issue with their performance earlier in the year – and our improving national position is starting to demonstrate that. There's a lot more to be done to deliver the improvements I, and all councillors, want to see – but they are heading in the right direction.
<b>26. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
At the recent Gloucestershire Economic Joint Growth Committee, a report was presented by Shared Intelligence entitled Devolution and Governance Next Steps in Gloucestershire. This report indicates a way forward as being one of 2 models a Combined Authority or an Economic Prosperity Board. Which model does the leader of the council see as the best way forward, and does he accept that	The report prepared by Shared Intelligence was considered by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee on the 18 <sup>th</sup> March. As Cllr Lydon will be aware, in observing the meeting, I expressed a clear view that Gloucestershire should indeed engage in the devolution debate and also that I was firmly of the opinion that it would be in Gloucestershire's interests for this to be organised

<p>keeping to the status quo will mean that Gloucestershire is in danger of being left behind by neighbouring arrangements?</p>	<p>collaboratively, rather than on an individual authority basis. Recognising that the paper presented was merely a scoping report and that the matter would require considerably more debate, rather than pre-empt the outcome of such discussion, at this stage, I would wish to be better informed by local views before expressing an opinion on a possible way forward.</p>
<p><b>27. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Andrew Gravells</b></p>
<p>Once again the proportion of all opiate users that have left treatment successfully not representing in 6 months remains very low. Can the cabinet member responsible for public health provide me with his assessment as to whether Turning Point has the resources it needs to help opiate user recover and does he believe the council's contract Turning Point needs to be reviewed?</p>	<p>As previously reported to Council this target is very ambitious and is noted as being challenging nationally. We've also been clear that, as a result, is unlikely to be achieved within the lifetime of the current contract with Turning Point, which expires in March 2016. As part of the retendering for this provision this indicator and target will be remodelled with input from Public Health England. Meanwhile we are working with Turning Point and Public Health England to investigate it in more detail. For example, does separating out and reporting on this indicator for different subgroups of the target group (such as those who have come into treatment since Turning Point started and those in treatment for many years under previous arrangements), help us to better understand how we are doing and how we can improve. Turning Point has sufficient resources provided to them by the Council to help opiate users recover. The service reports on a range of other key performance indicators on which it is performing well.</p>
<p><b>28. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for highways tell me whether or not Amey uses zero hour contracts as part of its work for the county council and as part of his answer can he provide me with his assessment of the level of morale among employees working for Amey?</p>	<p>Amey only use zero hour contracts for staff that have dual roles such as gang staff that also drive winter gritting lorries. Their 'second' contract for the winter lorry driving is at zero hours where as their 'day job' is covered under a normal contract. Clearly this is required as the winter operations are weather dependent and unpredictable.</p> <p>I have seen nothing but a positive attitude and dedication to the task from Amey staff.</p>

<p><b>29. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Lydon</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Will Windsor-Clive</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for infrastructure tell me how many meetings he has had with Government Transport Ministers to discuss the need to build a third river Severn crossing and can he confirm whether or not he will be lobbying national for funding for such a project in the coming year?</p>	<p>None as yet – this council's priorities have been on redoubling the Kemble/Swindon train line and the A417 missing link – both issues where the coalition government has delivered for Gloucestershire after years of inaction. The third Severn crossing is something that people in the Forest of Dean, from all political parties, have called for, for many years. I think it's only fair that, as a council we look at their concerns properly. As such, I welcome the Environment Scrutiny Committee looking into the issue in more detail.</p>
<p><b>30. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Andrew Gravells</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible tell me how many meetings has the MP for Gloucester had with council officers in the five years concerning the lack of GP provision in Kingsway? Please provide a year by year break down and can you provide the minutes from these meetings?</p>	<p>We aren't responsible for the provision of GPs surgeries, although it is an issue that the MP has raised with me on several occasions.</p>
<p><b>31. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Will Windsor-Clive</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for infrastructure tell me how confident he is that the current Government is committed to fixing the missing link on the A417 and is he concerned by comments made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Transport that 'it will take some time' to evaluate exactly what the solution might be to fixing the problem? As part of his answer can he explain why Transport Ministers have been reluctant to offer support in the House of Commons to fix the missing link when pressed to do so by local members of parliament?</p>	<p>For the first time ever we have a commitment from government to sort this issue out. That's a testament to the hard work of the local MP and councillors from all parties on this and other councils. There is still a lot to be done, in terms of scheme design, planning and environmental issues to make this a reality – and it will take time and continuing support from councillors and MPs to deliver that. That is why I support the motion on this subject later in the meeting.</p> <p>I'm afraid I've no more insight into the views of ministers in the Department for Transport than the questioner has.</p>

<b>32. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Will Windsor-Clive</b>
Can the cabinet member responsible tell me how the local authority will be managing Fire Service Pension at local level?	The terms of reference for the local Pension board will go before full Council later on our agenda today and explains how it will be managed in accordance with The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015.
<b>33. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Will Windsor-Clive</b>
Can the cabinet member responsible for fire tell me whether the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue service will follow the will of parliament when it comes to dealing with Fire Fighters who fall short of fitness standards, through no fault of their own, when approaching retirement age?	<p>Firefighters will be managed in line with normal procedures that would lead to an early termination of employment. Each employee will be looked at on an individual basis and guidance issued both at a local and national level would be taken into account when making decisions with regard to an individual's circumstances.</p> <p>The addendum to the National Framework, issued by DCLG in December 2014, continues to provide discretion over the award of an unreduced pension should a firefighter be in the position you have outlined.</p> <p>We are further advised that such discretion cannot be fettered, and that to provide a 'guarantee' would be unlawful.</p> <p>Members would, I am certain, be sympathetic towards any firefighter who finds themselves in this position. However, it is impossible to predict the circumstances in each case, as well as the financial situation of the Fire Authority. These factors must be considered in exercising the discretion that the rules allow for.</p> <p>We will continue to be guided by the scheme rules and the National Framework.</p>

<b>34. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Will Windsor-Clive</b>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for Fire explain to the council how the changes to the fire capital grant will affect how Gloucestershire Fire Service will procure new equipment in the coming year and is he confident that the Fire Service will have the access it needs to these funds?</p>	<p>The Service is currently in a good position with regards to equipment and its fleet. Prudent management has allowed the Service to take stock.</p> <p>For ongoing capital requirement, the Service is already making plans for future replacement of vehicles and equipment in line with its replacement programme and is ensuring that these are considered as part of priorities within the Authority's capital programme.</p>
<b>35. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for highways explain why it takes from September 2014 to the present date to have safety critical 'keep clear' road marking on the A38 southern connector? Can he tell me when the work will take place and why cannot Amey complete safety critical work in a timely manner?</p>	<p>Firstly, officers tell me that the 'keep clear' marking are not 'safety critical' (in which case they would have been replaced in 28 days) Road markings are normally done during the summer months to avoid laying markings on wet roads or roads that have salt residue on them from winter operations. This make sure the markings will last and not deteriorate too quickly. As this site is on an A road it has been salted quite regularly over the winter months so it would have been inappropriate to put these markings down. These works are scheduled along with a number of other road marking works around the County for a bulk programme which will take place in early summer.</p>
<b>36. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for Highways tell me why the council has missed its target on the number of potholes being fixed in the last year – do we have enough crews out on the ground?</p>	<p>What targets is the member referring to? The last highways KPI report shows that Amey are hitting or exceeding all of its defect repair targets. Their in-quarter performance on 28 day defects is at 98%, 24 hour defects is at 99% and emergency defects is at 98%. No targets are being missed with regards to safety defects.</p>

<p><b>37. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for Highways tell me whether he is confident that Amey has sufficient whistle blowing procedures and is he confident that Amey is treating all its staff with dignity and respect?</p>	<p>Amey are a competent national contractor and have significant human resource policies in place which insure that staff have access to whistle blowing procedures. Amey's Whistle Blowing Helpline Number is displayed in all Amey depots and on their staff website. As an organisation they actively encourage whistleblowing as a positive means to ensuring that problems are raised up to senior levels of management. Amey policies for staff wellbeing include Behaviour and Conduct, Inclusion and Dignity at Work, Professional Standards and Report Something that Concerns Me (whistleblowing).</p>
<p><b>38. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Will Windsor-Clive</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for public transport, explain why the number of passengers using our bus network is fewer than what it was in 2011/12? As part of his answer can he remind council what was the council's spend on public transport in 2010/11 and what is the council's projected spend on public transport for 2015/16?</p>	<p>This is a national issue - quarterly figures published by the Department for Transport (table Table BUS0106a) show that the number of passenger journeys made on local bus services in non-metropolitan areas of England was lower at the end of the 2014 than it was at the start of 2011. The local trend in Gloucestershire reflects this wider national picture.</p> <p>The council's spend on public transport during the period in question is shown below:</p> <p>Concessionary travel: £0 in 2010/11, £7.591m in 2015/16. Scheme transferred from districts in 2011/12.</p> <p>Investment in transport services: £3.803m in 2010/11, £2.897m in 2015/16 (24% reduction).</p> <p>Overall public transport investment by the council: £3.803m in 2010/11, £10.488m in 2015/16 (176% increase).</p>

<b>39. Questioner's name: Cllr Barry Kirby</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</b>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible tell me how many young people have applied for the apprentice travel card and will he consider advertising the scheme more widely?</p>	<p>We have received 248 applications from young people for Apprentices travel cards, with 14 awaiting validation by employers; in addition we have received 49 requests for the second 50 trip cards.</p> <p>We also have responded to 32 applications by care leavers for bus passes, and 12 renewals. The total number of passes issued is 266 with a further 71 renewals.</p> <p>The scheme has been advertised widely both via a press launch last September and by repeated engagement with colleges and employers, both directly via the colleges themselves and working with GFirstLEP. Staff in the Integrated Transport Unit have promoted the scheme via a poster campaign through colleges, youth support teams, job centres and major employers and attended an event at the Growth Hub this month, aimed at encouraging employers to recruit apprentices. The scheme was promoted by GFirst during Apprentices week earlier this month through an e-campaign.</p>
<b>40. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b>
<p>It has been reported in The Citizen that the lives of residents living in Chapel House Care Centre were put at risk because their medication was not being managed properly. Can the cabinet member responsible for adult services tell me if there were any GCC funded residents staying at this care home and if so how many?</p>	<p>When the Council suspended placements at this home in November 2014 there were 19 GCC funded or part-funded residents out of 41 registered places.</p> <p>The home has been subject to a whole service safeguarding strategy since November 2014 and we have been providing support and continue to do so.</p>
<b>41. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b>
<p>The CQC found that the care workers at Chapel House Care Centre were not sufficiently trained to handle people's needs as a result</p>	<p>CQC held a management review meeting on 18 March 2015 to re-issue a warning notice in respect of Regulation 9 – health and welfare</p>



<p>people were not receiving their prescribed medication, with one person being hospitalised a result. Will cabinet member responsible now conduct an investigation into this care home and can she tell the council how confident she is that this is an isolated case?</p>	<p>– as insufficient improvements had been made.</p> <p>There are 7 other outstanding areas of compliance so CQC will instigate a comprehensive inspection by the end of May this year, rather than reviewing the outstanding actions. However, CQC will not be imposing an embargo on placements as they believe the residents are generally well care for. GCC’s safeguarding team and the Care Home Support Team have been working with this home. We are due to have a review meeting next week.</p> <p>As Cllr Millard is aware, 11 homes were identified in October 2014 which failed to meet the necessary standards of the CQC, all of which we have been actively supporting. Registration and inspection is the responsibility of CQC but this Council liaises closely with them and the homes to raise quality and address any concerns.</p>
<p><b>42. Questioner’s name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent’s name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for adult care remind councillors how many care homes in Gloucestershire currently have action plans in place and will she provide members with the details of the care homes that are on such plans? As part of her answer will the cabinet member provide councillors with the number of care homes that are currently barred from accepting new clients because of concerns regarding low standards of care?</p>	<p>For <u>Older People</u> services there are eight actions plans in place (Castleford, The Hawthorns, Charlton Kings, Cotswold House, Kingswood Care Centre, Hatherley Grange, Newlands and Pennwood Lodge). Action plans have been agreed with each service and are validated/monitored monthly.</p> <p>There is one home barred for placements (Summerfield Nursing Unit) due to a recent CQC inspection and warning notices issued.</p> <p>There is one home with phased placement (Deanwood Lodge) due to a whole service safeguarding strategy.</p> <p><u>Learning Disability</u> services currently have four providers who are undertaking Performance Improvement Plan work with Commissioning. These providers deliver a variety of services: some are residential care providers, some are supported living providers and some deliver both types of support. There are three residential homes where we are making no new placements as a consequence</p>

of suspending these providers. Commissioners would be pleased to meet with you and share the names of these homes with you. Performance Improvement Plans contain a number of areas where concerns have been raised. They are agreed with each Provider and are robustly monitored regularly by Commissioning and Operations staff. The plans are not signed off and suspensions lifted until there is confidence the service has an appropriate level of quality.

In addition to the services being placed under Performance Improvement plans, there are a further two residential services that are not under a Performance Improvement Plan (because there is only one Gloucestershire commissioned placement in these Homes), but are currently having intense work under an Action Plan from the Disability Quality Team with a suspension of placements as a part of this.

Gloucestershire County Council actively monitor the quality of all disability services. This includes residential and supported living services, as well as day services, our own in-house services and Assessment & Treatment Units. Gloucestershire has a large provider marketplace and we have a total of 158 residential care homes for disabled people and 96 providers of supported living services (who deliver supported living across several hundred properties where service users have individual tenancies).

Our quality regime incorporates user-led quality-checking programmes, an online survey of people's circle of support and unannounced inspections by our Quality Review Officers. Many inspections receive an action-plan, with some actions plan being considerable and very heavily monitored, whilst others are more minor and focused on improving good practice. The team are currently monitoring 35 action plans in residential services, 33 action plans in supported living services and two action plans in day services.

<p><b>43. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for children and young people tell me how many complaints Children Social Services received in 2014/15, what were the main causes of complaint among service users?</p>	<p>Up until 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 we have received 191 complaints. (this compares with 185 last year 2013/14)</p> <p>The reasons for complaints are recorded according to categories set out in the Government Guidance 'Getting the Best from Complaints'</p> <p>74 x Unwanted or Disputed Decision  69 x Quality  54 x Staff Attitude  52 x Communication  26 x Non delivery  21 x Delay in decision or provision of services  8 x Discrimination  2 x Cost</p> <p>Complainants often have several issues they are unhappy about, so we may assign more than one category to a complaint. We will be producing the usual annual report on complaints which will come to Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Only a small proportion (3.2%) of complaints are from young people themselves, most are from parents and carers. Interestingly the Local Government Ombudsman has recently raised concerns about the process not reflecting children's reviews. You can find the report at <a href="http://www.lgo.org.uk/news/2015/mar/ombudsman-report-asks-children-being-failed-complaints-system/">www.lgo.org.uk/news/2015/mar/ombudsman-report-asks-children-being-failed-complaints-system/</a></p>
<p><b>44. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member for children and young people give me his assessment of why there is a high percentage of children that become subject to child protection plans for second or subsequent time in Gloucestershire and can he tell us what lessons have been</p>	<p>Most children in Gloucestershire, who have a Child Protection Plan, do so just once. The biggest reason for the rise in CP Plans is a repeat of professional concerns about neglect. Partners note in their discussions that domestic abuse is a recurring issue within that</p>

<p>learnt from the recent 'deep dive' officers have conducted into this area? As part of his answer can he tell me whether there is any evidence that suggests children are being removed from Child Protection Plans prematurely?</p>	<p>neglect category. The in depth analysis confirms the link to neglect and reinforces the need for our focus on developing and strengthening early help services in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Robust and routine Social Care audit schedule findings do not indicate that there are children being removed from a CP Plan prematurely. Often repeat plans are for good reason: in many cases audit has shown that it reflects better awareness of risk, greater multi agency collaboration, or is part of the pathway to legal proceedings.</p> <p>We have a hypothesis that some partners may be reluctant to work with children outside the child protection process. Therefore case conference chairs are reminding all partners that the robustness of a Child in Need Plan is just as important as Child Protection Plans, to protect sustained change.</p> <p>We have also got "Getting to Good" and "Back to Basics" Forums for Team Managers and their Deputies to consider differences between districts areas and share good practice.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Board Focus Group which meets every 8 weeks with practitioners in Child Protection Core Groups, is now focusing solely on cases where the child is subject of a repeat CP Plan. This will help the Safeguarding partnership take stock and review the multi agency approach to this complex challenge.</p>
<p><b>45. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Paul McLain</b></p>
<p>High caseloads and the continued challenge of recruiting experienced social workers has been identified as one of the main reasons why only 49.9% of child protection plan assessments were completed within 10 working days in quarter 3 of 2014/15. Can the cabinet member responsible for children and young people explain to the council what is being done to recruit new social workers and as part of his answer can he tell me whether or not he will consider increasing salary levels as he did in 2014 to improve retention</p>	<p>It is inevitably the case that social worker shortages will impact on our ability to respond. I would assure Cllr Millard that children at high risk are always prioritised and that we are working towards a new single assessment process where the emphasis is on quality.</p> <p>As you know we are completely revising our recruitment processes and I know the Scrutiny Task group will be testing our plans. I look forward to receiving the task group's recommendations and am sure</p>

rates?	the Cabinet will consider any proposals to improve retention very seriously.
<b>46. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Dorcas Binns</b>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for adult services provide me with her assessment as to why the number of adult social care users who feel safe and secure has fallen from 73.6% in 2012/13 to 66.5% in 2013/14 (according to the latest Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny score card)?</p>	<p>The survey to which this relates and the questions within it follow a national template. There are two questions relating to how safe service users feel:</p> <p>The first asks how safe people feel inside and outside their home, (including fear of abuse, falling or other physical harm).</p> <p>The second asks more specifically whether care and support services help them to feel safe.</p> <p>For this second question, Gloucestershire is amongst the best performing councils, with 82.6% of service users agreeing that the services we commission help them to feel safe.</p> <p>We therefore suspect that, when answering the first question, service users are thinking about wider factors than those within the Council's control and influence. In order to better understand what these factors might be, we have asked an additional question in this year's survey, which is currently underway. Preliminary results should be available in May.</p>
<b>47. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Andrew Gravells</b>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for Public Health tell me why the number of adult alcohol misusers receiving community detoxification is low in Gloucestershire and why has the council's target been missed? As part of his answer can he explain what is being done to help more people receive community based support and is he confident that partner organisations have the confidence needed to refer individuals to community based services?</p>	<p>The local target for adults who misuse alcohol receiving community detoxification was calculated from an estimated baseline, owing to a lack of data on activity rates under previous contracts. We now understand that this target was extremely ambitious. The current provider, Turning Point, is working hard to ensure that all potential referring agencies (including primary care and mental health social services) understand the pathway, and to ensure the service is</p>

	<p>accessible and acceptable to all. We are confident that partner organisations can easily refer into the service. Since the start of the current contract in April 2013 the provider has increased the rate of referrals and uptake of community-based alcohol treatments, thereby helping to limit increases in demand for more costly hospital-based interventions. This target will be reviewed in April 2015, using actual data rather than previous estimates, and will be re-profiled during the retendering of this provision for April 2016.</p>
<p><b>48. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Andrew Gravells</b></p>
<p>According to the draft annual report of the Director of Public Health, 22.4% of Gloucestershire 15-24 year old were screened Chlamydia in 2013. This is lower than the national rate of 24.9%. Can the cabinet member responsible for Public Health explain why we under performing in this important area?</p>	<p>We have asked the provider (Gloucestershire Care Services) for a comprehensive plan to achieve a higher coverage and diagnostic rate for Chlamydia screening to ensure an improvement in performance in the coming year. This plan is due by the end of the month.</p> <p>Commissioners are working closely with Gloucestershire Care Services to develop a new approach to screening within the county. This work includes increasing screening within groups known to be at higher risk of Chlamydia and sexually transmitted diseases and improving screening within GP Practices.</p> <p>Whilst Gloucestershire sits below the national rate, when compared to statistically similar counties we sit 8<sup>th</sup> out of 17 councils. Within this group only three authorities are above the national rate.</p>
<p><b>49. Questioner's name: Cllr Tracy Millard</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible tell me whether the cabinet supports Stroud District Council's decision to seek a Judicial Review over Eric Pickles' decision to uphold UBB's planning appeal to build an incinerator at Javelin Park?</p>	<p>I do not.</p>

<p><b>50. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul McMahon</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member for public rights of way tell me whether he is confident that Amey is undertaking its Public Rights of Way responsibilities as stated in its contract with the council?</p>	<p>Yes, all the evidence I have is that Public Rights of Way is operating in much the same way it did previous to the new highways contract. We have a lead GCC officer (John Lane) that ensures that the work that Amey carry out on PROW meets all of our statutory and policy requirements. Amey are predominately using the same local contractors for carrying out PROW works and the budget for works this year has been fully spent.</p>
<p><b>51. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul McMahon</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Will Windsor-Clive</b></p>
<p>Can the cabinet member responsible for community safety explain why once again the number of older people being killed or seriously injured on our roads is so high and can he tell me whether or not he has met the Police and Crime commissioner to discuss this serious problem?</p>	<p>More older people than ever before are continuing to use the roads until later in life.</p> <p>If they are involved in collisions they tend to suffer more serious injuries (particularly those aged over 70) due to the frailty that comes with ageing. This fact along with the increased numbers of road users of an older age gives some understanding of why KSI incidents for this group are not declining at similar rates to other age groups.</p>
<p><b>52. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris Coleman</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>What responsibilities does Gloucestershire County Council have in respect of trees on roads across the County?</p> <p>What schedule of inspection, maintenance and replanting is in place?</p> <p>Who are the contractors and subcontractors responsible for carrying out the work?</p> <p>Is there a protocol in place providing for communication and consultation by Gloucestershire County Council with each of the six</p>	<p>The Council's responsibility as the Highway Authority is to maintain 'highway trees' in a safe condition so as to reduce the risk to the public from falling branches or trees. The Council has a safety inspection and tree maintenance policy which is an appendix to the Transport Asset Management Plan. This document can be found on the Council's website.</p> <p>Amey are responsible for carrying out the inspection, identification of works and the maintenance of highway trees across the County. Often the trees are not owned by the County and Amey have to make contact with local land owners in order to arrange for trees to be</p>

<p>districts?</p>	<p>cutback or maintained safely. Amey and its subcontractors carry out this work. Amey uses a number of tree maintenance subcontractors mostly local firms.</p>
<p><b>53. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris Coleman</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>In October last year, a tree on The Promenade in Cheltenham fell in high winds narrowly missing a pedestrian. Months later, the tree stump remains in the ground.</p> <p>Why wasn't the stump removed immediately and why is it still there?</p>	<p>There are huge health and safety risks associated with stump grinding in close proximity to utility apparatus (high voltage electric cables and gas pipes). This is specialist work and at the start of the contract Amey needed to secure contractors that could carry out this work. The stump was not a safety hazard, although it may have been an eyesore; so the work was prioritised appropriately and carried out once a contractor was identified to do the work.</p>
<p><b>54. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris Coleman</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>Earlier this year, a 30+ year old tree was felled on Merestones Drive in Cheltenham by contractors purporting to act under the authority of Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>Why was this done and by whom? Under who's authority were they acting? If this was a GCC contractor, are they acting as both judge and jury in relation to the need for such tree works?</p> <p>What consultation was carried out with Cheltenham Borough Council and residents on Merestones Drive prior to the felling taking place?</p>	<p>A tree was removed on Merestones Drive in January following a complaint from a member of the public that the tree was causing damage to third party property. On inspection damage to a third party wall was evident in the view of the inspecting officer, further damage would have been likely with no action potentially resulting in a claim against the authority. For this reason, the tree was removed and will be replaced as part of next year's planting schedule. The tree was not covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). We do not usually consult with the borough or district council on the removal of diseased or damaged trees unless covered by TPO. In cases where trees are causing damage to third party property the same is also the case. We do consult with district or borough council when undertaking work on any trees covered by TPOs and also when we have requests from local residents to remove healthy trees on the grounds that they are inappropriate for the setting in terms of either species or scale.</p>



55. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris Coleman	Respondent's name: Cllr Andrew Gravells
<p>On 7th January 2015, Members were invited to a meeting about Active Together at the University of Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Members attending were allowed to ask questions and advised that an audio recording of the meeting was being done.</p> <p>Why have I not yet received answers to each of the questions that I asked? I have emailed Officers asking the same question but, despite well over two months passing, I haven't received the answers.</p>	<p>I have emailed you twice on this subject trying to clarify what information you are seeking I am sorry you haven't had a chance to come back to me yet. I am happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further.</p> <p>We have contacted the University of Gloucestershire and they have advised us of your questions.</p> <p><i>1. In terms of professional fund raisers, what is the amount of money that is being spent from AT funds on applications being put in by these individuals?</i></p> <p>Of the money already allocated from the Active Together fund 19% (££97,728.02) has been awarded to registered charities.</p> <p><i>2. In terms of facilities improvements, longer term, how do we assess that facility has been improved?</i></p> <p>We intend to carry out spot checks on a sample of projects to check they have spent the money as they planned to. All projects are requested to submit three quotes and submit invoices for the works completed.</p> <p><i>3. How do we assess the relative benefit of the improvement vs. negative effects e.g. increase in subscription costs, and the numbers of people excluded as a result?</i></p> <p>The evaluation has developed a framework where it will assess the opportunities and barriers people face in becoming more physically active. We are happy to provide further detail on the evaluation if helpful.</p> <p><i>4. Regarding the purchase of equipment, what happens if a club</i></p>

	<p><i>purchases equipment but then ceases to exist and the equipment is sold off – who benefits?</i></p> <p>The following clause features on the grant acceptance form that has to be signed by each organisation before they receive the funding:</p> <p><i>Organisations will not dispose of any equipment/resources purchased with the grant monies which has not reached the end of its economic life without prior agreement from Gloucestershire County Council. All equipment, assets or resources purchased with the Revenue grant monies will be the property of Gloucestershire County Council and will remain so until the end of its economic life.</i></p> <p>5. <i>In this assessment of the success of the project (referring to the evaluation), where is this piece of work going to go (with reference to the above questions); how much of the 50k is being apportioned to that assessment?</i></p> <p>The evaluation is costing £49,880. Our first priority will be to share the results with Members and local stakeholders and those who were awarded grants. We would then seek to share this information more widely so that any learning could inform similar schemes elsewhere.</p>
<p><b>56. Questioner’s name: Cllr Chris Coleman</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent’s name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>The roads and pavements in St Marks and St Peters Division in Cheltenham are in a shocking state.</p> <p>I have repeatedly brought this to the attention of the relevant Officer, including during a lengthy meeting in my Division. I have provided a long list of schemes across the Division that I would like to see happen as a result of the Highways Local funding allocated to me.</p> <p>Why have none of these schemes happened yet and what will it</p>	<p>I’m surprised that, if Cllr Coleman is having trouble with roads issues in his area, he’s not picked up the phone to me, or dropped me an email to see if I can help. If he would like to drop me a line with the specific areas where he’s got problems I will ask officers to look into them as a matter of urgency.</p>

take for them to be commenced?	
<b>57. Questioner's name: Cllr Bill Whelan</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>Why is programmed work not being done? example The Green in Brookfield in Churchdown expected start date January 2015 delayed to February still not done or no new date given. Innsworth Lane, due February, public notices in press, Bus company advice and residents advised some notices still up work not done</p>	<p>Amey were delayed due to an existing job over-running and could not deliver The Green, Brookfield work as planned. The decision was taken to delay only these works until April rather than disrupt all other works in the programme.</p> <p>The news on Innsworth Lane is good - it has been delayed because the programme has been upgraded from patching to a full resurfacing of the section concerned. That takes a little longer to arrange – but should be delivered in June.</p> <p>Amey acknowledge communications on some of these changes has not been satisfactory and they have now put in place a better process for ensuring that accurate information is given to Members and the public in a timely manner – but please let me know if there are problems.</p>
<b>58. Questioner's name: Cllr Bill Whelan</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>Could the cabinet member tell the Council who pays for the public notices for programmed road works and how much does it cost?</p>	<p>The costs of notices are part of the overall costs of the works. In most cases the costs are less than £100 against total scheme costs which run into the tens of thousands of pounds.</p>
<b>59. Questioner's name: Cllr Bill Whelan</b>	<b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b>
<p>When programmed works do not go ahead who pays for the new public notice and residents letters etc?</p>	<p>It depends on the reason for the delay in the works, where works are delayed by Amey as a result of planning or programming problems then Amey cover these costs. Where works are delayed because of weather or over runs on other jobs, or where GCC changes the scope of the works, then GCC is responsible for these costs.</p>

<p><b>60. Questioner's name: Cllr David Brown</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</b></p>
<p>To: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member give me his comments and <u>constructive suggestions</u> on how we could work better together with partners (such as utility companies) to improve the time taken in fixing seemingly straightforward tasks, like that of the noisy inspection cover on my patch on the main road through Hucclecote where residents had to tolerate sleep disturbance for more than 2 months?</p>	<p>Our Street Works team have a very good track record of working with utility companies. Normally highway safety inspectors pick up 'rocking' or broken utility covers and report these to the utility company by issuing them with a Section 81 notice. In most cases the utility companies respond quickly and make repairs within five days.</p> <p>The noisy cover in Hucclecote was only brought to Streetworks attention on 23/02/15. We then immediately issued Severn Trent with a Section 81 notification (defective apparatus notice) and the repair was completed the following day, on 24/02/15. We understand that Amey inspectors reported the defect to Severn Trent on several occasions between December and February but did not raise a Section 81 notification. We have reminded the inspectors of the need to do this and we will be working with Severn Trent to understand why they didn't respond to initial reports.</p>