

MEMBER QUESTIONS

CABINET MEETING – 1 February 2017

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| <p>Question 1: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>The parking budget on page 102 of the agenda shows a figure of £2.5 million. Given that Gloucestershire has over the last five financial years made a surplus in parking revenue totalling £9.875million, please can the Cabinet Member tell me on what 'transport-related activities' has this money been spent?</p> | <p>Any surplus revenue is invested in parking and highway maintenance, as required by law. The money is not hypothecated. This is the same approach as borough councils, including Cheltenham, take for the money they raise from parking, although GCC's is dedicated to road spending. For comparison, recent figures show that Cheltenham alone has made an £11.5m surplus in the same period. The county council is the only council in Gloucestershire that reinvests 100% of its parking surplus in highways and transport.</p> |
| <p>Question 2: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Vernon Smith</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Will the Highways Local Scheme continue in 2017/2018?</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| <p>Question 3: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>The number of killed and seriously injured people on our roads is still high. What will this Council's budget in 2017/18 be for the Road Safety Partnership?</p> | <p>A recent national report showed that the collision rate per mile travelled in the County was 48% below the national average. This is reflected in the fall in casualties in 2010 from 1536 down to 1146 in 2015. The KSI numbers have remained static in this period which has resulted in the KSI's not meeting the very challenging 40% reduction by 2020 that the RSP had set.</p> <p>The draft budget proposal for 2017/18 includes a budget of £107k for the Road Safety Partnership.</p> |

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| <p>Question 4: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member tell me what percentage of the Road Safety Partnership budget is spent on staffing costs and what percentage of the budget is spent on specific initiatives to enable this Council to achieve their set targets?</p> | <p>In 16/17 52% of RSP funding was spent on staffing.</p> <p>In 16/17 the Road Safety Partnership funding was spent on the following areas in order to help achieve our mission to improve road safety within the county:</p> <p>School Crossing Patrols 7% Cycle Safety 10% Driver Training 58% Road Safety Community Engagement Hub 17% Road Safety education 8%</p> |
| <p>Question 5: Cllr Iain Dobie</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Kathy Williams</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>In February 2015, a sum of £300K over two years was invested to enable a small high quality supported employment service to be set up to find paid employment for a minimum of 120 disabled people:-</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member tell me whether there will be any additional investment in 2017/18 to increase the number of people with learning disabilities having a full reassessment of their needs?</p> | <p>I am glad that Cllr Dobie recognises the ground-breaking work that the County Council is carrying out in helping people with learning disabilities achieve the independence that paying employment can provide. This is a nationally-recognised success story, which shows what we can achieve when we think outside the box. As well as undoubtedly improving the lives of the people in question, helping people who can move from care to work saves the taxpayer money, which we can use to support other vulnerable people.</p> <p>As Cllr Dobie will have seen, our latest amendments to the budget propose a further £4m for adult social, including a further £500,000 to support demand management.</p> |

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| Question 6: Cllr Iain Dobie | Respondent: Cllr Kathy Williams |
| Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy Please can the Cabinet Member tell me what the actual budget is for children with disabilities in 2017/2018 compared to 2016/2017 and in 2016/2015? | The Council's budget for children with disabilities for the following years is:- 2015/16 £4.57m 2016/17 £4.13m 2017/18 £4.1m In addition, funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) also supports children with special educational needs. This is £54m in 2016/17. |
| Question 7: Cllr Jeremy Hilton | Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor |
| Agenda Item 8: Gloucester South West Bypass (GSWB) – Llanthony Road Improvements There is certainly a need to remove the bottleneck along the SW Bypass by Llanthony Priory. I welcome this scheme. Could the Cabinet Member provide data to show how traffic flows will improve when this project has been completed? | This improvement will make a massive improvement to traffic in Gloucester, with knock on benefits to congestion from both the Forest of Dean and Cheltenham. It is just one of a number of significant projects to tackle congestion, including improvements to the Walls and C&G roundabouts, Elmbridge Court, and the recently announced Over roundabout scheme. I welcome Cllr Hilton's support for our project. The traffic model is currently being developed and will be available later in the year. This will be used to confirm anticipated journey time improvements and reductions in congestion. |

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| <p>Question 8: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 8: Gloucester South West Bypass (GSWB) – Llanthony Road Improvements</p> <p>Three risks are identified in the cabinet report; land acquisition, GFirst LEP funding and design/construction matters. What level of risk would you give to each of these issues?</p> | <p>a. Land acquisition – medium</p> <p>b. GFirst LEP Funding – medium.</p> <p>c. Design/Construction Matters – low.</p> |
| <p>Question 9: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 8: Gloucester South West Bypass (GSWB) – Llanthony Road Improvements</p> <p>Gloucester City Football Club will be moving back to Meadow Park once its new stadium is built. Can you confirm that the junction with Sudmeadow Road will be designed to provide good access to the 250 place car park that will be at the new stadium?</p> | <p>Yes – we will work with the Football Club to ensure the best possible access arrangements.</p> |
| <p>Question 10: Cllr Joe Harris</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Paul McLain</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member tell me what impact the deletion of the Education Services Grant (ESG) funding will have on the Children and Families Budget?</p> | <p>You have already had a more detailed briefing on this following our recent meeting, but to summarise:</p> <p>ESG funds two functions:-</p> <p><u>Retained duties</u> covering statutory provision for all schools – the reduction of £1.275m on page 94 reflects the change in funding from mainstream to DSG. There is no impact on these services.</p> |

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| | <p><u>General Duties</u> covering statutory provision to maintained schools only. This part of the grant has never funded specific services it has been managed as an overall contribution to the council's costs. Given changing expectations of councils in respect of education, savings have been identified – see page 94 – within education budgets to partly offset the reduction in the grant. The remaining impact will be felt across the Council's budget.</p> |
| <p>Question 11: Cllr Joe Harris</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Paul McLain</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member provide details on what the Education Services Grant (ESG) funding was spent on by this Council over the last three financial years?</p> | <p>Please see Question 10.</p> |
| <p>Question 12: Cllr Bernie Fisher</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy (Page 95)</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member tell me how much this Council's Trading Standards budget has reduced by since 2010/2011?</p> | <p>The budget for Trading Standards has reduced by £1.335m between 2010/11-2017/18 as part of the MtC1 and MtC2 savings plans.</p> <p>Over this period, in support of the savings plan, the service adopted a flatter structure and an intelligence led approach giving greater focus on issues that cause the greatest consumer detriment and pose the greatest risk to vulnerable consumers whilst maintaining outcomes.</p> <p>Over the same period, the number of cautions and prosecutions has not reduced – with the more cautions and prosecutions to date this year than in all of 2010/11.</p> |

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| <p>Question 13: Cllr Bernie Fisher</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy (Page 26)</p> <p>In spite of the fact that the integrated transport budget for 2017/18 will be £10.078m, there is an estimated £1m shortfall on the national concessionary bus fares scheme 'topped up' by this Council.</p> <p>What impact does the Cabinet Member see this shortfall having on the ability to invest in public transport services across Gloucestershire?</p> | <p>This has been a factor of concessionary fares since they were introduced by the Labour government. Councils have never had all their costs reimbursed. Of course we would always welcome more funding, but this is not an issue that successive governments have addressed.</p> |
| <p>Question 14: Cllr Lesley Williams</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Dorcas Binns</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>On page 34 of the agenda, it is claimed that the Adults Budget has seen an increase of investment of £4.372m.</p> <p>Can you tell how much of this can be attributed to a) inflationary costs, and b) pay rises?</p> | <p>This is the net increase, for which the detail is included in Annex 2 of the MFTS.</p> <p>Inflationary increase totals £1.612m Pay increase (at 1%) totals £0.327m</p> <p>I trust that Cllr Williams will welcome this significant additional investment, above inflationary pressures, into Adults, which clearly demonstrates this council's priority in protecting the most vulnerable.</p> |

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| <p>Question 15: Cllr Lesley Williams</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Dorcas Binns</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member inform me how much we have spent on implementing and facilitating Electronic Call Monitoring (ECM) of care workers since the policy was introduced?</p> | <p>13/14 Outturn - £ 1,935</p> <p>14/15 Outturn - £ 165,298</p> <p>15/16 Outturn - £ 130,784</p> <p>16/17 actual expenditure to end of Dec 16 - £ 138,653</p> <p>TOTAL to end of Dec 16 - £ 436,670</p> |
| <p>Question 16: Cllr Lesley Williams</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member responsible please inform me of the average response given by the public when asked about whether the Council should increase the Social Care Levy to 3% from 2%?</p> | <p>The consultation began before this initiative was announced.</p> |
| <p>Question 17: Cllr Tracy Millard</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>How much is budgeted for redundancies enacted by the council in this coming year?</p> | <p>There is no specific budget for redundancies.</p> |

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| <p>Question 18: Cllr Tracy Millard</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Ray Theodoulou</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>You claim (in the consultation report) that we spend 70% of our budget on outsourcing services. When will you complete a review into whether it is providing value for the adult social care budget?</p> | <p>All contracts are let following a competitive tendering exercise to ensure that the Council obtains the best value for money. In addition, each year external audit undertakes an independent review of the Council's value for money arrangements.</p> |
| <p>Question 19: Cllr Lesley Williams</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>It is claimed that the Council has lobbied government about the poor state of local government finances. How many meetings has the leader had with government ministers? And how many meetings has he attended through his role at the LGA/CCN where he had meetings with government ministers about local government finances?</p> | <p>I meet regularly with Ministers, with the Local Government Association, with the County Council Network and with Gloucestershire's MPs who represent our views to Ministers themselves. This positive engagement is working well – and I hope Cllr Williams would welcome the extra support that Gloucestershire has received this year.</p> |
| <p>Question 20: Cllr Lesley Williams</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>Surrey County Council is to hold a referendum over whether they should increase Council Tax to 15%. Does this administration have plans to do as much?</p> | <p>The administration's plans, which have been subject to public consultation, are printed in the budget papers. The final decision on the budget will be taken by all councillors at full council – I trust that other parties will be as transparent with Gloucestershire residents as we have been.</p> |

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| <p>Question 21: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>The proposed budget for 2017/18 is £402.68m, how much has this budget reduced by compared to 2016/17?</p> | <p>Please see page 34 of the Cabinet papers.</p> |
| <p>Question 22: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 13: Contract Award: Fastershire Broadband Strategy Stage 3</p> <p>How successful does the Leader of this Council believe coverage of Superfast Broadband will be delivered in Cheltenham's 'not spots'?</p> | <p>Our next round of investment into broadband will significantly improve broadband availability across Gloucestershire, including in urban areas. The focus of the Stage 3 award is designed to target the remaining 'not spots' in the County as effectively as possible. This will include addressing identified areas of poor provision in the Cheltenham area where there is unlikely to be a commercial response. As we move into the summer we will be able to confirm the reach of this next phase of our investment. In the meantime, the council is looking to support the excellent work of Alex Chalk in this, and will continue to work with him, and local residents to improve the situation where we can.</p> |
| <p>Question 23: Cllr Lesley Williams</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Kathy Williams</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy (Page 37)</p> <p>£0.5 million is being invested to achieve better outcomes for people whilst encouraging independence and self care. What are these better outcomes and who determined them?</p> | <p>This investment is to develop new ways of working, particularly at the point of referral, using a strengths based approach.</p> |

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| Question 24: Cllr David Brown | Respondent: Cllr Kathy Williams |
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| <p data-bbox="107 338 981 402">Agenda Item 10: Investing in Support for Homeless Vulnerable People</p> <p data-bbox="107 440 1025 504">What is the long term strategy for reducing homelessness, firstly in the county, and secondly, in both Gloucester and Cheltenham?</p> | <p data-bbox="1111 338 1939 434">The primary responsibility for housing issues and homelessness remains with district councils, with whom we continue to work in partnership.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 472 2029 568">The recent announcement of £900,000 of government funding to target rough sleepers in the county is both a testament to that partnership approach, and will make a significant difference.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 606 1482 638">Working together, we aim to:</p> <ul data-bbox="1155 676 2029 1046" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1155 676 1872 708">• intervene early to prevent the risk of homelessness;<li data-bbox="1155 746 2029 810">• provide intensive personalised support where individuals are at risk with an adverse impact on the wider community;<li data-bbox="1155 849 2029 1046">• reconnect people where they have attachments and it is safe for them to return, recognising that supportive networks increase opportunities for people to move away from homelessness. Most individuals are more likely to re-establish themselves in stable accommodation in a familiar area where they have developed positive social ties. <p data-bbox="1111 1085 2029 1149">Both Gloucester City and Cheltenham Borough Councils have their own detailed plans.</p> |

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| <p>Question 25: Cllr David Brown</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Kathy Williams</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 10: Investing in Support for Homeless Vulnerable People</p> <p>How can we be sure that these steps will reduce homelessness?</p> | <p>The key components of our approach – homeless outreach; personalised intensive support for those that need it; and rehousing and resettlement in independent accommodation with community based support – are considered good practice nationally.</p> <p>A partnership involving district councils, Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council will be sharing intelligence regarding levels of need and impact of services in reducing homelessness. This intelligence will be used to inform future interventions and provision.</p> |
| <p>Question 26: Cllr David Brown</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Kathy Williams</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 10: Investing in Support for Homeless Vulnerable People</p> <p>Prevention looms large in this paper. The service was remodelled to put the focus on prevention in 2011. What changes therefore, to this model, will be made to ensure that people are more effectively prevented from sleeping rough?</p> | <p>The most significant change will be the extra £900,000 investment in targeting rough sleepers in particular. It will enable the existing Homeless Outreach service to work more effectively with new and preventable rough sleepers. The 2011 remodelling was designed to enable us to offer more effective services to people who were either at risk of/or homeless. This report focuses on addressing the needs of people who are experiencing long term homelessness.</p> |
| <p>Question 27: Cllr David Brown</p> | <p>Respondent: Cllr Kathy Williams</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 10: Investing in Support for Homeless Vulnerable People</p> <p>How likely are we to see the ‘Housing First’ approach adopted in Gloucestershire?</p> | <p>That is something which is primarily a district council responsibility. The new service paid for by the £900k government investment will work with district councils, partners and providers to secure tenancies through the private rented sector and the countywide social housing partnership.</p> |

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| Question 28: Cllr Tracy Millard | Respondent: Cllr Dorcas Binns/Cllr Paul McLain |
| Agenda Item 6: Recommendations to Council - Medium Term Financial Strategy (Page 37) On page 21, it appears there have been lots of underspends. Is the budget an accurate reflection of the realities of what the services like adults and children need? | As always, demand-led budgets can only be based on a professional judgement of how many people need our help and support. I hope Cllr Millard welcomes the fact that this administration has provided more funds than are necessary for these key areas – demonstrating our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable. |