

MEMBER QUESTIONS

CABINET MEETING – 13 March 2019

Question 1: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles
<p data-bbox="109 336 719 368">Agenda item 5: Financial Monitoring Report</p> <p data-bbox="109 403 528 435">Children and Families (Point 20)</p> <p data-bbox="109 470 1070 539">Can the cabinet member please provide a history of how funding for youth support services from GCC have changed over the last 10 years?</p>	<p data-bbox="1111 336 2074 405">Over the last ten years, youth support services have changed significantly, making like-for-like comparisons on spend difficult.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 440 2063 639">From 2008, Prospects delivered the Connexions contract for information, advice and guidance (IAG) and destination tracking for 13-19 year-olds in schools and colleges or those not in education, employment or training (NEET), and managed youth services (for youth work, youth crime prevention, outdoor education, substance misuse treatment and sexual health etc).</p> <p data-bbox="1111 675 2074 1010">In 2011, following changes in national policy that gave schools the universal IAG duties, and required local government savings of 30%, we re-shaped the Youth Support Service to integrate provision and target it on those most in need and NEET. Leading and managing work with children in care 16-18 and care leavers up to 24 was included. We enabled communities (via asset transfers, investment in districts, support for voluntary sector) to take on universal youth provision through clubs and activities. The council was able to improve outcomes for young people at the same time as making significant £3.6m savings during the first contract.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 1045 2063 1244">In 2013, a new £6m contract for leadership, management and delivery of the reshaped service was won by Prospects. With the Youth Offending Service included, Gloucestershire was the first local authority to commission youth support across statutory and non-statutory functions in health, IAG, youth justice and social care. In ten years Prospects has brought in over £3.5m of additional funding to the council.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 1279 1715 1348">In recent years the contract price has reduced. In 2018-19 it was £5.4m.</p>

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Question 2: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles
<p data-bbox="109 339 719 371">Agenda item 5: Financial Monitoring Report</p> <p data-bbox="109 405 528 437">Children and Families (Point 24)</p> <p data-bbox="109 475 1066 608">Can the cabinet member explain what discussions have been had with neighbouring authorities – and whether they are any further along in reaching agreement on setting social worker pay-scales, such that we are not caught in an unsustainable race to the top?</p>	<p data-bbox="1111 339 2056 437">The council is part of the south west memorandum of co-operation which capped the rates for agency workers. This has been in operation for over two years.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 475 2040 572">The council actively monitors the salaries of the neighbouring local authorities which informs how we determine the offer for the recruitment and retention payment for our social workers.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 611 2069 708">All local authorities are experiencing the same recruitment and retention difficulties as Gloucestershire and it proves difficult to reach an agreement on the salaries of permanent social worker staff.</p> <p data-bbox="1111 746 2069 911">The salaries of permanent staff has been tabled as an agenda item at the south west recruitment and retention group which is taking place on 20th March 2019. This meeting is attended by HR/Workforce leads and we will continue to have on-going discussions on the pay rates for both agency and permanent social worker staff.</p>

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Question 3: Cllr Colin Hay	Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles
Agenda item 5: Financial Monitoring Report High Needs Overspend (Point 27) Which school has lost the greatest amount in the change from the “1 in 75” rule to “1 in 40”, and how much has that school lost?	The change to 1 in 40 was supported by the Schools Forum and was also supported in the consultation with all schools in November. The change means that schools will meet more of the cost of Education Health and Care Plans from April 2019. DfE regulations intend that schools meet the first £6,000 of the additional costs of supporting a child with high needs. The 1 in 75 policy is discretionary and currently subsidises the cost from the High Needs block. The cost has accelerated with the increase in the number of EHCPs and Gloucestershire’s practice is now significantly out of line with other LA areas. 1 in 40 policy means that the schools with the highest proportion of children with additional needs (around one school in five) will continue to receive additional funding from the High Needs block. The school with the greatest additional cost to meet in 2019/20 is St Peter’s High School (£84,000). Question 4: Cllr Colin Hay Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles
Agenda item 5: Financial Monitoring Report High Needs Overspend (Point 27) How many schools have lost more than £20,000 in the change to “1 in 40”?	20 schools will need to meet additional costs in excess of £20,000 in 2019/20.

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<p>Question 5: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>																																
<p>Agenda item 6: Dynamic Purchasing System (Children and Young People)</p> <p>Point 43 – “the resource implications” state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year is anticipated to cost approximately £17.1m, • Three years are forecast to cost approximately £56m and • Seven years are forecast to cost approximately £100m. <p>How do these figures break down year by year?</p>	<p>Estimated annual costs for the initial 3 year contract period are detailed at paragraph 10 of the report.</p> <p>Subject to DPS contract extension, the cost estimates beyond this time are indicative only and expected to be lower due to the implementation of a new five year Specialist Commissioning Strategy and the opening of a new Special School for children with social, emotional and mental health needs – part of this Council’s £100m investment in Gloucestershire Schools.</p> <p>2022/23 £14m 2023/24 £12m 2024/25 £11m 2025/26 £10m</p>																																
<p>Question 6: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>																																
<p>Agenda item 7: Cost Pressures and Continued Support for Subsidised Public Transport Contracts</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm how much GCC has spent on public transport year on year for the last five years</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Year</th> <th>Buses</th> <th>Community</th> <th>GCC services</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>105</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£3,064,483</td> <td>£812,739</td> <td>105</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>£3,402,558</td> <td>£708,572</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>£3,338,553</td> <td>£769,567</td> <td>103</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>£2,672,725</td> <td>£688,995</td> <td>103</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19*</td> <td>£2,435,124</td> <td>£724,736</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>*forecast</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Buses	Community	GCC services	2013/14			105	2014/15	£3,064,483	£812,739	105	2015/16	£3,402,558	£708,572	104	2016/17	£3,338,553	£769,567	103	2017/18	£2,672,725	£688,995	103	2018/19*	£2,435,124	£724,736		*forecast			
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Question 7: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor
Agenda item 7: Cost Pressures and Continued Support for Subsidised Public Transport Contracts Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the number of bus services that GCC has supported year on year for the last five years?	Please see the table in the answer to question 6.
Question 8: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor
Agenda item 7: Cost Pressures and Continued Support for Subsidised Public Transport Contracts Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the total number of bus services that are run across the county, and how this has changed year on year for the last five years?	The County Council does not hold this information for commercial services. Given these services often change designation, length and stopping patterns, this would not necessarily be particularly informative.
Question 9: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor
Agenda item 7: Cost Pressures and Continued Support for Subsidised Public Transport Contracts Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the total number of bus journeys that are run across the county, and how this has changed year on year for the last five years?	The reported passenger numbers are as follows: 2013-14 20.8 million 2014-15 19.5 million 2015-16 20.3 million 2016-17 20.3 million 2017-18 20.0 million

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<p>Question 10: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 7: Cost Pressures and Continued Support for Subsidised Public Transport Contracts</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the number of passengers using bus services in Gloucestershire, and how this has changed year on year for the last five years?</p>	<p>We don't hold information on the number of individual passengers using bus services. Given passengers make significantly varying number of journeys each, it is not possible to calculate this from the trip information, or other fare information that the council holds.</p>
<p>Question 11: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 7: Cost Pressures and Continued Support for Subsidised Public Transport Contracts</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please confirm how many bus services/routes might be funded by the additional money awarded at the most recent Full Council meeting?</p>	<p>That would be very much dependant on the tender price received for specific contracts.</p>
<p>Question 12: Cllr Lesley Williams</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 7: Cost Pressures and Continued Support for Subsidised Public Transport Contracts</p> <p>We note with alarm that the cost of contracts awarded to private bus companies have risen by an average of 35% over the last year.</p> <p>There are currently more than 30 local authority-run bus companies across the UK, providing some of the most successful services in the country. They pick up awards for excellent customer service, invest heavily and run environmentally friendly fleets.</p>	<p>In February 2019, we appointed TAS Consultancy, who are specialist in these areas of work, to assist us with developing the most efficient way of providing services of this type in the future. They have met with bus operators and are examining the detail of contracts and our commissioning approach. Should they recommend significant changes to policy or practice, then these will be the subject of a future Cabinet report.</p> <p>Cabinet members are keen that we have a good quality supported public transport network providing transport where it is most needed by local people to access local services. In tandem with this we are working on a new Total Transport project with Somerset County Council to give people</p>

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The partnership announced in November 2018 between the National Association of Local Councils with the Foundation for Integrated Transport to support transport social enterprises offers an alternative model of provision,

With local taxpayers currently expected to pay over £1.27million per year to commercial operators, will the Cabinet now commission a review to look at these other methods for delivery of a much-needed - and potentially financial advantageous - improvement in public transport across the County?

easier access to unconventional transport, for example community transport and car sharing.

We are currently spending over £724,000 on funding community based providers and the administration has added a further £100,000 to this budget to help deal with the impact of new regulations.