

MEMBER QUESTIONS

CABINET MEETING – 19 June 2019

Question 1: Cllr Iain Dobie	Respondent: Cllr Roger Wilson
<p>Agenda item 11: Commissioning for Residential and Nursing Care Home Provision in Gloucestershire</p> <p>New models of care are proposed at this Cabinet meeting, notably regarding older people’s residential care. Feelings of loneliness amongst such residents are recognised as common and the option of paid/voluntary “companions” in each care Home is mooted.</p> <p>Elsewhere in Europe older people’s residential homes increasingly incorporate younger people who live in and help provide companionship for older residents.</p> <p>Has this exciting new, mutually beneficial, development been considered by GCC for Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>This is not something that is currently offered in Gloucestershire. The council will explore this further with care home providers in Gloucestershire and provide a briefing to cabinet.</p>
Question 2: Cllr Kate Haigh	Respondent: Cllr Roger Wilson
<p>Agenda item 11: Commissioning for Residential and Nursing Care Home Provision in Gloucestershire</p> <p>a) Does the research undertaken by ‘Evolving Communities’ provide any evidence that the initiatives cited at 3.2 of the report have any impact on people’s loneliness.</p> <p>b) Is there any evidence that the Cabinet member can provide to justify such claims?</p>	<p>The report from Evolving Communities reflected the views of older people. Evolving Communities have not undertaken any direct research for Adult Care on the causes of loneliness.</p> <p>People ‘feeling lonely’ is very subjective and it is difficult to evidence a particular activity resolves a person’s feeling of being lonely. By signposting people to activities that are of interest to people this should provide an environment that would encourage people to attend the activity and meet people who want to participate in similar activities.</p>

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<p>Question 3: Cllr Kate Haigh</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 13: Food Waste Collection and Delivery Agreements</p> <p>The report shows that the County currently spends £918k on diverting food waste from the residual waste scheme.</p> <p>a) What are the savings that are anticipated from the proposed scheme?</p> <p>b) What investment is the County making in reducing food waste and eliminating it from the waste stream?</p>	<p>The savings will only be known following discussions with the district councils on the make up of the new agreements that are to be put in place. A further cabinet decision will then be taken on whether to adopt them. Discussions are underway with district officers and will continue over the next few months.</p> <p>GCC continues to work with district councils through the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee on communications work to reduce food waste. The partnership promotes the national Love Food Hate Waste campaign. Last year for example, some seasonal campaigns were run that included reducing the amount of pumpkins wasted at Halloween and the amount of left-over food wasted by families at Christmas.</p>
<p>Question 4: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p>In the Revenue and Capital Expenditure item, only £1.28 million of the £3.3m 'savings' in Public Health, Mental Health and Children's Services have been achieved.</p> <p>You state that the longer term plan is to 'address the shortfall with a review of services for 0-19 year olds across Children's Services and Public Health'.</p> <p>What does that actually mean?</p>	<p>The review of children's services involves considering whether aligning services such as Public Health Nursing, Early Help, targeted youth support and Children's Centres could provide a more joined up service for children and families. This also considers whether there could be efficiency savings by combining the services</p> <p>This review will be carried out over the next year, to deliver a 5 year long term 0-19yrs plan, to reconfigure / commission a 0-19yrs service mode. Taking into account all current commissioning arrangements. In the short term some interim arrangements will be required to align commissioned services.</p>

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Question 5: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles
<p data-bbox="107 300 909 331">Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p data-bbox="107 368 1016 432">In the budget outturn for 2018/19 the Children’s Services budget has once again been overspent – this year by 8.3% (just under £9 million).</p> <p data-bbox="107 469 1043 533">Since this has happened again what cuts will you be making to this area to ensure the budget is not overspent again in the coming year?</p>	<p data-bbox="1090 300 2089 400">This is a demand led budget and, if demand is greater than expected, I make no apologies for the fact we step up and invest to protect Gloucestershire’s children. I am sure Cllr Hodgkinson supports this approach.</p> <p data-bbox="1090 437 2069 603">As noted in the Revenue report the activity in children’s social care and the number of children in care has caused significant pressures against the external placement, safeguarding staff and young people’s support budgets causing the overspend. This is in keeping with the national picture where pressures on children’s services budgets have been well documented.</p> <p data-bbox="1090 639 2033 703">To address this financial position in 2019/20 a number of measures have been put in place</p> <ul data-bbox="1137 708 2085 1155" style="list-style-type: none">• Additional funding of £12.7 million for vulnerable children agreed in the MTFs for 2019/20.• The continuing review of all high cost placements to ensure decisions around placements are executed in a timely child centred manner to reduce costs where appropriate.• Improved processes for advertising and recruiting social workers and the continuation of allowances to attract and retain staff.• Resource panels to gate-keep and ensure consistency in significant support packages for children.• Efficiency Plans in place with regular monitoring to target areas of significant spend to reduce costs where appropriate.• Establishing a brokerage service and more effective procurement frameworks. <p data-bbox="1090 1192 2056 1292">These measures will seek to keep expenditure within budget but the continuing level of activity within social care services and the improvement journey will make this task very challenging.</p>

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<p>Question 6: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p>The report recommends transferring £1.534 million to the Strategic Waste Reserve to fund the EFW (Energy from Waste) smoothing requirement. This I believe will take the Strategic Waste Reserve to a value of £40.584 million.</p> <p>Do you envisage adding further sums of taxpayers money to the Strategic Waste Reserve over the next two years of this council?</p>	<p>We have no plans to transfer further amounts into the Waste Reserve from outside of the Waste budget.</p>
<p>Question 7: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p>The report recommends approval of a revenue contribution of £0.120 million to the Trevone House capital refurbishment. When will plans of the new internal and external alterations of Trevone House be made available for my consideration as the local councillor and for local residents to view?</p>	<p>As part of the engagement with the local community a further event on 20th August 2019 has been advertised. At this event the full plans for the site will be available.</p>
<p>Question 8: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p>The report proposes to transfer £0.438 million to the C&I Reserve for the carry forward of one off funding for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Improvement Project.</p> <p>How many electric vehicle charges points will be installed in Gloucestershire with this financial investment and where will the charging</p>	<p>We are in discussions with potential suppliers on procuring 50-100 charging points. Our priority is locations in and near Air Quality Management Areas where electric vehicles can help to bring air pollution back down to within legal levels.</p> <p>Most electric vehicle charging takes place overnight at home. However, one third of UK households does not have private parking and is unlikely to switch to electric vehicles without access to public charging points. Therefore we will</p>

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<p>points be located?</p>	<p>prioritise on street chargers in these areas, using government grants to make our investment go further.</p> <p>We are also exploring a range of other measures including working with parishes to help provide community charging points in rural areas and with districts on helping taxi drivers switch to electric vehicles.</p>
<p>Question 9: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p>Is the portfolio holder happy with the slippage of £8.152 million in the £93.235 million capital budget position for 2018/19?</p>	<p>The 2018/18 budget included a significant and ambitious capital investment programme – due to the complex nature of these investments it is sometimes necessary to delay plans to ensure an optimum outcome for residents. All schemes included in the programme have commenced and are forecast to be delivered within budget.</p>
<p>Question 10: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Roger Wilson</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p>The Adults Single Programme made savings of £11,561 million in 2018/19.</p> <p>How was this achieved and did it have a negative impact of the quality of support provided to service users?</p>	<p>The programme is structured to deliver a new model of social care, reflecting both the Prevent, Reduce, Delay philosophy of the Care Act 2014 and the approach to demand management as developed in partnership with IMPOWER. The savings partly reflect improved commissioning arrangements developed as part of the programme but mostly reflect the changes in practice resulting from this model. In consequence we have not only reduced spend by making significantly fewer placements into long term care but we have worked hard, with partners, to help people achieve the personal outcomes that have enabled them to live independently.</p>

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Question 11: Cllr Klara Sudbury	Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>Agenda item 5: Revenue and Capital Expenditure 2018-19</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that the transfer of a further £150,000 to the C&I reserve to cover the future costs of the Cheltenham Transport Plan suggest that the administration failed to properly budget for the changes agreed at the TRO committee and supported by Cheltenham Borough Council?</p>	<p>Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) requested the extension of the corner trial at Boots Corner (phase 4 of Cheltenham Transport Plan) by a further 6 months and to implement a number of additional mitigation measures on the local highway network. This extension could not have been foreseen by GCC therefore no additional budget was planned and no contribution has been made from CBC.</p> <p>Therefore, we were able to utilise the £150k to cover the additional mitigation costs following CBC request.</p> <p>Please note the total revenue income does not cover the cost of the scheme.</p>
Question 12: Cllr Klara Sudbury	Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>Agenda item 13: Food Waste Collection and Delivery Agreements</p> <p>It is stated that the termination and review of the food waste collection and delivery agreements would “enable new incentive payment models to be negotiated...which will reflect and reward the Gloucestershire WCAs based upon performance levels, whilst contributing savings to GCC’s waste management budget.”</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member spell it out more plainly and say the recommendation is to spend less GCC money on recycling while asking district councils to continue to do more for less?</p>	<p>This is about bringing in a fair system, which doesn’t see councils like Cheltenham Borough paid 60% less per tonne of food waste than other councils in Gloucestershire. I have heard what district councils have said on this – and I agree that we can’t continue to pay less to councils with the biggest challenges in collecting food waste.</p>

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Question 13: Cllr Klara Sudbury	Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor
Agenda item 13: Food Waste Collection and Delivery Agreements If the recommendations are agreed later – how much is it anticipated that each district will lose in the projected 33 per cent cut by GCC?	That would depend on the outcomes of any discussions with the districts. It is entirely possible that a fair system could see some district gain more money.