

## MEMBER QUESTIONS

### CABINET MEETING – 20 December 2019

<p><b>Question 1: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>Full Council Motion 836 recognising a Climate Emergency included a resolution for the Council to: "Consider its contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon/environmental cost' on competing bids."</p> <p>a) How do the actions proposed in the strategy address this point?</p> <p>b) At what point can we expect obligations to be placed onto contracts as resolved by Council?</p>	<p>The strategy includes an '<i>Actions by April</i>' immediate action plan that, by March 2020, will be developed into a more detailed live 5-year rolling action plan.</p> <p>It is proposed that mechanism(s) for reporting carbon emissions from contracts be developed in Year 1 of the strategy.</p>
<p><b>Question 2: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>Full Council Motion 836 recognising a Climate Emergency included a resolution to "Provide an annual report to the Environment Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis to the relevant committees including details of the resources required to meet the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target."</p> <p>How does the proposed strategy address this point?</p>	<p>The strategy states "We will report progress to our Environment Scrutiny Committee, Gloucestershire Youth Climate Panel, Leadership Gloucestershire, government and online."</p> <p>An annual report will be provided to the Environment Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis to the relevant committees including details of the resources required to meet the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target.</p>

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<p><b>Question 3: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>Would the Cabinet consider amending Action #1 to explicitly include a reference to the stepped target goal of 80% reduction by 2030, and carbon neutral by 2050, to ensure these targets are at the forefront of our work with partners on a response to the Climate Emergency?</p>	<p>This is already stated in the vision – but I am happy to make this even more explicit. I will propose that cabinet amend Action #1 to read:</p> <p><i>1. Agree with Leadership Gloucestershire and other partners how we will work together to bring about a co-ordinated approach in response to the climate emergency to create a carbon neutral county by 2050, seeking to reduce our carbon emissions by 80% by 2030.</i></p>
<p><b>Question 4: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>When can we reasonably expect recommendation 23 - ‘the implementation of climate change impact assessments in the council’s decision making process’ to be in place, and would it be possible to trial elements of this for the 2020 budget?</p>	<p>I would expect this to be developed early next year, and to be in place in time for the 2021 budget.</p>
<p><b>Question 5: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>a) Given the significance of climate change to Gloucestershire residents, as evidenced through the consultation responses, and the scale of work needed to take forward this strategy, will 1.5 FTE staff members be enough to support delivery?</p> <p>b) What level will the recruited staff member be operating at, and was consideration given to having a Director Level post to drive forward the strategy?</p>	<p>The 1.5 FTE staff members will support existing staff within Communities &amp; Infrastructure, who cannot by themselves deliver the strategy. This will require officers across the council to make changes together with our partners, which staff leading the strategy will support.</p> <p>The Director for Economy, Environment &amp; Infrastructure is the Corporate Management Team lead for climate change, led by the Outcome Manager - Community Infrastructure (a senior management position), reporting to the Lead Commissioner for Community Infrastructure.</p>

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<p><b>Question 6: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>Does the electricity generated from Javelin Park come fall under the definition of 100% renewable energy?</p>	<p>50% of the energy generated from the Energy from Waste plant is classified as renewable.</p>
<p><b>Question 7: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>The Million Trees challenge is described in the strategy as a ‘Significant contribution to Net Zero by 2050’.</p> <p>What is the estimated carbon reduction impact of planting a Million Trees on the carbon emissions from the County?</p>	<p>The Million Trees Challenge is included in the ‘<i>Actions by April</i>’ immediate action plan that, by March 2020, will be developed into a more detailed live 5-year rolling action plan.</p> <p>The amount of carbon that would be sequestered by planting trees is being investigated with partners; more information on this will be available as part of the more detailed live 5-year rolling action plan.</p>
<p><b>Question 8: Cllr Rachel Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>a) How will progress towards the Million Trees challenge be monitored?</p> <p>b) Is this commitment additional to the 300 million trees nationally that the Conservative Manifesto committed to plant by 2030?</p> <p>c) Will the challenge include support or guidance to ensure biodiversity of the trees planted?</p>	<p>The Million Trees Challenge is being developed with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and The Woodland Trust by April 2020. We are intending to open up a dialogue with Forestry England. The scheme will include mechanisms to monitor progress and guidance to ensure biodiversity of the trees planted.</p> <p>The Million Trees Challenge is included in the ‘<i>Actions by April</i>’ immediate action plan that, by March 2020, will be developed into a more detailed live 5-year rolling action plan.</p>

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<b>Question 9: Cllr Rachel Smith</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<b>Agenda Item 11: Waste Collection Authority (WCA) Incentive Payments</b>  Given that the Climate Change Strategy (item 5) aims to improve recycling and food waste collection rates, what is the justification for reducing payments to the WCA's given that food waste collection saves the county council money?	We have to have a fair system, which encourages all the district councils to help us reduce residual waste, whilst allowing us to invest resources into environmental schemes that will make a significant difference. This proposal was carefully discussed with all district councils and takes their views into account.
<b>Question 10: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<b>Agenda Item 8: Climate Change Strategy</b>  <b>Page 161, Page 177 (P8 Climate Change Strategy) and other references:</b>  I note with great interest the Climate Change Strategy and the reference to the "Million Trees Challenge" and ask the Cabinet Member to confirm that this should read the "Over Six Million Trees Challenge" following the unanimously passed motion on 27 November 2019 which explicitly recommended the "target of planting one tree per resident every year up to 2030...and to work with tenant farmers and encourage at least 2 trees per field for most pasture land"?	Council resolved to refer Motion 848 to Cabinet. Our proposal today is backed by a real plan to deliver 1,000,000 trees in our county – which is a very challenging target– and of course, if the opportunity presents, we will deliver even more.

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<b>Question 11 : Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Climate Change Strategy</p> <p><b>Page 162, 164 Para 20 and other references:</b></p> <p>With reference to switching the County Councils electricity supply to 100 per cent renewable energy – can the Cabinet Member confirm if the council has also considered “green gas” and the potential emission and resource implications for this?</p>	<p>We did look into this – but there is not currently sufficient green gas supply available nationally to meet demand. We will keep this option under review though.</p>
<b>Question 12:Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Climate Change Strategy</p> <p><b>Page 162, 164 Para 20 and other references:</b></p> <p>With reference to switching the County Councils electricity supply to 100 per cent renewable energy – I am incredibly interested to read that switching electricity supply leaves residual emissions for GCC’s estate at just 2,270 tCO<sub>2</sub>.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether the council has calculated the cost of offsetting this remaining figure and what this figure is?</p>	<p>The cost of offsetting the estimated remaining carbon emissions varies significantly and there is the issue of whether these should be offset locally. This will be considered as part of action 24: Look into developing a Gloucestershire carbon offsetting scheme along with Action 1: Million Trees Challenge.</p>

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<b>Question 13: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Climate Change Strategy</p> <p><b>Page 162, 164 Para 20 and other references:</b></p> <p>With reference to switching the County Councils electricity supply to 100 per cent renewable energy – can the Cabinet Member confirm that this, on top of other initiatives, will lead to a reduction of 92 per cent on the 2006/7 baseline – as the GCC Communications Team reported on Monday 16/12/19 that this would only result in an 89 per cent reduction?</p> <p>Can you clarify where this confusion arose from?</p>	<p>This was a missed correction to the covering report, and should state an 89 per cent reduction as per the press release of 16/12/19.</p>
<b>Question 14: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<p><b>Agenda Item 8:</b> Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm the reporting back procedures on the Climate Change Strategy, and the level of oversight the Council will have over performance against carbon reduction commitments?</p>	<p>The Strategy states that “We will report progress to our Environment Scrutiny Committee, Gloucestershire Youth Climate Panel, Leadership Gloucestershire, government and online.”</p> <p>An annual report will be provided to the Environment Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis to the relevant committees including details of the resources required to meet the Council’s 2030 carbon neutral target.</p>

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<p><b>Question 15: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b></p>																																								
<p><b>Agenda Item 11: Waste Collection Authority (WCA) Incentive Payments</b> <b>Page 300 Para 3.2</b></p> <p>The item references anticipated savings of £255k per year.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please break this down to anticipated loses per district, including a percentage compared to existing arrangements.</p>	<p>Payment to each district will be determined by the amount of waste they successfully divert. Whilst the formula itself is complicated, it could be summarised in terms of food waste collection levels, (using the 2018/19 collection levels) as:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Incentive payment / tonne of food waste</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">Current formula</th> <th style="width: 15%;">New formula</th> <th style="width: 10%;">change</th> <th style="width: 10%;">% change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cheltenham</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3.81</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3.24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£0.57</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-14.96%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cotswold</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9.96</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£6.62</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£3.34</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-33.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forest of Dean</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£6.71</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£7.71</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14.90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gloucester</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3.36</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3.31</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£0.05</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-1.49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stroud</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£67.71</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£30.24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£37.47</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-55.34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tewkesbury</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£33.67</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£36.27</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2.60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7.72%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Incentive payment / tonne of food waste						Current formula	New formula	change	% change	Cheltenham	£3.81	£3.24	-£0.57	-14.96%	Cotswold	£9.96	£6.62	-£3.34	-33.53%	Forest of Dean	£6.71	£7.71	£1.00	14.90%	Gloucester	£3.36	£3.31	-£0.05	-1.49%	Stroud	£67.71	£30.24	-£37.47	-55.34%	Tewkesbury	£33.67	£36.27	£2.60	7.72%
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<p><b>Question 16: Cllr Ben Evans</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</b></p>																																								
<p><b>Agenda Item 10: Fastershire Broadband Strategy</b> <b>Page 262/3</b></p> <p>The item references £133,500 in funding from the EU for the Fastershire scheme.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that he has received guarantees this money will be provided instead by the UK Government after Brexit?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>																																								

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<p><b>Question 17: Cllr Ben Evans</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 10: Fastershire Broadband Strategy</b> <b>Page 262/3</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm where the ERDF match funding will be received from and that this funding stream will still be available after Brexit?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>Question 18: Cllr Ben Evans</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 10: Fastershire Broadband Strategy</b> <b>Page 278</b></p> <p>The revised Fastershire vision, that “Fastershire will enable <i>all residents and businesses</i> in Gloucestershire to access the connectivity they need” will be a relief to the many businesses, residents and public bodies in my district that still have no access to high speed broadband.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that, in-line with the vision, everyone in my district, along with the rest of the county, will have access to high speed broadband by 2022 at the absolute latest?</p>	<p>Approximately 98% of premises in the county will have access to high speed broadband by 2022 as a result of the current measures being supported by the council. This revised Strategy puts in place a mechanism for communities that fall in the final 2-3% still to be enabled, who want and need faster broadband to access provision. This stage of the Strategy is, however, dependent on there being an appetite for high speed broadband, and a willingness to be proactive in working with the Council to source a solution.</p>
<p><b>Question 19: Cllr Ben Evans</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 10: Fastershire Broadband Strategy</b></p> <p>Has the Cabinet Member considered the potential implications of 5G and whether alternative technologies might enable more communities to access superfast broadband with reduced entry costs?</p>	<p>We don't expect 5G to extend beyond major cities during the roll out period of Fastershire – and it's not an area where government is allowed to invest directly at present. In fact, one of the obstacles to 5G roll out is often the lack of fibre to connect their masts to. It's certainly something that will be very important in the future though.</p>



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<p><b>Question 20: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 7: Medium Term Financial Strategy</b></p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member believe any further funding will arise from the collection fund and the council tax base, between now and budget setting, that will have an impact on funds available?</p>	<p>The draft budget is based is the most up to date information available. As additional information becomes available – such as the provisional Finance Settlement or more up to date tax base information from the District Councils – then the budget will be adjusted accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Question 21: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 7: Medium Term Financial Strategy</b></p> <p>Can you outline the various revenue streams that make up the £31million increase?</p>	<p>The additional £31.2m funding is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £6.3m - Social Care Levy</li> <li>• £9.7m – additional Social Care Grant</li> <li>• £6.3m – 1.99% Council Tax increase</li> <li>• £4.7m – Council Tax base increase (1.5%)</li> <li>• £4.2m – misc. additional grants / funding</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question 22: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b></p>	<p><b>Respondent: Cllr Richard Boyles</b></p>
<p><b>Agenda Item 7: Medium Term Financial Strategy</b></p> <p>We welcome the proposed additional funding going to vulnerable children in next year’s budget.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member give us an assurance that we are now sufficiently resourcing this sector, without the risk of further overspends?</p>	<p>I welcome Cllr Hilton’s support for our continuing investment into the most vulnerable children in this county. The children’s budget is inherently demand led, and can only ever be forecast of expected demand. If there is increased need to support the most vulnerable, beyond what we expect, that would lead to a higher spend.</p>

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<b>Question 23: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</b>
<b>Agenda Item 7: Medium Term Financial Strategy</b>  The identified General Fund Reserves, of £18.52 million, are predicted not to change between 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2020.  In view of the potential overspend in the 2019/20 budget, how confident is the Cabinet Member that the reserves will stay within the 4 to 6 per cent target?	The current outturn forecast is that the 2019/20 budget will be balanced - no drawing on General Reserves is envisaged at the year end. Therefore the General Reserve balance is forecast to remain within the 4% to 6% of net revenue expenditure target.
<b>Question 24: Cllr Lesley Williams</b>	<b>Respondent: Cllr Nigel Moor</b>
<b>Agenda Item 8: Climate Change Strategy</b>  Had the effect of rising sea levels and the effect on the Severn Estuary, in the long term, been considered when writing this strategy.	As the Lead Local Flood Authority we will work with the Environment Agency, district councils and other risk management authorities to develop and deliver a programme of works to minimise flood risk and its wider impacts, and advise on major development applications to future-proof their climate resilience. We will advise residents how they can protect their properties against extreme weather events, which are becoming more common due to Global Warming.  We will be working to develop specific actions as part of the 5-year rolling action plan.