

Motions to Council 24 June 2020

Chief Executive's accompanying notes

Motion 859	<p>Fast-tracked introduction of School Street schemes <i>Proposed by Cllr Iain Dobie</i> <i>Seconded by Cllr Nigel Robbins</i></p> <p>This Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As people are being instructed to return to school and to work, the national Government is encouraging everyone to walk or cycle where possible instead of taking public transport or returning to their cars.• The Government has announced a £250 million 'Emergency Active Travel Fund' for temporary infrastructure to enable safe cycling and walking – of which, Gloucestershire is receiving £1.442 million (0.57 per cent).• The Transport Secretary issued new Statutory Guidance on 9 May to all Highways Authorities, requiring them to deliver 'transformative change' within an urgent timeframe.• Measures listed under the Statutory Guidance include (but are not limited to) 'pop-up' cycle facilities, widening footways, 'school streets' schemes, and reducing speed limits.• The guidance further states that 'measures should be taken as swiftly as possible, and in any event within weeks, given the urgent need to change travel habits before the restart takes full effect.'• 'School streets' schemes, which close the roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, have the multiple aims of: improving road safety for pupils, encouraging active travel to school/ modal shift out of cars, and improving the air quality and environment at the school gates, and are very effective for enabling social distancing outside schools. <p>This Council further notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prior to Covid-19 related changes, 'school streets' schemes were successfully introduced or were being trialled at multiple local authorities across the UK*.• Since the announcement, enthusiasm for 'school streets' has sky-rocketed, with many more councils introducing these schemes before schools reopened and multiple
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	<p>NGOs calling for the introduction of ‘school streets’ to manage social distancing at the school gate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive councils are introducing the measures under their own considerable statutory powers, making experimental traffic orders where necessary. • Gloucestershire County Council has already made a number of road alterations to assist with active travel and social distancing associated with shops, but none specifically targeted at schools. • It has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to positively impact travel choices, including the associated benefits on health, air quality and road safety. <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Work with county councillors, districts, schools and local partners to swiftly identify those schools in the county that could put a ‘school streets’ scheme in place. b) Work with county councillors, districts, schools and local partners to enable all schools that wish to take part in the ‘school streets’ scheme to do so – taking advantage of experimental traffic orders and new statutory guidance over fast-tracked Traffic Regulation Orders where necessary. c) In the long term, work with all schools in the county to develop accredited Travel Plans, which could include enforceable No-Idling Zones and ‘school streets’ schemes. d) Measure air quality around a sample of schools in all six districts at child-head height to identify the level of air pollution children are being exposed to at school drop-off and pick-up. e) Pilot additional measures to improve air quality near schools in 2020/21, such as ‘living green walls’ and tree planting, working with local businesses to sponsor these initiatives. <p>* Including but not limited to: Birmingham City Council, Bristol City Council, Cardiff Council, The City of Edinburgh Council, Glasgow City Council, Greater Manchester, Leeds City Council, Sheffield City Council, Southampton City Council, City of York Council, and many London Boroughs.</p>
Climate change implications	The impact of this motion on road traffic carbon dioxide emissions would depend on the scale of financial resources allocated, the nature of the measures implemented and the extent to which they

	are developed as part of a coordinated plan for an area.
Resource implications	In its Emergency Active Travel Fund the DfT announced two tranches of funding for highway authorities. The first allocation of £288k is indicative only and for temporary measures which are already fully committed.
Human Rights implications	N/A
Motion 860	<p>Celebrating Gloucestershire Volunteers <i>Proposed by Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</i> <i>Seconded by Cllr Lesley Williams</i></p> <p>This Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the tragic loss of life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, including over 550 in Gloucestershire alone to date, this crisis will also be remembered for the enormous acts of kindness and generosity exhibited by Gloucestershire's residents. • Within hours of setting up Gloucestershire Help Hub, the Council was flooded with offers of help from businesses, organisations and residents, totalling over 3,500 to date. • Many communities across Gloucestershire established their own support networks to ensure that no member of society went without. <p>This council also notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloucestershire County Council staff rose to the challenge of the situation, with many staff changing roles to support the council's response and most of our social services colleagues dramatically increasing their hours of work to protect our county's most vulnerable residents. • Without the work of volunteers from outside the Council, Gloucestershire County Council could never have hoped to respond to the thousands of calls for support, including delivering food parcels, collecting prescriptions and combatting isolation and loneliness. <p>As the lead authority in the county, this Council calls for GCC to establish a series of events to recognise and celebrate the exceptional efforts of residents and public</p>

	servants, and to establish permanent memorials to acknowledge both the volunteers and the tragic loss of so many members of our community.
Climate change implications	N/A
Resource implications	There is no specifically earmarked budget in 2020/21 to fund such events and permanent memorials so either additional funding would need to be identified or the council would need to re-prioritise existing budgets once the costs have been quantified.
Human Rights implications	N/A
Motion 861	<p>Climate change <i>Proposed by Cllr Kate Haigh</i> <i>Seconded by Cllr Rachel Smith</i></p> <p>This Council notes that the response to Covid-19 in the County has been exceptional, with changes to how we do things delivered at a rapid pace.</p> <p>This Council believes by using existing technology, we can and must change how we do things. As we recover from this health crisis we must also use this new thinking to tackle the climate crisis.</p> <p>This Council pledges to use the new thinking about how we live and work as a basis for building communities resilient to climate change.</p> <p>This Council asks the Cabinet member for Environment and Planning who is responsible for climate change strategy to produce a report to Council after consideration by Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on what lessons the Council has learnt during Covid-19 that the County Council can apply to its policies and practices to meet our climate change targets and produce a cleaner, greener post-Covid County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The report written to include public consultation on their priorities for building back better. b) Lessons learned on how to deliver change at a rapid pace c) Referring to key strategies including Vision 2050, Industrial Strategy, Strategic Transport Plan and Council Plan.

Climate change implications	The Climate Change implications would be set out in the resulting report should this motion be passed.
Resource implications	Initially officer time to produce the required report. Any further resource implications would be set out in the report itself.
Human Rights implications	N/A
Motion 863	<p>Establishment of a local contact tracing system to stop Covid-19 <i>Proposed by Cllr Rachel Smith</i> <i>Seconded by Cllr Eva Ward</i></p> <p>This Council notes the huge toll the lock-down has taken on the health and wellbeing of people in our county, whilst also noting the extreme importance of lockdown and social-distancing measures to preserve life in the face of the lethal corona-virus.</p> <p>This Council further notes that a fully implemented, effective and integrated track, trace and isolate system remains our only safe and socially just route out of lockdown and, with people mixing more freely and the r-rate hovering around 1 indicating continued viral spread, is urgently needed.</p> <p>For the sake of the health of all residents in Gloucestershire, this Council cannot wait for the delayed government track and trace system.</p> <p>This Council therefore calls for the establishment of a locally based, trusted and reliable contact tracing system in Gloucestershire.</p>
Climate change implications	N/A
Resource implications	<p>Gloucestershire has been allocated a £2.2 million share of the national Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant (Determination reference No 31/5075) to support the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks as part of the national response.</p> <p>Any additional or more immediate local response would need to be separately funded.</p>

	<p>Currently, there is no direct staffing available for a specific local contact tracing for COVID-19 locally. Whilst the County Council and the Districts have staff skilled in these type of roles, they also fulfil a wide range of other duties, not least in respect of other infectious diseases; if we were to repurpose our local staff to focus on COVID-19 contact tracing, we might be left short of response capacity should a concurrent incident occur.</p>
Human Rights implications	N/A
Motion 862	<p>Promoting cycleways <i>Proposed by Cllr Lesley Williams</i> <i>Seconded by Cllr Steve Robinson</i></p> <p>This Council is taking advantage of extra funding provided by the Government as a result of Covid 19 to promote alternative modes of travel and to make busy areas physically safer for people to walk and cycle.</p> <p>This Council recognises that cycling, in the county, has increased by 190% during the last few months.</p> <p>This Council recognises that the County already has a large number of cycle routes.</p> <p>This Council recognises that in order to encourage more people, not just enthusiasts, to carry on cycling they need to feel safe and to know where there are dedicated routes that might allow them to travel to work by bicycle.</p> <p>This Council recognises that the typical distance that a person will cycle to work is about 5km.</p> <p>In order to support cycling, and to encourage more cycling this Council proposes that a portion of the ring fenced grant is used to positively promote cycling by communicating routes, both functional and recreational, through extensive publicity.</p> <p>And that this Council considers measures that could be put in place for the safe storage of bicycles in various locations covered lock-ups not just racks.</p>
Climate change implications	Any modal shift from cars to more environmentally friendly forms of transport would have a positive impact on climate change.

<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>The Department for Transport has released indicative allocations for the emergency active travel fund. Gloucestershire is likely to receive £288,000 in the first phase, which will be spent on temporary schemes to improve walking and cycling routes in specific locations across the county to help people to socially distance during the easing of the lockdown from Coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The indicative allocation for Gloucestershire for the second phase of the funding is £1,153,000. For both allocations, GCC has worked closely with the District authorities to identify the immediate funding priorities and will prioritise the long list of potential schemes in line with Government guidance. We will deliver as many schemes from the prioritised list as the funding allows. Schemes to improve safe storage of bicycles are included in the overall list of schemes currently under consideration.</p> <p>The promotion of schemes and cycling facilities is something that we are already undertaking and looking to take further through the By Cycle initiative using existing budgets. However, the promotion of schemes is something which is not covered under the Active Travel funding for COVID-19.</p>
<p>Human Rights implications</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Other implications relating to the Council's policy framework</p>	<p>GCC has also just publicly consulted on a revised Local Transport Plan for Gloucestershire – these aims and ambitions are consistent with the emerging draft plan.</p>