

Full Council actions – 17 February 2021

	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Progress</i>
1	Chairman's Announcements	Chairman to write to the wife of Steve McHale to express his condolences.	Michelle Pidgeon	Letter sent 22 February 2021.
2	Public Questions	Question 1 – Cllr Patrick Molyneux to attend a virtual meeting with families concerned regarding late application process for school places.	Chris Spencer	<p>Response: A meeting can of course be set up with Cllr Patrick Molyneux, to discuss the concerns of parents, however it should be noted that as National Allocations Day is on Monday 1st March 2021, and this date cannot be changed as it is a nationally set date, any discussion is likely to happen after parents have been notified of their school place. The coordination of all secondary school place allocations has now been completed in order that all parents can be notified on that date.</p> <p>As the government did not change National Closing Date for admissions applications, Gloucestershire has</p>

				<p>continued to apply its policy under the Co-ordinated Scheme. Gloucestershire allows parents to change their preferences at any time but if changes are made after 31st October 2020 – then these will be considered late i.e. after all the on-time applications. We have to be fair and consistent to all families across Gloucestershire – and our message to families has been very clear regarding choosing preferences wisely and the importance of applications being made by the closing date. There were many other authorities that applied the same policy as Gloucestershire this year i.e. not changing their late preference policy. There is a tremendous amount of work that the Admissions Team has to complete in order to meet its statutory duty to allocate school places on 1st March and therefore to change our policy on late changes of preferences</p>
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				<p>would impact on the delivery of allocating school places.</p> <p>Gloucestershire has always allowed parents to express more preferences than the minimum of three stated in the School Admissions Code. It is therefore felt that to offer five school preferences was sufficient for the 2021 transfer process.</p> <p>As previously stated the Department of Education issued guidance to all local authorities/schools and academies regarding the grammar testing arrangements this year. The guidance recommended delaying the test due to the Pandemic –to enable students to have a little more time to prepare – and as all the grammar schools are academies they collectively made the decision to delay the testing following this advice. The government did</p>
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			<p>not however change the legislation to amend the National Closing Date.</p> <p>It is not a guarantee that even if a child has reached the benchmark for a grammar school place that they will be offered a place – as places are allocated by those scoring the highest in the test for each school. If more children reach the benchmark than the number of places available then priority is given to children with an educational health care plan and children in care first. Reaching the benchmark merely means that you will be considered for a place – grammar schools are usually oversubscribed i.e. more children have passed the test than places available and this remains the case in 2021.</p> <p>The advice for the parents is to wait for Allocation Day on the 1st March 2021 – they will</p>
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				<p>then have the opportunity to accept or refuse the school place that they have been offered and request to go on the waiting list for any schools. The Admissions Team will conduct a second round of offers at the beginning of April – and if they are able to offer a higher preference to the family then they will do so and then withdraw the offer of the original school place. If they are unable to offer a grammar preference they will then advise the parents of their right of appeal and direct them to the school to request the necessary paperwork. All of the grammar schools are academies and are therefore their own Admissions Authority and are responsible for administering their own appeals process</p>
3	Public Questions	<p>Question 13 – Cllr Nigel Moor to provide a written response to Chris Chiswell as to whether the Council was now adopting a targeted yearly decrease in vehicle emissions contrary to a 15% increase detailed in the January cabinet paper.</p>	Colin Chick	<p>Response: GCC officers would require further explanation about the figures quoted in this question as it is not clear how they reflect the targets published in</p>

			<p>Gloucestershire’s emerging Local Transport Plan (LTP).</p> <p>Nationally, road passenger cars account for 55% of all transport related greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), HGVs 16.6%, LGVs 15.6% and buses 2.5%, as opposed to railways 1.4% (by source 2018) in Figure PD0(A) of the emerging LTP. It is clear that if GCC wants to deliver a carbon neutral county and work with partners to deliver a stepped target in carbon reduction by 2030^[1], there needs to be a step change in the way we travel, including significant mode shift in combination with a dramatic rise in the use of clean emission vehicles.</p> <p>Gloucestershire’s LTP supports the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy, Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy and reflects Gloucestershire’s ambition to be carbon neutral. The LTP target to reduce per capita transport carbon emissions (LTP PI-14), has been strengthened to reflect national commitment and</p>
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^[1] Response to Climate Emergency (Item 8) at Cabinet (20 Dec 2019) <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=117&Mid=9232>
80% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050

				<p>GCC's declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019.^[2] Furthermore, in 2020, GCC made a further consideration to sign up to the UK100 Pledge and follow the pledge guidance to be net zero by 2045. ^[3]</p> <p>The LTP refers to further supporting work in understanding the carbon reduction pathway in order to help deliver our revised LTP target for zero tonnes transport carbon emissions per capita by 2045. The LTP target is reported in the annual performance report LTP Implementation Plan. The GCC Climate Strategy will be monitored through an initial annual action plan and then subsequently a rolling 5 year action plan to 2035.</p>
4	Public Questions	Question 17 – Cllr Vernon Smith to provide David Willingham with a timescale and a more satisfactory response to what the issues were regarding the delivery of a road scheme at Alstone Croft through Highways Local funds.	Colin Chick	<p>Response:</p> <p>Local Highway Manager will provide following additional information. We are aware of the ongoing concerns to residents in this area,</p>

^[2]Carbon action plan motion (836) at County Council (15 May 2019) <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=333&MId=9141>

^[3] UK100 Pledge ambition making all cities/towns/villages in the UK 100% clean before 2050- <https://www.uk100.org/pledge-faqs>

				<p>however we found that previous proposals to address the situation were not practical because of the physical layout of the roads. It was then agreed to carry out trials of some different arrangements, however since that agreement was made, the impact of the COVID pandemic is such that we have not been experiencing anywhere near normal traffic flows. It is not clear whether the problem still exists to the same degree as it did in 2017, and equally, it would be wrong to trial new arrangements and judge their success or failure against the current traffic levels and conditions. We have now been given the indication of the return to "normal" post COVID, over the next few months, and that also gives us a potential timetable for consideration of both the scale of the problem and the effectiveness of potential solutions. I would suggest that early summer would be</p>
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				the most appropriate time to revisit the issue, and the Local Highways Manager will be happy to engage with the relevant Councillors and residents at that time, to enable us to carry this scheme forward.
5	Corporate Parenting	Cllr Richard Boyles to provide members with an update following the recent report on serious case reviews in Gloucestershire.	Chris Spencer	<p>Response: Following the publication of the Working Together 2018 the system of Serious Case Reviews(SCR) was replaced by a new system involving Rapid Reviews(RR) and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LSCPR). SCRs therefore ceased to be with the exception that any commissioned before the start of the new WT18 arrangements were to be completed within 12 months of the date of the new arrangements being put in place. In respect of Gloucestershire the former GSCB had commissioned 9 SCRs including the joint Domestic Homicide Review /SCR.</p> <p>Of these SCRs 5 were</p>

			<p>published between April 2019 and December 2020 and they are all available on the Gloucestershire Children's Safeguarding Partnership (GSCP) website. The titles are James; Megan; Family Y; Liam and Lauren.</p> <p>The joint SCR/ DHR has been submitted to the Home Office for quality assurance as is required under DHR procedure. The Home Office has informed us that the earliest they expect to complete this is August 2021 as they have a 'back log' of reports to QA.</p> <p>The three remaining SCRs are all subject to court proceedings and the individual SCRs cannot be published. The GSCP however made the decision to publish the recommendations of these SCRs in a single document including an update on how partners are progressing those recommendations.</p> <p>I am pleased to say therefore</p>
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				<p>that all Gloucestershire SCRs are now completed and publication of their findings has also been achieved.</p> <p>The new partnership arrangements give much more flexibility in determining how to respond to children's cases that previously would have met / or come close to meeting the threshold for a SCR. That flexibility also allows partners to review cases which would not previously have met that threshold but offer an opportunity for partners to reflect and learn from the experience of such children / young people. The GSCP agreed a very clear referral process including clear criteria for RRs and LSCPRS.</p> <p>GSCP has now held 11 Rapid Reviews on individual children three of which became the subject of the first GSCP LSCPR which was on the theme of child sexual exploitation. This LSCPR was published on February</p>
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				<p>10th and is again available on the GSCP website. Individual RRs are not published but the learning from RRs is also widely disseminated through the partnership. Both RRs and LSCPRs are submitted to the National Panel and it is worth mentioning that the feedback from that Panel is that GSCP is a leading authority in terms of the approach and the quality of reviews. The recent LSCPR attracted a great deal of attention from the panel who were impressed with the difference between it and the former SCR process. The LSCPR was undertaken in a shorter space of time; had greater staff involvement; considered the experiences and views of the children involved; and, the final report was short ,focused and contained good recommendations.</p> <p>Whilst the learning from individual reviews always contains some case specific detail the GSCP has taken</p>
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				<p>some of the recurring themes as priorities for the partnership this coming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together to understand complex children's cases and to develop safeguarding practice which helps to identify such children earlier and keep them safe. • A revised approach to all forms of child exploitation including better offender management. • Maintaining a focus on non-mobile babies and non-accidental injuries including rigorous use of the GSCP pre-birth protocol. • Maintaining and improving the focus on recognising and dealing with neglect at an early stage
6	Corporate Parenting	To share Wendy Williams' progress report on Trevone House with Cllr Jeremy Hilton.	Chris Spencer	Report shared with Cllr Jeremy Hilton by email on 17 February 2021.

7	Member Questions	Question 11 – Cllr Patrick Molyneux to look into what figures were available to identify any gap between pupils who had received ICT equipment at home and those who did not yet have it.	Chris Spencer	Response: The majority of children affected have been provided with the equipment needed as priorities in the earlier stages of the pandemic and of remote learning. Headteachers and LA staff continue to be vigilant to identify those children and young people who are in need of support in order to gain access to remote learning online. The Headteachers associations for primary, secondary and special schools have conducted surveys of school in the county to identify where there are / have been particular gaps in provision. Schools are responsible for ordering equipment directly from the DfE so figures are not reported to the LA. The numbers have changed daily and have reduced as schools receive equipment
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				for those who need it.
8	Member Questions	Question 18 – the Flood Alleviation Team and Local Highways Manager to talk to Cllr Brian Robinson regarding solutions to flash flooding in his area.	Colin Chick	The Flood Risk Management (FRM) Team has been in touch with Cllr Robinson in order to set up an initial meeting to discuss flooding issues in his area. A first step will ideally be a meeting between Cllr Robinson, the FRM team and Gloucestershire Highways. Some of the parishes he covers were among some of the worst hit during the December 23 rd / 24 th flooding event, so a follow up step could be a coordinated multi-agency approach and a more detailed investigation.
9	Member Questions	Question 23 – Cllr Mark Hawthorne to provide Cllr Lesley Williams with a written response on what work was being done on the ethical charters and modern slavery charters.	Steve Mawson	Response emailed to Cllr Lesley Williams on 1 March 2021.
10	Scrutiny	To provide members with a summary report on member responses to the scrutiny structure review at the next Council meeting.	Simon Harper	Summary to be prepared for the next Council meeting on 17 March 2021.
11	Scrutiny	RESOLVED To appoint Cllr Stephen Hirst as the Chair of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Simon Harper	Completed.
12	Constitution Committee Report	RESOLVED	Sophie Benfield	Completed.

		That the amendment outlined in the Constitution Committee Report to Council be made to the Constitution at standing orders 9.5.3, 9.8.3, and 8.8.3.		
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