

**Draft MEMBER QUESTIONS
CABINET MEETING – 24 March 2021**

<p>Question 1: Cllr Andrew Miller</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: Finance Monitoring Report</p> <p>At the recent council meeting, Cllr Jeremy Hilton suggested that the highways budget had been cut. Facebook posts from local Liberal Democrats have claimed the “local highways budget” has been cut. Can the cabinet member explain, subsequent to the changes in this paper:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will the highways budget be for Gloucestershire this year and next year 2. What will the highways local budget be for individual councillors in Gloucestershire, this year and next year 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The total revenue budget for Highways is £21.686m in 21/22 compared to £19.210m in 20/21. This means this year’s budget is increased by over 12%. 2. The Highways Local budget in 21/22 is £30k per councillor or £1.59m. This is the same as 20/21.
<p>Question 2: Cllr John Cordwell</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Road Safety Cabinet Panel</p> <p>Recommendation 10(b) refers to the “establishment of a ‘Senate’ where all statutory bodies responsible, voluntary groups and charitable trusts are represented and work together”.</p> <p>My question, which as a member of the panel I have asked but not received a response, is how longstanding (well over 40 years) County Council road safety liaison groups will fit into this and how will they be supported in the future. They are not a statutory body, a voluntary group or a charitable trust.</p> <p>The report rightly recognises that the approach to road safety in Gloucestershire over the last few years has become disjointed and less effective. That includes its current low level of support for its own Liaison Groups.</p>	<p>GCC has statutory responsibilities for road safety and is the largest investor in road safety in Gloucestershire. It is therefore appropriate that we are taking the lead in driving forward a more collaborative and coordinated approach. We are currently developing the details that will underpin the recommendations of the Cabinet Panel and envisage a strategic body chaired by the cabinet member for road safety, with input from operational forums that tap into the knowledge and assets of local communities and organisations representing road users.</p> <p>This is also a time to find more efficient new ways of working and reach people who, in the past, may not have been heard, in particular younger people, women with young families and people with disabilities. We are currently exploring ways of harnessing</p>

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<p>For information, the terms of reference of the Liaison Groups, set by the County Council stipulate membership should include two county councillors, one as chair, two district councillors and officers from both councils, and, representatives of many other organisations which in the case of the Stroud District Area Liaison Group currently includes representatives of bus companies, the Institute of Advanced Drivers, Gloucestershire Driving Instructors Association, RoadPeace, RoadSmart and GAPTC and as co-opted members representatives of a number of the larger parish and town councils. Their remit includes advising on and publicising the County Council's Road Safety Plan, participating in campaigns set up by the county council and the education of the public on road safety matters. It does not generally include site-specific road safety issues that should be referred to county council officers or the local county councillor.</p>	<p>platforms like Commonplace to make it easier for local communities to raise concerns, easier to analyse and present this data and have been shown to reach a broader demographic.</p>
<p>Question 3: Cllr Colin Hay</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Patrick Molyneux</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11 – Children and Families Capital Programme Update</p> <p>There is no reference in this item to retrofitting existing schools to reduce carbon emissions and save the schools money. It's great that new schools will be designed to be carbon neutral, but what funding will be available to existing schools this year to reduce their emissions?</p>	<p>Schemes of capital works for extensions to and maintenance of existing schools include provision of energy efficient measures to help improve the efficiency and reduce energy bills. Depending on the scale of each project this will include measures such as improved insulation, energy efficient heating and lighting systems for example.</p> <p>The council has allocated £1m of internal borrowing for 2021/22 to support this initiative. We are also working to see how best we can join council capital funding with external initiatives to introduce further opportunities for all schools.</p>

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<p>Question 4: Cllr Colin Hay</p> <p>Agenda Item 15 – Mental Health Accommodation Based Support</p> <p>How has the pandemic and lockdown measures impacted the numbers of people requiring mental health accommodation support, and will the extended contract be sufficient to deal with any increase in numbers?</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway- Martin</p> <p>Over the pandemic period we have monitored the needs within the mental health system as a whole and only used placements in the supported accommodation service in cases of emergency Since July 2020 total number of people in this service has reduced further from around 108 to approximately 100 at present.</p> <p>Individuals with serious mental illness can still access supported accommodation following on from an assessment by the multidisciplinary team via providers on county council framework contracts. It is believed that current supply can meet demand.</p>
<p>Question 5: Cllr Bernie Fisher</p> <p>Agenda Item 8 – Road Safety Cabinet Panel Report</p> <p>A recommendation of the panel is to establish an “Engagement Forum” for residents to feed their road safety concerns into. How will this work in practice and how will you publicise this so that residents know where to direct their concerns?</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Dave Norman</p> <p>Please refer to my answer to Question 2.</p>