

COUNTY COUNCIL – March 2022

Members' Questions

1. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Robinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Philip Robinson
<p>During the academic years 20/21 and 21/22 Nailsworth Primary School has been oversubscribed by 32 children for entry to reception.</p> <p>How long will this unsatisfactory issue be allowed to continue?</p>	<p>Nailsworth primary school is always popular and over-subscribed with preferences (as are many schools across the county).</p> <p>Nailsworth has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30.</p> <p>For Reception intake for 2020 – the school received 48 total preferences (29 1st preferences). For Reception intake for 2021 – the school received 68 total preferences (43 1st preferences). For Reception 2022 (not yet published) information is expected to be similar.</p> <p>It should be noted that popular schools receive more applications than places available and often parents will list a school that is not their closest school due to their popularity. Parents who listed Nailsworth as a preference who did not gain a place at their preferred school were allocated one of the family's preferences or the school closest to them with space. There were spaces across the planning area at schools for both 2020 & 2021 Reception intake.</p>
2. Questioner's name: Cllr Steve Robinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Philip Robinson
<p>Nailsworth Primary School was built in the early 60s as a secondary school. Many of the old Crittall metal windows still exist, particularly on the one side of the main hall.</p> <p>Please could the Cabinet Member give me a date when these windows will be included in a programme to be replaced?</p>	<p>The windows at Nailsworth Primary have been reviewed by surveyors and are considered to be in poor condition.</p> <p>They have been planned for inclusion in the schools' capital maintenance programme for 2022/3.</p>

3. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>Does the Council Leader share my concerns that, with cases of Covid-19 on the rise across the county and in Gloucestershire, that the Government has chosen to take away testing at precisely the wrong time, and does he agree that "living with Covid" could actually lead to hundreds of Gloucestershire's residents "dying from Covid" because of the ending of all restrictions and withdrawing testing services?</p>	<p>Vaccines have enabled the gradual and safe removal of restrictions on everyday life over the past year. Over 88% of the eligible population in Gloucestershire have had at least one dose of the COVID vaccine and over 71% have had their third dose. Whilst rates of COVID-19 have risen recently in Gloucestershire, hospitalisation and deaths in this current wave have been significantly lower than in previous waves, demonstrating that the vaccine is having a significant impact.</p>
4. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman
<p>With free Covid-19 tests ceasing at the end of this month, including the closing of PCR test centres, it is very likely that the majority of people with Covid symptoms will not want or be able to take a test. How will the Public Health team analyse the state and direction of the pandemic in Gloucestershire when there will be little to no data available to them on how many people are being infected?</p>	<p>Limited free testing for people with symptoms will still be available from 1st April but this will be a very targeted approach which takes account of risk. Therefore this will be available to at risk groups and social care staff. We will continue to work with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to focus outbreak investigation activities on high-priority and complex cases.</p> <p>As testing reduces for the majority of the population and the Government's approach to managing COVID-19 further evolves, the way we monitor COVID-19 will change. Cases will be continued to be tracked, albeit in a more targeted fashion, through hospital testing (which will include genomic sequencing) and continuing the SARS-CoV-2 Immunity & Reinfection Evaluation (SIREN) and Vivaldi studies. We will work with the southwest UK Health Security Agency team to understand how we will monitor local infection rates in order to inform our local response and enable us to surge to meet the demands of outbreaks in vulnerable settings and/or new variants.</p>
5. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman
<p>With Covid restrictions easing, and people with Covid-symptoms no longer needing to self-isolate, many of my vulnerable residents,</p>	<p>We know that many people with long term conditions or lowered immunity, even with full vaccination and the milder Omicron</p>

some of whom have been medically unable to be vaccinated against Covid, are now living in fear of leaving the house. What advice does the Cabinet Member for Public Health have for these residents, and what support is on offer from GCC?

variant, remain concerned about catching the virus. It is important we continue to work together to support individuals who may be anxious as restrictions lift, to be able to manage in our new ways of living with COVID-19.

GCC have given out £1.5 million in grants from the COVID Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to voluntary and community sector groups who are supporting those most impacted and most anxious about COVID-19. This delivery will continue as the county moves towards living with COVID-19 and other grant funding such as the *Build Back Better* – Councillor scheme will contribute to support activities to encourage and support vulnerable residents to leave their homes.

6. Questioner’s name: Cllr Rebecca Halifax

Respondent’s name: Cllr David Gray

For several years, residents and visitors to Cirencester’s Abbey Grounds have had no access to toilet facilities. Cirencester Town Council has tried, repeatedly, to renovate the existing facilities at the site, but have consistently come up against overbearing bureaucracy regarding the designated status of the site – despite the new facilities remaining on the existing footprint of a now-derelict toilet block.

The toilets in the Abbey Grounds are located on the site of Cirencester Abbey’s medieval church. The area has been designated by the Secretary of State as a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The lead heritage organisation is therefore Historic England, not Gloucestershire County Council.

Would the Cabinet Member with responsibility over archaeology at GCC consent to a site meeting with myself, other members of the Town Council and the County Council’s archaeology team to discuss a pragmatic way forward, and does he agree that the current situation of long-term portaloos on site is untenable?

A planning application for new toilets has been received by Cotswold District Council (21/04461/FUL) who have consulted both Historic England and County Council archaeological officers. Cotswold District Council has been advised to request an impact statement, to compare the depth of proposed excavations for foundations and drains with the known archaeological levels, in order to ensure that nationally significant archaeology remains undamaged by the development.

It is a legal requirement under the 1979 Act that, as well as planning permission, any development within the Abbey Grounds will need Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. The County Council has no input into that process.

7. Questioner's name: Cllr Rebecca Halifax	Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman
<p>The pandemic has been particularly hard on young people's mental health, and over course of the last two years we have seen significantly increased referrals to the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Included in this, the service has seen referrals to the eating disorder unit increase by 100 per cent and emergency referrals go up by more than 500 per cent.</p> <p>What is the Cabinet Member and the County Council, in partnership with NHS partners, doing to ensure mental health services for Gloucestershire's children and young people is properly financed and the more than 30 per cent vacancies, that some services are seeing, filled?</p>	<p>The Council is committed to working with its NHS partners to respond to the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of the county's children and young people (CYP).</p> <p>New recurrent funding of £280K per annum was approved in the Council budget in February 2022 to support the provision of 'all age' mental health support in the county. The funding will be partly invested in early intervention mental health support for children and young people; building on the temporary services funded by the County Council during the pandemic which include the new TIC+Chat open access helpline providing anonymous support to 9-21 year olds.</p> <p>The new funding is in addition to the Council's ongoing mental health work in schools delivered via the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning programme.</p> <p>The Council does not hold information on current vacancy levels in the county's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which are commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). However, the CCG have invested additional funding into CAMHS, TIC+ and Young Gloucestershire to help meet additional demand. This includes funding to recruit additional staff in the CAMHS service; alongside work to establish new roles and review pathways to ensure higher risk young people can access the right support quickly.</p>
8. Questioner's name: Cllr Linda Cohen	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
<p>I was pleased to read the recent press release announcing the proposed route of the 26 mile "cycle spine" – though, in truth, it was less of an update and more of a revelation on just how much is still to be determined, with little in the way of concrete dates and timescales.</p>	<p>The first phase of the Gloucestershire Cycle Spine route was to connect Cheltenham and Gloucester as these settlements currently represent the highest population density and are therefore most viable as bidding opportunities. We are now seeking to extend this corridor between Cheltenham and Gloucester through the town and city to neighbouring settlements in the north and south.</p>

When devising the original route, however, how did the team arrive at a cycle spine ending in Stroud and Bishops Cleeve? Why did it not carry on to Tewkesbury and Cirencester, for example?

Work to deliver the scheme started on the section between Staverton and Cheltenham in October 2021, this will complement the £1.6 million of cycleway improvements already delivered along the A40 corridor in Cheltenham. You can find more information on individual sections as well as latest updates on our website.

Further extensions may be possible, subject to funding and prioritisation of schemes based on a range of criteria including value for money, number of anticipated users and access to employment, education and housing.

The Local Transport Plan sets out the ambition of Gloucestershire County Council to connect all major settlements across the county and a commission with Sustrans is underway to identify where these routes might best be located.

9. Questioner's name: Cllr Linda Cohen

Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray

As a representative of Wotton Under Edge, my residents will be well over 10 miles from the nearest entrance to the "cycle-spine". This is true of many other settlements in the county, and therefore many tens of thousands of residents.

For those nowhere near the cycle-spine, how is this council ensuring that our residents are enabled to make greener travel choices within their towns and villages?

The Local Transport Plan sets out the ambition of Gloucestershire County Council to connect all major settlements across the county and a commission with Sustrans is underway to identify where these routes might best be located.

Gloucestershire County Council is working in partnership with Sustrans to support the Wotton, Charfield and Kingswood Greenway Group in the development of a greenway route for active travel linking the towns of Wotton-under-Edge, Charfield and Kingswood on the Gloucestershire/South Gloucestershire boarder. In addition to providing an important traffic free connection between the three towns, the route will also connect to the proposed new railway station at Charfield, the Renishaw New Mills employment site and the Katherine Lady Berkeley's School (11 to 18 mixed comprehensive). Following a programme of stakeholder engagement and landowner negotiations, Sustrans are in the process of preparing concept designs for the route.

	In addition, GCC continue to develop a programme of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, countywide that support and compliment the ambition within our Local Transport Plan.
10. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
What action will the County Council take to repair the unadopted Gough's Orchard Bridge on the Thames and Severn Canal, which is in its ownership, and is in a dangerous state? This requires repair and maintenance so that it can continue to provide an essential connection between Swellshill (via Rodborough Footpath 34), Orchard Lane and the canal towpath (Brimscombe and Thrupp Footpath 59).	Funding has been applied for corporately to address the issues this bridge has. This has been agreed and it is planned to undertaken works this coming financial year 22/23.
11. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
What consultation with cyclists will be undertaken by the County Council in identifying a preferred route for what it refers to as a 26 mile 'cycle spine' from Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve? As the published boundary of the study area appears to correspond to NCR41/NCR45, being a 15.5 mile touring route, between Gloucester and Stroud (compared to 10.8 miles on the A46/A4173) is 'spine route' an appropriate term?	<p>The concept of a cycle route between Cheltenham and Gloucester and beyond is included in and was consulted on as part of Gloucestershire's Local Transport Plan as well as the Central Severn Vale Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. In spring 2021, we undertook a comprehensive public engagement exercise for the proposed B4063 Gloucester to Cheltenham cycleway scheme, between Elmbridge Court roundabout and Arle Court roundabout. A further consultation exercise will be undertaken later this year that includes the west of the route between Gloucester and Elmbridge Court Roundabout; consultation will be undertaken on subsequent parts of the route as it is developed.</p> <p>Regarding the sections where details of the route have not yet been determined, we will analyse evidence such as data from the Department for Transport Propensity to Cycle Tool as well initial feedback about potential routes from local residents, town and parish councils and local employers to determine the best route option.</p>

12. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
What would be the comparative costs of operating Stroud library from a lower basement unit rented in the Five Valleys Shopping Centre rather than continuing to provide this service from purpose-built premises owned by the County Council? What would be the cost of replacing and maintaining the lift in the current building so that it was more reliable? Why is financial information not included in the public consultation?	We are still negotiating commercial terms with the developer and will not prejudice these negotiations by releasing terms at this stage.
13. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
What will happen to the library service in Stroud if, having given up the purpose-built premises in its own ownership, the Five Valleys Shopping Centre were to either to cease trading, or have a change in ownership and management, and further upon expiry of the lease? Can the Council confirm that a 25-year lease is proposed, set out its anticipated heads of terms and explain why this information is not included in the public consultation?	The lease entered into would protect GCCs occupation rights for the term of the lease. If there was a change of ownership and management the new owner would hold the freehold of the property and the lease would still remain in place. We are negotiating a 25-year lease but this has not yet been agreed.
14. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
What would be the proposed future use of the site of the existing Stroud Library on Lansdown should the County Council resolve to relocate this service to the Five Valleys Shopping Centre? What emergent ideas are under consideration by stakeholders and partners through the One Gloucestershire Estate programme? What say will the public have on any decision on the future alternative use of the building?	Discussions are underway looking at opportunities for more efficient use of public sector buildings in Stroud. Nothing has been ruled out at this stage.
15. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
Is the County Council aware that Stroud library users are concerned about the need to use either steps or a lift to access the library, that the lifts in the Five Valleys Shopping Centre itself have recurrent breakdowns and the outsourced car parking arrangements (using ANPR recognition and contactless payment methods), have resulted in people being wrongly fined? Does the Council understand these concerns could deter library use?	The current library location is situated on an upper floor and is therefore accessed via steps and a lift currently. The lift which would be used to access the proposed library location is being newly installed and is a robust fire evacuation and hospital bed lift. The County Council is aware that there have been some reports of

	<p>people being wrongly fined in the Five Valleys car park, but library users will have a choice over where they park should the library move. The current library location does not have dedicated parking and therefore it is anticipated that library users will make a personal choice over where they park when using the library. The County Council can advise that early feedback to the proposed move has been predominantly positive.</p>
<p>16. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Can the Council confirm what its expectations are of bidders to lease the former Stonehouse Library in terms of the items of repair obligations and their anticipated costs, given that the Cabinet Member for Finance stated (in December 2021) that "the current backlog of full repairs for the building stands at £359,000, the latest condition survey was undertaken in June 2019" whilst the Divisional Member states "it can be repaired and brought into community use for the next few years for around £10,000".</p>	<p>The bidders will be required to carry out all works required to make the building safe and occupiable for their use. This does not include all of the works identified in the previous condition survey.</p>
<p>17. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>In response to a question from myself on what works were required to the former Stonehouse Library building, the Cabinet Member for Finance replied, on 21 December 2021, "The survey in June 2019, identified the full list of issues to reinstate the building as a library. This came to £359k. Some of which will still require resolving prior to the building being reoccupied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New roof covering Roof insulation Window replacement Rotten frame replacement New heating controls New fan convectors Replace defective tarmac Redecoration Various finishes require updating <p>The current backlog of full repairs to the building stands at £359k,</p>	<p>Bidders who have requested a copy of the previous survey have been advised that they can't rely on it as it is now 3 years old. They have been advised to get their own up to date survey in order to determine what works will be required in order to make the buildings safe and occupiable.</p> <p>Some bidders have asked for an extension of time to get surveys carried out. An extra month has been granted to allow this to happen.</p>

<p>the latest condition survey was undertaken in June 2019”.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member therefore explain why, on 11 March 2022, Asset Management and Property Services advised a potential bidder that “GCC does not hold any condition data and can copy only provide a copy of the Asbestos Register”.</p> <p>Is it reasonable, realistic and responsible for GCC to expect a community organisation to take a full repairing and insuring lease on a building which is offered to them on what is equivalent to a “sold as seen’ basis?</p> <p>Will the condition data referred to in December 2021 be released to those who have asked for details of the letting opportunity?”</p>	
<p>18. Questioner’s name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Dave Norman</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service has donated a turntable ladder fire appliance to be used in Ukraine to assist those fighting fires because of Putin’s war against the Ukrainian population.</p> <p>Is there anything else Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service or the county council can do to provide additional help to the people of Ukraine?</p>	<p>In addition to the turntable-ladder fire appliance donated to the Ukrainian people. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) were informed by the Home Office and Foreign Office the Ukrainian emergency services were in desperate need of specific items of rescue equipment. From the list of equipment provided by the NFCC, GFRS has been able to release surplus equipment that had been replaced as part of our routine upgrade programme. The type of equipment donated ranges from petrol generators and lighting to powered hand tools. These items have been handed over to FireAid which is a registered charity working in collaboration with the NFCC to ensure they are delivered speedily to the emergency services in Ukraine.</p> <p>In terms of the wider assistance being provided by the County Council, arrangements to receive and support Ukrainian people displaced by the war are already being considered by Adult Social & Public Health and Children & Families Services.</p>

19. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
<p>Now that the funding for the construction of Gloucester's 'missing link' along Llanthony Road is secured, could the cabinet member provide a high level timeline from now until completion?</p>	<p>The funding allocated by the Department for Transport will now allow the Llanthony Road, Gloucester South-West Bypass Scheme and Cycle Spine through Gloucester to proceed. The Llanthony Road scheme includes the provision of dedicated segregated cycleway/footway facilities alongside junction improvements which will greatly support growth and development along an important travel corridor, more information can be found on our website. A timeline of key milestones is outlined below:</p> <p>Demolition – Underway now until early Summer 2022. Procurement of Engineering Works – Underway now until early Summer 2022. Delivery of Engineering Works – Summer 2022 to Summer 2023.</p>
20. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>The council had a successful £3m concrete renewal programme that saw some concrete roads resurfaced.</p> <p>Could he list the concrete roads that benefitted from this programme and those concrete roads that were considered but didn't benefit?</p>	<p>All identified concrete roads in the County were assessed for potential treatment – 179 individual sites .</p> <p>Of these 21 were identified as needing some remedial works. These potential sites were then run through a priority assessment process to ensure the limited resource was utilised on the roads to bring greatest benefit.</p> <p>9 of these met the threshold to attract funding and were delivered, these were:-</p> <p>4/80508 Estcourt Road service road-North Side 4/80515 Denmark Road Gloucester 4/84067 Colebridge Avenue Gloucester 4/85427 Eastern Avenue Gloucester 4/84535 May Tree Square Gloucester 4/7482 York Road Tewkesbury 4/7824 Wenlock Road Tewkesbury</p>

	<p>4/7524 Upper Church Road & Church Road Cainscross 4/1382 Boverton Drive Brockworth</p> <p>12 were investigated but did not meet the threshold to be able to justify investment. These will continue to be monitored from a safety perspective.</p> <p>Draycott Crescent, Dursley Estcourt road Service road (south side) Gloucester Kenilworth Road, Gloucester Colebridge Avenue, Gloucester Riversley Road, Gloucester Dinglwell & Kingscroft Road, Hucclecote Trevor Road, Hucclecote Elmgrove Road, Hucclecote Tudor Road, Hucclecote Abbots Road, Hucclecote Chesterton Grove, Hucclecote Wheat Close, Broadwell</p>
<p>21. Questioner's name: Cllr Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>There continues to be a troubling delay in the referral by this Council of Definitive Map Modification Orders to the Secretary of State for confirmation. The two outstanding cases affecting my division (Minchinhampton) date back 12 and 16 years respectively. Now that we have heard that the 2026 deadline for registration of rights of way is no longer hanging over us, has it been possible to reallocate resources and can we expect some timely progress with regard to these outstanding referrals?</p>	<p>I am aware of some frustration at the backlog of work in the DMMO area which has built up over many years due to other resource priorities. However, the team now in place is delivering well and in the recently approved 22/23 budget we allocated funding for an additional fixed term post to help progress cases which are waiting for submission.</p> <p>I have asked that one of the team contact Cllr Turner to discuss the specific cases.</p>
<p>22. Questioner's name: Cllr Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>

<p>I was very pleased to see that 10% of the GCC pension passive funds are to be (or may already have been) reallocated to Brunel's newly established Paris-aligned fund. Is there any reason to delay transferring the remainder?</p>	<p>I can confirm that the transition of 10% of the Gloucestershire Pension Fund assets into the passively managed, Brunel Paris-aligned benchmark portfolio has been completed.</p> <p>Under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2016, the Pension Fund must, after taking proper advice, formulate an investment strategy which must include a requirement to investment fund money in a wide variety of investments.</p> <p>The allocation to the passively managed Paris-aligned benchmark portfolio is a part of the overall strategic asset allocation of the Gloucestershire Pension Fund, which seeks to meet its statutory requirements by holding a diversified portfolio of assets in quoted and unquoted securities of UK and overseas markets including equities; fixed interest and index linked bonds; cash; property; and loans. Therefore, it would not be compliant with the regulations for the Fund to hold all of its assets in the passively managed Paris-aligned benchmark portfolio.</p> <p>The Fund must publish a statement of its investment strategy and this can be found via the following link: Gloucestershire Pension Fund - Investment Strategy Statement .</p> <p>The Investment Strategy referred to also considers the suitability of different types of investments taking into account the various risks, such as funding and investment risks. Under investment risk the Fund considers, concentration, illiquidity and currency risks as well as Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors, which includes climate change risk.</p> <p>In formulating its investment strategy, the Fund receives advise from a suitably qualified person, this being the appointed Independent Advisor to the Gloucestershire Pension Fund.</p>
<p>23. Questioner's name: Cllr Chloe Turner</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray</p>

<p>Has the work plan for the Youth Climate Panel been established, and if so, how will this new body interact with and shape the policy of this Council?</p>	<p>Engagement with 7 members of the original Panel in February concluded that the Panel be renamed as the Youth Climate Group. Since then an additional 12 members have been recruited.</p> <p>The work plan is being developed by the Group, starting with an induction session on 28 March and will include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two of the original panel members briefing new members of the group • An overview of GCC's plans (officer attending). • Scoping exercise (building on answers given in their application about what they want to get from the Group and what they want to do) – ideas for projects • Deciding how to set up the district groups • Identifying a selection of projects that they can get involved with – from youth organisations and climate organisations where a number of possibilities for collaboration have arisen, alongside opportunities with GCC. • Asking how they want to interact with and shape councils' and other partners' policies and actions (e.g., the county council, Climate Leadership Gloucestershire)
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<p>24. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
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<p>Can an explanation be provided as to why Group Leaders have been advised that they will see the County's draft proposal on a County Deal once this has been written whilst it is understood that a 5 page summary has been received by Districts and, in at least some cases, reported to their members?</p>	<p>Cllr Bloxsom is incorrect. No document has been provided or shared with the district councillors or any other partners.</p>
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<p>25. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
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<p>Will the Leader of the Council outline reasons for reportedly not accepting the suggestion of District Councils that a county deal should start with a discussion between all the partners about what we want to achieve for Gloucestershire and should explore the powers on offer at Level 2 and Level 3?</p>	<p>Cllr Bloxsom was not at the meeting, and is clearly receiving his information third hand. At Leadership Gloucestershire, the county committed to producing a summary document in April, drawn from previous bids and work undertaken by Leadership Gloucestershire</p>
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	<p>on a countywide vision.</p> <p>An offer was also made to district colleagues, and followed up in an email, giving district colleagues and other partners the opportunity to submit suggestions for this summary document.</p> <p>A commitment was made that the document would be shared with partners, and an opportunity for further discussion would be made.</p>
26. Questioner's name: Cllr John Bloxsom	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>Does the Leader of Council acknowledge the strong desire amongst the partners from engagement from the start in developing a County Deal proposal and will he commit to full public consultation with residents, business, voluntary sector, District, town and parish councils?</p>	<p>The white paper makes it clear that the county should lead the devolution conversation, and we are doing so. It entirely makes sense to draw together a summary document, based on the content of the white paper and previous bids made by Gloucestershire for devolution.</p> <p>This will be shared with partners in April, and as I have indicated in my previous answer, partners have already been invited to put forward ideas.</p> <p>The need for wider public consultation will clearly be shaped by the content of the bid, and the legislative requirements of the final bill.</p>
27. Questioner's name: Cllr Wendy Thomas	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>Council leaders across the country are raising concerns about insufficient funding for the government's Adult Social Care reforms:</p> <p>Cllr Richard Clewer, the Leader of Wiltshire Council, says: "We estimate the cost of the reforms will be £39m in 2024/25 [...] we could expect to receive £15m to fund those reforms, leaving a gap of £24m in 2024/25."</p> <p>Leader of Somerset Council Cllr David Fothergill says "It is becoming increasingly clear that funding allocated ... through the</p>	<p>Early forecasts of the funding being insufficient are based on the presumption that the sums set aside will be allocated in line with past formula. However as the Government has indicated that it will, at least in part, use the outcome of cost of care exercises that aren't due until September, then whilst I understand the need to be cautious it is far too early to conclude that the funding will be insufficient.</p> <p>We will continue to work through the LGA and CCN to ensure that</p>

<p>new Health and Social Care Levy is likely to be insufficient by some margin. This is shaping up to be one of the biggest financial risks councils face in the coming spending review period and we should not underestimate the potential for underfunded reforms to tip them over the financial edge.”</p> <p>Cllr Martin Tett, Adult Social Care Spokesperson for the County Councils Network, said: “We remain concerned that the funding committed today for this policy – £1.4bn for the whole country over the next three years – will not be sufficient. We estimate that this move to allow more private care users to access lower local authority rates is likely to cost up to £761m per year in county areas alone and this excludes homecare.”</p> <p>Does the Leader of the Council Cllr Mark Hawthorne have any concerns that the Government’s reforms to Adult Social Care are underfunded, putting implementation in Gloucestershire at risk and exacerbating existing pressures?</p>	<p>the final model agreed by government reflects the true cost of implementation.</p>
<p>28. Questioner’s name: Cllr David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Until 10th March 2022, when it was finally updated, the privacy policy of the Flare App, which the Leader was happy for this Council to promote without performing any due diligence checks, listed its data controller as a company called “Flare Report Limited”; a company that according to Companies House and the ICO Data Controller Register was not registered. In light of these regulatory omissions, is the Leader still happy to have promoted this without the Council having done due diligence checks, or does he think that a “trust but verify” policy would be better than blind faith, especially in matters related to protecting public safety?</p>	<p>My view remains that the responsibility for ensuring compliance rests with the Constabulary, not GCC, and it would have been disproportionate of GCC to carry out such checks before promoting the Flare App.</p> <p>Please refer to the previous response provided at the meeting on 16th February 2022.</p>
<p>29. Questioner’s name: Cllr David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent’s name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>The high-quality paving laid on the pedestrianised part of Cheltenham High Street near the junction with Cambray Place as an investment to improve the town’s primary shopping area, appears to have recently been dug up by a statutory undertaker, who instead of replacing the high-quality paving like-for-like has replaced it with poor quality black tarmac. Could the Cabinet</p>	<p>Utility companies can record works as interim, this legally gives them six months to replace the original material or surface. We recognise how important it is for utility companies to be monitored and the local streetworks inspector is keeping a close eye on this, if it passes the six-month period it will be defected. Regardless of</p>

<p>Member please confirm:</p> <p>a) Which statutory undertaker was responsible for this?</p> <p>b) When these works were done?</p> <p>c) That this will be monitored by officers and the statutory undertaker will be forced to replace the pavement, like-for-like at no cost to the council taxpayer of Gloucestershire?</p>	<p>the period all repairs will be carried out by the utilities contactor at no cost to GCC. Western Power have remedial work planned next week, Severn Trent are still planning their work.</p>
<p>30. Questioner's name: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>The extension of the 'School Streets' trial was proudly announced by GCC in a media release on 01/03/2022, something our Group wholeheartedly welcomes, given that it was our budget amendments that funded these schemes.</p> <p>However, in the subsequent Environmental Scrutiny Meeting held on 9th September, serious doubt was cast by senior persons present as to their effectiveness, and whether School streets could ever be a viable value-for-money option to roll out across the county.</p> <p>With six trials shortly to be underway, will the Cabinet Member commit to be informed by the results of these trials; such that, if the feedback is positive, such schemes could be rolled out to many more schools across the county in the coming months and years?</p>	<p>The school streets underway in Tewkesbury and in Warden Hill, Cheltenham, are trials funded with one off money. A further £100k one off funding was secured in the 21/22 budget to support additional schemes that have yet to be launched, pending the outcome of the first trials.</p> <p>At Environment Scrutiny Committee this month members heard that the two trials have required considerably more investment in officer time than was envisaged. This is partly because they are new and partly because the schools have faced Covid-related staffing pressures.</p> <p>The trials are being carried out using experimental traffic regulation orders so as part of this process we will be reviewing the evidence and feedback before taking a decision about their future. We will take an objective approach that weighs up the costs, benefits and the potential for using our resources differently to increase active travel and improve road safety near schools.</p>
<p>31. Questioner's name: Cllr Alex Hegenbarth</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith</p>
<p>Across the Bishop's Cleeve division several unrelated road works have recently created traffic chaos - primarily due to what seems to be a lack of coordination between who, where and when different teams will be digging up the road.</p> <p>What can be done to introduce/improve such coordination to save unnecessary traffic, especially at peak times?</p>	<p>I'm sorry to hear of the difficulties that these works have created. We are aware of the works at Smiths Lights (A435), these have been disruptive to the local area, developer work is also taking place on Stoke Road, this has approximately two weeks to completion (after the races). Road space booking is a complex process and staff use their good local knowledge and experience to manage impact as much as possible; permits for these works</p>

	<p>have to be requested in advance but inevitably some works will clash due to the number of requests that take place. Permits allow us to apply conditions to requests, with the aim of minimising disruption.</p>
<p>32. Questioner's name: Cllr David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>Given the likelihood of refugees arriving in our county experiencing conditions such as PTSD, would the Cabinet Member please investigate and consider making Mental Health First Aid courses available at low- or no-cost to those in Gloucestershire who offer to house refugees?</p>	<p>The Council will be working with its system partners, including the district councils and health colleagues to ensure a co-ordinated response to meeting the needs of refugees arriving in our county. This will include consideration of their physical and mental health needs. A Welfare Group has been set up with partners to support the work which includes input from GARAS.</p> <p>The Public Health team already provide free mental health awareness training (including Mental Health First Aid) to front line professionals and volunteers who may come into contact with members of the public experiencing mental health issues. We will be working with our partners to determine what mental health support going forward would be most appropriate to meet the needs of refugees and the needs of those supporting them.</p>
<p>33. Questioner's name: Cllr Lisa Spivey</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Can the Council Leader please provide an urgent briefing on what this Council is doing to help Ukrainian refugees and how our residents can help? Our residents really want to help and councillors need to know how offers can be channelled.</p>	<p>Gloucestershire is fortunate to have well established partnerships for resettling refugees and these partnerships have been quickly mobilised to respond to the situation in Ukraine. In particular the Public Health and Children's Services teams are working to ensure families have access to health care (physical and mental), education, benefit support, and that all other issues pertaining to safeguarding and security are dealt with before families arrive.</p> <p>A more exhaustive update will be provided in a briefing note that is being prepared for councillors.</p>

34. Questioner's name: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>Can the Council Leader confirm which Cabinet Member is taking the lead in managing the Ukrainian refugee crisis?</p>	<p>Cllr Kathy Williams' portfolio has responsibility for refugees, and she will continue to provide this leadership for Ukrainian refugees as she has in the Syrian and Afghan resettlement schemes.</p>
35. Questioner's name: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>What support will this Council make available for those families who offer to take in refugee families (for example, mutual networking and self-support groups)?</p>	<p>It has been wonderful to see how the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme has generated a lot of attention and interest. We are working with all partners including GARAS, District councils, NHS and the existing Ukrainian community in Gloucestershire to ensure all refugees have a safe and warm welcome. Meetings are being held between members of the Slavic community and senior officers and cabinet leads to establish what we can offer families to support them during this traumatic time.</p>
36. Questioner's name: Cllr Linda Cohen	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
<p>Why did GCC release the news on the 11 March that they would waive the fees for street licenses for the Queen's Jubilee and then say it will take a minimum of 12 weeks to process which takes us to precisely 3 June – the start of the Jubilee celebrations?</p> <p>Do you agree that this release was sent far too late for any member of the public to pick up in time?</p>	<p>We had released information on social media about this process in advance of this press release and we are happy to process street party requests until approximately a month before the event. We would like to encourage people to apply early and we will do our best to accommodate all requests that we receive.</p>
37. Questioner's name: Cllr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
<p>Corporate Parenting Report : Given that the one page profiles may potentially facilitate unsupervised contact between cared for children and councillors (such as via work experience as detailed at section 3.2), what plans does the Cabinet Member have to ensure that all councillors who may have any such contact with cared for children are subject to enhanced disclosure and barring service checks, and how will he ensure that the council's safeguarding processes around this are as robust as possible?</p>	<p>There is no plan for councillors to have 'unsupervised contact' with our children and young people. Any conversation that comes about as a result of the one-page profile will be facilitated and chaperoned by the child's social worker or personal adviser. There is therefore no requirement for councillors to undertake an additional DBS check as a result of this work.</p> <p>This position is informed by Legal and HR colleagues and is in line</p>

with DBS guidelines and Gloucestershire's policies.

Should a work experience or other opportunity emerge for a young person, the usual arrangements and safeguards will be followed for that child and the setting in which the opportunity is identified, just as for any child linked to a work experience or other opportunity.

A briefing will be offered to councillors who have provided their profile prior to any facilitated conversation with a child or young person. The corporate parenting group are continuing to finalise arrangements with an update being provided to the next group meeting of 24th March 2022.