

MEMBER QUESTIONS

CABINET MEETING – 25 January 2023

Question 1: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>In the climate report it is stated that:</p> <p>8.95% of the Council's entire carbon footprint is estimated to be from emissions from the supply of goods and services ('Scope 3' emissions), of which we have a limited understanding – we are working to improve our understanding and reporting, in line with the Council's climate emergency declaration in 2019, and to work with key providers to help them reduce their emissions.</p> <p><i>How are you working to improve your understanding of this enormously significant part of the Council's (and County's) carbon emissions footprint?</i></p>	<p>Work is at an early stage on this. We now report the scope 3 emissions associated with the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility. This is the council's single biggest contract. We have begun work with Highways colleagues to set out how we can better understand the impact of Highways operations and reduce our emissions over time. Highways is also one of the biggest areas of contractual expenditure for the council. We plan to work with procurement colleagues in 2023 to estimate emissions associated with all major council contracts and will then work with these providers to develop decarbonisation plans.</p>
Question 2: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>Have you approached the UK100 Countryside Climate Network for examples of how other authorities and corporations are urgently tackling scope 3 emissions successfully?</p>	<p>GCC is an active member of the UK100 Countryside Climate Network and is benefiting from the useful knowledge exchange that this partnership offers in our drive to net zero.</p>

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Question 3: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>Which Key Providers have you helped reduce their emissions?</p>	<p>As outlined in our response to question 1, we are working to identify the council’s providers that make the greatest contribution to our scope 3 emissions and then plan to work with them to develop decarbonisation plans.</p> <p>As part of our procurement work, environmental criteria form an important part of our evaluation. For example, ISO 14001 or an equivalent standard is required as part of the council’s waste management contracts.</p>
Question 4: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>The council has suggested using carbon offsetting as a way to reach NET zero by 2045. The carbon offsetting market is dominated by the temporary biological capture of the carbon released by burning fossil fuels .</p> <p><i>Does the cabinet member agree that “Carbon offsetting” is being used as a convenient excuse for governments, businesses, authorities and individuals that want to avoid potentially tough decisions?”</i></p>	<p>We are committed to reducing emissions at source wherever practical but accept that there are some areas where this may be more difficult to achieve, and it is here that we believe that off-setting might make a valuable contribution.</p>

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<p>Question 5: Cllr Chris McFarling</p> <p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>Is the council going to continue using carbon and nature offsets (through biodiversity net gain) on the assumption that it is possible to trade off harm in one location with good intentions elsewhere?</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p> <p>On-site biodiversity enhancement may be possible for many minerals, waste, school, and highways planning applications. Where enhancing on-site biodiversity is not possible, or if it is better done elsewhere, then offsetting would be progressed.</p> <p>If done well, Biodiversity Net Gain legislation offers an opportunity to fund improvements in Gloucestershire’s nature for the benefit and wellbeing of the county’s residents.</p> <p>GCC is supporting the Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund, an organisation set up by Gloucestershire First and the Local Nature Partnership to administrate off-site BNG requirements and ensure the new legislation works to improve green space in each Local Authority and to strategically restore biodiversity across the county. The GNCF operating principles will ensure that the gold standard in offsite biodiversity net gain is met.</p>
<p>Question 6: Cllr Chris McFarling</p> <p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>The council’s Greener Gloucestershire plans suggest that new technologies and/or tree planting will be able to suck carbon dioxide out of the air in the future to help achieve NET zero, by 2045?</p> <p><i>Does the cabinet member accept that there is not enough land available in Gloucestershire to plant all the trees we need to achieve NET zero by 2045 whilst those very same NET zero</i></p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p> <p>Tree Planting is part of a broader climate change strategy. This is demonstrated by today’s annual report, where annex 1 contains updates on a wide range of work areas.</p> <p>Whilst we are making excellent progress on tree planting, we are keen to explore a range of nature based solutions to climate change including wetland and grassland creation. These are likely to develop as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy process which GCC will be leading on with our partners once guidance is announced by government.</p>

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<i>climate targets will allow for continued rising levels of greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions?</i>	
Question 7: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Which measures proposed in this budget will enable us to meet the current challenges in staff recruitment and staff retention respectively?</p>	<p>Post pandemic, there is a national and regional shortage of workers in many sectors and many employers are struggling to recruit. It is a challenge to attract and retain qualified and experienced staff in some key roles across the council. We have invested short term in recruitment; in upskilling our recruitment team, improving our recruitment practice, increased our social media presence and we are about to launch a new employer brand aimed at attracting a wider pool of people.</p> <p>In recent years, we've invested in agile to enable hybrid working, in career development through the social work academy, our many apprenticeships, our 'growing great managers' programme and in our work to increase the diversity of our workforce. All of these investments contribute to creating a working environment and culture where staff want to stay and work with us.</p> <p>There is £212K additional one-off money in the Corporate Resources budget to fund the additional work in the recruitment team. The impact of the additional investment will be reviewed to consider whether this should be continued. Some of the money to pay for advertising comes from staffing budgets; from underspends due to the vacancies being recruited.</p>
Question 8: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe

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<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>At what point does the Cabinet Member expect to be able to bring forward draft proposals outlining how we could make better use of the Shire Hall estate, bearing in mind our relatively low occupancy figures?</p>	<p>As I said at the Budget Scrutiny session – we are currently working to relocate teams throughout Shire Hall and Quayside House to ensure that we are maximising the use and where possible we are able to bring in other public sector partners. That includes the NHS and services in the County Council.</p> <p>I would also remind everyone that Gloucester City Council moved out last summer and we are also very close to bringing in public sector partner to occupy that space and recover the rental for that space.</p> <p>Meeting and conference facilities are being upgraded and provided with Hybrid ICT facilities to enable a range of remote and in person meetings.</p>
<p>Question 9: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>A number of the proposals in the budget and relying on the successful completion of IT projects to enable their aims to be realised. Can the Cabinet Member confirm which IT development projects are currently ongoing, when the completion date is for each project and is the Cabinet Member confident that our IT projects will be completed on time?</p>	<p>GCC is currently investing in significant ICT transformation. The programme is complex with a wide range of individual projects including network replacement, security improvements, M365 transformation, upgrading service specific software and transitioning it to hosted cloud solutions, new telephony and new performance reporting. Some of these projects are approaching completion but others continue for the rest of the year and into 2024. Officers are updating Cabinet quarterly and now providing reports regarding the core ICT transformation programme to COSC for those members who are interested in the detail. There has recently been a detailed ICT update at Children and Families overview and scrutiny committee which included the timetable for our children’s specific ICT programme and the key corporate programmes.</p>

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	<p>The timetable for any ICT programme of this scale has the potential to change. We've set ambitious milestones based on initial planning. As the projects are delivered, there will be factors that result in changing dates, not least our services' and employees' ability to cope with this volume of change. The important thing is that the movement in timing is well managed and the reasons understood. Significant progress has been made over the last year and we are confident that this will continue throughout 2023.</p> <p>We also intend to work on an updated Digital Strategy for the Council in 2023.</p>
Question 10: Cllr Gill Moseley	Respondent: Cllr Philip Robinson
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>What is the source and destination of the Music Service grant?</p>	<p>The main source of grant income to the Music Service is from the Department of Education which is distributed via Arts Council England to the 'Make Music Gloucestershire' Music Hub, which is led by the Council.</p> <p>Partners, including Gloucestershire Music, Gloucestershire Academy of Music, Music Works and The Cheltenham Festivals, submit bids against the National Plan for Music criteria each year and funding is distributed accordingly.</p> <p>The DFE is looking at reviewing how Music Hubs operate in the future, with an expected reorganisation of the model within the next two years. Consultations are currently ongoing nationally as to how this might work.'</p>

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Question 11: Cllr Gill Moseley	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Given that there is provision for 1000 on-street trickle (or slow) charging points in the draft budget, is there any intention to prepare to fund a wider network of rapid or fast charging points for both private and commercial electric vehicles across the county. Are those planned for Fire Stations for use with the service's own new electric vehicles, slow, fast or rapid?</p>	<p>We are currently planning the first phase of locations for the deployment of on-street EV Charge points (EVCPs) to support those residents that do not have access to off-street parking. The on-street EVCPs will be Fast 7kW chargers. This is a UK standard terminology.</p> <p>Government (ORCS) funding has been applied for which will contribute 60% towards the costs of installing the EVCPs.</p> <p>The government's funding strategy is to support residents only. There is no funding available for private or commercial EVCP investment which are deemed to be commercially viable. Gloucestershire's districts are also looking at deploying EVCPs in their council owned car parks to support visitors to their towns and we are supporting them by enabling them to use our Framework contract.</p> <p>The council fleet, including GFRS vehicles, is, where possible, being replaced by EVs in support of our Climate Change Strategy. Some EVCPs are already deployed on GCC premises as part of this programme and further sites are planned including fire stations to provide charging facilities for these vehicles so that full-service levels are maintained. These will be Fast 7/22kW EVCPs.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to allow public access to EVCPs at GCC premises or fire stations however we are considering this at some libraries.</p>
Question 12: Cllr Gill Moseley	Respondent: Cllr David Gray

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<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>Of the six posts in the sustainability team how many are now filled?</p>	<p>Response relates to Climate Change Strategy Annual Report</p> <p>The six posts within the sustainability team are all currently occupied.</p>
<p>Question 13: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Where will the “efficiency savings” of £432,000 in the vulnerable children’s budget come from?</p>	<p>Across Children’s Services there are a number of initiatives in progress which will identify efficiencies that can be made in the Service Area during 2023/24. These include the transformation of social care; review of all external placements and processes for placing children; market sufficiency; in-house foster care activity; recruitment and retention of social care staff; SEND service, systems and provision; and the implementation of the home to school transport programme.</p>
<p>Question 14: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm what the benefit was to the core budget from the confirmation of the various adult social grants in terms of the amount of planned expenditure those grants have now displaced?</p>	<p>The funding uncertainty of £16.6m included in the consultation budget was confirmed in the provisional settlement and in addition a further £5.6m was announced for social care this is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £887k Independent Living Fund - this was previously a grant so not new money. It has now been subsumed within core funding and consequently is simply a change in the method of funding and has no impact upon the overall level of funding for ASC.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £2.807m Hospital Discharge Fund - this is ring-fenced and GCC awaits further guidance to confirm the uses and conditions attached to it for 2023/24.• £1.918m Adult Social Care Funding - in consultation budget GCC assumed that the grant funding related to the implementation of the Fair Cost of Care would no longer be available, in recognition of the implementation of the reforms being delayed until 2025. In fact, the funding stream has been retained and increased by £210,000 in excess of the 2022/23 allocation. This funding will be directed towards ensuring market sustainability.
Question 15: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>It is recognised in the commissioning intentions for adult social care that there will be an increase in demand for supported living for older residents. What work is the Council currently undertaking with District Council partners to ensure this need is met?</p>	<p>In 2020 GCC produced a Housing with Care Strategy. This strategy was developed in partnership with the six district councils and outlines the requirement for housing with care, also referred to as extra care housing or supported living, for older age adults in Gloucestershire up to 2041. GCC work closely with the six district councils on developments of older people accommodation and comment on assessed need for extra care housing through the planning process. We also have a dedicated housing support officer who works in partnership with the district councils, where we currently have extra care housing, to support the allocations process of extra care, including sitting on allocation panels. In addition there is a strategic housing partnership that has been developed to ensure that across Gloucestershire we are working in collaboration with the six district councils on a range of housing related areas, including supported housing, homeless and new developments. Part of the Strategic Housing Partnership's remit is to support the development of new housing to meet the needs of</p>

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	<p>the residents of Gloucestershire, including older adults. We are also working with our district colleagues to ensure that any developments of extra care housing that are part of strategic housing allocations support the county council’s strategic intentions.</p>
<p>Question 16: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Within the Public Health Budget it is recognised that our influence working with health partners can be as important as our direct spend.</p> <p>Can you identify the work Public Health are engaged in to use our influence to help close the gaps in service provision on Issues around child mental health, suicide prevention, childhood obesity?</p>	<p>The Public Health and Communities team actively work with partners across the system to influence policies and programmes to improve health and wellbeing and deliver on the shared priorities set out in the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing strategy and the new Integrated Care Strategy. The DPH (or their representative) is a voting member of a number of strategic multi-agency groups including the Health and Wellbeing Board and the NHS Gloucestershire Board.</p> <p>Specific examples in the programme areas referenced in the question include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our leadership of the Gloucestershire Suicide Prevention Partnership and oversight of the multi-agency suicide prevention action plan; • Our membership of multi-agency forums aimed at improving child mental health and our joint work with system partners to support mental wellbeing in the county’s schools; • Our work via local partnerships to contribute to the prevention and management of childhood obesity, such as

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	<p>the Feeding Gloucestershire Network, and the countywide 'We Can Move' physical activity programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our role as one of two national test sites for NHS England's Childhood Obesity Integration Programme, working with the One Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board and wider partners.
<p>Question 17: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Is it possible to ascertain how much is being allocated for pavements or is it lost with the overall highways budget?</p>	<p>There is an allocation of £944k for footway structural maintenance within the budget. A number of our major schemes will also include footway replacement or maintenance as part of the overall programme of work. A good example of this is the significant investment in the cycle spine and the current works that are being undertaken at Llanthony Road.</p> <p>In addition, all of our footways are covered by the Council safety inspection policy and this ensures that any more significant defects are identified and repaired as part of our routine revenue works</p>
<p>Question 18: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Saving on street lighting of £169k by reducing voltage, what areas would this apply to, what guidelines would apply, in favour but need to protect public safety at night.</p>	<p>There is an important link between public safety and perception, and street lighting which is recognised.</p> <p>The central management system which GCC has across it's street lighting stock makes it possible for minor adjustments to be made to output light levels.</p>

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	<p>All of the County's main traffic routes would not be subject to these changes. The proposals would therefore only look to reduce output on residential and lit rural routes</p> <p>Street lights in residential and rural areas are currently dimmed to 30% between midnight and 5.30am. This proposal would mean switching those street lights on at 80% output and then keeping at the reduced 30% between midnight and 5.30am.</p> <p>The research review, including by ROSPA, suggests that there is no evidence that reducing or switching off street lighting impacts accident numbers or severity but can have an effect of users feeling less safe. The research recommends that we should be monitoring the effects on accidents if we move forward with this which we will do.</p>
Question 19: Cllr Paul Baker	Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Saving £200k on town centre and residential parking schemes, what does this mean, how has the figure been calculated, will there be a differential in pricing between electric vehicles and petrol/diesel vehicles?</p>	<p>The proposals in the budget will help to support our approach to transport decarbonisation by influencing driver behaviour and enabling the council to reinvest in other forms of sustainable transport. They will also ensure turnover of parking in town centres to support local businesses.</p> <p>Members will be aware that several communities have been asking the council to review parking in their area to address commuter parking pressures and to better manage the availability of parking in town centres.</p> <p>We have been progressing with these reviews in Gloucester and Cheltenham this year and will be considering other areas in the</p>

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	<p>next year. Our residents parking policy includes a 50% discount on the cost of a resident parking permit for Band A vehicles such as electric vehicles.</p>
<p>Question 20: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Boiler replacement at £500k, surely we are not replacing gas boilers, we should be looking at ASHP's or other non-fossil options?</p>	<p>With new technologies still developing each boiler replacement carried out by GCC is assessed on a case-by-case basis and where possible fossil powered boilers are replaced with alternatives or a mix of the two. It is not always possible to retrofit a fully renewable solution in some of our buildings due to their age, listing, construction, existing distribution system, heat emitters and controls etc.</p>
<p>Question 21: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>The amount of street sweeping is due to be reduced as a budget saving, can you explain what this reduction will mean for this service?</p>	<p>Street sweeping is a district council responsibility, and therefore the county council are not responsible for any services changes here. The county council is responsible for the treatment/disposal of street sweepings collected by the district councils. Our savings comes from recycling this waste. Currently the waste is treated at the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility at Javelin Park. However, recycling options are becoming available for this waste stream. These will be explored and are likely to be financially beneficial.</p>
<p>Question 22: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p>	<p>This £1 million is to fund early stage options appraisal to determine which potential projects will be considered for more detailed</p>

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<p>The £1M funding for work on mass rapid transport is to progress the business case and various major transport infrastructure projects. Which projects are currently being considered for this funding?</p>	<p>business case development. It would not be appropriate to specify individual routes at this early stage.</p>
<p>Question 23: Cllr Gill Moseley</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>How much additional staff capacity will the increase in the budget for the sustainability team enable?</p>	<p><u>Response relates to Climate Change Strategy Annual Report</u></p> <p>Three new roles will be created. In addition to this, the council has successfully bid for DEFRA funding for two fixed term posts (of two years) to support our tree planting programme. Recruitment for these new roles will commence shortly.</p>
<p>Question 24: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>We note that very large sums of money are being spent on Cycleways which in itself is a good thing, but we have received much feedback from both urban and rural settings that there is a demand for more localised cycle routes for journeys to/from work, local shops etc, rather than for long distances between major towns. Secondly much smaller sums are committed to public transport, and almost nothing to walking.</p> <p>Indeed, there is little mention of walking in the budget, only £25k for PROW resurfacing, £944k for footways structural maintenance and £1.5m for cycleway and footway maintenance. Would it therefore be better to re-order priorities and phasing within the</p>	<p>We have been extremely successful in securing tens of millions of pounds of government funding to enable our investment in the Gloucestershire cycle spine, including links between Gloucester and Cheltenham, north to Bishop’s Cleeve and south to Stroud. All the schemes proposed and being built include significant improvements for pedestrians. This is evidenced by the installation of two extra zebra crossings on London Road, Gloucester, and new signalised crossings in Cheltenham crossing Princess Elizabeth Way near the roundabout, crossing the A40 Gloucester Road and also on the B4063 and Fiddlers Green Lane near Arle Court.</p>

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<p>capital programme with a view to increasing local cycling, walking, and bus use?</p>	<p>In addition, the county has successfully bid for funding to develop the Mini Holland scheme in Cheltenham, which specifically looks to providing improvements for cyclists and pedestrians in a residential area, through environmental improvement, whilst at the same time allowing these more localised journeys to be connected to the cycle spine.</p> <p>However, this does not mark the extent of our ambitions for improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in the county. We are building our in-house resources to develop new schemes and bid for funding from the DfT and have secured BSIP funding to employ an expert on bus priority and route improvements, who started working with us this week. This will be key to delivering our rolling programme of bus priority improvements and interchange hubs that are in the capital programme this year.</p>
<p>Question 25: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>The £944k capital referred to above for footways structural maintenance appears only in the current year and various sums of money totalling in excess of £50m appear over a range of years for carriageways. In addition, various capital sums aggregating £15m appear further down the list for a range of road classes for structural and reactive maintenance in 2023/24. It is therefore quite opaque as to what the split is for allocating capital maintenance monies between footways and carriageways –</p>	<p>The allocation for carriageways takes into account the additional funding from the £100m commitment to resurfacing as well as the DfT Highways Maintenance funds. There is less certainty moving forward in respect to the DfT allocations and it is this source from which footway structural maintenance is primarily funded.</p> <p>In addition, all of our footways are covered by the Council safety inspection policy and this ensures that significant defects are identified and repaired as part of our routine revenue works</p> <p>A considerable number of councillors chose to fund footway repairs from the Highway local budgets which further contributes to the overall investment.</p>

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<p>either in 2024/5 or in later years. Will the cabinet member please provide clarity as to the respective allocations?</p>	<p>A number of our major schemes will also include footway replacement or maintenance as part of the overall programme of work. A good example of this is the significant investment in the cycle spine and the current works that are being undertaken at Llanthony Road.</p>
<p>Question 26: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>The revenue budget is unclear as to the allocation and split of monies for planned maintenance of footways and carriageways; please provide clarification.</p>	<p>The revenue budget is not allocated between footway and carriageway maintenance as this is reactive and safety work which is dealt with on a needs led basis following asset inspections.</p>
<p>Question 27: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Members receive a high number of complaints (relatively and numerically) about the poor state of footways. Also, there is an GCC emphasis to encouraging walking. Will the cabinet member consider a small reallocation of the resources referred to in the above questions from carriageways to footways to improve pavements and promote walking.</p>	<p>There is an allocation of £944k for footway structural maintenance within the budget. Additional community priority footway works can be carried out through members' highway local allocations.</p>
<p>Question 28: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p>	<p>The adopted Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (2020-2041) sets the County Council's strategic transport vision up to 2041.</p>

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<p>Whilst GCC don't run rail, shouldn't there be a budgeted contribution towards better connections between rail and other transport modes, and/or support for new stations?</p>	<p>This includes the Rail Strategy for Gloucestershire. Working in partnership with the GFirst LEP and the six District Councils, the County Council commissioned a county-wide Rail Investment Strategy. This Strategy will inform the future priorities for infrastructure enhancements which will help enable improved services and connectivity for residents of the county along with visitors and businesses. This will include enhanced connections between rail and other transport modes and investigating the possibility of a new rail station(s) in the county. All County Council expenditure on rail-related activities is included within the existing Transport Planning budget.</p>
<p>Question 29: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>There is only £150k p.a. allocated to the combination of 20mph schemes, and Community speedwatch schemes for 2 years. How does the cabinet member expect to make any impact on the introduction of 20mph limits, as referenced in the new GCC Road Safety policy, with such a low allocation of capital money?</p>	<p>We have introduced a range of measures to support communities with speeding in their local areas. This year we have rolled out a £600,000 fund with the OPCC to equip communities with tools and data to tackle speeding. We continue to work with our partners in the police to identify criteria that would reduce the costs of implementing such schemes.</p> <p>We are looking at best practice across other counties to ensure we deliver efficient and effective speed reduction measures including 20mph schemes. We are also exploring other sources of funding for 20mph schemes and have previously been successful in securing development funding for schemes such as the Cheltenham low traffic neighbourhood.</p>
<p>Question 30: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p>	<p>The County Council has committed to reaching net zero emissions from all sources across the county by 2045. It is correct that one</p>

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<p>The budget proposals on decarbonising transport acknowledge that to achieve our goals in this area we need to look at longer journeys.</p> <p>It can't all be done through electric bikes and cars (even though the questioner has one), so is there a plan in development - with budget - to promote longer journeys of typically 10-50 km by rail, and by express bus services?</p>	<p>key aspect of achieving this challenging transport decarbonisation target is to reduce long journeys by car. Our analysis shows that trips over 20km make up c. 15% of trips, but account for c. 60% of emissions. Using zero emission vehicles for high mileage trips will assist, but is not the only solution. We are currently looking at the introduction of Transport Hubs, particularly in the rural areas, which will allow localised journeys by cycle, walking, demand responsive buses etc, to connect with more long distance strategic bus and coach routes, which will provide an alternative to rail where this doesn't exist.</p> <p>The answer to question 28 above outlines the approach taken regarding rail and the adopted Local Transport Plan also includes several other measures to reduce the reliance on the use of the private car, such as bus and Mass Rapid Transit. All County Council expenditure on these activities is included within the existing Transport Planning budget, which is proposed to be enhanced in 2023/24 by £1M to further progress the business cases of various major transport infrastructure projects in the county, including the Mass Rapid Transit project.</p>
<p>Question 31: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member explain how the funding allocated to road safety with the intention of reducing the number of people</p>	<p>We will be prioritising locations using our hotspot list and working with the police to identify those locations where we can make the greatest reduction in KSI's for the investment made.</p> <p>Further information on this process was set out in the report and papers taken to Cabinet in November when the new Road Safety Policy was agreed.</p>

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<p>killed and seriously injured on our roads be prioritised and allocated?</p>	<p>This year we are investing a further £400k of capital funding into our road safety programme together with £150k of base budget funding to enable the recruitment of experienced engineers to boost our skills and capacity in this area. We are also finalising work on the new team that will take on more of this work in-house, reducing costs and improving delivery times.</p>
<p>Question 32: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>What is the level of funding that will be available for the gritting of roads during severe cold weather in 2023/24 for primary and secondary routes respectively?</p>	<p>A budget allocation is made for winter maintenance and adverse weather. However, the Adverse Weather Policy sets out how decisions are made about what winter maintenance actions need to be taken. Therefore action is taken on a needs basis and not based on a budget split between route types.</p>
<p>Question 33: Cllr Linda Cohen</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p> <p>Within the 2023/24 Budget, what funding will be available to communicate the Council’s plans and activities to Gloucestershire residents, and to proactively engage with and involve residents in the Council’s work?</p>	<p>The Communications Team will work with services to develop deliverable communications plans in order to raise awareness of key areas of the proposed budget.</p>
<p>Question 34: Cllr Linda Cohen</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27</p>	<p>As above.</p>

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<p>Will each new initiative contained in the Budget have a clear and properly costed communications plan attached to it? Is this reflected in the communications budget?</p>	
<p>Question 35: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 7: Sufficiency Strategy for Children and Young People 2022-26</p> <p>‘The Home @ Heart Strategy’ is welcome but it appears to still be in draft stage and incomplete – should this decision not wait until the strategy is finalised and signed off?</p>	<p>Sufficiency Strategy “Home at the Heart” is in draft form because the strategy is the focus of today’s meeting and consideration for sign off. Once approved by Cabinet today (25th January) the strategy becomes the Council’s substantive strategy. It will help us provide better quality provision for our young people who need it, closer to their home and support networks and offer good value for money.</p>
<p>Question 36: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Variation of existing contracts for Children and Family Centres</p> <p>The move to the new family hub model had been planned for some time but the extension of the existing contracts implied that the timetable for this has slipped – what has caused this delay?</p>	<p>The proposed contract extension will provide additional time for procurement of the new contracts and allow for further community and voluntary sector engagement. This will provide sufficient time for the VCS to prepare for this transformation as feedback from organisations has been they felt more time was needed. One of the aims of the extension is to support the development of capacity and reduce any barriers to their meaningful participation within the procurement process.</p>
<p>Question 37: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Variation of existing contracts for Children and Family Centres</p>	<p>A full EIA attached to the cabinet paper has been undertaken. We have also considered the impact on social care to move from the</p>

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<p>What assessments have been made about the impact of the delay to implementing the new family hub model?</p>	<p>targeted family support service to a more, early intervention and prevention model and concluded that the infrastructure needs more work, and the transformation of social care will provide this.</p>
<p>Question 38: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Variation of existing contracts for Children and Family Centres</p> <p>What support will be provided to the wider voluntary and community sector, including smaller organisations, to be ready to bid after this current extension period ends</p>	<p>GCC will work in partnership with the Voluntary Sector Alliance to ensure advice, guidance and support is in place for those organisations that wish to bid for the Family Hub contracts.</p> <p>In addition to the one we have already held, the Commissioning team will undertake more market engagement events to provide information to the sector and while we cannot directly work with organisations to support their preparation for tendering the Alliance will have an offer to these organisations that will support them in order for them to be ready to bid for the new contracts.</p>
<p>Question 39: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: Variation of existing contracts for Children and Family Centres</p> <p>What responses have non-contracted VCS organisations who were considering bidding for these contracts had to the announcement of these contract extensions?</p>	<p>The responses have been positive in terms of they see we want to get this right in Gloucestershire for our children and their families. They have expressed they would welcome more market engagement that could test the proposed model and allow us to gain feedback from organisations with experience in delivering the Family Hub model.</p>
<p>Question 40: Cllr Linda Cohen</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Gloucestershire’s Holiday Activity and Food Programme 2023-2024</p>	

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<p>Of the budget used to provide holiday activities and food to children, how much of this is funded directly by central Government and how much funding is committed directly by the County Council?</p>	<p>The DfE budget to the HAF programme for 23/24 is £1,615,710. This is grant funding received by the Council. It is not reoccurring funding</p> <p>The committed funding from GCC to the programme is £200,000.</p>
<p>Question 41: Cllr Linda Cohen</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Gloucestershire’s Holiday Activity and Food Programme 2023-2024</p> <p>What proportion of Gloucestershire’s school children are eligible for the offer, and what criteria is used to determine eligibility? Does the offer include Children who don’t qualify for the pupil premium or free school meals?</p>	<p>The offer as set out by DfE is for all children eligible for benefit related FSM.</p> <p>The proportion of children in Gloucestershire eligible for the HAF offer is 20.3%.</p> <p>Gloucestershire has accessed match funding from COMF and recently grant funding to enable an open offer to all families and to those within families that are under 5 so not eligible or those post 16 who again are not eligible.</p> <p>Gloucestershire has been committed to ensuring no child goes hungry and has worked in partnership with districts to join up food offers for families as part of the HAF programme.</p>
<p>Question 42: Cllr Linda Cohen</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: Gloucestershire’s Holiday Activity and Food Programme 2023-2024</p>	<p>DfE set out in the guidance schedule the hours and type of provision we need to provide to meet the programmes objectives.</p> <p>There must be an offer available to children in each district that consists of 4 days per delivery week that consists of a variety of</p>

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<p>What is the plan for these activities in terms of the hours and type of provision? Do these plans reflect the feedback received from the activities run in previous school holidays?</p>	<p>activities that provide 4 hours delivery that must include within that time 1 hour of physical activity and can include a nutritious meal as well as some nutritional education and learning. Each week there can be an offer of a family meal or resources available for families to come together and eat or cook together.</p> <p>After each delivery period we run a survey for feedback to inform the next delivery period as well as undertaking forums with parents and children to again inform the ongoing development of the programme. Data sets also provide us with robust information on emerging needs.</p> <p>The HAF steering group is an opportunity to ensure partnership working and co-production to the programme that builds on the good practice of the offer available to children and families.</p>
<p>Question 43: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Recommissioning Youth Support Services - an extension to the current contract</p> <p>This is re-tender will take the original four-year contract into its 11th year. Changes to the “operational landscape” are used as the latest reason – what does this mean and is this a reasonable basis for yet another extension?</p>	<p>The whole Youth Support Service remains under review as part of the retender process to ensure it meets the ever changing needs of our young people moving forward. The need to fully review the operational landscape of Youth Support is further intensified by the absolute need to align a revised Youth support service with the incoming Family Hubs service, alongside a review of the Youth Justice element of the service through the Youth Justice board.</p>
<p>Question 44: Cllr Ben Evans</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies</p>

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<p>Agenda Item 10: Recommissioning Youth Support Services - an extension to the current contract</p> <p>What is the legal landscape for extending contracts on such a monumental basis?</p>	<p>Legal have been consulted and involved with the retender at every stage and advised as follow:</p> <p>It is possible to modify the contract with prospects midway through their term under the regulation below:</p> <p>Modification of contracts during their term (Public Contracts Regulations)</p> <p>72.(1) Contracts and framework agreements may be modified without a new procurement procedure in accordance with this Part in any of the following cases:-</p> <p>(c)where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:-</p> <p>(i)the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen;</p> <p>(ii)the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract;</p> <p>(iii)any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract or framework agreement</p> <p>Legal were of the opinion that all of the prerequisite terms under the regulations had been met and there was therefore an implied modification of the contract in place as the parties continued contracting as if there was a contract in place long past contract conclusion.</p>
<p>Question 45: Cllr David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Philip Robinson</p>

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<p>Agenda Item 11: School Admission Arrangements for 2024/25 Academic Year</p> <p>In 2020, parents were required select their secondary school choices before the results of the 11+ were known. This caused considerable distress. Could the Cabinet Member clarify and confirm that the secondary admissions process and timetable will ensure that parents will know their child’s 11+ exam results before they are required to decide which schools to apply for?</p>	<p>2020 was a unique year where Covid restrictions meant that the Grammar School Test was delayed. As a result, the test results could not be sent out to parents before the admissions closing date.</p> <p>We do not envisage this happening again unless there are Covid restrictions in place in the future.</p> <p>As there were no Covid restrictions on the test day, 17th September 2022, the results were sent out on 17th October 2022 so families were aware of their results before the closing date for applications. The timeline for September transfer, 2024 will follow the agreed timetable, therefore the results will be sent to parents before the closing date for applications unless there are Covid restrictions in place.</p>
<p>Question 46: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: Decision to Procure and Award a Contract to Deliver Community Drug and Alcohol Services for Adults from 1st April 2024</p> <p>The report on drug and alcohol services shows that a third of all people in Gloucestershire are likely to have used an illegal drug in their lifetime whilst almost a third of people in our county are drinking more alcohol than the recommended weekly amount. Whilst the suggestions in the report take some steps to try to address this, surely with such massive numbers involved there has to be a major rethink in how drink and drug problems are tackled? What is your strategy for how the Council deals long term with widespread drug and alcohol use?</p>	<p>Tackling rising drug and alcohol use should not be seen in isolation, with treatment and recovery services (commissioned by the Public Health and Communities team) being just one part of the solution. The trends are closely linked with geographic and socioeconomic inequalities and a ‘whole system’ approach is needed, one that treats addiction as a chronic condition and tackles mental and physical health alongside wider determinants such as housing and employment.</p> <p>The National Drugs Strategy guidance for local authorities (2022) recommended that local areas convene multi-agency partnerships that will work together to achieve the ambitions of the strategy, including to: break drug supply chains, improve the quality of</p>

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	<p>treatment and recovery services and achieve a shift in the demand for drugs.</p> <p>Gloucestershire’s Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) is in its infancy but is committed to tackling these complex issues together. Following completion of the recent drug and alcohol needs assessment, the CDP is currently developing its first action plan covering prevention, treatment and recovery, and enforcement.</p>
<p>Question 47: Cllr David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: Decision to Procure and Award a Contract to Deliver Community Drug and Alcohol Services for Adults from 1st April 2024</p> <p>Given the marked increase in illegal drugs being cut with the dangerously potent synthetic opioid Fentanyl, what work will be done within any future drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service to ensure that the antidote Naloxone is available to service users to try to reduce the risk of deaths of those in treatment?</p>	<p>The Gloucestershire adult treatment service is commissioned as an integrated system, delivering a wide range of specialist interventions and treatment for drug and alcohol misuse and dependence. This includes harm reduction initiatives such as needle exchange, and take-home naloxone.</p> <p>The recent additional funding from government in the form of the ‘Universal Drug Grant’ (2021) allowed us to distribute 863 additional doses of naloxone and we continue to see this as an important harm reduction tool.</p> <p>The Police also have naloxone in custody and give it out on assessment of an individual needing it.</p>
<p>Question 48: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: Specialist Sexual Health Service delivery arrangements 2024 - 2033</p>	<p>Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention will continue to be available free of charge for those who need it with the continuation of the Specialist Sexual Health Service delivery arrangements through 2024 – 2033.</p>

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<p>Regarding specialist health services, can you please confirm that PREP will be available free of charge to all Gloucestershire residents who need it?</p>	
<p>Question 49: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: Specialist Sexual Health Service delivery arrangements 2024 - 2033</p> <p>Latest reports from across the country show a large increase in STIs amongst the over 65s. What is the rate of STIs amongst this age group in Gloucestershire compared to the rest of England?</p>	<p>The rate of all new STI diagnosis in over 65s in Gloucestershire is 10.8 per 100,000 population, which is below the rate for England which is 15.6 per 100,000 population.</p>
<p>Question 50: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: Specialist Sexual Health Service delivery arrangements 2024 - 2033</p> <p>Given the reported rise in sexually transmitted infections in adults over 50 years old, can I seek confirmation that the continued Specialist Sexual Health Service delivery arrangements will look to engage with older adults to ensure that there aren't increasing inequalities in sexual health between different age groups?</p>	<p>The County Council has a statutory duty to provide open access sexual health services to everyone present in their area. As such, the provision of STI testing and treatment services will continue to be available to people of all ages in the county via the Specialist Sexual Health Service, including the option to access remote testing kits via the service's online portal.</p> <p>Commissioners will continue to work with the provider of the Specialist Sexual Health Service to monitor trends in STI diagnosis and ensure the service is engaging with groups at risk of poor sexual health.</p>
<p>Question 51: Cllr David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p>	<p>Carbon Capture technology at Energy from Waste facilities is at an early stage of development within the UK. The council hopes to</p>

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<p>What, if anything, are the Council doing to try to get carbon capture technology installed at Javelin Park, and if nothing is being done, why is this not being considered?</p>	<p>commission a study in 2023 with its contractor at the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste facility to better understand the potential and feasibility of carbon capture.</p>
<p>Question 52: Cllr David Willingham</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>How many GCC buildings still have single glazing, and what plans are in place to identify these locations and remediate them?</p>	<p>Although the council has a number of buildings with single glazing, it is upgrading these when required on condition grounds or where they form part of a wider refurbishment project. These are all subject to planning, listed building consent and building regulation.</p>
<p>Question 53: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr David Gray</p>
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>Does the Cabinet Member think that the targets on the rollout of EV charging points is sufficiently ambitious?</p>	<p>This is an ambitious target to help us get on with delivering practical support to Gloucestershire’s residents in the short to medium term.</p> <p>As the Local Highway Authority the council has an important role to play in deploying EV charge points (EVCPs) on streets in residential areas where people do not have private off road parking. Our investment should not be seen in isolation, but as complementing private investment in EV charging hubs, and charging provision in workplaces, supermarkets, petrol station forecourts and other car parks.</p> <p>The predicted take-up of electric vehicles, even with the planned rollout of EVCPs, means that there will still be some residents that that will not have the ability to over-night charge close to their home. The government, via OZEV (Office for Zero Emission</p>

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	<p>Vehicles) has recognised this and has announced the more ambitious LEVI funding for Tier 1 authorities from April 2023 to help accelerate residential EVCP deployment. GCC are engaging with OZEV and their partner, the Energy Savings Trust, to ensure that we are well positioned to take full advantage of this new funding.</p>
Question 54: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent: Cllr David Gray
<p>Agenda Item 16: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 3rd Annual Report & 5-Year Action Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28</p> <p>Would the Council reach the 80% carbon emission reduction target for our own emissions by 2030 at the current rate of progress?</p>	<p>Yes, a 78% reduction has already been achieved. Emission reduction measures continue to be developed to take us as near to net zero as possible.</p>