

MEMBER QUESTIONS

CABINET MEETING – July 2023

Question 1: Cllr Chloe Turner	Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>Agenda Item 7: Gloucestershire Economic Strategy - approval to commence seven-week public engagement.</p> <p>Presumably GCC officers have discussed in advance with district officers the intention to embed the action of a countywide Spatial Development Planning Strategy within the Economic Strategy? Is there support from the districts for this action?</p>	<p>It is not possible to produce a robust economic strategy without considering land use issues. The proposals outlined within the Economic Strategy Engagement document align with the commitments made by the County Council and the six district authorities when agreeing the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground.</p> <p>District officers have been engaged throughout the preparation of the Economic Strategy Engagement document. This has included regular monthly updates through the Economic Development Officers Forum, two District officers being part of the project Task Group, and an individual meeting with District authority to capture the views of officers during the first stage of the engagement process. The views captured through these processes have informed the content of the engagement document.</p>
Question 2: Cllr Chloe Turner	Respondent: Cllr Stephen Davies
<p>Agenda Item 8: Youth Justice Plan 2023/24</p> <p>The <i>Child First</i> concept and the avoidance of <i>adultification</i> (section 4) through the use of terms like "young person" and "adolescent" makes a lot of sense to me, yet the terms "young person" and "youth" are used widely within the report - why is this? I appreciate that sometimes this will relate to the regulated name of a body eg</p>	<p>The Children First Programme is delivering outcomes and the use of the word 'child' rather than 'young person' or 'youth', is a specific choice for Gloucestershire. As is recognised in the question, the terms 'youth' and 'young person' are common, nationally recognised terms, for example, youth court, youth justice cases, youth work, youth violence etc.</p>

the Youth Justice Board, but these terms are also being widely used in the document where "child"/"children" could be substituted.

Throughout our plan, the terms child or children are used wherever possible in relation to Youth Justice delivery in Gloucestershire for any child up to the age of 18 years. However, the Youth Board, referenced, involves children and young people up to the age of 22 years and is not limited solely to those in touch with the Youth Justice Service, hence the use of the term 'Youth Board', which was chosen by its members.

Other instances of the use of the terms 'young people' or 'youth' tend to be in relation to wider cohorts than children in the youth justice system for example, "young people in the wider community". Changing the language seeks to support a change in the culture and we note that the point raised is correct in that in some places, the language has slipped, particularly in the section in which challenges are identified. This will be reviewed and rectified.

An implicit challenge of the question raised, is whether (or not) the wider Youth Support Team should make greater use of the term 'child' and 'children'. Prospects Youth Support Service, of which the Youth Justice Service is a part, works with individuals up to the age of 24, so will consider how to expand the language to be inclusive of all children and young people, and will reflect discussions with children and young people themselves about the use of language.

Question 3: Cllr Andrew Gravells

Respondent: Cllr Philip Robinson

Agenda Item 10: Establishment and construction of a new special school for children and young people (aged 4-16) with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties (MALD)

Thank you for the question, the council team is committed to keeping the community and other stakeholders up-to-date with developments as the school building progresses.

This site has been earmarked for a school for many many years now and I welcome the proposals today for this new school being built here . All children deserve the best start in life and some children need a little more help than others in their younger years while they're still at school .

I look forward to working with the Lead Member and his team from now on ,from today , right up to the Opening day to deliver the most modern and welcoming building that we can for the children who will be learning and playing there.

I've learned over the years , especially with the advent of social media , that good and swift communications are a key ingredient if any new building project is to be successful and warmly welcomed into the community .

So will Cllr Robinson today please assure me that he and his Team will ensure that the county council's feedback on the progress of the building ,especially to the people whose homes back onto the site where the school will be built, if that's accepted today , will be frequent , jargon free , and responsive to the concerns and questions local people will certainly raise as the building goes up .

My initial discussions with Cllr Robinson and his team in the run up today have been helpful and thoughtful and give me cause to be optimistic about the future success of this new school.

I'm happy to give this new school all of my time that it'll take to ensure that it gets off to the best possible start and that any issues which arise, as doubtless they will, are addressed straightaway.

One issue which has already arisen during conversations with local people is about the extra traffic that will be generated , and that concern has been addressed as I've been given an assurance

A dedicated webpage will provide regular updates on the proposals and address Frequently Asked Questions. This is already live and has been accessed by interested parties.

In addition to this, drop-in information sessions will be arranged as the project develops. This will give interested parties the opportunity to learn more about how the school will operate and its approach to meeting the needs of this group of vulnerable learners.

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to view the proposed designs ahead of the application for planning approval being submitted as well as the opportunity to formally comment during the planning decision process itself.

We have kept, and will continue to keep, locally elected representatives up to date as the project develops and officers intend to work closely with the local community and their representatives in relation to the development of more detailed proposals.

The Trust that is appointed to run the school will undertake consultation and face-to-face information sessions with residents and other interested stakeholders before opening the school.

The majority of children and young people who attend special schools travel to and from school using council-arranged minibuses. This produces much less traffic than a mainstream school where children are often dropped off and picked up by their parents. The proposal will include enough on-site staff and visitor parking and will allow taxis and minibuses to drop-off and pick-up pupils within the school site, avoiding roadside drop off and pick-ups. This aspect will be carefully planned to make sure vehicles are not queuing onto the road at the start and end of the school day.

<p>already that the children will mostly arrive by minibus which will drive right into the school site for everyone's safety .There won't be the congestion on the roads we see outside other larger schools in Abbeydale.</p>	<p>We will use a transport consultant to assess any impact on traffic and highways that may arise due to the proposed new school, and propose suitable measures to address any such impact.</p>
<p>Question 4: Cllr Rebecca Halifax</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Procurement of the contract for the provision of post diagnostic community autism support</p> <p>What is our understanding of the market in this area, to be confident the tender will attract a range of high-quality bids to assess?</p>	<p>Over the contract term, the understanding and awareness of autism has increased considerably, which has included the upskilling of local and national providers. We held a Market Engagement Event in May 2023, advertised via ProContract, which attracted interest from 37 organisations. The community autism provision has regularly been discussed via platforms such as the multi-agency Autism Partnership Board, and the Learning Disability & Autism Clinical Programme both locally and regionally. We have also built strong relationships with existing providers via a quarterly Provider Forum, which has seen an increase in autism specialised providers. We will also be advertising a follow up Market Engagement event in September, following Cabinet approval, to further attract interest and bids. All of this knowledge will allow us to design a tender that is attractive to a diverse pool of interested providers and ensure high-quality bids.</p>
<p>Question 5: Cllr Rebecca Halifax</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Procurement of the contract for the provision of post diagnostic community autism support</p> <p>How will tenders submitted be weighted against quality, value for money and social value respectively?</p>	<p>Any tenders will contain a requirement for the provider to demonstrate quality, value for money and social value. In terms of social value, questions will focus on volunteering and employment opportunities, engagement with the local community and importantly how it improves the lives and outcomes of individuals. The weighting will ensure quality, assurance and financial viability are all considered. Weighting options will be made in conjunction</p>

	with the Council's strategic procurement department ensuring due process and best practice is followed, and we will ensure that considerations of social value will be in line with Council policy.
Question 6: Cllr Rebecca Halifax	Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin
<p>Agenda item 5: Procurement of the contract for the provision of post diagnostic community autism support</p> <p>Considering the disparity between known numbers of autistic people within the county, and those who have been formally diagnosed, plus the extremely long waiting list and/or difficulty faced by many getting referral for diagnosis, how will this service work with other in-county providers to improve diagnosis and reduce waiting times for adults?</p>	<p>It is expected that the service will continue to work closely with the local diagnostic service, as well as other primary and secondary providers to increase awareness of available resources and support as well as training. This will establish referral pathways and build diagnostic capacity. The service will advocate for awareness and use a data- driven approach to identify areas for improvement. The service currently has a good relationship with primary and secondary care services, to both improve the quality of referrals to diagnostic services, and support adults whilst waiting for diagnosis, which we expect to continue.</p>
Question 7: Cllr Rebecca Halifax	Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin
<p>Agenda item 5: Procurement of the contract for the provision of post diagnostic community autism support</p> <p>How will the providers of this service work to reduce inequality in autism service provision to improve experiences for autistic women, whose diagnosis is typically slower than their male counterparts, and who historically face greater challenges socially as autistic individuals because of gender-based stereotyping?</p>	<p>Part of the service design is to offer drop-in services, which support people pre, during and post diagnosis, as well as those who self-identify as autistic. Whilst current service data reflects that more men are receiving the one-to-one service, the peer-support drop ins have provided opportunity for a greater number of autistic women to seek support, as well as share experiences and gain invaluable information from others. Moreover, the service delivers reasonable adjustments training for support services and teams across the country to highlight the varying needs of autistic people, which has often focussed on improving experiences for autistic women. The service will also be expected to incorporate gender informed practices, provide training and collaborate with organisations to challenge stereotypes and promote inclusion.</p>

	<p>There will also be contract monitoring in place, which will report on protected characteristics including gender. This will enable both the commissioner and provider to monitor service use and pro-actively develop plans to reduce inequalities.</p>
<p>Question 8: Cllr Rebecca Halifax</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Procurement of the contract for the provision of post diagnostic community autism support</p> <p>What reporting will this service provide to show progress in areas of engagement, experience, gender provision, etc?</p>	<p>The service will be required on a quarterly basis to report service delivery against KPIs via contract monitoring, including progress on engagement, experience and key themes that have arisen during that quarter. This will include metrics on engagement, feedback assessments, gender-specific analysis, outcome measures and comparative analysis for continuous improvement and accountability. As well as regular reporting to the Council, the service will also regularly report and engage with the Autism Partnership Board and Clinical Programme Board, in line with local and national Strategy, including a narrative report on an annual basis.</p>
<p>Question 9: Cllr Lisa Spivey</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin</p>
<p>Agenda item 6: Gloucestershire Health and Social Care Framework Agreement</p> <p>What work are we leading as the County Council to support the infrastructure and capacity within our local VCS?</p>	<p>There is a separate Community Opportunities Framework which VCS organisations play a major role in delivering the services within.</p> <p>We are exploring lighter touch processes for The Community Opportunities Framework as these services are unregulated.</p> <p>We will be holding an event with the VCS in the Autumn to review the options for how we commission these services going forward.</p>

	<p>The VCS plays an important role in Adult Social Care, and we have a number of separate block contracts and grants which deliver early intervention/preventative services.</p> <p>In addition, Public Health and Communities give Thriving Communities Grants to the VCS each year.</p>
<p>Question 10: Cllr Lisa Spivey</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin</p>
<p>Agenda item 6: Gloucestershire Health and Social Care Framework Agreement</p> <p>Do we insist that providers who secure contracts such as these with us must be Living Wage employers?</p>	<p>The current hourly rate for each of the Lots within the Framework account for the cost of the living wage as well as a number of additional costs and overheads.</p> <p>The hourly rate for the Frameworks benchmarks well with other areas in the SW Region.</p> <p>Providers of health and social care services are private businesses therefore they control how they pay their staff.</p> <p>Legal advice we have received states that we cannot dictate to providers how they pay their own employees.</p>
<p>Question 11: Cllr Lisa Spivey</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin</p>
<p>Agenda item 6: Gloucestershire Health and Social Care Framework Agreement</p> <p>These contracts, if the option to extend was taken up – would run for 8 years. The previous framework agreement was for 4 years – what is the thinking behind the longer period this time</p>	<p>The length of the Framework has been shaped due to robust feedback from providers. Benefits to extending the length of the framework include:</p>

	<p>Better use of resources - this is a resource intensive process, so increasing the timescale will allow providers to allocate more resources into the running and improvement of services.</p> <p>It is likely to increase the stability of the market.</p> <p>It will be better for people receiving care if the market is more stable.</p> <p>It will enable providers to plan their business within a longer timescale.</p> <p>The framework will open on an annual basis therefore will not limit the number of organisations able to join.</p> <p>If the needs of the Gloucestershire population change, the Council will not be limited to the sole use of the Framework.</p>
<p>Question 12: Cllr Lisa Spivey</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin</p>
<p>Agenda item 6: Gloucestershire Health and Social Care Framework Agreement</p> <p>What steps will we take in the procurement process and it's design to ensure that small local organisations are able to be weighted fairly against large national organisations who have more capacity to write tenders and bids?</p>	<p>We are setting the economic and financial standing criteria appropriately for the level of business that providers will deliver.</p> <p>The process will be proportionate to the size of the organisations and smaller businesses will have equal access to Framework and packages of care.</p> <p>There is a good mix within the current framework of different size organisations and our intention is to continue this going forward.</p> <p>We are exploring lighter touch process for The Community Opportunities Framework as these services are unregulated.</p>

<p>Question 13: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda item 7: Gloucestershire Economic Strategy - approval to commence seven-week public engagement.</p> <p>Would it not have been appropriate to refer the report to Economic growth scrutiny committee prior to the consultation exercise?</p>	<p>Updates on the preparation of the Economic Strategy Engagement document have to date been provided to GEGJC. It was felt that it would be more appropriate to provide feedback to the Economic growth scrutiny committee post the public engagement process so members could understand the views of stakeholders ahead of work commencing on the production of the full strategy.</p>
<p>Question 14: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda item 7: Gloucestershire Economic Strategy - approval to commence seven-week public engagement.</p> <p>Can I ask that the Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee has this strategy as a standing item on its agenda to report back on progress?</p>	<p>Discussions are ongoing with colleagues in DSU to agree how best the economic strategy will be presented at scrutiny.</p>
<p>Question 15: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Agenda item 7: Gloucestershire Economic Strategy - approval to commence seven-week public engagement.</p> <p>Will there be public meetings perhaps hosted by District Councils or Chambers of Commerce or the NFU for example?</p>	<p>There are no public meetings planned during the public engagement process. To inform the production of the engagement document numerous stakeholder interviews took place where stakeholders were invited to provide their views on their priorities this informed the content of the engagement document. The Chamber of Commerce and the District Councils took part in these discussions as did stakeholders representing rural interests.</p>
<p>Question 16: Cllr Paul Baker</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>

Agenda item 7: Gloucestershire Economic Strategy - approval to commence seven-week public engagement.

Ensuring our schools are providing the right skill sets for our future business growth is critical. Can we be sure that all schools and colleges are engaged in a relevant way to do this? Will that form part of this engagement?

This is an important part of the development and delivery of the emerging strategy. Through the work of the Gloucestershire Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs), it will bring together employers, education, and training providers and other local stakeholders to set out the key priorities and changes needed locally. This will ensure post-16 technical education and training prepares employees better for work.

In addition to this, the county council's own Employment and Skills Hub works closely with schools and school leavers to provide support. And the soon to be integrated Careers Hub will strengthen this relationship.

Post public engagement, young people as well as education providers have been identified as a target audience for the workshop programme (the next phase of the engagement process). These workshops will engage with groups of stakeholders to understand the opportunities and challenges of delivering the outcomes identified in the emerging strategy.

Question 17: Cllr Paul Baker

Respondent: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

Agenda item 7: Gloucestershire Economic Strategy - approval to commence seven-week public engagement.

Agriculture is a major employer and also a major contributor to carbon emissions. I can see no specific reference to reducing reliance on pesticides and fertilisers to try and help soil recover, improve bio-diversity, reduce river pollution and reduce costs to farmers.

Reducing carbon emissions is a key thread throughout the county's ambition to deliver a sustainable and inclusive economy. The emerging strategy has identified agriculture as a local strength and wishes to complement existing policies and strategies and engage with businesses in the long-term to identify their barriers to decarbonisation.

As part of the post public engagement process, we are delivering a series of workshops with representatives from key local industries. The GFirst LEP business groups, including the agri-food and rural

	group will be invited to explore issues pertinent to growing the economy sustainably and in a positive environmental way.
Question 18: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent: Cllr Carole Allaway Martin
<p>Agenda Item 9: Recommissioning of a Mental Health Support and Advice Service which assists Adults with a Serious Mental Illness and/or Common Mental Condition</p> <p>What are the reasons for treating this area differently (i.e. not including it in the wider framework agreement referenced in the earlier Cabinet Paper)?</p>	<p>Gloucestershire’s Health and Social Care Frameworks have been developed, in part, to ensure there is a consistency of processes, contract terms and pricing for floating support and supported living services. The contract terms that sit within the frameworks allow for provision of packages of care based on assessed eligible care and support needs for a fixed price depending on the category of that provision.</p> <p>The Mental Health Support and Advice Service has a broader focus on holistic support which encompasses the wider determinants of social health which is inclusive of individuals who have mental ill health which is not based on an eligibility criterion of assessed health and social care needs. This Mental Health Support and Advice service will provide an integrated community model that sits across localities. The service will offer a bespoke accessible, supportive, and collaborative approach to addressing the needs of Gloucestershire residents. On this basis the service also supports a preventative approach which works to reduce the likelihood of an individual needing further health and social care services and support in the future.</p> <p>The procurement of this service sits separately to the Health and Social Care Frameworks to allow flexibility of delivery to respond to changing needs, with secondary/tertiary preventative focus aligned to our duty under the Care Act to prevent, delay and/or reduce the care and support needs, a wider eligibility criterion and a flexibility of budget which can respond to these which the Frameworks would not allow for.</p>

<p>Question 19: Cllr Linda Cohen</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Philip Robinson</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Establishment and construction of a new special school for children and young people (aged 4-16) with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties (MALD)</p> <p>This school is very welcome, but there remains a real issue with special school provision meeting need overall. What is our assessment of how many children in Gloucestershire are in need of a special school place and how many places are currently available in the County? What are the medium-term plans to close the gap?</p>	<p>We are continuing to work with our own special schools where possible, to provide additional places, however, there are now limited options for this and new schools are required.</p> <p>Our numbers of children waiting for special school places fluctuates but on average is approximately 120 children. The service actively continues securing places and has increased capacity in its casework and commissioning team to support this work.</p> <p>Utilisation is high, with very few available places. We keep the use of specialist places under constant review to ensure they are best used as the picture changes over time. This is largely because children will move into and out of schools and is dependent on the assessed needs of the children.</p> <p>Along with this proposed new school, Sladewood Primary Academy will open in September 2023. This will, over time, provide 60 additional places. Brook Academy is also increasing its capacity with a growing number on roll from September 2023.</p> <p>In the medium term we continue to work with our Independent non maintained Special School market to develop provision suitable for the needs of the children of Gloucestershire. We have commissioned a further analysis of future requirements of specialist provision. This will made available once completed.</p>
<p>Question 20: Cllr Linda Cohen</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Philip Robinson</p>

<p>Agenda Item 10: Establishment and construction of a new special school for children and young people (aged 4-16) with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties (MALD)</p> <p>What is your assessment of the market, and our ability to attract bids from Trusts with a strong track record of running schools of this type to deliver this school?</p>	<p>The council anticipates a high level of interest in relation to the proposed new school from Academy Trusts and we have already had some enquiries.</p> <p>The opportunity to bid to run the school will be advertised nationally and promoted using the networks supported by the Regional Director for Schools and the DfE.</p> <p>We had a high level of interest to run the special school that opened in September 2022, shortlisting four Trusts for interview. We were also able to successfully identify a Trust with a strong and proven track record to run the new special school that opens in September 2023.</p>
<p>Question 21: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Dom Morris</p>
<p>Agenda item 11: Procurement of street lighting works and services and revised council approach for management and administration of service.</p> <p>I welcome the intention to bring back elements of the service in-house, but am worried that the staffing structure for the new operating model in-house has yet to be agreed. When do you expect to have that resolved and how does it impact the timeline for the transfer?</p>	<p>The new staffing structure would be agreed early within the procurement timeline to allow for appropriate consultation with staff and trade unions. It would be an integral element to the procurement timeline and transfers would be completed at the time of contract commencement.</p>
<p>Question 22: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Dom Morris</p>
<p>Agenda item 11: Procurement of street lighting works and services and revised council approach for management and administration of service.</p>	<p>Staff transferring into the Council are covered by TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment Rights) legislation which ensures that their existing terms and conditions are protected.</p>

<p>Are we able to match the terms and conditions, including on pay, for the staff transferring into GCC?</p>	
<p>Question 23: Cllr Roger Whyborn</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Dom Morris</p>
<p>Agenda item 11: Procurement of street lighting works and services and revised council approach for management and administration of service.</p> <p>Are savings anticipated to the Council from these proposals? If so, what is the breakdown of those savings?</p>	<p>It is anticipated that there will be significant benefits and efficiency savings created by bringing some of the operations in-house. As a result, there will be a reduced contract management overhead which should deliver a financial reduction, despite the staff costs transferred. It is anticipated that this will be in the region of £200-300k but there are variables at this stage in the process which make it difficult to predict an exact figure, such as staff costs and tendered prices.</p>
<p>Question 24: Cllr David Brown</p>	<p>Respondent: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>Agenda item 12: Former Jordans Brook House Redevelopment</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member join me in thanking those who have worked so hard with respect to the "former Jordans Brook House Redevelopment?"</p> <p>The build and let of a new GP Surgery building as detailed in the report presented to Cabinet will be a tremendous boost for health care in the Hucclecote area.</p> <p>I know, as Chair of the Hucclecote Surgery Patients Participation Group, it has been a long, and often frustrating, journey to arrive at this point. The huge effort and tenacity demonstrated by Surgery Management and staff has been unflinching during this period. They have needed to adjust to increasing patient demand to the point where it was necessary to clear storage space to allow for consultations, without a negative impact on patients.</p>	<p>Yes, this is a great project that will bring benefits to the local community and as Lead Cabinet member I am pleased to bring it forward to Cabinet for approval</p>

I wish to put on record my thanks to those Officers at GCC whose vision and hard work has brought us to where we are today. I look forward to August 2025 when the new and updated facilities are scheduled to be opened and ask that GCC continue to take an active and supportive role where possible to help make this happen.