

COUNTY COUNCIL – 27 November 2019
Members' Questions

<p>1. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernie Fisher</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>A BBC news investigation recently found that children in unregistered care homes are being placed at risk of abuse. Can you please confirm that no vulnerable children in the county council's care are being placed in unregistered homes?"</p>	<p>We only use unregistered accommodation on professional advice, in exceptional circumstances and with very close scrutiny. There are two such placement today, with officers looking to transition to alternative arrangements shortly.</p>
<p>2. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>Is the county council leader aware that more than 10,000 Gloucestershire residents are missing out on nearly £25 million in unclaimed pension credit, and if so, what is the county council doing to promote Pension Credits to all eligible individuals?</p>	<p>Promoting / encouraging the take up of Pension Credits is a DWP responsibility but when undertaking the financial assessments for service users the Adults team do a full benefits check to ensure that all relevant benefits are being claimed. In addition the Council's Your Circle website includes links to relevant organisations to help residents ensure they know about relevant benefits and tax credits.</p>
<p>3. Questioner's name: Cllr Kate Haigh</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>The 27 Jan 2020 is Holocaust Memorial Day and marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The theme for 2020 is 'Stand Together' and will explore how genocidal regimes have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups. What plans do Gloucestershire County Council have to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 and to support organisations who wish to be involved in commemorating the day.</p>	<p>The county council has marked Holocaust Memorial Day for many years, and will certainly continue to do so. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust provide advice and support to individuals and organisations who are planning to commemorate the day.</p> <p>This year, a group of staff are coming together to organise a memorial event on 27 January to mark the Day and will align with their theme of 'Stand Together'.</p>

4. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
I've raised before the issue of benches nailed down and obstructing the pavement in Bourton outside De La Haye's restaurant. This has now been going on for 19 months. Despite promises made to me in June by officers that the situation would be resolved, the benches remain in place with no imminent prospect of them going. Can you please explain why - despite taking external legal advice - the Council is failing to take action publicly?	This has taken a long length of time to resolve, and I'd like to thank Cllr Hodgkinson for his patience in addressing it. I'm told we are still awaiting some further clarification of the legal advice, which is expected shortly. I believe a meeting is in the process of being agreed to ensure that you are fully updated.
5. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Regarding the question above, can you please confirm how much external legal advice on this issue has cost the Council to date?	£2,000 plus VAT.
6. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles
Please can you re-assure Council that Children in our Care that have to placed out of County are in regulated homes or if not in regulated homes, have the homes been visited prior to placement.	All our children placed out of county are in regulated provision.
7. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles
How often are Children in our Care who have been placed out of County visited.	Standards for children placed out of county are the same for those placed in county. Visiting requirements to children in our care are statutorily determined. This would involve an initial visit within 72 hrs, leading to monthly visits and, once the placement is stable 3-6 monthly visiting depending on the child's needs. Increasing the frequency of visits above the minimum statutory requirements is also considered whenever a child in care's risk and circumstances indicates this may be needed.

8. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
How many times has the B4008 had pot holes patched in the last 5 years.	The answers to questions 8 – 11 relate to the 6.4km length of the B4008 from Junction 12 of the M5 to Gloucester Road in Stonehouse. A resurfacing scheme is scheduled to take place in January on this road. There have been 93 visits to repair potholes on this section of road since 1 st April 2014.
9. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
How many times has the B4008 had pot holes patched in the last 1 year.	There have been 9 visits to repairs potholes on this section of road since 1 st April 2019.
10. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
How many times have pot holes been patched specifically on the railway bridge that is over the B4008 in the last 5 years.	There have been 23 visits to patch potholes on the railway bridge carrying the B4008 since 1 st April 2014.
11. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
How many times have pot holes been patched specifically on the railway bridge that is over the B4008 since January 2019.	There have been 4 visits to repair potholes on the railway bridge carrying the B4008 since 1 st April 2019.
12. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Vernon Smith
Please can I have the dates for this year 2019 when patching on the B4008 railway bridge took place.	The visits to repair potholes were on 12 th April, 29 th April, 7 th October and 13 th November.
13. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernie Fisher	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Since 2015 how many bus routes in our county have been reduced or withdrawn?"	Since 2015, of the subsidised services GCC operates, 3 have been withdrawn, 2 of which were trial services. 29 services have seen

	some reductions in frequency. Approximately 95% of bus journeys take place on non-subsidised bus routes.
14. Questioner's name: Cllr Lesley Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles
In the budget for 2019/2020 a sum of money was set aside to be used to address Holiday Hunger. How was this money allocated? Please can a list of recipients and the monies awarded be provided. Have the recipients given a report of how many young people benefited. Was all the money used?	The money was allocated between Wiggly Worms who received £11,825 and Barnardos who received £38,027. The majority of delivery happened over the summer however activity also took place in October half term and is also planned for Christmas and February half terms. £49,852 of the available £50,000 will be spent and a full report will be available on completion of the work.
15. Questioner's name: Cllr Joe Harris	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
On 16 May 2018, a motion on roads was passed. The resolution asked the leader of the council to write to the Secretary of State to outline the council's support of the LGA's campaign to reinvest 2 per centre per litre of existing fuel duty into local road maintenance. Can the leader please confirm when this letter was sent, share the wording of this letter, and share what response he received and when.	A letter was sent on 23 May 2018 which included a link to the draft minutes of the Council meeting, as well as the resolution. A response was received and published on Members Matter under the 'Actions from full Council' section. Members can access this using the username and password provided in the weekly email. https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/members-matter/actions-arising-from-full-council/16-may-2018/
16. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
On 27 June 2018, a motion on cycling safety was passed. The resolution called for the county council to work on a joint campaign focusing on safety issues for cyclists of all ages. Can the leader please confirm the activities that have been undertaken to date that have directly resulted from this unanimously passed motion.	We recruited a ThinkTravel Coordinator to lead our ThinkTravel team and promote safe active travel in the county. Officers are using the nationally accredited Modeshift Stars travel planning scheme to develop a supportive programme to create safe environments outside the school gates and promote walking and cycling/scooting to schools alongside GCC's Bikeability programme

	<p>and School Crossing Patrol service.</p> <p>Officers have also been working with Highways Development Management to ensure that businesses have effective travel plans to support cycling by their employees and visitors.</p> <p>Thinktravel have worked collaboratively to support the Communications Team on developing the GCC cycling strategy which was successfully launched in September associated with World Car Free Day.</p> <p>We have met with and encouraged the Police road traffic team to work with us on a second campaign to improve drivers' awareness of cyclists, known as Operation Close Pass.</p>
<p>17. Questioner's name: Cllr Klara Sudbury</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>On 12 September 2018, a motion passed on T1 Diabetes. The resolution of this motion called for the council to coordinate with the CCG, schools and academies to run a diabetes awareness campaign including an understanding of T1 Diabetes and the 4Ts.</p> <p>Can the council leader please confirm what coordination between these bodies took place and details of the campaign that was run?</p>	<p>Following the motion in October engagement took place with the CCG lead for the Diabetes Clinical Programme Group to ascertain what services are currently provided for people with Type 1 Diabetes. These included;</p> <p>A Paediatric Diabetes Team based at GHFT who offer a range of Diabetes support such as a multi-disciplinary team support (including access to a psychologist, dietician, specialist nurses and consultant paediatrician), an Annual review clinic and structured education session for children and their families, delivered by specialist nurses and diabetes dieticians.</p> <p>As part of Gloucestershire CCG's Cultural Commissioning Programme a programme of arts have been delivered to children with Diabetes to aid confidence, physical activity and increase social</p>

connections. This group produced a music video which is available on YouTube.

CCG has produced a Commissioning Policy for use of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) for children with Type 1 diabetes. This is a device that sits on the skin and that tests blood glucose levels every minute to let the child (and their parent remotely) know of blood glucose levels are too high or low. This reduces the need for children to have to finger prick test up to 20 times a day down to twice a day to test the calibration on the CGM.

GCCG are members of the National Children and Young Peoples Diabetes Network and regularly take place in their routine conference calls.

In November 2018, to align with National Diabetes day, communications were shared which, alongside general information on Diabetes, highlighted the difference between T1 and T2 diabetes.

To align with National Diabetes Week in April, GCC shared GCCG press and social media content. Additionally GCC developed an internal briefing which highlighted the difference between T1 and T2 Diabetes and was shared through the following channels;

- Social media
- Internal newsletters
- Partner newsletter
- Staffnet bulletin
- Schools newsletter

A Diabetes Prevention Week toolkit was made available for GP

	practices and other local organisations to order for free from the PHE. This and the Diabetes UK guide to diabetes for children and schools was shared within the above communications as well as within the newsletter for partners, 'Partners in Practice'.
18. Questioner's name: Cllr Joe Harris	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>On 28 November 2018, a motion was passed on protecting walk-in services in Gloucestershire's hospitals. The council resolved to write to the CCG to appeal in the strongest terms that walk-in services should not be downgraded in any way, particularly in Cheltenham.</p> <p>Can the leader please confirm when this letter was sent, share the wording of this letter, and share what response he received and when.</p>	<p>At the Council meeting on 28 November, the motion was referred to Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was considered at the meeting held on 20 February 2019. A letter was sent to the CCG containing the minutes of the meeting.</p>
19. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne
<p>On 27 March 2019, a motion was passed on school funding. The resolution of this motion was for the council to make representations to the government calling for a recognition of the challenges Gloucestershire's schools face and that the National Funding Formula minimums were not enough to run a school.</p> <p>Can the leader please confirm when this letter was sent, share the wording of this letter, and share what response he received and when.</p>	<p>A letter was sent on 10 April 2019 which included a link to the draft minutes of the Council meeting, as well as the resolution. A response was received and published on Members Matter under the 'Actions from full Council' section. Members can access this using the username and password provided in the weekly email.</p> <p>https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/members-matter/actions-arising-from-full-council/27-march-2019/</p>
20. Questioner's name: Cllr Iain Dobie	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
<p>On 15 May 2019, this council passed a motion declaring a climate emergency. Multiple resolutions were made in that motion, including:</p> <p>A commitment to make GCC's estate 100 per cent carbon neutral by</p>	<p>The council's climate change strategy is scheduled to go to cabinet for agreement next month.</p>

<p>2030.</p> <p>A commitment to make Gloucestershire 80 per cent carbon neutral by 2030</p> <p>For the council to call on central government to provide additional powers to reach that target</p> <p>To reframe contracts to oblige all contractors to report carbon emissions and to place a carbon cost on competing bids</p> <p>To ensure all major plans have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>To work with districts to reduce their carbon footprints.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on all the above commitments made.</p>	
<p>21. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>On 15 May 2019, this council passed a motion on Gloucester Crown Court. This motion included a commitment to write to the Justice Secretary requesting funding for either a new crown court or funding to refurbish existing facilities.</p> <p>Can the leader please confirm when this letter was sent, share the wording of this letter, and share what response he received and when.</p>	<p>A letter was sent on 23 May 2019 which included a link to the draft minutes of the Council meeting, as well as the resolution. A response was received and published on Members Matter under the 'Actions from full Council' section. Members can access this using the username and password provided in the weekly email.</p> <p>https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/members-matter/actions-arising-from-full-council/15-may-2019/</p>
<p>22. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Mark Hawthorne</p>
<p>On 26 June 2019, a motion was passed on a youth council for Gloucestershire. The motion included a commitment to work with</p>	<p>The resolution of Council was referred to Leadership Gloucestershire on 25 July 2019 and Dame Janet</p>

<p>Leadership Gloucestershire to establish a youth council.</p> <p>Can the leader please outline the work undertaken to date and explain when we will see this commitment to establish a youth council come to fruition.</p>	<p>Trotter was invited to attend the next meeting on 10 October as the lead for Child Friendly Gloucestershire.</p> <p>An initial consultation session with young people was held on 23 October as part of that engagement work. A position statement is due to be produced as part of the Child Friendly Gloucestershire work mapping the types of engagement currently being undertaken with young people and seeking their views on how this should be developed and sustained in future. This will allow any gaps to be addressed and ensure their views inform the future approach of Leadership Gloucestershire partners.'</p>
<p>23. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p>
<p>On 11 September 2019, a motion was passed on green developments and public buildings. The motion included a commitment to work with the NHS, Police, district councils and others to ensure all new buildings commissioned supported the move to zero carbon. There was also a commitment made to work with district councils to ensure all residential and commercial developments in Gloucestershire support a move to zero carbon.</p> <p>Can the leader or relevant Cabinet Member confirm what work has been ongoing and update this council on where we are with these commitments more than two months on.</p>	<p>Please see my answer to question 20.</p>
<p>24. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles</p>
<p>In relation to the future use of Trevone House what consultation process was there in arriving at the decision to combine foster leavers with Bail accommodation, persons detained for assessment under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and day attendance of young people with challenging behaviours all at the same venue?</p>	<p>Trevone House is not providing bail accommodation, neither will it accommodate those detained under the Mental Health Act, although it will provide an appropriate setting for mental health assessments. Extensive multi agency/disciplinary consultation with all relevant professionals and partners continues to be undertaken, to inform both the delivery and design of Trevone House. Consultation has included national advice, from the implementation facilitator for</p>

	the National Institute Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Feedback from NICE considered that the Trevone model was an example of best practice.
25. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles
Was a psychologist and or psychiatrist consulted in assessing the suitability of such arrangement that is proposed where persons who could be detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act are in the same building being used as the home of young people in our care who will be living independently at Trevone House?	Yes. The clinical lead for children and young people's mental health services, from Gloucestershire Health and Care Foundation Trust (formally 2gether trust), is the relevant clinical psychiatrist. They have been consulted and support this proposal. Other clinicians within the trust have also been involved within the design and working group.
26. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles
Were any other child experts consulted in arriving at the proposed facility at Trevone House where young people will be living in the same building as a someone who is detained for assessment under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983?	See my answer to question 24.
27. Questioner's name: Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Richard Boyles
In relation to the proposed future use of Trevone House did the cabinet member consider Gloucestershire County Council's own foster care guidelines in particular those sections relating to safeguarding and the positive duty to promote and encourage self-esteem in young people within the care system?	Safeguarding standards have been fully considered throughout the programme. Trevone House is not a fostering resource, therefore the fostering standards do not apply.
28. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
The Javelin Park website contains a page called 'Emissions Monitoring' which currently carries the text "This page will carry information on the emissions performance of the facility once operational".	Emissions data will be uploaded by UBB to its website each month, ensuring there is no delay to the public having access to this information. Monitoring data from UBB will be available early in the new year.
The facility is operational - but no emissions monitoring data appears	Monitoring by the local community liaison group is taking place and

to have been published. Has the council been provided with emissions monitoring data from Javelin Park, and if so, how can the public access this?	information is published via glosclg.weebly.com.
29. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
At our last meeting, you stated you were awaiting figures from your contractor on how many tonnes of waste were diverted from the incinerator to other places due to the implementation of the contingency plan during commissioning. Do you now have these figures, and if so: How many tonnes of waste have been diverted to other places because it could not be accepted at Javelin Park since commissioning began?	During the 3 weeks of full contingency approximately 7,000 tonnes of waste was diverted from Javelin Park to other disposal points. A reconciliation of these tonnages is ongoing.
30. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Regarding Javelin Park Incinerator, has the contingency plan been in operation at any point since 11th September 2019	No.
31. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
What is the total value that has been paid to date by UBB to GCC under the contractually provided contingency arrangements?	No payment has yet been made by UBB to GCC for the contingency arrangements. A reconciliation of tonnages delivered to contingency disposal points will first need to be concluded. Further discussion will then be held with UBB to agree any sums owing.
32. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith	Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor
Has the council incurred any costs as a result of the contingency plan being in operation?	Work is ongoing between the council and UBB to reconcile tonnages and agree cost apportionment. No contingency payments have yet been made between the parties.

<p>33. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</p> <p>Is the Cabinet Member for Finance confident that procurement policy is being correctly followed by this Council, and that all above threshold tenders are advertised prior to award?</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p> <p>The requirements for competition are set out in the Council's Contract Standing Orders. Contracts for Goods and Services over £15,000 must use the Council's e-procurement system "supplying the south west" and those over the EU threshold (£181,000) must also be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Contracts for Works over £250,000 must also use the Council's e-procurement System.</p> <p>However, Clause 9.6 of the Council's Contract Standing Orders also allows contracts to be awarded directly, and hence not advertised, if certain conditions, urgency, intellectual property and limited supply are met. In addition some frameworks which are let following an initial advertised competition award work by rotation. Hence not all procurements will be advertised prior to award for legitimate reasons.</p>
<p>34. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member for Environment and Planning agree with the finding from the GFirst LEP Youth Survey, that had input from over 5,000 young people across the County, that "...public transport system needs to be improved, not just promoted." and that substantial improvements to public transport are a vital part of making Gloucestershire a magnet county?</p> <p>Will the Council take steps to rebalance transport spending behind public and active transport in response to these findings?</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Nigel Moor</p> <p>The 2019/20 subsidised bus budget is £3m with another £750k for Community Transport. We also reimburse public transport operators for their acceptance of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (free bus pass for eligible members of the public), the expected spend on this is £6.2m.</p> <p>This year has seen the opening of a dedicated bus priority lane on the A40 at Cheltenham to reduce journey times on this busy corridor. GCC has also invested in a scheme for the Arle Court Park and Ride which prevents free use for those walking to a local business, instead creating capacity on the site for growth of the Park and Ride bus service. Figures so far show use of the Park and Ride</p>

	<p>bus service is at least 20% higher.</p> <p>The West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme will allow us to expand Arle Court Park and Ride offering more capacity to tackle congestion into Cheltenham.</p> <p>Work has begun on developing a pilot scheme for transport in rural areas. This will involved offering an enhanced, pre-book demand-responsive service that aims to serve more people than the current rural bus network and to given them a wider range of days and times to travel. This pilot will likely be operated in 2 rural areas of Gloucestershire.</p> <p>GCC has been working on over £9m of investment in a cycle network across the centre of the county, including improvements in Gloucester to the canal towpath, design work on routes between Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve, and with Highways England on a route between Cheltenham and Gloucester.</p>
<p>35. Questioner's name: Cllr Rachel Smith</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe</p>
<p>The Bureau of Investigative Journalism report that between 2015 and 2018, Gloucestershire County Council sold over 104 properties (land). I have previously requested details of the land sold, including the value obtained for each piece of land and details of any commercial buyers of Council land.</p> <p>I was told that this would be published by the September Cabinet meeting, yet the minutes of the delayed October meeting fail to provide any details of the assets sold.</p> <p>(1) Will the Cabinet member commit to publishing, at the earliest opportunity, a list of all the land sold by the authority in the last year, including the value obtained, and the identity of any commercial</p>	<p>1. I've already taken steps to publish details of the amount received for individual property sales. There are GDPR concerns about publishing the details of individual purchasers, and, as Cllr Smith may be aware, the Information Commissioner has ruled that, given the information is available via the Land Registry, the council is not required to publish it in response to FOI requests. That said, in the interests of being as open as possible, I will ask that the information be provided to all councillors, on pink paper, as part of the regular property disposal report. Optionally I have asked officers to prepare a report setting this out for the last year, which I will include with the next property disposal</p>

<p>buyers.</p> <p>(2) Given asset disposals have proven to be a high-risk area for corruption, what measures are in place to guard against land being sold to connected parties, or being sold at less than its full value?</p> <p>(3) Does the Council ever make use of uplift clauses, to be able to secure some of the value added to land if land sold later obtains planning permission and is built upon?</p>	<p>report.</p> <p>2. Most disposals are carried out by external agencies and all disposals are carried out in accordance with our published policy on property disposal – which is available here: https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/14742/gcc-policy-for-the-disposal-of-property.pdf</p> <p>3. We always use uplift clauses where it's appropriate. Future land values are normally achieved by securing planning permission for land prior to its disposal.</p>
<p>36. Questioner's name: Cllr Eva Ward</p>	<p>Respondent's name: Cllr Tim Harman</p>
<p>What, if any, plans have been made for the disposal of the two residential care homes that were closed in Stroud earlier this year?</p>	<p>We are currently assessing the buildings in order to determine whether they are appropriate for re-use by the Council, use by One Gloucestershire partners or disposal.</p>