

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting: Monday, 26th February 2018 at 6.30 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

Membership:	Cllrs. Coole (Chair), Ryall (Vice-Chair), Finnegan (Spokesperson), Pearsall, Hilton, Lewis, Wilson, Dee, Hampson, Hawthorne, Melvin, Smith, Patel, Pullen and Taylor
Contact:	Simon Byrne Democratic and Electoral Services Officer 01452 396127 simon.byrne@gloucester.gov.uk

	AGENDA
1.	APOLOGIES
	To receive any apologies for absence.
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non- pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.
3.	DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPPING
	To declare if any issues to be covered in the Agenda are under party whip.
4.	MINUTES (Pages 5 - 18)
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 17 th January 2018 and 29 th January 2018.
5.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)
	To receive any questions from members of the public provided that a question does not relate to:
	 Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers
6.	PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)
	To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to:
	Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or

	Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings							
7.	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN (Pages 19 - 36)							
	To receive the latest version of the Committee's work programme and the Council's Forward Plan.							
8.	UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY WORK							
	To receive a presentation by Safer Gloucestershire (the county-wide partnership) and an update from the City Council's Safer and Stronger Gloucester.							
9.								

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Jon McGinty Managing Director

Date of Publication: Friday, 16 February 2018

NOTES

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

Interest	Prescribed description				
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.				
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.				
Contracts	 Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged 				
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area.				
	For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.				
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.				
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –				
	 (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest 				
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where –				
	 (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and (b) either – The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with 				

whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, "securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

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For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Simon Byrne, 01452 396127, <u>simon.byrne@gloucester.gov.uk</u>.

For general enquiries about Gloucester City Council's meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, <u>democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk</u>.

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- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.



- **MEETING** : Wednesday, 17th January 2018
- **PRESENT** : Cllrs. Coole (Chair), Ryall (Vice-Chair), Pearsall, Hilton, Lewis, Wilson, Dee, Hampson, Hawthorne, Melvin, Smith, Patel, Pullen and Taylor

Others in Attendance

Councillor D. Norman MBE, Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources, Stacey Jellyman, Intelligent Client Officer

Julie Friend, Department for Work and Pensions Steve Olczak, Department for Work and Pensions Lisa Nicholls, Assistant Director: Gloucester City Homes Norman Gardner, Citizen's Advice Bureau

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Finnegan

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19.1 There were no declarations of interest.

20. DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPPING

20.1 There were no declarations of party whipping.

21. GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL'S PREPAREDNESS FOR THE ROLL-OUT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT.

21.1 The Chair outlined that this was a meeting specifically to look at the implementation of the forthcoming introduction of Universal Credit in Gloucester. He stated that each partner organisation in attendance had had sight of questions which the Committee sought answers to, where possible:

What impact would Universal Credit have the organisation and the residents they worked with?

What was the organisation doing to prepare for the roll out of Universal Credit within Gloucester?

How could the organisation best work with Gloucester City Council to ensure that the roll out proceeded effectively?

Given the organisations experience and involvement with the roll out in Gloucester, was there anything further that could be done to ensure the roll out was effective?

- 21.2 The Chair welcomed the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Councillor David Norman MBE; the Head of Policy and Resources, Jon Topping and Gloucester City Council's Intelligent Client Officer, Stacey Jellyman to the meeting.
- 21.3 Councillor Norman thanked partner organisations, with whom the Council was working with closely, for attending. He stated that the Council had worked hard to get to a position where it was ready for the rollout in February and that he welcomed questions that would provide clarity in terms of the new benefit's implementation. Jon Topping informed the Committee that the Council had been working with Civica and that considerable work had been undertaken in order to disseminate information to the public through social media, the Council's website as well as printed literature. He further stated that the Council had worked with partners and learned from other authorities that had already implemented Universal Credit.
- 21.4 Stacey Jellyman outlined Civica's role in administrating benefits and preparing for Universal Credit. She stated that Civica would see a decrease in Housing Benefit claims as Universal Credit claims increased and that the organisation was prepared for Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) claims and Council Tax Support claims as these were already processed by themselves.
- 21.5 The Committee were further informed that Civica sat on the Universal Credit board and that the implementation manager had successfully shared their experiences having being integral to the rollout in the Forest of Dean. Stacey also advised that there was a strong, long-standing relationship with Civica and they would continue to monitor Universal Credit's impact on residents.
- 21.6 In response to a query from the Chair, Stacey advised that the Forest of Dean had not been under the Universal Credit system for a lengthy period and that a considerable level of knowledge had been gained from Bath and North East Somerset. The Chair enquired as to whether there would be difficulties administering two benefit systems given new claimants would receive Universal Credit while existing claimants would remain on their existing benefits. Stacey Jellyman advised that it would effectively be the same service with fewer Housing Benefit claims and that there would be a different focus.

- 21.7 Councillor Pullen asked what the key matters learnt from other authorities which could improve the rollout in Gloucester. In response, Stacey Jellyman noted that the report from Stroud highlighted that many individuals preferred to 'self-serve' (i.e. apply from home) but that Gloucester would provide assistance at the Council. Jon Topping stated that the Council had learned from others on social media, the website and the need to provide information on the benefit to residents.
- 21.8 In response to Councillor Pullen's query as to whether there would be staff on hand to assist members of the public, Stacey advised that, whilst there would be, it was likely that other organisations would be better placed to deal with enquiries. She added that staff training had taken place so they could take individuals through the claim process.
- 21.9 Councillor Hampson noted that the length of time claimants would have to wait before receiving their first payment and asked whether any lessons had been learnt because of this change. Stacey Jellyman informed the Committee that it remained the same service but with a slightly different time scale. She stated that the council would still be signposting individuals to the right support and advice as well as offering personal budgeting support. She further stated that this advice would be dependent on individual circumstances.
- 21.10 Councillor Hilton highlighted the fact that new claimants required a bank account and that the first arranged payment should be their rent payment. He queried what the position would be for those who found it difficult to obtain a bank account and how advice would be given.
- 21.10 Stacey Jellyman brought to the Committee's attention the work that had been done around providing personal budgeting support such as explaining income and expenditure, how to set up direct debits and whether they required a DHP or Council Tax Support. She also highlighted that, as Civica was already providing the benefits service, staff training was always ongoing.
- 21.11 Councillor Melvin queried the ability for some residents to manage their claim online as there was restricted access to offices such as the Council and JobCentres. She also questioned how personal budgeting support could be provided in terms of available resources. Jon Topping advised that budgeting support would potentially be provided in partnership with the Citizen's Advice Bureau and that the Council would manage and deploy resources when it had a more accurate idea of numbers. Stacey Jellyman also advised, in response to a question from Councillor Wilson on giving online advice, that new computers would be installed in the Council's offices and that Officers would ask individuals methods by which they may get online.
- 21.12 Councillor Pullen raised the matter of signposting to other, voluntary organisations and queried whether the Council envisaged changing resourcing arrangements with these organisations. Jon Topping advised that this would be looked at but that there were no such plans in place at the moment but that the Council would work alongside these organisations in helping to deliver advice.

- 21.13 Councillor Hawthorne highlighted that the change to Universal Credit would affect housing benefit and, therefore, private landlords. He asked what advice was being provided to private landlords. Stacey Jellyman advised that there had been a change in policy and that the DWP could now offer direct payment to landlords. She further explained the 'eight week rule' still remained in place in any event– the rule whereby, where a tenant was in arrears of eight weeks, the landlord could apply to receive benefit directly. Stacey Jellyman further confirmed, in response to a question from the Chair, that the DWP shares all claims information with Civica.
- 21.14 The Chair thanked Councillor Norman, Jon Topping and Stacey Jellyman for their assistance.
- 21.15 The Chair welcomed Lisa Nicholls, Assistant Director of Housing at Gloucester City Homes (GCH) to the meeting. She outlined that a large number of tenants at GCH would be affected by the benefit changes. She advised that: 66% of housing benefit claimants would transfer to Universal Credit; 72 tenants were currently in receipt of Universal Credit; the average level of arrears was £431 while the total value of arrears for GCH was £23k. Lisa Nicholls continued that the issuing of food bank vouchers had increased and some tenants were vulnerable to high-cost borrowing.
- 21.16 Lisa Nicholls advised that Gloucester City Homes had increased their bad debt provision and that they could increase this to 7%. She outlined that the organisation had been working to counteract any adverse effect on tenants including investing £250k which included service agreements with the Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Law Centre and others. Lisa Nicholls further informed the Committee that an active project team was in place. Given there were a small number of tenants already claiming Universal Credit, the change could be monitored. She stated that GCH had identified the most vulnerable tenants and wanted to help avoid hardship. GCH had re-designed income collection and had provided additional resources for tenancy support. She further stated that GCH provided a digital service with telephone support and home visits. Additionally GCH had a focussed communication plan including greater use of social media.
- 21.17 In terms of how GCH could best work with the City Council, Lisa Nicholls advised that there had been a good level of communication between the two organisations as well as access to the landlord portal. She stated that this continued communication was helpful and that GCH felt as prepared as it could be.
- 21.18 In response to a query from the Chair regarding GCH's approach to digital inclusion, Lisa Nicholls stated that this had been identified early on and that whilst many used smart phones for the internet, GCH recognised that a number of tenants did not have internet access. GCH had funded ten laptops and had tablets for remote use.
- 21.19 Councillor Wilson highlighted a submission made to the Parliamentary Work and Pensions Committee by GCH in early 2017 stating that 85% of tenants

were in arrears. He stated that, whilst rent will be received, under Universal Credit, tenants will always be in arrears. He queried whether GCH would treat such a circumstance as a special case. Lisa Nicholls stated that GCH was very sympathetic to such circumstances and had found that those in arrears had been in arrears before they had been in receipt of Universal Credit. She advised that the receipt of payments could be planned for and that there could be numerous issues which led to evictions – not only arrears.

- 21.20 Councillor Pullen stated that he appreciated that GCH was doing considerable work with external partners such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau but that such organisations struggles with the workload. He questioned what additional resources GCH was providing for independent advice. Lisa Nicholls responded that one of the advisors from the Gloucester Law Centre worked very closely with GCH and that this was very helpful. She further advised that GCH was assessing the prospect of employing a money advice worker. The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for Housing at GCH for her assistance.
- 21.21 The Chair welcomed Norman Gardner of the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) who provided an overview of CAB's experience nationally. He stated that problems had arisen from the initial Universal Credit claim and financial difficulties that had followed. He shared his view that he did not believe that this would be different in Gloucester. Of 9,000 Gloucester residents a year that the CAB attended to, 2,600 of these sought debt advice and a number had mental health issues.
- 21.22 Norman Gardner continued by outlining the CAB's preparations for the roll out including extensive training across their 120 volunteers as well as training in other agencies such as GCH and Green Square. He stated that whilst there had been a reduction funding, the CAB did still manage to see 9k residents a year. He informed the Committee that the CAB planned to open a digital hub to assist with claims and that they had attended sessions organised by the DWP.
- 21.23 Norman Gardner stated that improved communication between agencies would be of benefit and that a financial inclusion model (such as in Tewkesbury) could be examined. He also stated that it would be advantageous to work with the City Council on the main points of contact for Universal Credit claims.
- 21.24 Councillor Pullen asked how the CAB would like the Council to communicate with it as well for some further detail on the digital hub and its resourcing. Norman Gardner responded that it could be an idea to revive the Gloucester Advice Partnership. With regard to the digital hub, he advised that 3 or 4 PCs with an advisor to assist with claims were proposed. The level of service would depend on the number of available volunteers. He further advised that the CAB had applied to external bodies for funding and appreciated the financial pressures the Council was under.

- 21.25 In response to a query for Councillor Melvin in relation to the levels of illiteracy the CAB dealt with, Norman Gardner stated that it was no more than between one and two percent. Councillor Patel noted that many accessed the internet on their phones and asked Norman Gardner what level of enquirers to the CAB accessed the internet in this way. Norman Gardner responded that many did indeed use their phones for the internet but that only 20% of those who came to the CAB were under 24 years of ages the client base most likely to use phones for the internet but also the client base most likely to struggle with maintaining high levels of internet data. The Chair thanked Norman Garner for his assistance.
- 21.26 The Chair welcomed Steve Olczak and Julie Friend from the DWP to the meeting. It was noted that a key job was to bring the many operational strands of Universal Credit together and work in partnership with the various organisations involved. Steve Olczak stated that communication between partners was crucial and, as Gloucester would be the last in the county to go live, a considerable amount had been learnt from other authorities. He advised that JobCentres had invested in new staff and free Wi-Fi as well as free-to-use computers were available. In addressing concerns over internet access, he informed the Committee that the Universal Credit application was based on a mobile phone system and that it was user friendly on mobile devices.
- 21.27 Steve Olczak stated that he had conducted numerous overview events with social landlords and stakeholders and that Gloucester City Council had been a very good partner to work with. He further stated that he had been feeding back learning points from other areas. By way of example, he advised that as Gloucestershire Partnership Manager for the DWP he had encouraged voluntary organisations to come into JobCentres and that he hoped GCH would have a dedicated desk in the JobCentre which had been the case in Cheltenham. With regard to the increase in claimants with health issues that would come into contact with the DWP, Steve Olczak shared his view that it was clear that there was a need to produce 'easy-read' material and perhaps videos to guide claimants through the process.
- 21.28 Julie Friend informed the Committee that the system was new and agile and that it would develop with the needs of claimants. She added that it was a '24/7' system and claimants could leave messages to ask questions at any point. She further stated that the DWP was working with Gloucester City Council for networking and partnership working. In response to a query from the Chair, Julie Friend advised that, were there to be individuals without internet access who lived a significant distance from the JobCentre, individuals could get in touch via a free phone number.
- 21.29 The Chair asked whether any work had been done with private landlords. Steve Olczak stated that private landlords were more difficult to contact and that they were attempting to get information to these landlords. Julie Friend stated that a good deal of training on information gathering (such as living circumstances) had been conducted and that three initial evidence interviews took place with each claimant.

- 21.30 Councillor Wilson noted the existence of a HMRC calculator app and asked if such an app would be available for Gloucestershire. Julie Friend stated that this had been raised previously. In response to an intervention from Dawn Melvin in relation to the possibility of extending JobCentre opening hours for the initial phase of the roll out, Steve Olczak stated that this would be consider as there were no plans for this. He advised that, as many claimants were in work, the average call time was 21.30.
- 21.31 Councillor Hilton stated that it may be an idea to review Universal Credit's implementation in 6-12 months' time. Steve Olczak agreed that this would be a good idea and that some good work had been done as the meeting had heard from other speakers. He continued by offering Members a visit to the JobCentre to see applications in progress.
- 21.32 Councillor Hampson enquired as to whether there had been attempts to contact private landlords and Stacey Jellyman advised that Civica would be circulating literature. Councillor Hawthorne suggested that this literature go to Members when finalised which was agreed.
- 21.33 The Chair noted the clear requirement for claimants to prove their identity and queried what options were available for those with no passport, driving licence, bills or bank statements. Julie Friend advised that providing a combination of secondary ID was an option and that, failing that, a biographical evidence check was available. This would require an interview to ascertain individual circumstances and details. She further advised that expired identification would be accepted which was not previously the case. The Chair thanked both Steve Olczak and Julie Friend for their assistance.
- 21.34 The Chair opened the floor for questions from guests and the public. Councillor Haigh noted that 86% of Universal Credit claimants were in arrears and that there was a 60% sanction rate with a history of under-use of DHPs and the Council Tax Support scheme. She asked whether the Council would signpost individuals to credit unions for cheaper borrowing. She further queried whether Council staff in receipt of Universal Credit would be afforded time off for Universal Credit related business.
- 21.35 Stacey Jellyman advised that information on credit union saving and borrowing was available on the Council's website and Jon Topping stated that he would confirm the position on Council staff in receipt of Universal Credit and associated time off.
- 21.36 The Chair welcomed Councillor Norman and Jon Topping to respond to any comments or queries from Members. Councillor Norman shared the view that it was positive to hold the scrutiny meeting. He stated that he was not naïve that there would be no issues but felt positive and assured with preparations undertaken by partners.
- 21.37 Councillor Norman further stated that he supported Councillor Hilton's suggestion of a review and that Members should feel comfortable with preparations for Universal Credit. He reiterated that Gloucester benefitted

from being the last in the county to go live and that the City was best prepared.

- 21.38 The Chair noted that that the Cabinet had decided to not change the Council Tax support scheme and queried how this would interact with Universal Credit. In response, Stacey Jellyman advised that there would be no automatic reduction and that it was best practice to learn from the first year. She further confirmed that this would not be detrimental to claimants.
- 21.39 In response to the Chair questioning how personal budgeting support would be provided, Jon Topping stated that it would be City Council staff (from housing and customer services) that would provide advice and training was being provided. Councillor Hampson questioned whether extra resources would be put into housing given the likelihood of hardship. Jon Topping advised that work was underway on how the Council deals with homelessness support. Lisa Nicholls of GCH stated that GCH provided 50 places for the homeless and was working to provide temporary accommodation. The Chair thanked all organisations for their time and assistance to the Committee
- 21.40 **RESOLVED:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (1) produce a report outlining recommendations to Cabinet and; (2) conduct a review in 12 months time.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours Time of conclusion: 8.15 pm hours

Chair



- **MEETING** : Monday, 29th January 2018
- **PRESENT** : Cllrs. Coole (Chair), Ryall (Vice-Chair), Finnegan (Spokesperson), Pearsall, Hilton, Wilson, Pullen and Taylor.

Others in Attendance

Councillor Lise Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), Jill Shonk (Head of Cultural and Trading Services), Councillor Kate Haigh Simon Byrne, Democratic and Electoral Services.

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Lewis and Melvin

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

23.1 There were no declarations of interest.

24. DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPPING

24.1 There were no declarations of party whipping.

25. MINUTES

25.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

26.1 There were no public questions.

27. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

27.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

28. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

- 28.1 The Committee considered the Work Programme and the Council Forward Plan. The Chair informed the Committee that the Community Safety Partnership would be considered at the next meeting in order that Officers could fully prepare.
- 28.2 **RESOLVED**: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the Work Programme and Council Forward Plan.

29. FESTIVAL AND EVENTS PROGRAMME

- 29.1 The Chair welcomed the Councillor Lise Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure) and Jill Shonk (Head of Cultural and Trading Services) who provided an overview of the report.
- 29.2 Councillor Noakes advised that the criteria for Council-funded Festival and Event activities had been in place and reviewed annually since 2010. She stated that the Council wanted a robust events programme and expected to put on a series of popular and engaging activities. She further advised that £15k had been ring-fenced for flagship events such as the History Festival for which the Council contributed £10k. She highlighted that Marketing Gloucester (MGL) was very successful at gaining sponsorship for events.
- 29.3 Councillor Noakes brought to the Committee's attention the difficulties in funding for the Council but that it was working well with external partners. She highlighted that the Great Place initiative was helping move Gloucester from a 'cultural blackspot' to a potential City of Culture. As such, it had been agreed to develop a portfolio of festivals and events.
- 29.4 It was stated that Cultural and Trading Services would define KPIs with MGL and 2018/19 would act as a pilot for these KPIs.
- 29.5 Councillor Noakes brought to the Committee's attention the fact that an amendment would be made with regard to the RAF Centenary commemorations. She stated that a bigger contribution would be made by the Council.
- 29.6 Councillor Noakes stated that last year had seen a good programme and that considerable work had been undertaken to achieve this. She stated that the report before the Committee detailed a good amount and that partnership working was crucial so as that organisations other than the City Council and MGL were involved in putting the programme together.
- 29.7 Councillor Hilton highlighted to particular festivals the 1100th Anniversary of the death of Aethelflaed and the 375th anniversary of the lifting of the Siege of Gloucester. He stated that he appreciated that these had been discussed but noted that the report was silent. He stated that he expected that more information and that Members would have more input.
- 29.8 Councillor Hilton noted, in response to an intervention from Councillor Patel which stated that Members did not usually receive detailed plans, that these were two unique events.

- 29.9 Councillor Noakes responded that details had been given at the recent Council meeting and that further information will be provided as and when it arises.
- 29.10 Councillor Hilton shared his view that the Gloucester Go Retro event was a very good event and understood that Councillor Organ had put a great deal of effort into it. He continued that its funding source required a resolution and noted that last year, Members had contributed something Councillor Hilton did not feel was appropriate. Councillor Noakes stated that she was unsure of the position regarding Members' contributing and that funding sustainability was always a priority.
- 29.11 With regard to Gloucester bidding to become City of Culture, Councillor Hilton queried how confident the Cabinet Member and Officers were of putting a bid in. He further queried whether they thought it would be successful and the costs that would be associated with it.
- 29.12 Jill Shonk advised that consideration of placing a bid was part of the Cultural and Trading Services service plan and the Corporate Director was leading on the feasibility of such a bid. She further advised that plans would need to be in place by 2021 for a 2025 bid.
- 29.12 Councillor Hawthorne shared his view that it was positive to see how much had been done by way of cultural engagement. He stated that the Council should be examining this in terms of viewing success through attendance numbers. Councillor Noakes outlined the pilot of KPIs and Jill Shonk confirmed that it would include both numbers and types of attendances.
- 29.12 Councillor Pullen stated that it was disappointing that clear aims and objectives could not be actioned immediately. He stated that the Council should look at other areas of Gloucester and have events in the programme to reflect the diverse communities of Gloucester. He shared the view that it was important that the Council made sure it was engaging people who would not usually be engaged. He also queried whether the pilot of KPIs would be across a handful of events only. Councillor Noakes confirmed that the pilot would be across all festivals and events.
- 29.13 The Vice-Chair raised a query with regard to the cancellation of Rugby in the Park and whether the Council lost any money. She further queried what was in place to prevent this in the future. Councillor Noakes advised that no money had been lost and that the Council will discuss with other organisations on putting the event on. She agreed it was important to have sporting events in the city.
- 29.14 The Vice-Chair further queried the reduction in community based activities with regard to Art in the City. She questioned what could be done to prevent this. Councillor Noakes stated it may be possible to have more events run by artists themselves. She advised that the event was not on the funding list for 2018/19 and was likely to go ahead with sponsorship.

- 29.15 Councillor Hampson queried what could be done by the Cabinet Member and Cultural and Trading Services to reach out to other cultural groups in the City and what could be done to encourage diverse cultural events. Councillor Noakes responded that this was something that she would like to see more of and it was becoming a project through the South West Arts Board. She further stated that, if Members had ideas they should inform her of them. Jill Shonk advised that the History Festival Programme would include more such events and she would be looking at which audiences were being reached.
- 29.16 Councillor Patel stated that Members had a role in promoting engagement with diversity – Members, for example, are in contact with community leaders. He questioned how widely festivals and events are promoted wardby-ward. Jill Shonk highlighted that this would be addressed through the Great Place Programme and that MGL did considerable amounts of publicity.
- 29.17 Councillor Hampson suggested that the Committee **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that para 4.1 be amended to include specific reference to encouraging a diverse range of cultural groups to initiate and participate in events. This was agreed by the Committee.
- 29.18 Councillor Hilton stated that it would be helpful to grow feature events for tourism purposes and suggested that another festival around the docks be considered. Councillor Noakes noted that there were increasing numbers of visitors from abroad and that it was an ambition to develop several signature events for the future.
- 29.19 **RESOLVED:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - RECOMMEND to the Cabinet that that para 4.1 of the Festival and Events Programme report be amended to include specific reference to encouraging a diverse range of cultural groups to initiate and participate in events, and;
 - (2) **NOTE** the Festival and Events Programme 2018/19 and update on progress 2017/18.

30. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS: UPDATE

- 30.1 The Chair invited the Chairs of the Task and Finish Groups to update the Committee on their progress.
- 30.2 Councillor Smith (Chair of Task and Finish Group: Homelessness) stated that the group would be reconvening towards the end of February. She advised that the scope of the project was a review of Council's procedures and results when dealing with homelessness. Councillor Smith further advised that, as it stood, there had been difficulties in getting data from organisations (although there had been some contact with agencies) and, specifically, people who had been through the homelessness process.
- 30.3 Councillor Hawthorne queried whether the challenge of the project was a reasonable. Councillor Smith stated that it was. Councillor Hampson (as a Member of the group) stated that it would need to report on the outcome of

SIB as matters had moved along. Councillor Smith confirmed that an update would be provided at the March meeting.

- 30.4 Councillor Haigh (Chair of Task and Finish Group: High Strength Alcohol) provided an overview of work undertaken as part of the group. She stated that information had been gathered from the LGA, premises and other Authorities on their approaches. Further, Councillor Haigh informed that Committee that there was initial data from the PSPO consultation which was of interest but could only ever be advisory given the consultation must run its course. She advised that the licensing position had been ascertained and that final work was underway to produce a draft report with recommendations.
- 30.5 The Vice-Chair sought to ascertain whether there had been any success in approaching licence holders. Councillor Haigh advised that this could only be done upon the conclusion of the group's work.
- 30.6 **RESOLVED –** That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the updates from the Task and Finish Chairs.

31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

31.1 26th February 2018 at 6.30pm in the Civic Suite, North Warehouse

Time of commencement: 6.30pm Time of conclusion: 7.35pm

Chair

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Gloucester City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Updated 16 February 2018

Item	Format	Lead Member (if applicable)/Lead Officer	Comments
26 February 2018			
Community Safety Partnership	Presentation	Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods/Anne Brinkhoff	Requested by Committee
26 March 2018			
Economic Growth Strategy	Written Report	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy/Head of Place	Requested by Committee
NO DATE YET SET			
Progress on the City Plan and Joint Core Strategy	Written Report	Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing	Requested by Committee for June 2018
Review of Green Travel Plan	Written report	Cabinet Member for Environment	Requested by Committee for September 2018
GCC Annual Performance Monitoring	Written Report	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Part of Committee's Rolling programme of work

NOTE: The work programme is agreed by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Spokesperson of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Publication Date: 6 February 2018



FORWARD PLAN FROM MARCH 2018 TO FEBRUARY 2019

This Forward Plan contains details of all the matters which the Leader believes will be the subject of a Key Decision by the Cabinet or an individual Cabinet Member in the period covered by the Plan (the subsequent 12 months). A Key Decision is one that is:

- a decision in relation to a Cabinet function which results in the Local Authority incurring expenditure or making of a saving which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- Page a decision that is likely to have a significant impact on two or more wards within the Local Authority; or
- a decision in relation to expenditure in excess of £100,000 or significant savings; or
- a decision in relation to any contract valued in excess of £500,000 Ń

A decision maker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Cabinet Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution. **Cabinet Members**

Portfolio	Name	Contact Details
Leader and Regeneration and Culture (LRC)	Councillor Paul James	6 Mainard Square, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0EU Tel: 384051 paul.james@gloucester.gov.uk
Deputy Leader and Communities and Neighbourhoods (C&N)	Councillor Jennie Dallimore	12 Meadowsweet Walk, Gloucester, GL4 0TY Tel: 07912450049 jennie.dallimore@gloucester.gov.uk
Housing, Health & Leisure (HHL)	Councillor Colin Organ	337 Stroud Road, Gloucester GL4 0BA Tel: 07767350003 colin.organ@gloucester.gov.uk
Performance and Resources (P&R)	Councillor David Norman MBE	50 Coltishall Close, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4RQ Tel: 07970593780 <u>david.norman@gloucester.gov.uk</u>
Environment (E)	Councillor Jim Porter	137 Estcourt Road, Gloucester, GL1 3LW Tel: 07976838505 jim.porter@gloucester.gov.uk

Gloucester City Council Forward Plan

The Forward Plan also includes Budget and Policy Framework items; these proposals are subject to a period of consultation and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to respond in relation to the consultation process.

A Budgetary and Policy Framework item is an item to be approved by the full City Council and, following consultation, will form the budgetary and policy framework within which the Cabinet will make decisions.

For each decision included on the Plan the following information is provided:

(a) the matter in respect of which a decision is to be made;

(b) where the decision maker is an individual, his/her name and title if any and, where the decision maker is a body, its name and details of membership;

(c) the date on which, or the period within which, the decision is to be made;

(d) if applicable, notice of any intention to make a decision in private and the reasons for doing so;

(e) a list of the documents submitted to the decision maker for consideration in relation to the matter in respect of which the decision is to made;

(f) the procedure for requesting details of those documents (if any) as they become available

(the documents referred to in (e) and (f) above and listed in the Forward Plan are available on request from the Council's main offices at Herbert Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EQ. Contact the relevant Lead Officer for more information).

The Forward Plan is updated and published on Council's website at least once a month.

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Å KEY	= Key Decision	BPF	= Budget and Policy Framework
NON	= Non-Key Decision		
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CONTACT:

For further detailed information regarding specific issues to be considered by the Cabinet/Individual Cabinet Member please contact the named contact officer for the item concerned. To make your views known on any of the items please also contact the Officer shown or the portfolio holder.

Copies of agendas and reports for meetings are available on the web site in advance of meetings.

For further details on the time of meetings and general information about the Plan please contact:

David Rice, Democratic Services Officer at 01452 396126 or send an email to <u>HYPERLINK "mailto:david.rice@gloucester.gov.uk"</u>

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	DECISION MAKER & PORTFOLIO	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
MARC	H 2018					
NON Page	Pay Policy Statement 2018-19 To seek approval for the annual Pay policy Statement 2018-19 in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.	7/03/18 22/03/18	Cabinet Council Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Treasury Management Strategy To seek approval for the Treasury Management Strategy.	7/03/18 22/03/18	Cabinet Council Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Air Quality Management Areas To seek approval to review the air quality management areas within the City.	7/03/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Environment			Alex Mason, Community wellbeing Officer tel. 01452 396316 alex.mason@gloucester.gov.u k

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)		PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
NON	Growing Gloucester's Visitor Economy To provide Cabinet with an update on the annual review of the Visitor Economy Strategy.	7/03/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Jill Shonk, Head of Cultural and Trading Services jill.shonk@gloucester.gov.uk
NON Page 24	Financial Monitoring Quarter 3 Report To receive an update on financial monitoring information for the third quarter 2017/18.	7/03/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	City Centre Action Plan Update To review the City Centre Action Plan.	7/03/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			David Evans, City Growth and Delivery Manager david.evans@gloucester.gov.u k
NON	Matson and Podsmead Estate Regeneration to outline the development proposals for the regeneration of estates within Matson and Podsmead.	7/03/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Ian Edwards, Head of Place Tel: 01452 396034 ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.u k

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
APRIL	. 2018					
NON Page 25	Economic Growth Strategy To conduct a review of the current Economic Development Strategy and update Members on plans to ensure a positive impact of regeneration and economic growth for disadvantaged communities within the City.	11/04/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Ian Edwards, Head of Place ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.u k
NON	Social Enterprise Grounds Maintenance Pilot To advise Members on the Social Enterprise Grounds Maintenance Pilot Project	11/04/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Communities Iloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov. uk

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
NON	Emergency Accommodation & Housing Service Transformation to advise members of the appraisal of the Emergency Accommodation & Housing Service Transformation	11/04/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Helen Chard, Housing Manager Tel: 01452 396534 helen.chard@gloucester.gov.u k
BNON	Introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for Houses in Multiple Occupation to advise members of the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for houses in multiple occupation	11/04/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Helen Chard, Housing Manager Tel: 01452 396534 helen.chard@gloucester.gov.u k

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
MAY 2	2018					
NON	Public Art Strategy To update Cabinet on progress made with public art to date and to seek approval from Cabinet to produce an updated public art strategy.	9/05/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			David Evans, City Growth and Delivery Manager david.evans@gloucester.gov.u k
	2018					
NON	2017-18 Financial Outturn Report To update Cabinet on the Financial Outturn Report 2017-18.	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON	Treasury Management Six Monthly Update 2017/18 To update Cabinet on treasury management activities.	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
NON	Strategic Risk Register To update Members on the Council's Strategic Risk Register	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Stephanie Payne, Group Manager, Audit, Risk and Assurance Tel: 01452 396432 stephanie.payne@gloucester.g ov.uk
NON Page 28	Regeneration of the Former Fleece Hotel Site To consider the proposals received and identify a preferred partner.	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Ian Edwards, Head of Place ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.u k
NON	Gloucester Culture Trust Annual Report To provide Members with an update on the work undertaken by the Gloucester Culture Trust	13/06/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director jonathan.lund@gloucester.gov. uk

(and s	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
JULY	2018					
NON	City Centre Investment Fund Allocations and Update To update Members on the progress towards the delivery of the City Centre Investment Fund	11/07/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Ian Edwards, Head of Place Tel: 01452 396034 ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.u k
Page 29	Social Impact Bond- Mid Term Update To receive an mid- term update on the Gloucestershire Social Impact Bond/.	11/07/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning			Helen Chard, Housing Manager Tel: 01452 396534 helen.chard@gloucester.gov.u k
AUGU	ST 2018- No meetings	<u> </u>				

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
SEPT	EMBER 2018					
NON	Financial Monitoring Quarter 1 Report To receive an update on financial monitoring information for the first quarter 2018/19	3/09/18 12/09/18	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
	BER 2018					
NON	Energy Costs and Reduction Projects Annual Report To update Cabinet on the City Council Energy Costs and Reduction Projects.	10/10/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Ian Edwards, Head of Place Tel: 01452 396034 ian.edwards@gloucester.gov.u k

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
NON Page 31	Armed Forces Community Covenant Update To update Cabinet on the work done by Gloucester City Council to support current and ex-service personnel as part of the Gloucestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant.	10/10/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods			Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Communities Iloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov. uk
NOVE	MBER 2018					
NON	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) - Review of Procedural Guide To request that Members review and update the Council's procedural guidance on RIPA.	7/11/18	Council Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
NON	Financial Monitoring Quarter 2 Report To receive an update on financial monitoring information for the second quarter 2018/19	29/10/18 7/11/18	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
DECE	MBER 2018					
Page 32	Strategic Risk Register To update Members on the Council's Strategic Risk Register	5/12/18	Audit and Governance Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Stephanie Payne, Group Manager, Audit, Risk and Assurance Tel: 01452 396432 stephanie.payne@gloucester.g ov.uk
NON	Draft Budget Proposals (including Money Plan and Capital Programme) To update Cabinet on the draft budget proposals	5/12/18	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
NON	Treasury Management Six Monthly Update 2017/18 To update Cabinet on treasury management activities.	5/12/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
NON Page 33	Financial Monitoring Quarter 2 Report To recieve an update on financial monitoring information for the third quarter 2018/19	5/12/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
BPF	Local Council Tax Support Scheme To advise members of the requirement to review the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS)	5/12/18	Council Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

(and	SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)		Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
JANU	ARY 2019					
KEY	Festivals and Events Programme To seek approval for the 2019-20 Festival and Events Programme.	9/01/19	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Jill Shonk, Head of Cultural and Trading Services jill.shonk@gloucester.gov.uk
NON NPage 34	Green Travel Plan Progress Report 2018 and Update Annual update on itiatives in the Green Travel Plan	9/01/19	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Communities Iloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov. uk
FEBR	UARY 2019	L				
BPF	Final Budget Proposals (including Money Plan and Capital Programme) To seek approval for the final Budget Proposals for 2019/20, including the Money Plan and Capital programme.	6/02/19 28/02/19	Cabinet Council Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Policy and Resources Tel: 01452 396242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)			
NON	Growing Gloucester's Visitor Economy To provide Cabinet with an update on the annual review of the Visitor Economy Strategy.	5/12/18	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			Jill Shonk, Head of Cultural and Trading Services jill.shonk@gloucester.gov.uk			
ITEMS	ITEMS DEFERRED- Dates to be confirmed								
Page 35	Car Parking Strategy to adopt the Gloucester City Car Parking Strategy		Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Kate Biggs, ED & Regeneration Officer kate.biggs@gloucester.gov.uk			
KEY	Disposal of HKP Warehouses To seek approval to dispose of the HKP Warehouses for alternate use.		Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director jonathan.lund@gloucester.gov. uk			
KEY	Gloucester Social Enterprise Partnership To develop a Gloucester Social Enterprise Partnership		Cabinet						

(and	SUBJECT summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
KEY	Housing Development Company To seek approval to establish a housing development company.		Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy			Jon McGinty, Managing Director jon.mcginty@gloucester.gov.u k
NON Page 36	Energy Savings Projects Report To update Cabinet on the City Council Energy Costs and Reduction Projects.		Cabinet Cabinet Member for Environment			Meyrick Brentnall, City Improvement and Environment Manager Tel: 01452 396829 meyrick.brentnall@gloucester. gov.uk