

Paragraph 12.02 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit a written question to any Cabinet Member.

This document informs Members of Council of written questions put to Cabinet Members and written replies thereto.

Council is recommended to RESOLVE to note the written questions submitted and corresponding responses.

No.	Question from/to	Question
1.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Why can residents no longer recycle paper, tins and glass at Sainsbury's in Barnwood? Does this apply to all the bring sites in the city?
Response		
<p>In Autumn 2014 we conducted a review of our Supermarket "Recycling Sites", taking in account the types and weight of materials collected, the space available at each site and the costs of collection. We have also visited the sites and talked to people who use these facilities.</p>		
<p>The information we gathered showed that the majority of people using the banks for plastic, paper, cans and glass did not live in the City (as they already use the kerb-side service) or were bringing commodities from their workplace (which is commercial waste and should be collected separately).</p>		
<p>As part of the review, we wanted to be able to enhance the service so as to provide the opportunity for residents to recycle items that cannot currently be collected at the kerbside , and to do so we have had to rationalise the number of bins at each site so as to free up some space.</p>		
<p>Consultation with residents has repeatedly shown us that people want to recycle mixed plastics (yogurt pots, butter tubs, meat trays and fruit punnets). However, due to their high volume, these items take up considerable space which prevents us from collecting them in our current fleet of recycling vehicles. Therefore, whilst we undertake a review of the whole Waste and Recycling Service, we have now installed new "Mixed Plastics" banks at the following locations –</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asda Bruton Way, • Tesco St Oswalds, • Sainsburys Barnwood, • Sainsburys St Ann Way • Morrisons Abbeydale. 		
<p>Early indications are showing they are very popular and at Sainsburys Barnwood we have recently added a second plastic bank.</p>		
<p>The second commodity residents want to be able to recycle is corrugated cardboard. Again this is a high volume item which cannot be collected in our</p>		

current fleet of recycling vehicles and so we know there is a demand to offer this recycling service through the Recycling Sites. As part of the review of these sites, we concluded this is a service that must be retained and in January alone we collected 33 tonnes of cardboard.

These changes mean that residents are now able to recycle paper, tins and cans, glass, plastic bottles, batteries and food waste via the kerbside service; and corrugated cardboard, mixed plastics, clothing and shoes at the Recycling Sites. This change allows us to operate a more efficient service and collect a wider range of items, thus diverting more waste from landfill. We now have Supermarket Recycling Sites that complement our kerbside service rather than compete against it.

In early December 2014 all households received a "bin hanger" that informed them what they can recycle and where including the changes outlined above. This information was supported by information in City Life, a Press Release and our Website.

Members were informed of the changes by e-mail on 22nd December 2014 as part of a Waste & Recycling 'Winter Briefing Note'. This briefing note also outlined some of the key work strands of the service during 2014 and work that was ongoing or was planned for 2015.

No.	Question from/to	Question
2.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Cardboard and food waste can generate significant income for councils. When will cardboard be collected on the doorstep, and why does the council not consider collecting recyclates such as cardboard and food waste from businesses? Wouldn't the reduction in landfill fees and the revenue from resale of the recyclates outweigh the financial cost to the council?
Response		
<p>In response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group, officers established a Waste and Recycling Action Plan so as to fully consider each of the recommendations and what could be achieved as part of the current Waste and Recycling Service. An update on the Waste and Recycling Action Plan will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny on 23rd March 2015.</p> <p>We are very keen to be able to introduce the collection of cardboard at the kerbside and we know that residents would use this service. However, the current kerb-side vehicles do not have the capacity to collect these items.</p> <p>We have looked at the introduction of a separate vehicle to collect cardboard from the kerb-side, but with the possibility of this service changing within the next 18 months, it was felt that it would be more confusing to introduce this at this stage.</p> <p>Whilst the full review of the service is carried out, we have made changes to the Recycling Sites so as to increase capacity for cardboard collections. On average this has resulted in an increase of 10 tonnes of cardboard being recycled per month.</p> <p>All businesses in the City are required to have a Trade Waste Collection in</p>		

	place and so will make arrangements with their contractor for the separation and collection of anything that is recyclable. The City Council does not directly operate a Trade Waste Service and this is provided by Amey.	
No.	Question from/to	Question
3.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	2015 will see the Rugby World Cup and all eyes will be on Gloucester, and especially my ward of Kingsholm. Residents have raised concerns about the provision of toilet facilities in the area of the rugby stadium. Can you confirm that facilities will be provided by the council, or some other organisation?
	Response	
	As a Rugby World Cup Host City we are looking forward to welcoming many visitors to the City next year. The number of fans attending the matches at Kingsholm will be no greater than a normal sell-out match day, and so we will not need to provide any additional facilities outside of the Ground. England Rugby 2015 will be responsible for all facilities within the Ground.	
	The Fanzone will be the main focus for people visiting the City Centre and we will be ensuring that adequate facilities are provided there. The Community Toilet Scheme will also be an important part of the wider range of toilet facilities we can now offer in the City Centre.	
No.	Question from/to	Question
4.	From Councillor Field to the Leader of the Council	In a recent email you mentioned that the council had attempted to acquire some of the Robert Opie collection for the city, but that the terms were too steep. Do you foresee any movement on this at a future date?
	Response	
	I was disappointed when the Robert Opie Museum left Gloucester. I like to think that if we had been the Administration when this happened we would have made greater efforts to keep it in the city. Discussions did take place some years ago about bringing part of the collection to the Waterways Museum, but those discussions were ultimately unsuccessful. In my view, it is unlikely that we will revisit this as the Council's efforts will be focused for the foreseeable future on improving the displays at its own museums. Both Council-run museums do, however, have Opie-style packaging items on display and sell genuine Robert Opie gifts in the museum shops.	
No.	Question from/to	Question
5.	From Councillor Field to the Leader of the Council	You also mentioned that the council has been talking to the Arts Council in an attempt to extract some funding for cultural activities. What has been/is the likely outcome?
	Response	
	The Council recognises the role culture has to play in supporting regeneration and economic development. Discussions have taken place with the Arts Council involving a number of City Council Officers and representatives from Marketing Gloucester. The Arts Council is keen to support projects in Gloucester as they feel the cultural offer is underdeveloped. They have already provided funding for the JOLT and Strike A Light festivals in the city, as well as several small arts-related projects. The Museums Service has also recently been awarded over £40,000 of Arts Council funding. The Arts Council are currently considering a bid for a cultural programme to run alongside the Rugby World Cup. They also provide advice, support and funding advice for	

	the museums service. We are unusual as a city not to have an Arts Council-supported venue and this is something we are keen to address. However, discussions are at an early stage and may take some time to bring to fruition.	
No.	Question from/to	Question
6.	From Councillor Hobbs to the Cabinet Member for Environment	<p>The Council are currently conducting a service review to look at where best to concentrate its efforts. Can the Cabinet Member...</p> <p>A) inform this council when we will receive the full figures from Amey so that we can analyse what our service configuration should be</p> <p>B) inform this council when the service review will be completed and a decision made by the council/cabinet</p> <p>C) inform this council when the cabinet member intends to implement the outcomes of the service review.</p>
Response		
<p>A report entitled 'Waste & Recycling Review' was approved at Cabinet on 25th February 2015. Within this report, information was provided on what the review will focus on and it's timescales and reference to this report may be helpful to you in support of the answers provided below.</p> <p>In specific response to your questions -</p> <p>A) The review will require the collation of information from a number of partners in addition to AMEY and we have commenced with a baseline cost comparison exercise. Once these costs have been identified and agreed the review will then seek to identify the most viable service delivery model. With the timetable outlined in my response to your Question B, we aim to have this information prior to the close of June 2015.</p> <p>B) Within the report referred to above, we have stated that it is our intention to present a preferred option report to Cabinet in August 2015 with a recommendation for a preferred option to be presented at Council in September 2015 for approval. The Cabinet Member has invited Members from all three Groups to form a Members Project Group to oversee the Review and help inform the final recommendation. This group met for the first time on 4th March 2015 and it was agreed that project group members would update colleagues on progress via Group Meetings. It is also our intention to present the preferred option report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14th September 2015.</p> <p>C) It is our commitment to deliver a new and improved service that assists with our ongoing savings targets as soon as is reasonably possible. This comes with a caveat, in that we cannot rush what is a major project and that requires a significant communications plan to ensure that when it goes live, our residents are aware of how to use the new service. It is our aim however to implement a new service within quarter 4 of 2015/2016 and if feasible from 1st January 2016.</p>		