

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 Haigh to the Cabinet Member for Environment	I understand that residents can recycle flat foil e.g. take away trays but not other foil. As all foil is made from the same materials can the Cabinet Member give an explanation and say if there are plans to allow residents to recycle all foil in future?
Response		
<p>The opportunity to recycle foil has recently been introduced. At present foil trays are acceptable as long as they have been cleaned of food residue. Any food residue would be seen as a contaminant, which would reduce or even eliminate the value of the recycled foil. Hence flat foil, which would typically be used for roasting or similar, would be difficult to clean of food residue, and may be screwed up, which would make it difficult even to detect food residue, is not presently acceptable because of the risk of contaminating the entire load.</p> <p>There are no present plans to accept all foil in future, unless a means is found to easily and accurately identify and reject any items of foil which are contaminated.</p>		
2.	From Councillor Hyman to Cabinet Member for Environment	<p>What is the rate of pay of Amey reuse lorry drivers and how does this compare to the normal rates local commercial drivers get?</p> <p>How many drivers need to be employed to carry out an effective service?</p> <p>How many vacancies are there?</p> <p>Please will you confirm that the drivers require a HGV Licence.</p>
Response		
<p>From 1 September 2017 AMEY are paying their drivers £10.90 per hour (an increase from £10.30). My understanding is that this is now broadly competitive with other waste collection services. We believe it to be generally in line with other neighbouring waste collection providers in Gloucestershire. It is always difficult to make direct comparisons because particular terms and conditions affect overall pay packages too. West Oxfordshire DC has recently agreed to pay a 15% supplement to their drivers to address the particular competition they face from pay rates in Oxford.</p>		

	<p>26 drivers need to be employed to carry out an effective service.</p> <p>There are 5 vacancies – all approved for recruitment. Of these 2 candidates have been offered posts and start dates are awaited, 2 are due to be interviewed and the 1 remaining vacancy is being advertised. These vacancies are being temporarily covered by existing staff.</p> <p>Drivers require a Class 2 Licence is required.</p>	
3.	<p>From Councillor Coole to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member provide details of all meetings and site visits (including community events) with community groups, that she has attended in relation to her portfolio within the last 3 months?</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p>I regularly meet and interact with numerous community groups in my role as Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, Deputy Leader of the Council and Councillor for Kingsway. Over the last three months this has included:</p> <p>Polish Heritage Day and further meetings with representatives of the Polish community Kingsway Big Lunch Kingsway Residents Association Quedgeley Parish Council Gloucestershire Constabulary Podsmead Big Local Redwell Centre GL Communities- Matson Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust George Whitfield Centre/ Homeless Healthcare Team & Volunteers Gloucester Carnival Gloucester Rugby Club OPCC CCG Gloucestershire County Council Barnwood Trust Skillzone</p> <p>This is not an exhaustive list as interaction with community groups takes many different forms and is not limited to simply attending meetings and events.</p>	
4.	<p>From Councillor Coole to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning</p>	<p>Is the Cabinet member for Housing and Planning as concerned as I and my ward colleagues are that the Winnycroft development in my ward will offer no CIL contribution, in addition to no affordable housing, and does he plan to take action to remedy this?</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p>I would share the disappointment in the findings of the additional viability appraisal but they are an objective reflection of the values related to the Winnycroft site.</p> <p>The initial assessment of the viability of the strategic allocations within the Joint</p>	

Core Strategy which was undertaken in 2016 considered that in general terms, each strategic site could accommodate a 35% affordable housing rate with a £35 per sq m CIL rate. All of the strategic allocations identified at this point within the JCS were located within Tewkesbury and Cheltenham; the development values associated with these sites were broadly equivalent.

At this point in time, the Winnycroft site was not included as a strategic allocation as the application for the construction of up to 420 dwellings on 'Big Winney' was well advanced; the remainder of the site that was yet to come forward had an estimated capacity of approximately 200 dwellings, well below the strategic allocation site threshold of a minimum of 500 dwellings.

Subsequently, the delay in bringing forward the delivery of the 'Big Winney' site meant that the total capacity of the Winnycroft site was established at over 500 dwellings, bringing it above the strategic allocation size threshold. When the JCS Examination reconvened, the Inspector recommended that the Winnycroft site should be included as a strategic allocation with an overall capacity of at least 620 dwellings as the entire site had not yet been committed through the planning application process. Therefore, the Inspector directed that a supplemental report be prepared to ascertain what level of CIL and/or affordable housing could be considered appropriate on the Winnycroft site.

The assessment was undertaken by the JCS's consultant on viability matters using an established methodology to ascertain what financial 'headroom' is available on the site. The headroom is the difference between the residual value of the appraised development capacity (620 units) and the benchmark land value. This can be defined as the amount of value left in a scheme when all other costs, including policy costs and a 'reasonable' value for the land is taken into account.

Based on the testing carried out by the consultant, the viability appraisal results indicate that the Winnycroft site would not be able to support neither a CIL rate nor a contribution for affordable housing. However, the report does indicate the s106 obligations associated with the site would yield approximately £15,000 per unit that will contribute to the provision of new infrastructure. This assessment is in line with estimates of land values within the Gloucester area which have historically not achieved the higher levels found within Tewkesbury and Cheltenham.

At the request of the JCS Councils, a further scenario based upon a s106 contribution of £7,500 per dwelling was tested to ascertain if a lower level of s106 contribution would deliver a higher CIL rate. This testing concluded that such a level would only deliver a minimal CIL rate of £4 sq m which could not be realistically supported in this instance.

The study does note that as the site occupies a location on the edge of Gloucester, it may achieve a premium to reflect a new place with new infrastructure that would increase its sales revenue above the average for the existing local area to achieve higher values and an improved viability position.

It should also be recognised that the overall estimated development density of the Winnycroft site is lower than other urban extensions due to the consideration of open space, landscape and heritage considerations. An increase in development density would deliver more units and increase the

	<p>overall viability position on the site which would yield higher levels of s106 contribution. The future distribution of s106 contributions will be an important issue as the City and County Councils will need to enter into constructive discussions on how best to use these funds to deliver new and improved infrastructure to serve new communities.</p> <p>Again, whilst I appreciate that the findings in relation and CIL are disappointing in this instance, development would still deliver a significant level of contributions through s106 obligations.</p>	
5.	<p>From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure</p>	<p>On the 12th of June 918 Æthelflæd, The Lady of the Mercians died. She was buried at St. Oswald's Priory.</p> <p>Æthelflæd ruled Mercia from 911. She was the eldest daughter of Alfred the Great. Next year will be the 1,100 anniversary of her death.</p> <p>What plans have been drawn up to celebrate her life and legacy?</p>
Response		
<p>The Council considered and approved an amended motion at Council last year calling for the 1100th Anniversary of the death of Aethelfaed and the 375th Anniversary of the Siege of Gloucester to be marked during the course of 2018. I am sure that Councillor Hilton will have seen that the matter was discussed in some detail at Cabinet on 19 July 2017.</p> <p>The Cabinet endorsed a comprehensive list of proposals to make the Aethelflaed anniversary including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Anglo Saxon/Viking re-enactment around the anniversary in June 2018 • Specially commissioned archaeological/DNA research • A new Aethelflaed Website • Establishing partnership with the other towns/cities connected with Aethelflaed and focusing on Gloucester as the centre for celebrations • Creation of temporary "Greek Theatre" with raised seating in the round using St Oswalds Priory as backdrop and used for... • A specially commissioned play on Aethelflaed A series of talks on Aethelflaed • A themed Museum exhibition • Schools education piece/competition • Civic Trust walking tours • Events during National Festival of Archaeology <p>We also agreed a similarly extensive list of events to mark the Siege of Gloucester. I would encourage Councillor Hilton to read the Cabinet Report.</p> <p>Not only did we endorse the proposals we asked the Gloucester Culture Trust to consider what they could add as part of a wider consideration of how the events could fit within a broader programme of activity in 2018 which would optimise the availability of Great Place funding, deliver key cultural strategy objectives and make a significant contribution towards Gloucester's ambition to be City of Culture in 2025.</p>		

	<p>We also agreed to work with a 2018 Anniversary Steering Group comprising representatives from Gloucester Culture Trust, Marketing Gloucester Ltd, the History Festival, the Heritage Forum, the Civic Trust and the City Council to coordinate activity to celebrate the anniversaries.</p>	
6.	<p>From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy</p>	<p>It is now just over ten years since the football stadium at Meadow Park was destroyed by severe flooding that we experienced in 2007.</p> <p>Gloucester City Association Football Club have planning permission for a replacement stadium and work has begun onsite to raise the ground levels.</p> <p>Could you give members a progress report, indicating when construction of the new stadium will begin and when supporters can expect to watch their first home game?</p>
	<p>Response</p>	
	<p>Cllr Hilton will be aware that the Council committed up to £100,000 of support to the Football Club to help them to progress towards building a new stadium at Meadow Park. Planning consent, which in itself is a considerable investment for the club, has been issued and a number of conditions have been discharged. Land stabilisation works are currently underway and are likely to continue until mid-2018. It is not possible for the Club to set a date for commencing construction of the new stadium until it is clear when works to raise the level of the pitch will be complete and they have secured sufficient funding to deliver this project. It is pleasing to note that the Club has recently strengthened its Board and has attracted new sponsors, which will help it to move forward with this major project. The Council remains in regular contact with the Club and will continue to support it wherever it can.</p>	
7.	<p>From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources</p>	<p>Could you provide a list of all vacant posts under the new Together Gloucester structure, also indicating those posts you are aware will become vacant within next couple of months?</p>
	<p>Response</p>	
	<p>The Management team have commissioned a City Council establishment list for 30th September, so I will ask the Managing Director to supply you with this information as soon as possible after that date. This date was chosen as there are currently outstanding appeals against redundancies and staff leaving positions and therefore a better understanding of the actual position will be known at the end of this month. Any list of vacancies issued before then is likely to be potentially misleading for that reason.</p> <p>All Councillors were informed via a recent Members' Bulletin that the Head of Place, Anthony Hodge is leaving the Council for a new post at Staffordshire County Council at the end of November. Councillors will continue to be kept regularly informed of staff arrivals and departures via the Members' Bulletin.</p>	

8.	From Councillor J. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	We hear that within a few short months of the Folk Museum being rebranded as the Gloucester Life Museum the future of this building is uncertain. It now appears unlikely that the new Gloucester Life Museum will continue to provide a venue to display many of our City's valued collections in future. What was the reason for the rebranding exercise and what was the cost to the City Council?
Response		
<p>First I need to correct a factual inaccuracy that is either accidentally or wilfully misrepresenting the proposals currently under discussion. The future of the Gloucester Life Museum Building is not uncertain. We are in discussions with the Gloucester Civic Trust about safeguarding the building's future by vesting it in the Gloucester Historic Buildings Trust and having it protected and preserved by the Buildings Trust and operated by the Civic Trust. If those discussions are successful they would seek to continue to use the building as a heritage venue to display parts of the City Museums Service collections as well as bringing a wide variety of new uses and broader public access to the site.</p> <p>Secondly the specific questions about the Folk Museum rebrand. This idea arose from a review of the City's Cultural Services in November 2014. The aim was to address the challenge of offering two distinct museum experiences, in two separate locations under two different identities and to respond to research which revealed negative connotations around the word "Folk". The rebrand happened in March 2016 and was timed to coincide with an identified need to refresh and replace deteriorating banners and signs at the Museums. Because publicity materials, events programmes and brochures are all periodically republished in any event, expenditure was kept to a minimum. The total cost of the rebranding was £10,000 for the City Gallery, the Ed Shed, and both Museums. The cost was met from within the existing Museums marketing budgets and Councillors will know that during 2016 visitor numbers and visitor income – particularly to the Museum of Gloucester - rose significantly.</p>		
9.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environment	<p>On the 29th of August the Citizen newspaper reported that Amey had been served two breach notices for noncompliance on their contract with Gloucester City Council.</p> <p>What's were the breach notices for and how much was the financial penalty to Amey?</p>
Response		
<p>A total of three Service Failure Notices have been issued to Amey during the period 17th July to 31st August 2017; contract conditions state that If the Service Failure is rectified within the period of time specified then no Service Failure Deduction will be made; if the Service Failure is not rectified within the period of time specified by the Assistant Director then a Service Failure Deduction will be agreed between the Parties.</p> <p>All three Service Failures were rectified within the 5 days specified and therefore no further action was taken; however, due to a reduction of recyclate income of £4,661.22 resulting from the co-mingled collection of recyclable materials during the period of 14th to 25th August 2017 inclusive, this should not</p>		

	result as a loss of income to the authority and the loss will therefore be absorbed by Amey.	
10.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	<p>Can you please confirm to members what the key lines of inquiry will be for the LGA peer review and when the peer review team will be visiting Gloucester?</p> <p>Please confirm that the content of the final report will be published on the city council website?</p>
	Response	
	<p>As Cllr Hilton has previously been advised and as all Members were recently informed via a Members' Bulletin, the Council has invited an LGA peer challenge team to visit this Autumn (14-17 November). The proposed key lines of inquiry, which Cllr Hilton has already been informed of and confirmed he is happy with, will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to track the council's progress since the 2013 review. Both in terms of officer-member relations, but also to reflect/review the impact of the recently completed 'Together Gloucester' organisational redesign, and whether these changes position the council to deliver on council priorities. • following the 'Together Gloucester' redesign, to consider whether the Council has sufficient capacity (in conjunction with its partners) to maintain adequate business continuity and emergency response functionality. • to review the council's partnership working arrangements and specifically on whether it is gaining the maximum benefit from unusual two-tier collaboration model (with the Managing Director working across both tiers of city and county council). If not, what more could/should the council be doing? • to review the extent to which the council is maximising the social benefits from the city's physical regeneration programme. Are the benefits from this 'bricks and mortar' programme being experienced by all residents of the City? If not, what more could/should the council be doing? • if the council has the right balance (in terms of resources, technology, governance etc.) to successfully deliver its ambitious transformation programme? If not, what more could/should it be doing? <p>In delivering this focus the peer team will explore the core components (the underpinning features of good performance) that all LGA corporate peer challenges cover:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding of the local place and priority setting: does the council understand its local context and place and use that to inform a clear vision and set of priorities? 2. Leadership of Place: does the council provide effective leadership of place through its elected members, officers and constructive relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders? 3. Financial planning and viability: does the council have a financial plan in place to ensure long term viability and is there evidence that it is being implemented successfully? 4. Organisational leadership and governance: is there effective political and managerial leadership supported by good governance and decision-making arrangements that respond to key challenges and enable change and transformation to be implemented? 5. Capacity to deliver: is organisational capacity aligned with priorities and 	

	<p>does the council influence, enable and leverage external capacity to focus on agreed outcomes?</p> <p>As part of the review process the peer team will no doubt want to interview a number of Members. More information about the review will be shared as and when it becomes available.</p> <p>I can confirm that, as was the case for the last Peer Challenge, the agreed final report will be published on the Council website.</p>	
11.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Gloucester has been awarded a Housing Action Zone, could the cabinet member confirm the sites on which this zone is applicable, how much of the £200m has been awarded to the city and what progress is being made to deliver more new homes?
Response		
<p>The City Council successfully bid to central government for Housing Zone status in 2014. The zone includes land at Blackfriars, the Quays and Black Dog Way.</p> <p>Housing Zone designation in itself does not result in the award of any direct funding. Rather it has helped to provide a 'hook' for various Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funding streams for the City since its designation in March 2015.</p> <p>The designation has already resulted in two successful bids assisting the complex and previously stalled sites at Black Dog Way and Bakers Quay to progress. We have received consultancy support from Local Partnerships funded by the HCA; have benefited from the £300k Capacity Funding and are being encouraged by the HCA to pursue further funding opportunities via the Accelerated Construction Programme and the Housing Investment Fund in order to de-risk significant brownfield sites within the Housing Zone and to speed up the development of housing in the City.</p> <p>The Capacity Funding of £300,000 is meeting the costs of employing a Senior Housing Delivery Officer (Principal Planning Officer) and the development of strategies, legal support and consultancy advice.</p> <p>The Principal Planning Officer role has delivered planning consents for 520 dwellings to date with a further two resolutions to permit that will provide a further 244 dwellings, currently awaiting completion of S106 agreements. Within the Housing Zone his role has also consented 316 student bed spaces, principally the development on the Barbican site. Work is now well-advanced which is a significant step forward in the regeneration of the Greater Blackfriars area.</p> <p>At Blackfriars the PPO has further brought forward the Local Development Order, consented by Planning Committee and subsequently approved by the DCLG, which also includes the Quayside House site where there is potential for further housing development.</p> <p>On the back of the Housing Zone, Gloucester has received just short of £10 million worth on investment from the HCA. As a direct result of this investment we are seeing the development of 95 homes at Black Dog Way and work has</p>		

	commenced on the mixed use development at the Quays via Rokeby Merchant. This includes 162 homes. The first phase of residential development at the new Provender building is well underway and is already being marketed for sale.
--	---