

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 Coole to the Leader of the Council	Will the Leader of the Council give an undertaking to work with the Members for Matson, Robinswood and White City, to put in place effective governance arrangements for Saintbridge Recreation Ground, land held in charity trust for which the Council is the sole trustee, and ensure that the Council as the trustee is meeting its statutory obligations?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The Council runs the Saintbridge Recreation Ground for recreation purposes as part of its adopted Open Space Strategy and in the execution of its normal duties. It has no intention in the near future to put in place additional governance arrangements in relation to the management of this particular asset. Should the situation change, and were the Council to be approached in relation to the disposal and/or redevelopment of the site, I would ensure that Ward Members were fully and closely consulted.	
2.	From Councillor Coole to the Leader of the Council	Other than Saintbridge Recreation Ground, is Gloucester City Council a trustee for any other pieces of charity land in the city, and if so, which land?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	As a result of a search of the Council's land terrier records the only other land where GCC are the Trustees that has come to light is the 'Hempsted Recreation Ground' which is under the Frederick William Corey Trust, however, this doesn't appear to be registered with the Charity Commission.	
3.	From Councillor Haigh to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	Will the Cabinet Member give a breakdown of instances of anti social behaviour incidents reported by type, location and by week since the beginning of lockdown? How many were outside the PSPO area, how many were breaches of the PSPO and how many were other categories?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<i>Will the Cabinet Member give a breakdown of instances of anti-social behaviour incidents reported by type, location and by week since the beginning of lockdown?</i>	

Solace

Total: 23/03/2020 – 30/07/2020 = 15 new cases opened for Solace on our case management system for Gloucester (NB – existing cases already recorded on our case management system prior to this date will also have had continued work/actions/court time/breaches processed during the period of lockdown 23/03/20 – 30/07/20. The figure given is the new cases which have been opened during the date periods specified).

Type of cases:

Neighbour issues: 7

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) relating to visitors to an address: 2

Organised Crime Group: 2

Referral on to another agency/advice: 3

Closure order: 1

Location of cases:

Barton and Treadworth: 4

Tuffley: 1

Matson: 1

Linden: 1

Kingsway: 1

Abbeymead: 2

Quedgeley: 3

Kingsholm: 1

Unknown: 1 (case was advisory only)

Dates cases received: please see table below:

24/07/2020; 24/07/2020; 10/07/2020; 23/07/2020; 03/07/2020; 11/06/2020;  
22/05/2020

18/05/2020; 30/04/2020; 27/04/2020; 22/04/2020; 14/04/2020; 09/04/2020;  
09/04/2020;

01/04/2020

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)work extra information:

City Protection Officers (CPO):

Month 2020	Street Drinkers Interactions	Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
March	184	83
April	426	78
May	396	86
June	295	85

Reports for March, April, May and June (during lockdown) will show some of the ASB reported, however its not divided into specific types or locations. CPOs work the gate streets, within the BID

area so all the figures centre around the Gate Streets, Docks and Quays. In addition, there were issues due to ASB in the areas around the Central Hotel and New County Hotel during lockdown.

	<p>Gloucester Neighbourhood Policing Team</p> <p>have been undertaking the advice/moving on/education/removal of open alcohol during lockdown. The figures below are for July alone (NB this is mainly due to prior to this the work was continuing, but the focus understandably was on Covid-19 related work).</p> <p>In July 2020, the breakdown of work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing team in the London Road area is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 43 patrols/visits/presence in the area</li> <li>o No one seen drinking alcohol in the no alcohol PSPO area: 18</li> <li>o Alcohol removed: 7</li> <li>o Other crime/enforcement necessary: 3</li> <li>o Advice on the PSPO (no alcohol removed): 7</li> <li>o Patrol whilst on duty of the area to be a presence e.g. whilst working on night-time economy policing/CCTV work: 8</li> </ul> <p>How many were outside the PSPO area? Not all were not linked to either PSPO's or not always reported by specific area.</p> <p>How many were breaches of the PSPO? Not all were not linked to either PSPO's or not always reported by specific area.</p> <p>How many were other categories? All were other categories as expanded on above.</p>	
4.	From Councillor Haigh to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	How many times has the Community Trigger been used in Gloucester in the last 12 months?
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Community triggers for Gloucester July 2019-July 2020 = 3</p> <p>All met the trigger threshold.</p> <p>Please note that not all trigger requests meet the threshold for a trigger to take place. For example, in the last 5 years for all the districts in Gloucestershire (minus the Cotswolds as they run their own), there were 23 trigger requests, but only 4 met the threshold for a trigger conference to take place.</p>		
5.	From Councillor Haigh to the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth	How many inspections of premises for inspection and enforcement of the Gambling Act have taken place in the last 12 months. Was any action taken?
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>There have been no inspections of Gambling premises in the last 12 months, however we have been chasing outstanding annual fees in the office. In terms of enforcement action one premises had been referred by Sundry Debtors to Dukes Bailiffs and subsequently paid two outstanding fees of £700 each.</p>		
6.	From Councillor Haigh to the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth	Under the new powers that Councils have to shut down premises and events to prevent the spread of Covid-19 what procedures are in place for members of the public to make reports and have them acted upon out of office hours?

	<b>Response:</b>	
	Social distancing (Covid secure related matters) complaints are referred to Community Wellbeing for any action. All premises are required to conduct a Risk Assessment and this should be made available on a request from an authorised Officer. Recently Gloucestershire County Council (not City) have been given the powers to close businesses under Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 18th July, legal services are considering how this will be applied. Out of hours calls are logged and passed on to the team on the following business day, responses would be made as appropriate. Community Wellbeing are carrying out proactive Covid secure visits at licensed premises liaising with the Police providing advice and guidance as necessary, also we have powers to close businesses under the Health and Safety at Work Act. This is a bit long winded as we would serve an improvement notice and this carries a 21-day compliance time scale, if this is not complied with, court action could follow.	
7.	From Councillor Coole to the Leader of the Council	Does the Leader agree that it is important to follow the guidance issued by the Charity Commission and Local Government association, that states where a Local Authority is responsible for land as a charity trustee (and the relationship is therefore governed by the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Local Government Act 1972) that “the management of the charity should be kept separate, as far as possible, from the business of the Local Authority” and that any finances or assets related to the charity must be accounted for separately and channelled through discrete cost centres? <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/351608/council_as_charity_trustee_overview.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/351608/council_as_charity_trustee_overview.pdf</a>
	<b>Response:</b>	
	Legal advice has been received in respect of the Council’s duties where it is a trustee. Trust meetings will be held separately from Council meetings. Charity assets are noted as such in the appropriate records. Not all charities have capital or generate an income, but where they do, the duty to ring-fence is recognised and the finances separately identified.	
8.	From Councillor Coole to the Leader of the Council	Does the Leader agree that is important to follow the Charity Commission and LGA guidance in reference to Councils as charity trustees where it states that “ongoing management (of the charity) may be delegated to officers, responsibility for decision making and oversight rests with councillors” and will he ensure these arrangements, separate from our duty as Local Authority, are in place for the two pieces of charity land currently identified in the City?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	Legal advice has been received in respect of the Council’s duties where it is a trustee. Trust meetings will be held separately from Council meetings.	
9.	From Councillor Coole to the Leader of the Council	Will the Leader register with the Charity Commission, any charitable trusts for which Gloucester City Council is responsible as a trustee that currently remain unregistered?

	<b>Response:</b>	
	Certain charities are not registrable. In particular, the Charity Commission will not register charities with an income of less than £5,000 per annum.	
10.	From Councillor Haigh to the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth	Following on from the response to question 6, if members of the public are concerned that social distancing is being breached out of hours what steps should they take to ensure this is investigated and acted upon urgently?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	Social Distancing measures vary, and are dependent on situation and the types precautions in place, for example wearing a mask allows for less distancing, such as shopping in supermarkets. It is best for any one concerned about inadequate precautions inside a business (barbers, hair dressers etc. ) to avoid risk by exiting the premises and reporting this to the City Council through...	
	Phone During Normal Working Hours	
	Phone: 01452 396 396 and choose the option you need. Text telephone: 01452 396 161	
	Email: <a href="mailto:heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk">heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk</a>	
	Out of hours please call: 01452 396 220	
	This would be passed on to the Community Wellbeing Team for consideration and investigation as appropriate.	
	If there are crowded situations that require immediate action please contact the local police through 101 or 999 if there is a possibility of imminent danger.	
	Everyone must be mindful of the most recent government guidance which is current as of today through this link:	
	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july</a>	
	We are currently seeking to appoint a Covid response officer in collaboration with the other Gloucestershire districts to respond specifically to matters of this nature and carry out proactive work with businesses. An emergency response structure is being considered within this collaborative structure. Currently our officers have been working in partnership with the police and licencing teams to provide a similar service whilst having to balance this with existing Environmental Health priorities within the City.	
11.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	What is the annual budget for tree works carried out by the city council tree team in Gloucester?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The annual budget for tree maintenance works is £83,000.	
12.	From Councillor Field to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	The government has allowed local authorities to carry out trials for e-scooter rentals. Will a trial be taking place in our area?

	<b>Response:</b>	
	Gloucestershire County Council as highway authority will be running a pilot which will start towards the end of September. They have licenced a company called Zwing to deliver an e-scooter hire service in Gloucester and Cheltenham. Details will have been circulated on a Members' briefing paper prior Council.	
13.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	With the news that possibly 25% of UK mammals are facing extinction, what is the council doing to encourage and protect the mammal population in our council area?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	To protect all wildlife we need to protect and enhance the broader habitat that is the way to reverse biodiversity decline. With regard to our own estate, as well as our reserves, we have large areas of open space some of which we have started to manage for wildlife as well as amenity. With ERDF/ESIF scheme we have been able to spend quite large sums of money on habitat creation in open space often with the added benefit of flood management. In our regulatory role we protect habitat and species through the development control process.	
14.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth	What is being done to support local traders for example in Eastgate Market?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	We have instructed a local company to create the infrastructure to introduce free WIFI at the Indoor Market. This will enable the traders to start taking card/contact-less payment. Free WiFi will also encourage the Traders, with help/assistance from the Market Officer, to start using social media to promote their products and advertise last minute offers.	
	We are installing a 52" inch screen at the entrance of the market, which will display digital content on a loop to promote/advertise all the stalls and services within the Indoor Market and a full PR presentation is ready to go live.	
	A budget has been approved to carry out improvement works to the toilets, to have brighter/more efficient lights, and to carry out other cosmetic works. The market will be completely rebranded with new signs and banners in place before Christmas. It is hoped that, when completed, all the improvement works will make the market more attractive, which will result in an increased footfall, thus benefiting the Traders.	
15.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth	How much does it cost to bring the continental street market to Gloucester?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	There is no direct cost to bringing the Continental Street Market to the City Centre. Instead, the council derives an income from the arrangement.	
	In terms of Officers' time, it takes approximately 5 hours, which includes the booking process, the approval stage and the supervision, to manage/deliver the Continental Market.	