



CABINET

**Meeting: Wednesday, 9th February 2022 at 6.00 pm
in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP**

ADDENDUM – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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| <p>6.</p> | <p>LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) (PAGES 5 - 8)</p> <p>Any Member of the Council may ask the Leader of the Council or any Cabinet Member any question without prior notice, upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any matter relating to the Council's administration• Any matter relating to any report of the Cabinet appearing on the summons• A matter coming within their portfolio of responsibilities <p>Only one supplementary question is allowed per question.</p> <p>Questions must be submitted to democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk by 12 noon on Friday 4th February 2022. Responses to questions will be published in an addendum to the agenda by 12 noon on the day of the Cabinet Meeting.</p> |
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Paragraph 12 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 the Leader of Council or any Cabinet Member.

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

Cabinet is recommended to

- (a) Note the written questions submitted and corresponding responses.**
- (b) Note the supplementary questions and corresponding responses delivered verbally within the 15 minutes available for Questions by Members.**

| No. | Question from/to | Question |
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| 1. | From Councillor Dee to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment | What is happening with the Prison site? I would be interested to know what the plans are for it. |
| | <p>Response:</p> <p>Planning permission was secured in 2018 by owner, City and Country, to redevelop the 3.6 acre site for 202 residential units. The permitted scheme also included 480sqm of commercial and community space within the former main prison block, which is Grade 2* listed. Since then detailed consents have been obtained to enable the development to proceed and the owner has held discussions with prospective developers of the scheme.</p> <p>Officers are maintaining regular contact with the owner. The company remains committed to finding a viable long-term future for the site having secured the important milestone of planning consent in December 2018 and after triggering its implementation last year. This enables the consent to be kept alive whilst the company continues exploring ways to address the viability deficit associated with the approved scheme.</p> <p>Officers worked with the owner last year on discharging the remaining pre-commencement conditions so they could lawfully implement the consent and it is envisaged that the current tenants will continue their 'meanwhile' use of the prison site for airsoft games and tours until a long-term solution is found and a full start on site can come forward.</p> | |
| 2. | From Councillor Wilson to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources | I note the creation of a Cyber Recovery reserve of £380k in the budget papers. In recent times other local authorities such as Hackney and Redcar have also suffered cyberattacks but have incurred significantly greater recovery costs than this. Are you confident this reserve is sufficient and the city council is not being exposed to the risk of having to deal with costs it can't afford? |

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| | Response: | |
| | The reserve being put in place is to protect the Council from recovery costs from the incident. As the recovery continues the full cost implications will be further understood, sources of funding will then need to be identified. The costs will be split between capital and revenue, to fund this the council will either use other earmarked reserves, capital receipts or prudential borrowing. | |
| 3. | From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council | As soon as the Council is in recovery mode from the cyber incident what are the plans with regards to instigating an independent investigation to enable us to fully understand what happened and ensure we are fully protected from a similar incident occurring in the future? |
| | Response: | |
| | As highlighted at Council by the Cabinet Member for Performance & Resources, once we have recovered from the incident we will undertake a review. | |
| 4. | From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council | The forward plan presented to scrutiny on Monday (31 st Jan) indicated that there would be a paper to the 9 th of February Cabinet, which would seek approval for the publication of the main modifications to the Gloucester City Plan, to allow for public consultation. Why is this important paper missing from the agenda? |
| | Response: | |
| | The current IT issue has resulted in a delay to the progression of the City Plan Main Modifications. This is primarily because the system used to produce the Policies Map, and the data files, is currently inaccessible. Officers are currently developing a workaround so that the Main Modifications process can continue. | |
| 5. | From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy | The last adopted city plan was approved in 1983, a very long time ago. Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that the main modifications paper must be presented to the next cabinet meeting (to be held on the 9 th of March) for approval and public consultation? |
| | Response: | |
| | Officers are targeting bringing the report to the Cabinet meeting on 8 th April. | |
| 6. | From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources | Following the cyberattack on the council's IT systems has the council applied to the government for a one-off cyberattack recovery grant? |
| | Response: | |
| | The council is actively engaging with government departments on what financial support may be available to the Council. | |

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| 7. | From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council | It was recently reported that the construction firm building the new student accommodation in Gloucester had gone into administration (because of difficulties caused by Brexit, COVID, and labour and material shortages). How confident are you that this important regeneration project will still be completed on schedule? |
| Response: | | |
| To my knowledge Midas Construction has announced its intention to go into administration, which is a deliberate action intended to give them time to find a buyer for the company prior to appointing The Administrator. Were it to go into administration it would be very regrettable, particularly as the firm is mid way through the completion of the Phase 2 of the Blackfriars student accommodation scheme in the city centre. Officers are in contact with the owner of the Blackfriars site, CityHeart, to understand their position, and the company has advised this week that it still aims to complete the scheme in time for the first intake of students in September. | | |

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