



CABINET

**Meeting: Wednesday, 7th December 2022 at 6.00 pm
in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP**

ADDENDUM – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

6.	<p>LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) (PAGES 5 - 16)</p> <p>Any Member of the Council may ask the Leader of the Council or any Cabinet Member any question 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 2nd December 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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Yours sincerely

**Jon McGinty
Managing Director**

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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																														
1.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	What were the council tax and business rate collection rates for each quarter of 2022 to date and how do they compare with the same period in 2021? <i>(Please provide a year-on-year answer with each quarter.)</i>																														
Response:																																
<p>The recovery process has been delayed for the 2022/23 charge year for council tax cases in arrears due to the cyber incident and because of the additional demands made of the service relating to the Energy Rebate Scheme.</p> <p>Initial steps to recover business rate arrears began at the end of August 2022 and will see the council make its first application for liability orders at the November court hearing.</p>																																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Council Tax</th> <th colspan="3">Business Rates</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th></th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>28.57%</td> <td>55.88%</td> <td>2021/22</td> <td>26%</td> <td>51.57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>26.70%</td> <td>53.42%</td> <td>2022/23</td> <td>23.40%</td> <td>54.28%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Difference</td> <td>-1.87%</td> <td>-2.46%</td> <td>Difference</td> <td>-2.60%</td> <td>+2.71%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Council Tax			Business Rates				Q1	Q2		Q1	Q2	2021/22	28.57%	55.88%	2021/22	26%	51.57%	2022/23	26.70%	53.42%	2022/23	23.40%	54.28%	Difference	-1.87%	-2.46%	Difference	-2.60%	+2.71%
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2.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	How much of the Council's allocation of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund and Welcome Back Fund did it spend and how was it used? <i>(Detailed answer please showing amounts and exactly where each amount was spent)</i>																														

	Response: The Council was allocated £230,270 by the Government within its Reopening the High Street fund and Welcome Back Fund. As the attached appendix details, a total of £168,795.93 was claimed.	
3.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Please can you advise the timings and operation for the Christmas lights in the city centre and other areas controlled by the city council?
	Response: 1. 5PM – 11PM Sunday to Thursday 2. 7AM – 2AM Friday and Saturday	
4.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Richard Graham recently posted online that the Museum will expand taking over the library space, is this true?
	Response: No, however discussions are underway between the city council and the county council to explore this idea. Any decision to expand the Museum would require a detailed business case before expanding the footprint of the Museum.	
5.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Please can you advise what happens if someone sends a letter to the offices at Eastgate Street, what will happen to the letter?
	Response: The Eastgate office address does not have a working postbox, is not set up as a delivery address within the Royal Mail postal system and is not publicised by the Council as a postal address. Any attempt to address an item of mail to this office is likely to be Returned to Sender by Royal Mail or redirected to the Council's postal address in Pershore. It is very rare for there to be any physical attempt to deliver post to the office. If an attempt is made, an officer will answer the door, take the item and either give it directly to the relevant team if present, or to Business Support for forwarding on via the digital mail service.	
6.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	There have been some teething problems in creating the Wellington Parade Garden on London Road. It's been redesigned after comprehensive public consultation into a form that should encourage pedestrian movements though it and discourage street drinkers congregating there day after day. Could the cabinet member please give me an assurance that the snagging problems will be resolved, with extra care being given to allowing the shrubs, trees and other plants to become well established in the garden?

	Response:	
	The redevelopment of the site has been completed. The garden was officially opened and available to the public on the 28 th October 2022. Assurances can be given that the snagging problems are being resolved, the shrubs, trees and other plants are being cared for allowing them to become well established in the garden. We are working with Emerging Futures CiC who are currently litter picking as and when required. They are also going to be painting the fence and repairing the fire damaged area. Volunteers will also be planting bulbs to bring some colour to the area for Spring 2023 as well as ongoing upkeep of existing planting.	
7.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Could the cabinet members please publish the precise reasons why Gloucester City Homes has abandoned a similar regeneration scheme in Matson that involved the offloading of recreational open space to GCH for the housing company to build on?
	Response:	
	<p>Gloucester City Homes recently advised the Council that it no longer intends to pursue the comprehensive regeneration of the Matson estate, owing to the difficult financial viability of the scheme and the availability of sites to enable the development to proceed. It will, however, continue to invest in the creation of new homes within the estate. The company recently advised its residents that 3 new homes were completed earlier this year at Badminton Road on land that had previously attracted frequent fly-tipping and work has started to develop 10 new homes on the old pub site, transforming the area next to Matson shops into new affordable housing. The company also continues to pursue permission to regenerate the land around the Matson fishing lake into 9 new homes and transform the old lodge into a community venue</p> <p>The company has also informed residents recently of its intention to roll out an extensive programme across the city to improve the environmental performance of its worst performing homes. This includes plans to invest over £4 million in improving the energy efficiency of existing homes in Matson, as part of an overall £12 million investment across Gloucester. This will result in all homes achieving an energy efficiency rating of at least band C and importantly will reduce heating costs.</p> <p>I share Cllr Hilton's concerns that the company has stepped back from an estate-wide regeneration programme for now, and I will continue to liaise closely with their Chief Executive, Board and staff to encourage and work with them to look for opportunities of revisiting the extensive plans that have been prepared over the past few years.</p>	
8.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	<p>Looking at GCH's proposal for Podsmead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many GCH rented homes will be demolished? • How many new residential dwelling will built for market sale? • How many new residential dwellings

		<p>will be built for social rent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many new residential dwellings will be built for shared equity use? • How many properties, whether residential units, community units or retail units are planned to be built on recreational land at Podsmead that is currently in ownership of GCC, by GCH?
Response:		
<p>Until an application for Planning Permission is received we are unaware of the exact numbers and types of homes being proposed by Gloucester City Homes. The application will then be subject to the normal planning process.</p>		
9.	<p>From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy</p>	<p>In total, how much recreational land in acreage is planned to be transferred from the ownership of Gloucester City Council to Gloucester City Homes Ltd?</p>
Response:		
<p>The report on the agenda this evening on this subject includes reference to three sites within the Podsmead estate and which are currently used for recreation. It is proposed that authority is given to officers to enter negotiations with GCH over the sale of those sites with the intention of developing them for housing and commercial and community facilities. These three sites total 4.9 acres.</p>		
10.	<p>From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Could the cabinet member tell me whether the Podsmead project to demolish existing housing stock and build new affordable homes on land owned by GCH is viable without the contribution of recreational land at Scott Avenue, which is currently in the ownership of GCC?</p>
Response:		
<p>Cabinet is considering at this meeting a report that requests authority to enter into negotiations with Gloucester City Homes over the terms of the land sale of sites in Podsmead. The actual terms of the sale, including the number of homes, the proportion of affordable homes to be provided and the remuneration that the Council will receive for the sites, will not be discussed at this evening's meeting, and a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in due course. This subsequent report will seek the authority of the Council to dispose of the sites, based upon the terms agreed, and informed by a viability appraisal of the sites and the development proposed.</p>		

Question 2

How much of the Council's allocation of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund and Welcome Back Fund did it spend and how was it used?

The Council was allocated £230,270 by the Government within its Reopening the High Street fund and Welcome Back Fund. As the table below details, a total of £168,795.93 was claimed.

	Supplier	Description of goods / works	Amount claimed from WBF / RHSS
1	10 Yetis	Commissioning of a press and PR campaign over the summer of 2021 to encourage visitors to return to the city centre	£5,000.00
2	26 Marketing	Winter COVID safe campaign Run between 3 December 2020 and 26 January 2021 to encourage safe visiting of Gloucester city centre. The campaign included advertising on various media, drawing on images of local, Gloucester people who worked in the city. Adverts were placed on Stagecoach buses in and around Gloucester and on Clear Channel Adshel bus stops in the city. The latter included digital adverts on 8 screens (166,666 plays) averaging 6.2 hours per site per day.	£6,594.00
3	Barney Witt	People of Gloucester film project – commissioning of a film intended to capture notable local working people, describing why they live and work in Gloucester and how they coped during the pandemic.	£3,350.00
4	3D Joe & Max	Interactive Archaeology - September 2020 - first payment to artist. Public outdoor event over 3 days intended to attract visitors to the city centre using commissioned 3D pavement art to illustrate the city's rich heritage. Gloucester has a huge wealth of heritage and history, much of it long since buried beneath newer development or removed and replaced. The Interactive Archaeology event in September 2020 was intended to recreate some of that history and inform the public of Gloucester's great history. 9 individual pieces of artwork were commissioned from a national artist, each showing on a large canvas a 3d image of an aspect of Gloucester's history. The canvasses were laid out on the street and members of the public were invited to see and discuss the history with local experts, and to have their photograph taken within the 3d image.	£4,500.00

5	26 Marketing	Winter COVID safe campaign Run between 3 December 2020 and 26 January 2021 to encourage safe visiting of Gloucester city centre. The campaign included advertising on various media, drawing on images of local, Gloucester people who worked in the city. Adverts were placed on Stagecoach buses in and around Gloucester and on Clear Channel Adshel bus stops in the city. The latter included digital adverts on 8 screens (166,666 plays) averaging 6.2 hours per site per day.	£395.00
6	Mikal Ludlow	Commissioning of photography to promote city centre businesses to visitors	£600.00
7	City Safe	ID scanners. Support for the City Safe partnership in the city centre through the purchase of additional monthly Licences and Maintenance Fees for ID Scanners. The scanners were provided to relevant businesses to enable their door staff to protect the health and safety of staff and visitors.	£2,500.00
8	26 Marketing	Promotion of the city centre in nearby town and city centres to encourage visits to Gloucester city centre	£2,400.00
9	26 Marketing	Winter COVID safe campaign Run between 3 December 2020 and 26 January 2021 to encourage safe visiting of Gloucester city centre. The campaign included advertising on various media, drawing on images of local, Gloucester people who worked in the city. Adverts were placed on Stagecoach buses in and around Gloucester and on Clear Channel Adshel bus stops in the city. The latter included digital adverts on 8 screens (166,666 plays) averaging 6.2 hours per site per day.	£16,850.00
10	The Way	Provision of artwork for Welcome Back campaign in 2021. Welcome back media campaign using a number of different creative concepts which were issued through digital channels, social media and google. The campaign targeted national magazines and publications featuring Gloucester attractions and activities as well as focussed promotion in nearby cities and towns to encourage visitors to Gloucester.	£3,000.00
11	Russell Haines	The Gate Street Gallery art trail comprised 12 portraits of local heroes, all painted by a local artist, that were displayed over the period July to October 2021. The large portraits were printed on vinyl and displayed in vacant shop units throughout the city centre, alongside measures to tidy and smarten up the unit. The outdoor exhibition was intended to gain media profile for the city centre as well as encourage the public and prospective business owners to consider renting each of the vacant units. The transaction relates to the commissioning of the artwork, the printing of the vinyls, and the installation of the artwork in the shop units.	£5,000.00

12	The Way	Purchase of Artwork for Welcome Back campaign 1. Welcome back media campaign using a number of different creative concepts which were issued through digital channels, social media and google. The campaign targeted national magazines and publications featuring Gloucester attractions and activities as well as focussed promotion in nearby cities and towns to encourage visitors to Gloucester.	£372.00
13	The Way	Artwork for Welcome Back Roll Out	£624.00
14	Place Informatics	Purchase of Visitation Data Software to enable effective monitoring of visitor numbers, visitor origin and visitor movement within the City centre	£8,000.00
15	3D Joe & Max	Interactive Archaeology - September 2020 - second payment to artist. Public outdoor event over 3 days intended to attract visitors to the city centre using commissioned 3D pavement art to illustrate the city's rich heritage. Gloucester has a huge wealth of heritage and history, much of it long since buried beneath newer development or removed and replaced. The Interactive Archaeology event in September 2020 was intended to recreate some of that history and inform the public of Gloucester's great history. 9 individual pieces of artwork were commissioned from a national artist, each showing on a large canvas a 3d image of an aspect of Gloucester's history. The canvasses were laid out on the street and members of the public were invited to see and discuss the history with local experts, and to have their photograph taken within the 3d image. This transaction is the second payment to 3D Joe & Max for the production of the artwork	£4,500.00
16	3D Joe & Max	History Beneath Your Feet event - July-August 2021 - commissioning of additional artwork from 3D Joe & Max (see lines 4 and 23 above) for a second public outdoor event over 3 days intended to attract visitors to the city centre using commissioned 3D pavement art to illustrate the city's rich heritage. Gloucester has a huge wealth of heritage and history, much of it long since buried beneath newer development or removed and replaced. The Interactive Archaeology event in September 2020 was intended to recreate some of that history and inform the public of Gloucester's great history. 9 individual pieces of artwork were commissioned from a national artist, each showing on a large canvas a 3d image of an aspect of Gloucester's history. The canvasses were laid out on the street and members of the public were invited to see and discuss the history with local experts, and to have their photograph taken within the 3d image. This transaction is for purchase of additional items of artwork.	£15,000.00

17	City Dressing	Purchase of Artwork to dress the City Centre streets. In August 2021 we commissioned some City Dressing on two of the gate streets in the City. Westgate Street was decorated in celebration of the Cathedral Quarter, with colourful silhouettes of some of the city's historic buildings hanging on the catenary wires, whilst on Eastgate Streets multicoloured ladybirds were hung, to promote the Ladybird Exhibition at the Museum of Gloucester. Brightening up the City, these encourage visitors to look up from their phones, and admire the beauty of the City.	£6,370.00
18	Thinking Place Ltd	Roll out of new branding for the city to market Gloucester to visitors Commissioning of consultant to carry out research into perceptions of Gloucester amongst residents and visitors. Culminated in a branding and marketing strategy to inform the promotion and marketing of the city during and post Covid	£13,950.00
19	Gloucester BID	Urban Art Trail to deliver artwork by local residents on public utility infrastructure and street furniture within city centre streets. The project was coordinated by Gloucester Business Improvement District and delivered prior to Christmas 2021 with the aim of brightening the streets. The concept, sponsored by Gloucester Business Improvement District (BID) and the City Council via the Welcome Back fund, is to enhance the street scene by converting often unkempt and distressed street furniture into bright points of interest. City Centre visitors can walk around the Gate Streets and immediate adjoining lanes and spot the artwork.	£2,000.00
20	The Way	Campaign Artwork for Welcome back campaign	£3,760.00
21	Nick Weaver	Installation of Sculptures on catenary wires in Gate streets in the city centre	£1,900.00
22	Iron Crafts	Design of iron gates for Eastgate Street for pedestrian safety and to remove vehicles from the busy retail centre. The gates were designed by and commissioned from a local manufacturer	£1,000.00
23	Glide Media	Poster Displays. Creation of new poster inserts and COVID relevant information for public information display panels in the city centre. Included reference to What's on in Gloucester, Picture of the month (see example below) and What's on your Ticklist this month design creation	£1,488.00
24	The Way	Totem Designs. Creation of COVID relevant information within the public information totems within the city centre. Included reference to What's on in Gloucester, Picture of the month (see example below) and What's on your Ticklist this month design creation as well as reinforcing safety messaging.	£3,760.00
25	City Dressing	Commissioning of Sculptures for dressing the city centre, to be installed on catenary wires above the Gate Streets.	£7,260.00
26	Solar Vision	Solar lighting - Financial contribution towards the installation of Solar powered street lighting at the Skate Park in Park End Road to improve safety for users of the facility.	£5,000.00

27	Brickbox	Creation of Lego models for use in public heritage event. The Council commissioned the production of models of important historic buildings in Westgate Street in the city centre. The 10 models are scaled and realistic reproductions of buildings, some of which have been lost over past centuries. The models will be the basis of a public engagement event to be held in July 2022, intended to encourage visitors to the city and to give the local public a better understanding of the heritage of their city.	£3,742.00
28	Brickbox	Deposit for creation of Lego models	£1,498.00
29	BeeNoticed Ltd	Purchase of event equipment for city centre - 2 Small + 2 Large event marquees. The Council delivers cultural events and activities in the city centre through the Guildhall Theatre events team. Lines 40 to 47 were for the purchase of events equipment in March 2022, which has been used, and will continue to be used, for many years on events intended to attract visitors into the city.	£5,275.00
30	Leap Audio	Purchase of event equipment for city centre - portable battery powered PA + mics.	£469.99
31	Leap Audio	Purchase of event equipment for city centre - Light staging units for Kings Square.	£2,518.00
32	Radiotronics	Purchase of event equipment for city centre -Radios See line 40 for explanation	£5,833.33
33	Leap Audio	Purchase of event equipment for city centre -Festoon Lighting	£592.04
34	Heat Outdoors	Purchase of event equipment for city centre -Outdoor heaters	£2,046.80
35	GFH events	Purchase of event equipment for city centre -White low level picket fencing	£720.00
36	Archant Life	Gloucester Good To Go Half Page Adverts in Sep & Oct 2020 Cotswold Life issues Gloucester Good to Go was a regional and local visitor marketing campaign carried out between 31 July and 10 November 2020, intended to instil consumer confidence in Gloucester's visitor economy as the COVID-19 restrictions were being lifted, and to promote the city as a safe, clean and healthy visitor destination, including its cultural offer. The campaign was delivered to support cultural events that took place during that period, including Gloucester's Winter Festival. The campaign created new visitor content and was built around VisitEngland's national standard for reopening safely following the lockdown, called 'We're Good To Go'.	£500.00
37	Archant Life	Gloucester Good To Go Responsive Billboard in Sep 2020 Cotswold Life Newsletter	£100.00
38	Archant Life	Gloucester Good To Go Half Page Adverts in Sep & Oct 2020 Cotswold Life issues	£500.00
39	Archant Life	Gloucester Good To Go Responsive Billboard in Sep 2020 Cotswold Life Newsletter	£100.00
40	Soglos	Gloucester Good To GO Advertising Campaign and video	£9,265.00

41	Smart City Media	The purchase of equipment intended to protect the hygiene and safety of visitors to the city centre, including graphics to reinforce safety messaging, sanitising gel, tape and signs. 200 pavement stickers size 300 x 300mm	£650.00
42	Signs Express	Supply only floor vinyl 's X100 diameter Non slip printable floor vinyl	£273.00
43	Simple Hygiene Solutions	6 x hand sanitiser dispensers	£330.00
44	Safpro Industrial Supply	Purchase of Hazard and Barrier Tape	£57.74
45	Smart City Media	Purchase of Pavement safety graphics	£385.00
46	Sanitiser Stand Co Ltd	Purchase of Black Stand + Touch Free Sanitiser Dispenser X 2	£299.98
47	Smart City Media	Purchase of additional 300 Pavement graphics (stickers)	£1,080.00
48	Severn Signs Ltd	Purchase of 25 x A3 and 25 x A4 6mm fluted correx sheets supplied with full colour gloss laminated prints fitted to 1 side only Covid signage artwork as agreed	£300.75
49	Signs Express	Purchase of LV2204/1 Floor vinyl 's X100 200mm diameter Non slip printable floor vinyl (no laminate required). Floor vinyl's X20 printable floor vinyl (£498.60
50	Monster Hero Safari CIC	Purchase of posters and artwork to promote safety at City Centre Family Event, called Monster Hero Safari - Posters & Artwork	£150.00
51	Simple Hygiene Solutions	Purchase of hand sanitiser gel for dispensers in Eastgate Indoor Market 5 x 5 litre ASH 70	£160.00
52	Smart City Media	Purchase of Pavement Graphics , design as earlier order `Please maintain necessary social distance` 150 x R9 and 50 x R12	£815.00
53	County Council Print (Cannon)	Purchase of 180 x Covid Compliance Lamp Post Signs	£955.00
54	County Council Print (Cannon)	Purchase of Covid Compliance signs for use in events	£145.00
55	Peppy Group UK	Purchase of Alcohol Gel 480ml bottles x 660 = half pallet	£930.60
56	2020 Signs	Purchase of 5 x Water filled A-board with laminated vinyl graphics applied to both sides to promote safe distancing and other COVID messaging. Display area 320mm wide by 560mm high	£398.75
57	Smart City Media	Purchase of 300 x Roundels (Pavement Stickers) as agreed design to promote safe distancing	£1,132.50
58	2020 Signs	Purchase of 25x Bollard Covers and 25x Correx Signs / 100 indoor posters to direct pedestrian flows and encourage social distancing	£760.00

59	2020 Signs	Design and purchase of 3 x Banners 1 each of 3 Welcome to Gloucester City Centre signs on Correx A1 25 x A4 Indoor Posters (of Cathedral `Welcome to Gloucester City Centre` sign) 50 x A4 Indoor Posters (repeat order) 50 x A5 Face Mask Window Stickers (repeat order)	£410.85
60	Smart City Media	Purchase of Pavement Graphic (stickers) installed outside licensed premises to encourage appropriate queueing and social distancing. `Enjoy Leisure time Safely`	£730.00
			£168,795.93

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