



## COUNCIL

**Meeting: Thursday, 26th January 2023 at 6.30 pm  
in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP**

## ADDENDUM

<b>8.</b>	<p><b>MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (PAGES 5 - 18)</b></p> <p>a) Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time (45 minutes)</p> <p>Any member of the Council may ask the Leader of the Council or any Cabinet Member up to five questions upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any matter relating to the Council's administration</li><li>• Any matter relating to any report of the Cabinet appearing on the Council's summons</li><li>• A matter coming within their portfolio of responsibilities</li></ul> <p>b) Questions to Chairs of Meetings (15 Minutes)</p> <p>Questions and responses have been published in this Addendum at least 24 hours before the meeting. Supplementary questions will be put and answered during the meeting, subject to the relevant time limit.</p>
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Yours sincerely

**Jon McGinty**  
Managing Director

## NOTES

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area.  For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and

(b) either –

- i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
- ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

#### **Access to Information**

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: [www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk) and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Tanya Davies, 01452 396125, [tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:tanya.davies@gloucester.gov.uk).

For general enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, [democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk).

If you, or someone you know cannot understand English and need help with this information, or if you would like a large print, Braille, or audio version of this information please call 01452 396396.

#### **FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.

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Paragraph 12.01 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit up to five written questions 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.

**Council is recommended to**

- (a) Note the written questions submitted and corresponding responses.
- (b) Note the supplementary questions and corresponding responses delivered verbally within the 45 minutes available for Questions by Members.

No.	Question from/to	Question
1.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	The internal audit report that went to committee was scathing about the council's procedures and controls in regard to the management of monies this council received from developers via Section 106 agreements.  As the cabinet member for planning what do you intend to do to turn the situation around?
<b>Response:</b>		
The internal audit report gave 'limited assurance' which means that, although there are a number of assurances and controls identified, more key controls can be put in place or made to work more effectively. A review has already commenced to identify further controls which will increase assurance and a system to monitor all S106 has been identified.		
2.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Could you confirm when the council's Section 106 Officer left the employment of this council and what is being done to fill this critical vacancy?
<b>Response:</b>		
The S106 Officer left in August 2022. Since then we have readvertised the role unsuccessfully. The current review includes a review of the Job Description for this role. A part time Officer has been recruited on a temporary basis to cover this work in the meantime.		
3.	From Councillor Pullen to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	The Elections Act 2022 requires that all voters will need to show an acceptable form of ID at polling stations from May 2023. How is the council intending to promote and create awareness of this new requirement among voters in Gloucester?
<b>Response:</b>		
Voter ID will be required for local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections and Parliamentary by-elections from May 2023, and for General Elections from October 2023. The council is reflecting the Electoral Commission's national media campaign via its social media channels. However,		

	<p>as the council does not have scheduled elections in May 2023, we are keen to take a measured approach initially to avoid any confusion, noting that all voters will be exposed to the Electoral Commission campaign and national media coverage of the May elections. There is a page on our website dedicated to Voter ID, signposting to the online and paper application processes for obtaining a free Voter Authority Certificate, which will be needed by voters who don't have an acceptable form of ID, and Members have been provided with a written briefing, so that they can help spread the message among voters. Post-May, the council will be able to learn from the experiences of other councils and, in advance of any scheduled or unscheduled elections that follow, will put in place an appropriate public awareness strategy. Poll cards for all elections will include the Voter ID requirements and we are also waiting to see if the annual electoral registration canvass communications are amended to highlight the need for Voter ID before deciding on further awareness activity.</p>	
4.	<p>From Councillor Pullen to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment</p>	<p>In January 2021 the Leader of the Council committed that a detailed Climate Change Action Plan would be submitted to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity. When will this Action Plan be produced?</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>In November 2022, the tender process was initiated to secure the support of an expert third-party consultancy to provide technical support for the forthcoming Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. This assistance will provide emissions baselines and decarbonisation pathways for the Council's 2030 and 2045 net zero and carbon neutrality targets, as well as a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.</p> <p>The bids are currently being evaluated before a contract can be awarded.</p> <p>The bids varied in their timelines for producing these outputs, with none exceeding six months.</p> <p>Both I and officers continue to give this matter the attention it deserves and will update Members on the successful bidder in due course.</p>	
5.	<p>From Councillor Ackroyd to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure</p>	<p>As to our delight and the residents the decision to repair and resurface the Oval Tennis Courts, rather than the scheme suggested has been made. Do we have a date on when work will start now that the quotes have been received.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The repair work was due to commence on the 30<sup>th</sup> January subject to suitable weather conditions. Based on the current cold spell however we envisage that the start date may be delayed until conditions are milder and more consistent. Once the work has begun the project will take approximately up to 2 weeks to complete.</p>	
6.	<p>From Councillor O'Donnell to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy</p>	<p>I feel the homeless issue gets glossed over in Gloucester, when in fact it is a major issue.</p> <p>I have already been told we won't put up any signage to show where the shelters are for those who don't know, and the reason was we don't want to make Gloucester to attractive for homeless people not from Gloucester. So myself and Councillor Chambers-Dubus, have come across a</p>

		<p>charity called Billies chips, its where shops and other businesses can sell blue chips to the public. And instead of giving beggars money, they give them the Billies chip and they can trade it in for a hot meal and drink. So I would like to ask will the council support this initiative and help support this cause?</p>
<b>Response:</b>		
<p><b>Response:</b>  The Council’s Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy clearly details that reducing homelessness and rough sleeping is a key strategic priority for this Council and we work with a wide range of partners through the Gloucestershire Strategic Housing Partnership to this end.</p> <p>The reasons why households become homeless are both numerous and varied, and council officers along with partners will determine the most appropriate course of action to support households depending on their specific circumstances and needs always taking into consideration the autonomy of the individuals concerned. Anyone who considers that they are at risk of homelessness should initially make contact with the Council’s housing team via 01452 396396 or <a href="mailto:heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk">heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk</a> so that we can provide appropriate advice and assistance. Referrals to relevant support services will be completed where appropriate by council officers and partners, and it is not therefore appropriate to publicise individual support services.</p> <p>Where members of the public become aware of an individual sleeping rough we would urge them to notify Streetlink (website: <a href="http://www.streetlink.org.uk">www.streetlink.org.uk</a> , mobile app: ‘StreetLink’ from Apple iTunes / Google Play store, or phone: 0300 500 0914) as this will ensure that the referral is passed directly to our rough sleeper outreach and support service who will then visit and engage with the individual. Unfortunately city centres can be attractive sites for begging, and it is often the case that people who beg may not be homeless. This Council’s priority is in all instances to engage with individuals to identify their need and provide the appropriate support. Rather than giving money to people begging, residents may prefer to provide support to local organisations and charities that actively work to support people who sleep rough move into sustainable long-term accommodation, or they may choose to provide money directly, or to support initiatives such as Billy Chip. This is personal preference and the Council does not promote any of these options. At the current time there are two businesses in Gloucester that are detailed on the Billy Chip website as having joined the scheme, and residents may wish to make use of the scheme to support homeless households.</p>		
7.	<p>From Councillor Wilson to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy</p>	<p>According to Government guidance on prior approval applications for 5g masts, in addition to informing residents via individual letters or notices on lampposts, local planning authorities are encouraged to,</p> <p>“further publicise prior approval applications to allow local residents to make their views known ..... This is important to make sure that the roll-out of telecoms infrastructure is carried out in a transparent and appropriate way .”</p>

		<p>Why is Gloucester City Council ignoring this advice and only putting a single notice of such applications on a nearby lamppost?</p> <p>Do you consider this approach to be sufficiently “transparent and appropriate”?</p>
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>Electronic communications code operators benefit from extensive permitted development rights under Part 16 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. Telecommunications development therefore falls into three categories:</p> <p>1: Ones which require planning permission  2: Ones which require the prior approval of the council  3: Ones which are permitted development</p> <p>Where a communications code operator considers the development complies with the restrictions and limitations outlined in the legislation, it is required to notify the council of its proposals and submit a notification for prior approval.</p> <p>The Council cannot object to the principle of erecting the telecommunications structure.</p> <p>Once such an application is received the Local Authority has a period of 56 days in which to respond. The Local Authority will be required to give notice of the proposed development by placing a site notice in at least one place on or near the land to which the application relates for no less than 21 days or by notifying any adjoining owner or occupiers and by local advertisement.</p> <p>Our process is to write directly to any land or property owners that adjoin the application site and to display a site notice. Given the nature of the prior approval application, the strict time limit for a response and the very limited assessment criteria it is considered that our approach to consultation is sufficient and in line with government guidance.</p>	
8.	From Councillor Bhaimia to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	Gloucestershire Credit Union has recently ceased trading. Has the council considered the impact of the closure and particularly on those experiencing cost of living difficulties?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>The city council is committed to support its residents through cost-of-living challenges they are facing, within our own financial means, and this support is not directly related to any specific financial institution closure. Currently through the Household Support Fund the following are being delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants of up to £1,000 per application to support warm spaces (total fund £30,000)</li> <li>• Through partner agencies, support for food, utilities, wider essentials and emergency housing costs, 85% as Vouchers and 15% as Cash awards, (total Fund October 2022 through to March 2023: £148,000)</li> </ul> <p>In addition, we provide funding to key advice agencies such as GARAS, CAB and the Law Centre.</p>	
9.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member	The sports pavilion situated at King George V Playing Field, Hucclecote was closed at the time the



	for Performance and Resources	<p>national lockdown came into effect in March 2020. Sadly, nearly 3 years later, this facility remains closed for public use despite numerous requests for it to be made ready.</p> <p>Various Sports clubs rent football and cricket pitches on KGV but are frustrated that this pavilion, which includes toilet and changing facilities, remains barred to them. When will this purpose build City Council asset be opened again for public use?</p>
<b>Response:</b>		
The Council is working towards making this available again, once various operational hurdles have been overcome. Please encourage clubs to contact officers directly on: <a href="mailto:property@gloucester.gov.uk">property@gloucester.gov.uk</a>		
10.	From Councillor J. Brown to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	There is much local speculation in relation to the relocation of EDF away from Barnwood (announced in early 2020) and what will become of the vast site. This will have a huge impact on the Barnwood community. I have made attempts to arrange a meeting with EDF to discuss future plans. I understand Gloucester City Council is proactively engaging with EDF. What, if any, preliminary plans have been discussed/put forward?
<b>Response:</b>		
Officers are engaged with EDF about their facility at Barnwood. As yet, no plans have been shared with officers. It should be noted that pre-application discussions with planning officers are normally kept confidential in order to facilitate open dialogue.		
11.	From Councillor Conder to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	What is the progress with the Zwings electric scooter project in the city? Has the experiment finished? I see the occasional scooter but they are few and far between. Have there been any conclusions drawn?
<b>Response:</b>		
The scooter project is a County Council-led initiative and the contract (trial) is between them and Zwings. The City Council was only consulted on the locations of the docking stations in the City Centre.		
12.	From Councillor Chambers-Dubus to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	Whilst there is information on the council website about how to get help during the current cost of living crisis, how can people who don't have access to the internet or are not IT literate access the information?
<b>Response:</b>		
The city council is committed to support its residents through the cost-of-living challenges they are facing, within its own financial means. Currently through the Household Support Fund, partner agencies Age Concern, the Venture Community Hub and Together in Matson (advice agencies such as the CAB are also able to signpost to these community groups when required) are delivering support for food, utilities, wider essentials and emergency housing costs (85% as vouchers and 15% as cash awards). Residents liaise directly with these local delivery organisations, in person, or by telephone, and also by contacting the City Council by telephone.		
13.	From Councillor Bowkett to the Leader of the	The Climate Change Act commits government to bringing greenhouse gases down to net zero by

	Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	2050. Is the City Council proactively converting to more climate-friendly sources of energy thus reducing its still proportionally high usage of gas in council properties?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>The Council currently procures 100% renewable electricity for all its functions under Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin certification and is exploring options for decarbonisation of its gas consumption.</p> <p>While there may be short term ‘bridge’ solutions, such as offsetting and procuring ‘green gas’ from wholesale markets, the longer term solution needs to be a combination of managed retreat from gas consumption – through asset management that seeks to phase out fossil fuels whenever power and heating systems are overhauled or new development proposed – and via demand management to maximise the efficiency of our consumption, of which the recent move to Eastgate Offices is a prime example.</p> <p>However, the two largest consumers of gas in the Council’s asset portfolio are the Crematorium and the GL1 Leisure Centre. Demand for heat derived from gas at both of these properties is highly inelastic and creative thinking is required for how we reduce our consumption. The recently commissioned Asset Management Strategy refresh and the forthcoming Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will seek to address the highly specific challenges of fossil fuel consumption at our more challenging properties.</p>	
14.	From Councillor Bowkett to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	Is it cheaper for the City Council to continue using fossil-fuel derived energy to heat and power its properties than environmentally friendly energy sources?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>The decarbonisation of U.K grid electricity in recent years has, in particular, marked us out as one of the leading countries in the developed world for practical climate action. In 2020, U.K renewables reduced gas consumption for electricity generation by two billion cubic litres. In that one year alone, the growth in domestic renewables’ contribution to the U.K energy mix was equivalent to the annual output of four new nuclear power plants.</p> <p>In respect of our specific energy consumption, the Council pays a small affordable and justifiable premium to secure 100% of its electricity from renewable sources as part of the commitments made by Councillors in this chamber to support the Council to achieve net zero emissions across its functions by 2030.</p>	
15.	From Councillor Sawyer to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	A 5G mast has been erected in Cheltenham Road. Residents have complained about it interfering with their televisions. It is proving difficult to find a solution as the operator is not engaging with us. What is the council’s process to ensure that as a condition of approval of these masts, operators must carry out their duty to handle enquires from the public to ensure any future problems Gloucester residents have are dealt with?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>Telecoms providers benefit from extensive permitted development rights for new or replacement masts. Under the relevant planning legislation the Council has a very narrow remit and the principle of the development cannot be objected to.</p>	

	The Council has no power to require the operators to carry out any of their duties in respect any requirements they may have under telecoms legislation.	
16.	From Councillor Sawyer to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Regarding the same 5G mast, when it needs repairing, Cheltenham Road is closed. Will the council factor this in for future masts when deciding on their location?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The prior approval procedure allows the Local Authority to approve or refuse details of the siting and appearance of the installation. The 'siting' and 'appearance' of the proposal are the only factors that can be considered under an application for prior approval. No other matters can be considered.	
17.	From Councillor Sawyer to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Regarding 5G masts, who pays for the cost of these road closures - the telecommunications company or Highways?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	This would be a question for the County Council, as the relevant Highways Authority, to advise on.	
18.	From Councillor Sawyer to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	<p>More and more 5G masts are being installed over Gloucester. They are very unsightly and residents have complained about this. The government's code of practice states "The government's objective is to deliver high quality, reliable wireless infrastructure whilst ensuring the impact of new network development is kept to a minimum. The siting and design of wireless network infrastructure is central to achieving this. Good siting and design principles should apply to all wireless network development and take into account any site specific considerations and context. Both can create better places in which to live and work and help make development acceptable to communities"</p> <p>"Mitigating visual impacts: when possible, operators should look to use sympathetic designs, materials and colour (including camouflage where appropriate) to minimise the contrast between infrastructure and the area. Operators should also consider the design principles set out in the NPPF and local planning policies, and consider any relevant local and national design codes"</p> <p>There are alternative shapes available that can disguise them better. Will the council consider creating a design code for these masts for future applications to make them more attractive?</p>
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The prior approval procedure allows the Local Authority to approve or refuse details of the siting and appearance of the installation. The 'siting' and 'appearance' of the proposal are the only factors that can be considered under an application for prior approval. No other matters can be considered.	
	Factors concerning siting may involve:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• height of the site in relation to surrounding land</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• topography of the site and vegetation</li> <li>• designated areas</li> <li>• the site in relation to existing masts</li> <li>• structures or buildings</li> <li>• proximity to residential property</li> </ul> <p>With regard to appearance this can include details such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• materials</li> <li>• colour</li> <li>• design</li> <li>• dimensions</li> <li>• overall shape</li> <li>• solid or open framework</li> </ul> <p>The scope of assessment in relation to siting and design is very narrow. By their nature telecoms developments will all have certain characteristics given the functionality and purpose. In this context it is considered that the number of applications/proposals which would warrant an alternative approach beyond the industry standard is limited. On this basis it is considered that the preparation of a design code would not be appropriate given that it would relate to only a very small proportion of the applications for telecoms developments which the Council receives. Where there is a situation when the Council considers the siting or appearance is not acceptable (due to proximity to sensitive areas or buildings for example) prior approval can be refused and the applicant will be required to apply for full planning permission which has a much wider assessment criteria.</p>	
19.	From Councillor Sawyer to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	How many residents commented on the 5G masts applications for Cheltenham road and the new proposed mast on Paygrove Lane?
<b>Response:</b>		
One comment was received for the Paygrove Lane application. Information regarding the Cheltenham Road application is not currently accessible due to the cyber incident.		
20.	From Councillor Field to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	<p>You will be aware of comments on social media regarding the inadequacies of the blue recycling bags in keeping the cardboard dry. If the cardboard gets wet, it cannot be recycled. How much money does the council lose due to this?</p> <p>Also, will you be tasking council officers and Ubico with coming up with a better solution, such as cardboard in the green boxes and plastic and tins in the blue bags instead, or one wheelie bin for residual waste and one for recycling as many councils do</p>
<b>Response:</b>		
The amount of money we lose varies depending on the circumstances at the time and whether we can divert the load to another facility, when the paper mill refuses it. If there is capacity at another site and they can take the load, then it becomes cost neutral. If we have to transport the load back to Gloucester, then it costs in the region of £1000 each time (we avoid this wherever possible).		

	<p>The capacity of green boxes is 75L and therefore not suitable for cardboard, it would still need residents to put the lid on the box and this is not something everyone does. Wheeled bins for recycling would not be able to be tipped on our kerbside sort vehicles and commingled collections are not something we currently operate, under new legislation quality material will be key and it is unlikely we will change to commingled collections for this reason.</p> <p>The blue sack does keep the contents dry as long as the lid is sealed, the cardboard is broken up and the sack is not overfilled, 95% of the time moisture is not an issue and the revenue for paper and cardboard this year has been excellent.</p> <p>During the period at the start of January, weather conditions were extreme, the Christmas catch up collection had already forced us to collect excess cardboard in caged vehicles which are open to the elements. There was also a breakdown of sorting equipment in the yard which created an unforeseen stockpile of recycle and therefore little room for storing wet cardboard. This is unusual and the decision to not collect the wet cardboard is not something which was taken lightly or is likely to happen very often. We will continue to monitor market trends to see if there is an alternative design of sack or collection approach available.</p>
21.	<p>From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods</p> <p>In an article dated the 7<sup>th</sup> of January on the GloucestershireLive website you said you were delighted that the Wellington Parade Garden had been reopened for the public to enjoy.</p> <p>Could you confirm to me how much this council paid the contractors <u>GSG Landscape Design Construction and Maintenance</u> to clear the old garden and build the new one?</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>To date GSG have been paid £30,710.50 for the work that they did on this project.</p>
22.	<p>From Councillor Bhaimia to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment</p> <p>Where are the extra cameras offered by the police to combat the fly tipping?</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>We have the cameras in our possession and 8 out of the 10 offered by the police are in working order and, subject to the usual testing prior to deployment, are now available to be used. It has been agreed by the Council and police that the cameras will only be used to gather further evidence for on-going investigations, as opposed to being deployed to capture new potential offenders or offences being committed. This is because the cameras have been in service/use by the police for several years and we need to extend and maximise their working life.</p>
23.	<p>From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure</p> <p>The impact of the England woman's national football team (England Lionesses) winning the UEFA Women's Championship last year has seen a huge interest at grass roots level, especially for girl's football.</p> <p>There is a limited amount space of new pitches for football and other sports but what can the City Council do to provide more or to make more use of</p>

		the pitches currently available to accommodate this growing interest in organised sport?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>The City Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (2015 – 2025) includes an analysis of existing provision, as well as projections of future growth needs in respect of soccer and other organised sports. The strategy makes recommendation for the improvement of existing facilities to accommodate greater use, and for the provision of additional pitches where this is feasible. Using section 106 funding the Council introduced a Pitch Improvement Grant scheme in 2019 which has made £100,000 available to carry out improvements to grass playing pitches. This funding has been used to improve the condition of grass pitches in order to accommodate greater use. Further funding will be made available to extend the scheme in 2023. Additionally, a number of larger projects have been funded through section 106 monies in order to deliver objectives in line with the Playing Pitch Strategy. These projects include the refurbishment of the changing rooms at the Lannett and floodlighting for pitches in Longlevens, Waterwells and Hucclecote. Money has also been committed for floodlighting at Matson. We will continue to explore opportunities to deliver the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy as they arise.</p>	
24.	From Councillor Chambers-Dubus to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Other than the Christmas tree which was provided by the Rotary Club, why did the council not plan any seasonal events to be held in Kings Square during December 2022 when there was so much going on at the Quays?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>The Christmas tree on Kings Square is arranged and provided by the city council each year and is named the Gloucester Tree of Light. This year, many have commented that it was the best one yet, with the new energy efficient and programmable lighting provided by the city council.</p> <p>It supports the Rotary Club in their charitable fundraising work and they used it to arrange fundraising events over the launch event and two additional events during December. In addition to the tree the city council provided a Father Christmas, as well as the technical set up for the events taking place around the tree. The Music Works were commissioned earlier in the year to have musical showcase events on the Square in the twilight hours, which took place up to and including December. We are developing a year-round and seasonal programme for Kings Square, in support of all Gloucester's diverse communities. This is dependent on the outcome of fundraising and partnership bids, coupled with commercial hire use to ensure there are activities in Kings Square at suitable moments throughout the year.</p>	
25.	From Councillor Bowkett to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	City Council has been talking the language of publishing a coherent climate change policy in Gloucester for quite some time. Regarding the draft City Centre Vision, will its section on environmental considerations only be clarified once the Council's long-awaited Climate Change Strategy has been completed and signed off?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p>We will seek wherever possible to integrate all forthcoming strategies and plans though, naturally, given the different timelines for their publication, this will never be an entirely seamless process.</p>	

	Our first order concern remains to deliver the climate mitigation and adaptation commitments that this Council has made.	
26.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Given that you rejected the offer of £184K of funding from the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish five tennis courts in Gloucester, what is your plan to improve these courts and how will you fund it?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The funding which was offered by the Lawn Tennis Association was dependant on the Council introducing a pay to play system in respect of its tennis courts. It was felt that this would discourage use especially by young people and those on a low income. The Council has committed £40,000 from section 106 funding for the resurfacing of the Oval tennis courts, and will explore the possibility of using further section 106 funding to improve other tennis courts along the lines of the recommendations made by the LTA.	
27.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	How is the housing stock survey progressing and when do you plan to publish its finding?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The survey work for the stock condition is almost complete with fewer than 100 surveys left to be completed. Once the surveys have been completed we will agree the timeframe for receiving the final report from the contractor.	
28.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Are any City Council buildings restricted to public access due to the lack of an appropriate Legionella certificate?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	Legionella responsibility falls to the building operator. All buildings operationally managed by the Council are not restricting public access due to Legionella concerns. There is no such thing as a Legionella certificate for a building. There is a certificate to show if someone is qualified to undertake Legionella testing. The Council undertakes the appropriate risk controls for Legionella to ensure a safe environment in terms of Legionella risk for our operational buildings.	
29.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	What is the timetable for the regeneration of Podsmead?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	Cllr Field will be aware that the regeneration of the Podsmead estate is moving forward, led by Gloucester City Homes and with the support of this Council. Cabinet requested officers in December to enter negotiations with GCH in relation to the transfer of three areas of land within the estate, which would enable the first phase of the scheme to proceed. Those negotiations are ongoing.  This development would be subject to the granting of planning permission and the Council has yet to receive an application. GCH has not shared a timetable for the regeneration with the Council.	
30.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	Could you please provide me with an update on three critical regeneration projects that seem to have stalled? Two of which are currently in the council's ownership.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Fleece Hotel</li> <li>2. The Prison site</li> <li>3. HKP warehouses</li> </ol>
	<b>Response:</b>	
	<p><b>The Fleece Hotel</b></p> <p>The historic components of the Fleece Hotel site have recently been cleared of all modern fixtures, fittings and materials, revealing the historic fabric of the buildings. That historic fabric is currently being assessed with a view to recording it and its significance, and preparing a cost of works schedule to inform future works required at the site.</p> <p>In terms of the site's future use, discussions with different interested parties are ongoing. Those parties, and the nature of their interests, is commercially confidential at this time.</p> <p><b>The Prison Site</b></p> <p>This site is outside of the Council's ownership. Officers continue to engage with the site's owner (City and Country), proactively encouraging the owner to advance the site and connecting other interested parties with City and Country.</p> <p><b>HKP Warehouses</b></p> <p>The site continues to be marketed by Bruton Knowles, with viewings and discussions with different interested parties ongoing. Those parties and the nature of their interests is commercially confidential at this time, albeit the interest from Dowdeswell Group Ltd is well known and publicised.</p>	
31.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	Did the recent very cold weather cause any damage to the water fountains recently introduced at Kings Square?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	No.	
32.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment	The 'Best Bar None' initiative to encourage pubs and clubs to improve their facilities was popular, including in Hucclecote. Are there any plans to reintroduce this award or anything similar?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	We are already working with partner agencies (the Gloucester BID, the police and the Gloucester Licensed Victuallers Association) to develop a local award/accreditation scheme along the line of Best Bar None for licensed premises.	



Paragraph 12.01 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit questions to Chairs of Meetings.

This document informs Members of Council of written questions put to the Chairs of Meeting and written replies thereto.

## Council 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 Hilton to the Chair of Planning Committee	How many planning committees were scheduled to be held in the calendar year 2022 and how many were cancelled by yourself and why?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	12 planning committee meetings were scheduled for 2022 (1 per month). Of the 12, 5 were cancelled and 7 took place. The reason for the cancelled meetings was that there were no planning applications recommended for a decision at the time of the relevant committee report deadline. The primary cause for this was the cyber incident, which required a number of applications which would have otherwise gone to a planning committee to be withdrawn. The reason for withdrawing the applications was so that consultations could be carried out again, as there was no access to the previously received consultation responses. The result of this was that applications which would have normally been set for determination were delayed by a number of months and went to a later committee meeting.	
2.	From Councillor Hilton to the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee	The committee papers published for the 16th of January audit and governance committee proposed that the report into the internal audit related to the chaotic management of the Section 106 agreement monies should be held in private without the press and public there. The committee thought otherwise and agreed to meet in public session.  Was this the right decision for the committee to make?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	Yes, it was. As elected representatives we all have a duty to ensure council business is conducted in as transparent manner as possible. From my own point of view, I gave full consideration to the advice from the monitoring officer but after reading the report I concluded that it was in the public interest for it to be discussed in open session. This was also the decision of a majority of the committee.	

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