



CABINET

**Meeting: Wednesday, 6th December 2023 at 6.00 pm
in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP**

ADDENDUM

6.	<p>LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) (PAGES 3 - 14)</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 1st December 2023. 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 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.

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 Trimnell to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	What work needs to be done in order for Longsmith Car Park to be reopened and when does the Cabinet Member hope for it be reopened?
		<p>Response: We are awaiting the final report from the structural engineer. Until we receive the report we are unable to comment further.</p>
2.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	Why did you fail to inform members of the special airport scrutiny committee, which met on the 25 th of September that you were in discussion with the leadership of Cheltenham Borough Council about the sale of Gloucestershire Airport Ltd?
		<p>Response: Delegation had already been provided by Full Council (Dec 2020) to review an exit strategy for the airport. There was no update as at 25th Sept.</p>
3.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	Do you plan to sell the freehold of the Gloucestershire Airport Ltd site?
		<p>Response: No decision has been made at this stage. We are simply investigating opportunities of a sale as part of the exit strategy.</p>
4.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	You were quoted on GloucestershireLive that only informal talks have taken place about the potential sale of the airport. Have these talks involved a commercial buyer and who might that be?

	Response:	
	A company approached the airport some months ago and asked about the possibility of buying the airport. That company would need to consider its due diligence and would need further information. To my knowledge that has not yet been supplied. No offer has been made and discussions are subject to a Non Disclosure Agreement.	
5.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	<p>You have been quoted in the media saying that you were committed to preserving the airport as a centre for aviation for the benefit of Gloucestershire, especially given its extensive heritage.</p> <p>What conditions on the proposed sale of the airport do you plan to impose to guarantee the promise you have made, is kept?</p>
	Response:	
	The shareholders are clear that they would like the airport to continue as such and that is how the airport will be marketed.	
6.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	When did you tell members of your political group that you had made a decision to sell Gloucestershire Airport Limited?
	Response:	
	<p>All members were informed of the decision to progress an exit strategy from the airport at the special Council meeting 15th Dec 2020.</p> <p>I planned to update my group and group leaders prior to an agreed press release by the airport. Giving the airport the opportunity to tell its own staff before the press release was issued.</p>	
7.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Those residents taking part in the City Council Garden Waste Collections pay an annual fee, however, the administration decided to stop collections during December and January with minimal consultation. Not only did this reduced service affect everyone wanting to dispose of their garden waste in a proper manner, but it has also disadvantaged some residents more than others. Hucclecote gardeners had a collection on 21 st November and must now wait until 13 th February for the next. What does the Leader have to say to Hucclecote residents who have this halt in service of very nearly 3 months?
	Response:	
	<p>Residents receive on average 22 collections for their green waste subscription, costing less than £2.20 a collection. This is excellent value for money and still cheaper than our nearest local authority neighbours. This is the second year of a 10 month service, and the annual invoice clearly states this information.</p> <p>Having additional trucks and staff at our disposal over the busiest period of the year for waste and when traditionally winter flu leaves us short of drivers and</p>	

	<p>loaders, gives us greater resilience for essential waste and recycling collections. We should also consider our climate commitments. Running RCV's, which on average do 8 miles to the gallon, around our city to collect one or two bins in each street, is not conducive to carbon savings.</p> <p>Most residents are not gardening during December and January, so this is far better use of our resources and also beneficial to the environment. For those residents who only had 21 collections this year, that will change next year with the calendar, a cut off point is essential to forward plan the services.</p> <p>Consultation was carried out before the decision to go to a 10 month service as part of the budget consultation.</p>	
8.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	The Kings Theatre in Kings Barton Street is owned by the City Council and run by volunteers. Have there been any discussions with an organisation based in Cheltenham (or anywhere else) about taking over the lease?
	Response:	
	In the past year an approach has been made to the Council by an interested third party - the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to take on the future management lease of Kings Theatre. However, Kings Theatre is managed by a lease held with the trustees of the Kings Theatre that runs to 2027 and the Council is unable to enter a new arrangement with another party whilst the current lease is running.	
9.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	May I have a list of the twenty most recent Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made to the City Council, detailing the nature of the enquiry, date and, whether made by a member of the public, or media organisation?
	Response:	
	A list of the last 20 FOI requests as at 1 st December 2023 is attached (Appendix 1). It is not possible to accurately provide the status of individuals making FOI requests because there is no requirement to collect this information. In fact, it is necessary to handle FOI requests 'applicant blind', therefore it would not be consistent with the relevant legislation if we sought to collect this information or make any such assumptions on the basis of the information provided by the requester.	
10.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	How advanced are the discussions to sell Gloucestershire Airport?
	Response:	
	Very early, the Shareholders have met with the Board and notified them of the potential sale. No information has been passed to potential buyers and no offers have been received to date.	
11.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	Why were elected members not informed of the plans to sell Gloucestershire Airport?
	Response:	

	<p>All elected members were informed of the potential for a sale as part of an exit strategy during the special Council meeting on 15th Dec 2020. Members agreed to give delegated authority to the Leader, s151 Officer and Council Solicitor to take such actions and make such arrangements as are necessary.</p> <p>I also planned to inform group leaders prior to the issuing of the press release but this had to be brought forward.</p>	
12.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	At the recent Overview and Scrutiny meeting the Deputy Leader said that the sale of Gloucestershire Airport had not been discussed at Cabinet. At this point in time had all Members of Cabinet been informed of a potential sale?
	Response:	
	No Members of Cabinet had been updated on the progress of the exit strategy, as at that time there was nothing to update on.	
13.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	What was the plan to fully brief all members of a potential sale? At what stage of the process was this going to happen?
	Response:	
	Members delegated authority for the Leader to progress an exit strategy from the airport in agreement for additional funding in Dec 2020. Until we are in a position to actually move forward with an exit plan, there is nothing further to brief at this stage.	
14.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	Is this potential sale being driven by the sudden deterioration in the Council's finances?
	Response:	
	No – the decision to look into exiting the ownership of the airport was agreed in Dec 2020.	
15.	From Councillor Conder to the Leader of the Council	Was the airport advertised on the open market?
	Response:	
	No formal advertising of the sale has been completed. To date only a joint press release between the Airport and the Shareholders has been issued.	
16.	From Councillor Conder to the Leader of the Council	If not advertised on the open market, was the initial approach made by Cheltenham Borough Council or did the unnamed company approach the Borough Council?
	Response:	
	A company approached the airport management who advised both shareholders.	
17.	From Councillor Conder to the Leader of the Council	Has Cheltenham Borough Council held discussions with any other potential buyer?
	Response:	

	This question should be addressed to Cheltenham Borough Council.	
18.	From Councillor J. Brown to the Leader of the Council	What assets is Gloucester City Council considering selling?
	Response:	
	The Council is working on an Asset Management strategy to identify such a list. In the meantime we take applications for Community Asset Transfers in accordance with the policy and judge each property on a case by case basis.	

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Question 9 Appendix - List of the last 20 FOI Requests as at 1st December 2023

1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A list of all properties that have any credit balance on their business rates account 2. The account number 3. The account holder 4. The property address including postcode 5. Billing authority reference number 6. The current balance Account start date Account end date
2	<p>I refer to your replies to my FOI request here. The replies stated inter alia "The Council own Southgate Moorings Car park as it was transferred to them from South West Development Agency (SWERDA) which was a government QUANGO that was abolished (along with other RDA's) 31st March 2012. When the land transferred from SWERDA to the Council, the Council were obliged to continue with the arrangements that SWERDA had put in place. Therefore, there is no contract, between NSGL and the Council as it was an existing arrangement with SWERDA that we continue to honour."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursuant to the Protection of Freedoms Act 2000, please provide suitably redacted copies of any written agreement/s and/or arrangement/s and/or memorandum/s of understanding that SWERDA put in place with any private parking companies (including NSGL Ltd), and which the council continues to honour. 2. Please also provide suitably redacted copies of any updated agreement/s and/or arrangement/s and/or memorandum/s of understanding that may have replaced the original SWERDA agreement/s and/or arrangement/s and/or memorandum/s of understanding after ownership of any land was transferred from SWERDA to the council. <p>In the absence of any of the above requested documents, please provide suitably redacted copies of any written document that establishes the link between the council and any private parking company it has allowed to run its car parks.</p>
3	<p>I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please may you provide me with the below information for each calendar year from 2019 till now:</p> <p>FOI</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The total number of FOI's received. 2. The total number of FOI's responded to on time 3. The total number of FOI's responded to after the due date 4. The longest delay in responding to an FOI 5. The total number of FOI's overdue awaiting a response 6. The total number of internal reviews requested 7. How many officers you have dedicated to the FOI role as either a full job or part of their job description/responsibilities <p>SAR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The total number of SAR's received 9. The total number of SAR's responded to on time 10. The total number of SAR's responded to after the due date 11. The total number of SAR's complexed 12. The longest delay in responding to an SAR 13. The total number of SAR's overdue awaiting a response 14. The total number of internal reviews requested 15. How many officers you have dedicated to the SAR role as either a full job or part of their job description/responsibilities

4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff have been disciplined in any way (by this I mean any formal reprimand that would either be dismissal or some sort of record on that person's personnel file) because they breached your rules/guidelines in relation to multiple contract working? Please give figures for each of the last five financial years (2018/19)(2019/20)(2020/21)(2021/22) and (2022/23). 2. In relation to the cases in 2022/23 how many of the people who were disciplined are allowed within their working conditions to work from home for some or all of their contracted hours? 3. In relation to the cases in 2022/23 please state in broad terms the nature of the other job that the person may have been doing that was in breach of your rules/guidelines? Eg: Waiter, car cleaner etc
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Authority use Live Video Streaming via Cellular in any part of its operations (i.e. monitoring roads or road works, fly tipping, bus safety, anti-social behaviour...)? 2. If yes, in which parts of the operations is Live Video Steaming over Cellular use? 3. Who are the responsible people with in these departments looking after the use Live Video Streaming via Cellular? <p>If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request. If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.</p>
6	<p>I would like to request the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The annual volume of schedule 9 requests issued by the Valuation Office Agency via a RALD letter for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023. For the sake of clarity, the RALD replaces the FOR VO6003 used for bulk classes of property. RALD is an acronym for Rent and Lease Details. The RALD letter is sent to the property address or in the case of large companies to their Head Office. The letter contains a unique reference number which together with the property's postcode is used to access an electronic version of a form of return via a secure internet site. 2. The annual volume of schedule 9 requests issued by the Valuation Office Agency via FOR VO6003 letter for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023. 3. The annual volume of schedule 9 requests issued by the Valuation Office Agency via a RALD letter and that were completed by the recipient ratepayer in question for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023. For the sake of clarity, the RALD replaces the FOR VO6003 used for bulk classes of property. RALD is an acronym for Rent and Lease Details. The RALD letter is sent to the property address or in the case of large companies to their Head Office. The letter contains a unique reference number which together with the property's postcode is used to access an electronic version of a form of return via a secure internet site. 4. The annual volume of schedule 9 requests issued by the Valuation Office Agency via FOR VO6003 letter and that were completed by the recipient ratepayer for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023. 5. The number and value of Civil Penalties issued with relation to the late response to or lack of provision of information relating to a schedule 9 requests issued by the Valuation Office Agency via a RALD letter for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023.

	<p>6. The number and value of Civil Penalties issued with relation to the late response to or lack of provision of information relating to a schedule 9 requests issued by the Valuation Office Agency via FOR VO6003 letter for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and for the period 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023. Please supply the above information in an excel spreadsheet with the data clearly separated by calendar year.</p>
7	<p>Please provide information on whether or not you employ an access officer(s).</p> <p>Notes: They do not need to have the specific job title of access officer for you to respond affirmatively. The role may be defined as having responsibility for any one or all of the following and may be split between more than one person;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to requests, comments and complaints from all concerned with disability access • prepare adaptation programmes, including budgets, and monitor progress • carry out surveys, feasibility studies, drawings, specifications, contract documentations and supervise their implementation • give advice on all access design issues: transport, pavements, damaged kerbs, road crossings, highways schemes, traffic calming, parking and street furniture. • assist in the development of appropriate access plan policies and design guidance, primarily through implementing supplementary planning guidance • provide technical consultation and interpretation on applications that justify detailed input and provide guidance to development control officers on when to consult • be available for pre-application consultations on larger applications. • co-ordinate the consultation process with statutory consultees, such as English Heritage, Building Control and the Statutory Highway Authority • co-ordinate and manage the Council's training programme for new and existing officers, in particular in development control • liaise with neighbouring authorities and national bodies • establish a local access group where one does not exist, encourage and support the local access group and ensure that disabled people and other appropriate voluntary groups are effectively involved in the planning process. Servicing regular planning application consultation meetings and providing accessible transport and meeting rooms can be supportive <p>If an employee(s) is responsible for the above, please respond and clarify which responsibilities or similar responsibilities they hold.</p>
7	<p>Can you provide a breakdown of how much the council has spent on temporary accommodation in each of the last financial years, broken down by provider. By provider I mean the company contracted to provide this accommodation (of any type - hotel, b and b, caravan, private rented etc.) to the council.</p> <p>If the council has procured this accommodation from more than 10 providers in any given year, can you limit your search to the ten companies that have received the most funding from the council.</p>
8	<p>Please could you provide the address of any temporary accommodation in your area which has been referred to the local authority's / council's environmental health team due to Category 1 hazards such as damp, mould or electrical faults in the year 2022/23? Please do also note the number of times the property has been referred to you due to safety concerns.</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Please could you provide the authority's / council's list of temporary accommodation (TA) suppliers.</p> <p>2019/20 Properties: Addresses: Total Spend:</p> <p>2020/21 Properties: Addresses: Total Spend:</p> <p>2021/22 Properties: Addresses: Total Spend:</p> <p>2022/23 Properties: Addresses: Total Spend:</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>I am writing to request information I am entitled to under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.I am requesting the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any policies and papers, from 1 Jan 2022 to 1 November 2023, stating the percentage of biodiversity net gain your council will require as a condition for planning permission (under the Environment Act 2021) (a) as part of an agreed Local Plan; or 2. As part of a draft Local Plan - any polices and papers, from1 Jan 2019 to 1 November 2023, stating whether you have formally declared a nature/ecological emergency. 3. Any policies and papers, from 1 Jan 2022 to 1 November 2023, containing a target for your area to contribute to protect and manage 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030. 4. On what date your current Local Plan will be five years old and when you expect a new Local Plan to be agreed.
<p>11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exact locations longitude and latitude of 5G mast are visible in locations ,I have photos , planning reference numbers dates and install dates. Any complaints or concerns raised by the public around the areas of installation. 2. Any alterations of locations during location planning. 3. Members of planning staff who gave permission and instructions for the installation of 5G mast in these chosen locations. 4. All in Gloucester city UK. Stroud rd opposite Rosebank surgery. Bristol rd and Stroud rd corner, by Kwik fit. Tuffley avenue and Bristol rd corner. By SK refrigeration Holmleigh rd by Grange school.
<p>12</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am requesting a full list of addresses Of local residents that should have received notification letters or on local lamp post/ tree's etc from the council before or after installation of 5G mast and box's in that location. 2. Also the council employees responsible for sending out this information to the public / residents.

	3. The Areas that did or did not receive this information from you. I'm requesting Which are listed below. Stroud rd opposite Rosebank surgery. Holmleigh rd outside Grange school Bristol rd and Tuffley avenue corner. Bristol rd and Stroud rd on kwik fit corner.
13	A tiered hierarchy of people within your organisation that are responsible for Estates, Property, CAFM, Finance and Facilities for your organisation. Please provide their name, job title and email address where possible. i.e. Estates Directors, Facilities Managers, Operations Directors etc.
14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the total number of Covid Marshalls currently employed? A. 2. What is the total number of Covid Marshalls employed since January 2020? 3. What was the average contract duration? 4. What is the total cost spent on Covid Marshalls since January 2020?
15	<p>Registration number: Make: Model: of all vehicles registered as a Taxi, Hackney Carriage or for Private Hire between 20th June 2023 and 21st November 2023 within your Council.</p>
16	<p>This request relates to the training offered to staff on modern slavery. Please share the details of training on modern slavery delivered to staff, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The nature of training offered (e.g. e-learning or in-person, shared with housing staff or adult safeguarding etc) and whether themes of cultural intelligence, equality, diversity and inclusion are included as part of this training 2. Where held, please share copies of training materials used to support council staff in identifying modern slavery (such as PDFs, guidance, or presentations).
18	<p>The purpose of this FOI request is to gather evidence as to the distress and disruption caused in local communities as a result of the permitted development legislation, the operating practices of network builders (code operators) and the proliferation of telegraph poles (aka telecoms or utility poles or masts). For each of the broadband network builder companies installing telegraph poles in your council area as permitted development, please answer the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name of each network builder (code operator) operating in your area. 2. When was the first permit for a permitted development telegraph pole issued by the council (date)? 3. Up until 22nd November 2023 how many telegraph poles have been deployed in the the council boundary area by each company? And/or how many permits for telegraph poles have been granted to each network builder? 4. Since the deployment of telegraph poles started, how many complaints, whether written, emailed or by phone have been received by the council referencing telegraph poles and/or permitted development? The total number of complaints raised against each network builder company if possible to do so, please. 5. How many petitions have been raised by residents related to this issue? 6. How many permit violations have been recorded against each network builder company? 7. How many fines/penalty notices have been served on each each network builder company and what are the value of such i.e. the total number of all fines and the cost of a typical fine against each? 8. The Minister of State Julia Lopez wrote to all local planning authorities (LPAs) on 13 April 2023 and encouraged them to “let Ofcom know and provide them with evidence of any instances where operators are not adhering to their statutory obligations so that appropriate investigations can be made and action taken.”

	<p>a. Did the council report an operator to Ofcom? b. If so, what was the outcome of such investigations?</p> <p>9. In the same letter, the Minister informed LPAs that following 28 day notices issued by network builders, the LPA could set conditions with which you wish the operator to comply. a. Did you set conditions on operators? b. If so, what conditions did you set?</p> <p>10. Has the council formally objected to the current permitted development legislation in any manner or form?</p>
19	I would like to know the planning application references for the two 5g mast that have been illegally/unlawfully erected on lobeleys drive in gloucester (both on the M5 bridge).
20	<p>1. The number of 'new refugees' who presented as homeless to the Council in 2022? 2. The number of 'new refugees' who have presented as homeless to the Council in 2023 (up until today's date)? 3. Does your Council have an estimate of the number of 'new refugees' who will approach you for housing behind today's date and the end of 2023?</p> <p>For the purposes of the FOI, 'new refugees' has been defined as asylum seekers who have recently received a positive decision on their asylum application, granting them refugee or humanitarian status to remain in the UK.</p>