



Gloucester City Council

Cabinet

**Meeting: Wednesday, 11th January 2023 at 6.00 pm in Civic Suite,
North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP**

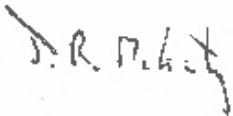
Membership:	Cllrs. Cook (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment) (Chair), Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) (Vice-Chair), S. Chambers (Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy), Lewis (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure) and Padilla (Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods)
Contact:	Democratic and Electoral Services 01452 396126 democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.
3.	MINUTES (Pages 7 - 16) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th December 2022.
4.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) The opportunity is given to members of the public to put questions to Cabinet Members. A question may be rejected if it: (i) Is not about a matter for which the local authority has responsibility or influence; or (ii) Is illegal, improper, defamatory, frivolous or offensive; or (iii) Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council, Cabinet or Committee in the past 6 months; or (iv) Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information; or (v) Is related to confidential staffing matters; or (vi) Is relating to the personal affairs or conduct of individual Members or Officers. To ask a question at this meeting, please submit it to democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk by 12 noon on Friday 6 th January 2023 or telephone 01452 396203 for support.

<p>5.</p>	<p>PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)</p> <p>To receive any petitions or deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or • Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings
<p>6.</p>	<p>LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)</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 6th January 2023. Responses to questions will be published in an addendum to the agenda by 12 noon on the day of the Cabinet Meeting.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL PLAN 2022-2024 UPDATE (Pages 17 - 32)</p> <p>To consider the report of the Leader of the Council providing an update on the delivery of the activities as outlined in the Council Plan 2022-2024 intended to build a greener, fairer, better Gloucester.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE (Pages 33 - 74)</p> <p>To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods presenting the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish group on the City Council's engagement with young people, and seeking Members to provide a formal response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>GLOUCESTER GUILDHALL NATIONAL PORTFOLIO ORGANISATIONS (NPO) FUNDING DECISION (Pages 75 - 80)</p> <p>To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure informing Members of the outcome of a funding bid submitted for Gloucester Guildhall and seeking approval to accept the award and proceed with a plan of implementation.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>EVENTS AND FESTIVALS REPORT ON 2022 AND PLAN FOR 2023-24 (Pages 81 - 100)</p> <p>To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure providing a review of festivals and events activity during 2022 and proposing a Civic and Cultural Events & Festivals Budget for 2023-24.</p>

11.	<p>TOURIST INFORMATION PROVISION (Pages 101 - 104)</p> <p>To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure seeking to detail the current offer of Gloucester's tourist information provision and what the future of that provision may look like.</p>
12.	<p>CAR PARKING - TARIFF INCREASE (Pages 105 - 116)</p> <p>To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources seeking Members to review and update the current car park tariffs and car park zoning across the City to ensure that they appropriately reflect changing local demand brought about by the regeneration of the City Centre and the Council's carbon neutral aims.</p>
13.	<p>ANNUAL REPORT FOR ENERGY COSTS AND ENERGY REDUCTION PROJECTS (Pages 117 - 124)</p> <p>To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Environment informing Members of the Council's energy costs and projects to reduce energy usage.</p>



Jon McGinty
Managing Director

Date of Publication: Tuesday, 3 January 2023

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 and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For enquiries about Gloucester City Council's meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, 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.

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Please be aware that meetings may be recorded. There is no requirement for those wishing to record proceedings to notify the Council in advance; however, as a courtesy, anyone wishing to do so is advised to make the Chair aware before the meeting starts.

Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

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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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CABINET

MEETING : Wednesday, 7th December 2022

PRESENT : Cllrs. Cook (Chair), S. Chambers, Lewis and Padilla

Others in Attendance

Cllrs A. Chambers and Hilton

Managing Director

Director of Communities

Director of Policy and Resources

Monitoring Officer (present for items 44-48)

Head of Place

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllr. Norman

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

45. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2022 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

46. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

A member of the public referred to a motion passed by a local branch of Unite the Union stating 'that everyone was entitled to live in a safe and warm environment and without fear.' He further informed Members that he believed the Member of Parliament for Gloucester saw this as an aspiration. The member of the public asked if the Leader of the Council would propose the same motion at Council in what he perceived to be a time of environmental and financial crisis.

The Leader of the Council responded that to live in a safe and warm environment without fear was a natural aspiration for most communities. He noted some of the obstacles to safety such as climate change, national conflict, violence against women and girls, and human rights abuses in what is a troubled world. The Leader of the Council further commented that the breadth of threats was beyond the scope of any local authority alone. He emphasised the need for collaboration between all

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tiers of government, other organisations including unions, and individual people. The Leader of the Council gave examples where Gloucester City Council had worked to address particular issues in partnership with a range of agencies such as the Local Resilience Forum, Police and housing associations. He stated that aspiration was indeed the right word and that together with initiatives from central government, such as the energy support programme and uplifts to benefits, the Council will play its part to collectively make a significant difference to residents' lives.

The Democratic and Electoral Services Officer read a question on behalf of a member of the public concerning agenda item 18. It enquired by whose authority Members would have the right to give tax-payers land free of charge without at least consulting the residents of Podsmead and Gloucester who they believed to have been kept in the dark about the proposed deal.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy pointed out that her report sought to delegate terms for negotiations rather than give authority to transfer the land. She affirmed that it was her understanding that at least nine consultation sessions had already taken place and that Gloucester City Homes would conduct more as plans developed. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy confirmed that the ultimate intention was to regenerate the estate as outlined in the Council Plan 2022-24 but that any action would be subject to the outcome of negotiations.

47. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

48. LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

In respect of question 1 Councillor A. Chambers asked when the collection rates would return to normal levels what the impact would be in financial terms. In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources the Leader of the Council gave assurance that a written answer would be provided and asked the Director of Policy and Resources to comment. The Director of Policy and Resources confirmed that the year-on-year variations were accounted for in the Collections Fund and that it was hoped that the normal collection rate would be resumed next financial year.

In respect of question 2 Councillor A. Chambers sought clarification on why £60,000 allocated by the Funds had not been spent when he perceived there still to be need. The Leader of the Council commented that it was a lengthy process to identify each desideratum and noted that they all had been successfully funded below the total allocation amount. He added that the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources was satisfied with the spending and invited Councillor A. Chambers to make known any issues which he felt would benefit from the Funds.

In respect of question 3 Councillor A. Chambers reminded the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure that darkness falls from approximately 3.30pm and that most shops shut from 5pm. He requested that the Cabinet Member consider having the

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Christmas lights on before 5pm each day to make the city more welcoming. The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure gave reassurance that the suggestion would be considered. He commented on the benefit of having the lights on in the evenings for the night-time economy of the city.

In respect of question 4 Councillor A. Chambers asked for confirmation that the Member of Parliament for Gloucester's online post was mistaken. The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure reaffirmed that negotiations were ongoing. He stated that although ultimately the building's future was in the hands of the County Council, the City Council would not take on an asset it could not afford to run.

In respect of question 5 Councillor A. Chambers queried whether the money spent on the mail contractor might be better invested employing young people in Gloucester to give them the skills and experience to kickstart their careers. In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources the Leader of the Council invited officers to respond. The Director of Policy and Resources advised that the cost of the contract was justified by the very high volume of mail received, which he reminded Members included all the revenues and benefits correspondence.

In respect of question 6 Councillor Hilton informed the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that in his opinion the refurbished garden had not been properly maintained to the detriment of what ought to be a focal point for the city. He sought reassurance that it would be done in future. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods reiterated that a partnership had been entered into with Emerging Futures Community Interest Company to make and keep the garden attractive. He recommended that links with the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and associated organisations be explored to make the most of the space and assist with its upkeep.

In respect of question 7 Councillor Hilton sought further clarification on why the Matson regeneration scheme is no longer going ahead as planned in 2017 and what the Member of Parliament for Gloucester has achieved without building on previously open space. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy stated that she could not answer for the Member of Parliament. She confirmed that the scheme had not met the viability criteria detailed in the original report. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy advised that should funding become available then regeneration projects would go ahead.

In respect of question 8 Councillor Hilton noted that according to the Gloucester City Homes website the new housing planned for Podsmead did not include additional homes for social rent and asked if that was acceptable. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy confirmed that applications for any new housing would be subject to the planning process and its requirements. She reiterated that her report regarding Podsmead (agenda item 18) was a proposal to enter negotiations so that needs for social rent housing can be addressed.

In respect of question 9 Councillor Hilton noted that the acreage of recreational land in the written response was less than what he understood to be the total area in question. He queried what would happen to the excess land. The Cabinet Member

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for Planning and Housing Strategy advised that a detailed answer would be supplied.

In respect of question 10 Councillor Hilton enquired whether the subject matter of the proposed negotiations would be shared with elected members so that assumptions may be challenged. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy confirmed that legal advice would be sought on what can be revealed. She further advised that she understood that the relevant Ward Member had been invited to discussions but had not attended.

49. DRAFT MONEY PLAN 2023-28 AND BUDGET PROPOSALS 2023/24

Cabinet considered the report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that sought Members to review the Council's Draft Money Plan and budget proposals.

The Leader of the Council reminded Members that there were still unknown factors at this stage so that the final yearend positions remained uncertain. He nevertheless informed them that that he believed the authority to be in a better position than most others and stated that although savings had been identified, these would not impact staffing or priorities. The Leader of the Council outlined some of the positive achievements over the past year including increased income from recycling. He thanked officers for their work, especially the Finance Team, and took the opportunity to urge residents to engage with the budget consultation available on the Council website.

The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure expressed his pleasure at what he considered such a good team to be steering the Council's finances through uncertain times.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the assumptions contained in the Council's draft Money Plan from 2023/24 to 2027/28 and revisions to the draft revenue budget are approved
- (2) the uncertainties regarding future incomes, as shown in the report and Appendix 1, and the need to update the Draft Money Plan when there is more certainty regarding Central Government financing, are noted.

50. TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE - MID YEAR REPORT 2022/23

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that updated Members on treasury management activities for the six month period of 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022 in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

The Leader of the Council summarised the report. He confirmed that the optimum yield on investments would continue to be sought. The Leader of the Council drew

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Members' attention to £35m of new borrowing to aid the Forum development (4.1) and reassured them that the Council has operated within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement limits.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report are noted.

51. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2023/24

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that sought approval to retain the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24.

The Leader of the Council outlined the background to the scheme and advised that the proposed scheme be subject to legislation changes expected in January 2023.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

- (1) the current Local Council Tax Support scheme, as the approved scheme for Gloucester City in 2022/23, be adopted for 2023/24
- (2) the scheme approved at 2.1 (1) in the report be updated to align with any legislation changes in January 2023 and to be implemented from 1st April 2023
- (3) any urgent amendments to the scheme approved at 2.1 (1) in the report, in the event of a national emergency and authorised by the government, be adopted and implemented immediately.

52. PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 2 - 2022/23

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that informed Members of the Council's performance against key measures in Quarter 2 of 2022/23.

The Leader of the Council detailed both the improving and declining trends described within the report.

RESOLVED that the Quarter 2 Performance Report 2022/23 at Appendix 1 of the report is noted.

53. TOURISM AND DESTINATION MARKETING PROGRESS REPORT 2022

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure that sought to update Members on the progress of the Tourism and Destination Marketing Function against the objectives outlined in Tourism and Destination Marketing Plan issued in January 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure informed Members that the progress and reach measured in the review (appendix 1) went beyond his high expectations and that he anticipated that even this performance would be exceeded with the major events planned in the coming year. The Cabinet Member for Culture and

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Leisure commented that Gloucester was really going places for which he thanked the Tourism and Destination Marketing Manager and her team.

The Cabinet Member for Environment reminded Members that Arts Council England (ACE) had recently demonstrated their confidence in the city by awarding National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status to Gloucester Culture Trust, Guildhall and Strike A Light. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy stated that it was good not only because more visitors were coming to spend money here but that residents had more reason to enjoy and be proud of the City.

RESOLVED that the Tourism and Marketing Progress Report is noted, and that the progress made against the marketing plan in 2022 is endorsed.

54. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GRANT FUNDING PROVIDED TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that outlined the Council's financial contributions towards the voluntary and community sector during the year 2021/22.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods placed the report within the context of the Council's commitment to Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) practices whereby communities drive their own priorities forward to benefit residents. He gave examples from the over £27,000 distributed to 47 organisations (appendix 1) where small amounts of money had generated greater benefits through communities and individuals working together. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods advised that support would continue to be given to projects that aid residents such as the recent warm spaces initiative.

The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that the report and amount distributed demonstrated how much the Council are helping residents around the City. The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure reiterated that it contained examples of where relatively small sums of money can make a real difference to people's lives.

RESOLVED that the report is noted and the same approach is endorsed for the 2022/23 year.

55. GLOUCESTER COMMUNITY BUILDING COLLECTIVE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that provided an update on the City's successful community building activities and set out future steps for community ownership of the Gloucester Community Building Collective Community Interest Company (GCBC).

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods highlighted the key features of the report. He emphasised GCBC's aspiration to be a centre of excellence empowering communities and its achievements so far (3.3-5). The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods advised Members that it was widely regarded as a respected community partner and that this was the right time in order for its membership model to change to ensure continued success.

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The Cabinet Member for Environment reminded Members that this was another example of the Asset based Community Development (ABCD) approach working to deliver admirable results. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy commented that the projects funded represented a great example of communities working for themselves.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the significant success of the GCBC in delivering community building activities in Gloucester and developing as a mature and financially sustainable organization is noted
- (2) the next steps in the development of the Collective to become a community led organisation from December 2022 is endorsed
- (3) the Council withdraw from sole Membership and the Membership Agreement
- (4) authority is delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods and Council Solicitor to Implement these changes.

56. ADOPTION OF THE GLOUCESTER CITY PLAN

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy that sought Members to recommend the adoption of the Gloucester City Plan as a part of Gloucester City Council's statutory Development Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy stressed the scale of both the significance of the proposed plan, the first since 1983, and the huge amount of work to compile it. She commented on its impact not only on regeneration and the delivery of homes but also on climate change and jobs as well as the natural and historic environments. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy drew Members' attention to some of the innovative policies incorporated in the plan. These included the requirement for 25% of new homes to be adaptable and affordable, Biodiversity Net Gain and fall prevention measures for buildings over a certain height.

The Cabinet Member for Environment stated that the Gloucester City Plan was a great credit to the Planning Policy Manager and his team and asked officers present that they be thanked. The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure reflected on the long process to form the Plan and opportunities given for everyone to feed into it. He commented that it would enable Gloucester to develop as we want rather than being dictated by others.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

- (1) the Gloucester City Plan 2011 – 2031 (Appendix 5 of the report) be adopted, incorporating all of the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector (Appendix 2 of the report), together with the Additional

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Modifications (Appendix 6 and Appendix 6A of the report), as a part of Gloucester City Council's statutory Development Plan

- (2) the correction of any minor errors such as spelling, grammar, cross-referencing, typographical and formatting changes (including the addition of a foreword), that do not affect the substantive content of the plan be delegated to the Head of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy; and to finalise and publish an updated and consolidated version of the Policies Map as it relates to the Gloucester City Plan.

57. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT (IFS) 2021/2022 AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) RATE SUMMARY STATEMENT

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy that sought Members to approve the publication of the IFS relating to the financial year ending 31st March 2022 and the Annual CIL Rate Summary.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy advised Members of the need for the report and highlighted its key features.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) relating to the financial year ending 31st March 2022 is approved; and
- (2) it is noted that the Annual CIL Rate Summary Statement will be published alongside the IFS by 31st December 2022.

58. TRANSFER OF LAND ADJACENT TO SCHOOL LODGE MATSON LANE TO GLOUCESTER CITY HOMES

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy that proposed the disposal of land adjacent to School Lodge, Matson Lane, to Gloucester City Homes (GCH) for them to construct affordable housing, with GCH to transfer School Lodge in return for lease to Together in Matson.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy commented that the proposed disposal of land would both facilitate new affordable housing and create a fantastic community asset for everyone to enjoy. The Cabinet Member for Environment noted that the proposal represented a good example of partnership working and would benefit the residents by utilising previously unused land and providing housing in an area of the City where it was needed.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the transfer of land adjacent to School Lodge, Matson Lane to Gloucester City Homes for them to develop for affordable housing for rent (9 apartments) in exchange for School Lodge is agreed. School

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Lodge to then be transferred by way of a long lease to Together in Matson for the use as a not for profit community café with Airbnb accommodation above

- (2) the Director of Policy and Resources in conjunction with the Director of Communities is delegated to agree the terms of the sale and long lease.

59. TRANSFER OF SITES IN PODSMEAD TO ENABLE THE REGENERATION OF THE ESTATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy that sought to give authority to enter negotiations with Gloucester City Homes (GCH) over the transfer of land in Podsmead to enable the regeneration of the estate.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy outlined the process that led to the request by GCH to enter the proposed negotiations. She reminded Members of the vision agreed by the strategic partnership formed in 2017 (3.1). The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy further emphasised that her report recommended that negotiations commence and was not an agreement to transfer the sites. She reassured Members that should there be an agreement then it would be brought to a future meeting of Cabinet for due consideration.

The Cabinet Member for Environment advised Members that he had seen documentation demonstrating that consultation exercises had taken place. He noted that as much of the report as possible had been made accessible to the public.

RESOLVED that delegated authority is given to the Property Commissioning Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Performance & Resources and Planning & Housing Strategy, the Head of Communities and the Head of Place to:

- (1) negotiate heads of terms with Gloucester City Homes (GCH) for the disposal of the freehold interest in the areas of sites shown edged Red on the Plan (“the sites”) whether by one or more transactions, and that a cost benefit analysis informs the final decision on disposal
- (2) negotiate heads of terms with GCH on an agreement to provide affordable homes within the regeneration of the estate
- (3) if so required, to seek authority from the Secretary of State to dispose of the sites on the proposed terms
- (4) negotiate terms with Gloucester United Schools Trust (GUS) for the release, relaxation or variation of the restrictive covenants affecting the sites.

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**Time of commencement: 6.00 pm
Time of conclusion: 7.00 pm**

Chair

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 January 2023
Subject:	Gloucester City Council Plan 2022-2024 Update		
Report Of:	Leader of the Council		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Liam Moran, Policy & Development Officer		
	Email:	liam.moran@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396049
Appendices:	1. Progress Report on Council Plan Actions/Projects 2022-2024		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the delivery of the activities as outlined in the Council Plan 2022-2024, to build a greener, fairer, better Gloucester.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that progress on delivery of the Council Plan 2022-2024 be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council Plan was approved unanimously by Council in January 2022. It set out the vision for the Council, its partners, and residents to “build a greener, fairer, better Gloucester”. The Plan details the Council’s planned projects and activities between 2022 and 2024, to achieve its ambition of improving the lives of everyone who lives in, works in and visits Gloucester.
- 3.2 There are three priorities that set out how we will achieve our vision:
- Building greener, healthier, and more inclusive communities
 - Building a sustainable city of diverse culture and opportunity
 - Building a socially responsible and empowering council.
- 3.3 The Plan set out 45 actions, split equally across three priorities, with 15 actions in each priority area. It should be noted that some of the actions represent activity that will become business as usual, but for the purposes of the action tracking will have a completion date of the end of the Plan period.
- 3.4 Delivery of the Council Plan in the first two quarters of the financial year is encouraging across all priorities. Of the 45 actions that are listed in the Council Plan:
- 6 actions (13.3%) are completed
 - 34 actions (75.6%) are currently expected to complete on time
 - 5 actions (11.1%) are currently delayed.

3.5 Appendix 1 provides an update on each actions. Attention is drawn to the following significant achievements:

- The Learning Hub at The Forum was opened by Kier Construction in August 2022 and now provides a suite of services to create links between employers and recruiters within the Forum development and residents. The Hub provides training and learning courses, work experience opportunities for young people, and visits schools and colleges to promote the local employment opportunities.
- The Kings Square regeneration project was completed and opened in Spring 2022. The revamped square's design is based on the Severn Bore, the tidal surge along the River Severn, with its sweeping granite seating areas, water fountains and atmospheric coloured lighting. So far this year, the square has been used to host the Kings Square re-launch event in May, Arboria II as part of the Luminaria series, as well as hosting dance performances and a high-wire act. Community-led initiatives have included a celebration of Polish Heritage Day at Kings Square, which took place in May with traditional Polish food, music, dancing and performances. Furthermore, Filipino Heritage Day took place in Kings square in July, with everyone invited to experience the Philippines through food, music, and culture.
- The transition to the new waste partnership in spring 2022 was completed successfully. The contract was successfully migrated with a seamless transition for residents. The service remains as was and collection days have also remained the same. As we move forward, we look to digitally transform our systems, bringing greater efficiency and improving performance.
- The council secured capital investment funding from Arts Council England for over £600k capital investment into improvements into our cultural venues. Guildhall Galvanised (£230k funding) project includes WiFi, bar-expansion and upgrades throughout the venue to increase performance. Funding was achieved and the refurbishment was delivered over Summer - Autumn 2022. Capital improvements to the Museum of Gloucester from the MEND fund will commence in 2023.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 Several actions relate directly to the Council's objective of generating social value from its activities.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 Tackling climate change is one of the key themes embedded throughout the Council Plan and actions have been developed with this in mind.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 This is a progress report therefore alternative options are not applicable.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 This update on the delivery of the Council Plan 2022-2024 enables Members, partners, and residents to hold the Council to account for the delivery of its planned actions.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 Work will continue towards achieving the actions, with activity built into 2023-24 Service Plans. Monitoring is continuous and the next progress report will come forward at the end of the current financial year.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 Officers will continue to work together with One Legal to implement the delivery of the activities as outlined in the Council Plan 2022-2024

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 Management of risk and opportunity is overseen by those with responsibility for leading on each action.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact; therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 One of the Council Plan priorities is 'Building greener, healthier, and more inclusive communities' and actions within this priority have been developed with the aim of having a positive impact on community safety.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 None arising directly from this report.

Background Documents: None

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Council Plan Update November 2022			
Council Plan Key Action/Project	Action Deadline	Comment/Update	Expected Outcome
Building greener, healthier, and more inclusive communities			
Leading A Healthy Lifestyle			
Recruit and manage a Food Inclusion Officer for Gloucester for two years and report on the outcomes of that work.	March 2022	The role of Food Inclusion Officer has been filled. The City Council's Food Strategy is currently ready in its first iteration for review.	Completed
Ensure delivery of a quality leisure offer for residents through conducting an options appraisal for seeking the best operational model for the city by September 2023.	September 2023	Options appraisal completed in January 2022, and a Partnership Development Plan developed and agreed by July 2022. Condition Survey for Leisure estate commissioned - due for completion by end of December 2022. Sports and Leisure Strategy commissioned for completion by end of December 2022	On time completion expected
Provide a grant of £10k per year to 'We Can Move', as part of the partnership delivery of the project.	Annual commitment	We have provided funding to the We Can Move project along with other partners and continue to support the initiative which aims to get more people enjoying an active life.	Completed
Tackling Inequalities			
Deliver the Barton and Tredworth Task Force, reporting on and embedding learning from this work.	March 2023	With the element of Education and Empowerment completed, we have moved on to the Enforcement element, which is showing early success (e.g. Hopewell Street - no receptacles on the pavement). Quarterly report developed to provide Ward Members with timely information, avoiding duplication.	On time completion expected
Review and update the People Impact Assessment process to ensure equality is reflected in council decision-making and ensure that the Equalities Working Group action plan is delivered across our teams by	March 2023 and moving into business as usual	The first part of the action is being completed. The Equality Working Group Action Plan is being updated currently, and the new actions will be embedded into the Council's Service Plans.	On time completion expected

integrating into team service plans each year.			
Support the Commission to Review Race Relations and formally consider any recommendations that are relevant to the council – reporting on progress and further activity in 2023.	March 2023	The work in implementing the Calls to Action continues. A legacy institution has been identified and initial conversations have taken place. These conversations continue in order to ensure we progress the Calls to Action.	On time completion expected
Keeping Our Streets Safe			
Develop policy to increase the use of Community Protection notices by January 2023.	January 2023	The CPN policy has been adopted as part of the Community Engagement and Regulatory Policy.	Completed
Secure the continuation of Solace, our antisocial behaviour service, as a partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cheltenham Borough Council by December 2022, and monitor interventions.	January 2023 moving into business as usual	Solace continues to operate in Gloucester and Cheltenham and, as a result of successful Safer Streets funding, will grow into rural districts over the coming year.	On time completion expected
Deliver Annual Asset Based Community Development training to staff, building on the learning from COVID-19 and community recovery.	Annual commitment	Lunch and Learn on ABCD completed and further training being planned for 2023.	On time completion expected
Reducing Homelessness			
Develop Wessex House – plans agreed by December 2022.	March 2024	The Wessex House site is currently being used as a construction compound for the Council's forum development. An options appraisal for this site will be commissioned in the next quarter to inform a subsequent planning application.	Delay expected
Reduce the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation for temporary accommodation by 20%.	March 2024	The current challenges we face in securing move-on and permanent accommodation solutions for homeless households are limiting progress against this action.	On time completion expected

Set up an in-house Home Improvement Agency to support vulnerable and disabled residents to remain in their homes.	March 2023	It is intended that the Home Improvement Agency will be implemented through a series of key steps during the year. Work is currently reviewing best practice and exploring delivery options, however, the team resources have been used to support the local Migration work recently, hence the delays.	Delay expected
Combatting Environmental Crime			
Reduce reported incidences of flytipping by 30% by March 2024.	March 2024	Fly tipping data is monitored quarterly. We expect to see the figures increase, as a response to our improved reporting mechanisms, then stabilise, then begin to reduce.	On time completion expected
Continue to tackle littering through the use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) – stabilise in year 2022-23 and reduce FPNs in 2023-24.	March 2024	The following is the number of FPNs issued by Enforcement Officers for Littering offences during Quarter 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2022: 95 August 2022 89 September 2022: 35 <p>Due to recruitment issues, the number of officers issuing FPNs has been reduced recently.</p>	On time completion expected
Report on the actions and learnings from taking a place-based task force approach in September 2022, with recommendations to embed within business as usual.	March 2024	The outcomes relating to enviro-crime enforcement interventions have been reported to Cabinet and those for housing-related interventions will be reported at a future date.	On time completion expected
Building A Sustainable City of Diverse Culture and Opportunity			
Advancing Regeneration Schemes			
Complete construction of the Forum with Hotel open and offices 50% occupied or pre-let by December 2024.	December 2024	Work is well underway on site. Most demolition is complete and 60% of foundations laid. Hotel and car park occupiers identified and progressing through legal. No project delays reported as yet.	On time completion expected
Deliver and complete the Kings Square regeneration project by Spring 2022.	30 June 2022	The square is open, and works are complete.	Completed

<p>Continue to work with Gloucester City Homes to achieve the regeneration of Matson and Podsmead.</p> <p><i>(Reporting on this action will focus on the Podsmead scheme as the regeneration of Matson is now likely to extend beyond the period of this plan.)</i></p>	March 2023	<p>Officers of several services have worked with Gloucester City Homes to progress the regeneration of the two estates. In recent months GCH has taken the decision to press on with its scheme for Podsmead whilst proceeding at a more limited scale in Matson and with a longer timescale.</p> <p>Cabinet gave authority in December for officers to enter negotiations with GCH on the Heads of Terms for the sale of three sites in Podsmead. This should give the housing association the confidence to finalise and submit a planning application for the scheme in the New Year.</p> <p>In Matson GCH will continue the development of smaller sites, and relevant officers are liaising where appropriate to facilitate the progress.</p>	Delay expected
Growing Gloucester's Economy			
Further develop the model of Skills Academy at the Forum using the Social Value model to provide appropriate placements/skills for Gloucester residents.	November 2024	The Learning Hub at The Forum was opened by Kier Construction in August 2022 and now provides a suite of services to create links between employers and recruiters within the Forum development and local residents. The Hub provides training and learning courses, work experience opportunities for young people, and visits schools and colleges to promote the local employment opportunities.	On time completion expected
Actively support the BID re-ballot in 2022.	July 2022	The BID second term ballot was carried out in June 2022 and was successful, with the BID being elected for a further 5 year term.	Completed
Promote the City as a place for businesses to invest using the Invest in Gloucester	Business as usual	The Council continues to market the city as an investment location using the investgloucester.co.uk	On time completion expected

<p>channel with messaging consistent with the Tourism and Destination Marketing Plan and emerging new City branding.</p>		<p>channel. The Council also works alongside the GFirst LEP to market the County to prospective investors.</p> <p>During the year to date activity has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of a Regeneration Newsletter, which highlights the investment opportunities in the city centre • Support for the GFirst LEP to market the County to Advanced Engineering and Aerospace companies at the Fairford Air Tattoo and the Farnborough Air Show. • Responding to individual enquiries from prospective investors in the city. 	
Strengthening Our Cultural Offerings			
<p>Implement Years 1, 2 & 3 of the Museum Development Plan by the end of 2023, secure Blackfriars Priory future management with Historic England by 2023 and secure funding to implement improvements (ie. bar expansion, dance floor refurb, live-streaming performances) at Gloucester Guildhall by the end of 2024.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Guildhall Galvanised - the council secured funding from Arts Council England for over £250k capital investment into improvements in the Guildhall. This includes WiFi, bar-expansion and upgrades throughout the venue to increase performance. Funding achieved and refurbishment project was delivered over Summer - Autumn 2022.</p> <p>Additional funds have been secured for Gloucester Guildhall for 3 year from 2023-2026 to support programme development.</p> <p>MEND funding from ACE achieved for Museum of Gloucester with project commencing in 2023.</p> <p>Museum of Gloucester Yr 1 plan has been implemented with progress on Yr 2 on track</p>	<p>On time completion expected</p>

		Negotiations regarding Blackfriars future management are under way.	
Work in partnership with Gloucester Culture Trust and others to ensure that the Cultural Strategy action plan is delivered to ensure that culture is accessible to all, reporting progress to council on an annual basis.	Business as usual	<p>We continue to work closely with GCT and work in partnership to ensure the delivery of the cultural strategy. We have recently worked closely together on the vision for Kings Square programme as well as the Gloucester Roundhouse exchange partnership. We worked closely with GCT on exploring the potential for submitting a Place Partnership bid to Arts Council England.</p> <p>The announcement in Nov 2022 of National Portfolio Organisation funding has awarded multi-year funding deal for Gloucester Culture Trust which will help to stabilise the organisation for the period 2023-2026.</p>	On time completion expected
Using the opportunity offered by Gloucester being identified as a Priority Place by Arts Council England, encourage our cultural partners to be ambitious, demonstrate best practice and seek national recognition from the arts, heritage and cultural sectors. Increase the number of National Portfolio Organisations in the city and retain accreditation status for the Museum of Gloucester. Encourage co-creation with our communities and ensure that culture is embedded in the city's future plans, policies and strategies.	Business as usual	<p>6 Gloucester based organisations applied for NPO funding. Of these, 4 organisations were successful including Strike A Light, Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester Culture Trust and Gloucestershire Libraries.</p> <p>Your Next Move were included in the Guildhall NPO application, to incubate and support the organisation to grow, with reciprocal mentoring while developing the Guildhall as a home for dance in Gloucester.</p>	On time completion expected

Promoting Our City			
Working with our partners to support the Festivals and Events sector we will provide advice, guidance and funding to ensure a quality and engaging programme of events across the city including Kings Square, with an annual report on activity and planned future activity.	Business as usual	<p>Festivals & Events team continues to support the sector.</p> <p>Following the successful Kings Square launch event in Q1, the team delivered Luminarium in Kings Square in Q2 which (despite 40 degree heat) wowed audiences and generated over £20,000 income.</p> <p>Q3 progress includes the successful Lantern procession, Christmas Tree of Light and development</p> <p>We are working with a producer to create a bid for work across Bright Nights, Kings Square, Lantern Parade and our global streets partnership with Strike A Light and Festival.org</p>	On time completion expected
Deliver the city's Tourism and Destination marketing plan to increase the number of visitors into the city on an annual basis, with increased emphasis on digital channels to attract identified priority visitors and reduce carbon impact.	March 2024	A lot of the objectives have had actions completed against them. A progress report has been sent to Cabinet in December. We are ahead of target on hits to the Visit Gloucester website and SEO score.	On time completion expected
Brand, capture and promote the rich and diverse story of Gloucester in order to attract national and international audiences to the city. Encourage responsible tourism through providing information and advice on our website and through targeting eco-travellers by the end of 2023. Work with partners to use and embed the new city branding by the end of 2022.	Business as usual	Travel Trade events attended mean Gloucester is firmly on the tourism map in front of the right businesses. We have provided content to Visit Britain for 2023 so they can distribute that to their international offices.	On time completion expected

Enhancing Our Green Spaces			
Report on the progress of the Open Space strategy.	March 2024 / Business as usual	We are continuing to make progress against the objectives set out in the Open Spaces Strategy. Two additional outdoor gyms have been provided at Milton Avenue and Armscroft Park. Habitat creation schemes and management plans have been introduced on 25 sites. Grant funding of £100,000 has been made available to sports clubs for grass pitch improvement works. Additional support in the form of training and insurance cover has been given to Friends groups. Green flags have been retained for existing sites and work is underway on Green Flag management Plan for Gloucester Park (aim to attain Green Flag status in 2024).	On time completion expected
Increase the number of Green Flag parks to 4 by 2024.	March 2024	Green flags for Barnwood Arboretum, Saintbridge Pond and Robinswood Hill have been retained. This is testament to the dedication of the communities and officers involved. Work is underway on a Green Flag Management Plan for Gloucester Park (aim to attain Green Flag in 2024).	On time completion expected
Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan.	March 2023	Consideration will be given as to the necessity of a standalone Strategy as part of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan drafting process.	On time completion expected
Building A Socially Responsible and Empowering Council			
Our Promises Becoming A Smart City			
Agree a suite of projects that will comprise the second phase of the Gloucester Digital Strategy by summer 2022. The projects will be ambitious and collaborative, aiming to set the agenda for combined action over the next 5 years.	March 2024	In the light of the Council's cyber incident in December 2021 the decision was taken by officers to suspend work on progressing the Gloucester Digital Strategy. Propose to defer this project until 2023.	Delay expected

Establish a Gloucester Digital Steering Group to comprise Gloucester organisations that are committed to driving forward the Digital Strategy and to put Gloucester on the map as a smart, digital city.	March 2024	In the light of the Council's cyber incident in December 2021 the decision was taken by officers to suspend work on progressing the Gloucester Digital Strategy. Propose to defer this project until 2023.	Delay expected
Continuously improve and expand our end-to-end digital services in line with best practice, ensuring that they are as accessible as possible.	Business as usual	<p>We continued to work collaboratively on promoting self-service and online options on the telephone, working to continuously improve and expand our digital services through regular meetings.</p> <p>We have created Contact Us forms, a corporate complaints process, FOI online process and expanded Report It.</p> <p>Some improvements works have been suspended due to the cyber incident, but we anticipate being able to reinstate and implement more processes shortly. This includes check your bin day, reporting of missed bins and booking bulky collections. In addition, the reinstating of My Gloucester.</p> <p>All of the online changes previously implemented have enabled customers to self-serve and therefore reduces the need to contact us via telephone and expands our digital offering.</p>	On time completion expected
Embedding Social Value			
Increase the social value generated through the Social Value Policy for the City by 2024.	March 2024	Since April 1st, 2022, the social value generated and reported through the social value portal equates to £1,040,864 against contracts to a total value of £7,805,486.	On time completion expected

Enhance the Social Value Policy to include wider purchasing by the Council.	March 2024	The review of the policy has begun, and options being explored include incorporating contract extensions, purchases on frameworks and purchases via delivery partners into the policy.	On time completion expected
Deliver the Social Value plan for the Forum.	Summer 2024	The Learning Hub at The Forum was opened by Kier Construction in August 2022 and now provides a suite of services to create links between employers and recruiters within the Forum development and local residents. The Hub provides training and learning courses, work experience opportunities for young people, and visits schools and colleges to promote the local employment opportunities	On time completion expected
Delivering Quality Waste and Street Care Services			
Transition successfully to the new waste partnership by 1st April 2022.	April 2022	The contract was successfully migrated with a seamless transition for residents. The service remains as it was and collections days have also remained the same. As we move forward, we look to digitally transform our systems bringing greater efficiency and improving performance.	Completed
Maintain a minimum recycling level of 45% and develop a waste strategy to enable an increase.	March 2024	We continue work with residents to reduce residual waste and increase recycling. Campaigns this year include Pledge for Plastics and a comprehensive food waste campaign which rolls out in November. The county wide food waste campaign will target every household.	On time completion expected
Deliver a community consultation to get feedback on our plans to increase recycling and reduce waste.	March 2024	The Gloucestershire Waste Partnership consultation is currently out for resident feedback regarding the 4-year waste strategy for Gloucestershire which includes Gloucester City.	On time completion expected

Addressing Climate Change			
Work towards the delivery of net zero emissions across the City Council's functions by 2030 and district-wide net zero emissions by 2045.	March 2024 / Business as usual	This is a work in progress, the next step of which is appointing an external consultant to co-deliver the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.	On time completion expected
Energy use in council properties will be continuously monitored and reported on annually, with a view to utilising available funding and grants to reduce consumption.	Business as usual	A report is to be delivered to Cabinet in January. The report shows energy consumption (gas and electric) and gives an overview of the success of the ground source heat pump and solar panels at Plock Court and the bus station roof and the impact this has had on reducing our carbon output (and cost). However, it is for the Climate Change Manager to help ascertain upcoming funding and grant availability and for property to work with them to best allocate funds. We continue to work with our tenants to help secure possible climate sensitive retrofits, such as LED's, EV's and solar panels.	On time completion expected
All capital projects being funded by the Council to be net carbon zero in operation with the ambition to be net carbon zero in construction.	March 2024	The major capital project funded by the authority at present is the Forum Development. This project started prior to this target, however there are a range of carbon initiatives built into that scheme.	On time completion expected
Serving Our Residents			
Increase online options and monitor customer feedback quarterly.	Business as usual	<p>We have implemented a Contact Us form online for customers to use for many services and this supports online options, and have been working on an online FOI form with the Transformation Team which is due to go live at the beginning of Oct.</p> <p>We send out customer feedback surveys on all outgoing emails and on some calls. This survey is currently monitored and the comments and data on a</p>	On time completion expected

		<p>monthly basis and this is provided to SMT, GMT and also customer services.</p> <p>In addition, we ask for feedback from customers who use online forms and have been reporting back on this feedback.</p>	
Set a balanced budget each year and monitor income and expenditure to ensure value for money in the delivery of services, and report on this quarterly.	Business as usual	<p>Draft MTFP in progress, presented to O & S and Cabinet.</p> <p>Continued manual processes in place as a result of the cyber incident to monitor income and expenditure.</p>	On time completion expected
Benefits, council tax support and grants for local businesses will be delivered in a timely manner and reported on quarterly.	Business as usual	<p>The Open Revenues system has been restored following the cyber incident. It is pleasing to report the backlog of work for business rates has been processed and we see a return to business as usual.</p> <p>There remains a backlog of new benefit claims and council tax changes to administer, resource is effectively managed daily to clear these items as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Some system functionality has not been restored fully for example online forms and data share channels with DWP, we are working closely with Gloucester ITO to resolve these issues.</p> <p>As a result of the incident the Council has procured a cloud-based solution for Open Revenues that will be implemented in the Spring of 2023</p>	On time completion expected

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 January 2023
Subject:	Response to the Recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on Engaging with Young People		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Democratic and Electoral Services Officer Community Wellbeing Officer Policy and Development Officer		
	Email:	lauren.richards@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 39-6735
		isobel.edwards@gloucester.gov.uk	39-6298
		liam.moran@gloucester.gov.uk	39-6049
Appendices:	1. Task and Finish Group – Engagement with Young People Final Report 2. Additional Consultation Data 3. Cabinet Response to Recommendations		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish group on the City Council's engagement with young people, and to provide a formal Cabinet response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, as set out in Appendices 1 and 3 to this report, be addressed and implemented at the earliest opportunity, and that those recommendations requiring more detailed consideration be the subject of a further report to Cabinet as necessary.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Task and Finish Group was established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2022 following a notice of motion approved by the City Council. The focus of the enquiry was to establish whether the City Council services currently engage with young people and if so, how. The Task and Finish Group concluded their enquiry in September 2022 and have formulated several recommendations as to how the City Council might be able to improve how it engages with young people across various services, as well as the authority as a

whole. To date, the Task and Finish Group has held 8 meetings, and the scope of their enquiry, summary of its findings and their recommendations are set out in Appendix 1.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 There are particular voluntary and community groups in some wards that have a strong youth focus, but there are gaps across the city. Often, young people find it difficult to express their views and opinions because they don't know who to approach and who is able to take action on their concerns. There is also a feeling that they are never asked in the first place.
- 4.2 There is not currently enough capacity within the community wellbeing team to address these issues so a coordinated response in the form of a dedicated youth officer would lead to an understanding of where the gaps are and how they can be filled. Fortunately, the community wellbeing team have been able to acquire external funding to pay for a fixed term post for 18 months. This person will be responsible for engaging with young people across the city, working alongside VCS partners who have a youth focus as well as supporting City Council departments to improve their involvement and create opportunities for the voices of younger residents to be heard.
- 4.3 Within the city, there are some fantastic organisations such as 'Young Gloucestershire' and the 'Gloucester Community Building Collective' who have a lot of experience and knowledge of working with young people. They will be key partners in supporting the youth engagement role as they can provide a considerable amount of expertise and awareness of current youth issues. In addition to city wide organisations, there are several youth groups that are run in community centres and places of worship who have considerable understanding of what matters to the young people who live in their area.
- 4.4 A dedicated focus on youth engagement will hopefully bring about; an increase in young voters, more interest from young people in their local area on how they can improve it so it better suits their needs an increase in young volunteers and more involvement in youth panels such as the climate change action group.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 N/A

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 The recommendations stem from the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group and it is the discretion of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods to make a final decision on these recommendations.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group have requested an update on the implementation of any recommendations agreed by Cabinet approximately 6 months after they have been formally accepted.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 N/A

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 Under s9FE of the Local Government Act 2000 Cabinet is required to consider the Task and Finish Group report and provide a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out what action it proposes to take.
- 10.2 The City Council needs to ensure that it complies with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) when formally consulting with young people, as there are additional provisions intended to enhance the protection of personal data relating to children and young people. In UK law, only young people aged 13 years old and older can lawfully provide their own consent for the purpose of processing their personal data.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 N/A

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The Task and Finish Group is seeking to widen participation of young people in the City Council's decisions. If the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group are accepted and implemented, they should help younger residents to effectively and easily engage with the City Council.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 N/A

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 N/A

Background Documents: None

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***TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON
ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG
PEOPLE***



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Section 1 - Introduction

Background

The Task and Finish Group to consider how Gloucester City Council engages with young people was proposed through a Notice of Motion at the Council meeting on 27th January 2022. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Tree Chambers-Dubus and the motion passed unanimously. The motion stated that:

“This council believes that young people are important and recognises the positive contribution that young people make to the city.

Young people have ideas, views and opinions about things that affect their lives, their communities and their city.

Young people have a contribution to make to the life and development of the city and whilst there have been some initiatives in recent years there is currently no process or structure that enables the council to communicate and understand the views that young people have.

It is therefore time to revisit and review this important issue.

Council therefore resolves to:

- *Review the processes and methods it uses to engage, involve and consult with young people.*
- *Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a task and finish group to consider how the council engages with young people.*
- *Actively involve young people in this process.*
- *Make a report and recommendations to cabinet about how to engage and communicate with young people in future.”*

As a result of the successful passing of the motion by Council, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee formally established the Task and Finish Group and approved the membership on 28th February 2022.

The following cross-party Members took part in the enquiry:



Councillor Tree Chambers-Dubus (Chair)



Councillor Andrew Gravells MBE



Councillor Anne Radley



Councillor Alastair Chambers



Councillor Brendon O'Donnell

The Task and Finish Group was supported by the City Council's Policy and Development Officer, Liam Moran, Community Wellbeing Officer, Isobel Johnson, and Democratic and Electoral Services Officer, Lauren Richards.

The Task and Finish Group held its inaugural meeting on 10th March 2022, to agree the scope of the enquiry. Members considered a series of questions, including what they wanted the focus of the enquiry to be, their objectives, desired outcome, timetable and initial next steps. The Task and Finish Group decided the following:

- Members decided that the focus of the Task and Finish Group Project should be on young people aged 25 and under. The Group were initially reluctant to set a lower-age limit as they felt that anyone with something to say should have a chance to have their voice heard regardless of age. This said, Members agreed that it would be sensible for the enquiry to focus on school-aged children up to young people aged 25.
- Members decided to focus on improving how the council can consult with young people in order to make it easier for young people to engage and share their ideas with the council.
- The Task and Finish Group noted that enthusiasm for local government issues, apart from climate change, seemed to have dissipated for young people. Members were concerned that those who feel disengaged at a young age are less likely to be actively engaged and involved within their local communities as adults.
- Members hoped that the Task and Finish Group might help promote a culture of two-way conversation between the council and young people.

Scope and Areas of Focus

During the scoping session, Task and Finish Group Members identified five key areas under Gloucester City Council responsibility which particularly affect young people. These five areas were used to inform each of the 'deep dive' sessions, and lead Officers were asked to attend each session to answer questions from Members. The deep dive sessions focused on four topics explained in further detail below.

Members wanted the project to be comprehensive and evidence based. They opted to take a three-pronged approach to the Task and Finish Group enquiry:

1. Members decided that lead Officers in each service area should be present at their meetings to discuss and answer questions regarding the written information they submitted ahead of the meeting. It was decided that each session would focus on an initial service-specific question as to whether young people were engaging with the service area. Furthermore, Members agreed that they needed to establish whether the council engages with young people at present, and if so how, in order to establish a clear and comprehensive picture. Members developed a standardised set

of questions that were sent to lead Officers ahead of each deep dive meeting. The list of questions was as follows:

- What are the current efforts being made to engage with young people in the service area?
 - How would input from young people change or influence decision making in the service area?
 - Do you think the council's current efforts could be improved and if so, how?
 - What recommendations do you believe should be put forward to improve youth engagement in your service area?
2. In order to satisfy the element of the motion requiring young people to be involved in the process, Members decided to undertake a public consultation to engage directly with young people about each of the deep dive areas set out below. The public consultation was open to individuals aged 13 and above, who could respond online. The results of the public consultation are outlined and analysed in section 3 of this report.
 3. Members also committed to undertaking their own research by speaking with young people in their wards and at school or community group visits, to ascertain their views about the council and the issues which are most important to them. This research sought to encourage offline involvement from individuals under the age of 13 and to ensure the data sets were as comprehensive as possible. This research was undertaken anonymously and used as anecdotal evidence which is set out in further detail in section 4 of the report.

The four deep dive areas were as follows:

Planning

The Task and Finish Group decided to review development, regeneration and wider discussions around planning policy and open spaces, from the viewpoint of children and young people. Members wanted to find out whether young people are having an input on development projects in the city and having their say on wider planning policy issues and how community funding is allocated, for example with regards to open spaces, playing fields and parks. This topic was split into two separate sessions – the first focused on the Development Control aspect of Planning and consultation, and the second looked at wider Planning Policy and parks and open spaces within Gloucester. The first session was attended by the Council's Planning Development Manager, and the second session was attended by the Planning Policy Manager.

Climate Change

Task and Finish Group Members predicted that Climate Change would be a key interest and priority for young people, given the increasing focus on addressing climate change and the role of young people beyond Gloucester in seeking positive change. Members wanted to find out the extent to which the council is involving young people in its efforts to address climate change, including in the development of Gloucester City Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. This session was attended by the City Council's Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead.

Democracy

Members sought to examine whether young people understand how and when to contact their local Councillors, and whether enough effort is being made to engage them in democratic processes. Queries which Members were most interested in exploring included whether, and how often, young people are involved in Council and Committee meetings, whether they submit questions to Council, and partake in public consultations. This session was attended by the Policy and Governance Manager.

Culture

The Task and Finish Group felt that the City Council would be missing a large target audience if young people felt excluded and disengaged with the cultural programming of the city. Members noted that this could be a concern, particularly as cultural development is an ongoing priority for the Council. They wanted to understand whether or not the council is doing enough to promote cultural venues, such as the Museum and Guildhall, to young people in Gloucester. This session was attended by the Cultural Development Manager.

Section 2 - Deep Dive Summaries

In terms of the format of the deep dive sessions, lead Officers across the Planning, Climate Change, Democracy and Culture service areas were asked to provide written answers to the questions outlined in section 1 for circulation to Members ahead of the meeting. Members then had the opportunity to discuss the written answers in further detail during each evidence session and put any questions they had to the Officers directly. At the end of each session, The Task and Finish Group would discuss the findings, share their thoughts, and draft potential recommendations. These draft recommendations were refined towards the close of the Task and Finish Group project.

The following section will outline the key themes and issues arising from each meeting, as well as Members' conclusions.

Planning – Development Control

The written response from the Development Control service confirmed that currently, although all residents are welcome to submit their views on planning applications, the service does not target any one specific age group when undertaking development consultations. It was also noted that it is not possible to ascertain the age of residents who respond to such consultations, as there is currently no requirement to request the age of those who respond to and engage with City Council consultations. This was a point of particular interest to Task and Finish Group Members.

During the deep dive session, Members were advised that Development Control concerns the latter stages of planning development, and that major consultation takes place earlier in the Planning Policy stage. The Planning Development Manager confirmed that the City Council's Development Control team comply with the statutory minimum requirements when consulting on planning applications, such as engaging with the environment agency and adjoining landowners, ensuring the presence of site notices, and press advertising. The Task and Finish Group was advised that attendance at planning application public meetings tended to be predominantly from an older demographic rather than young people, although it was noted that this might largely be due to adults being more likely to own or rent property.

In response to these findings, Task and Finish Group Members concluded that more efforts could be made to engage with young people in the planning application process. They queried whether the service could consider using innovative digital methods to engage with young people, given that many young people receive their news online via smartphones. Task and Finish Group Members felt that it was important that young people were engaged with directly in this area, particularly in relation to major planning applications and regeneration projects in the city.

Planning Policy

The written response from the Planning Policy Manager confirmed that during the development of the City Council's Local Plan, efforts were made to engage with as wide a range of people as possible, including during in-person events at the University of Gloucestershire and at local fetes and fayres across the city. Members were advised that the Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategies are subject to their own consultation processes.

In terms of previous updates to the Open Spaces Strategy, which includes green space and parks, consultation with residents was undertaken through exhibitions and activities in a wide variety of locations with at least one event taking place in each City Council ward. There was an exception with the latest update to the Open Spaces strategy which took place in 2020 as Covid-19 restrictions were in place, and therefore consultation activity was undertaken primarily online.

With regards to the Council's Playing Pitch strategy, it was noted that most of the consultation and engagement tends to be kept at a sport club level, however new processes were put in place back in 2020 to allow Members to engage in planning applications which had the potential to lead to improvements to open spaces in their wards.

During the deep dive session, the Planning Policy Manager confirmed that it was likely that the City Council's Playing Pitch Strategy would be updated ahead of the Open Space Strategy. He explained that the Planning Policy team had regularly engaged with governing bodies and Sport England in the past and that the team were considering whether to progress an update to the strategy later this year, which might provide an opportunity to think about further community engagement.

In terms of engagement with young people specifically, Task and Finish Group Members highlighted that playing pitch sites in the city are not just used for sporting purposes, but also for other physical activities such as informal play. The Planning Policy Manager noted that there had been a noticeable shift in Sport England's priorities, away from focusing only on the delivery of formal sports. Members concluded that an update to the Playing Pitch Strategy might be an opportunity to consider the appropriate membership. A discussion ensued as to whether focusing any consultations on engagement with governing bodies was the best way of reaching young people. It was noted that there might be value in using grassroots engagement to deliver strategies, but that this would need to be married against budget and time constraints.

Climate Change

In terms of whether the City Council is engaging with young people in the development of the City Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCSAP), the written response from the Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead confirmed that at the time of the meeting (May 2022), young people had not been actively involved with the strategy development, however as they are likely to be disproportionately burdened with the future impacts of climate change, he confirmed that engagement work with young people would be included in the work programme for the forthcoming CCSAP. It was noted that this

engagement work could take the form of surveys, interviews, focus groups and panels or even a young people's climate commission. The view of the Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead was that engagement should initially be sought through schools in the first instance.

During the deep dive session, Members were advised that the CCSAP was still in the early stages of development, and work was ongoing to procure a third-party organisation to help deliver the strategy and Action Plan. The Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead reassured Members that he was very keen to hear the voices of young people in the development of the Climate Change Strategy. The Task and Finish Group and the Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead agreed that it was important not to assume that all young people are preoccupied with Climate Change, and all sides were keen to ensure that as wide a group of individuals as possible are engaged with this work. It was noted that Climate Change is likely to increasingly impact all aspects of young peoples' lives in the future, including work, transport, diets, and holidays. In their conclusions, Members acknowledged that engagement with young people in this service area was in the early stages and agreed with the Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead that unique approaches may be needed to engage differently with those of different ages. They were pleased to note that Engagement with young people in this area appeared to be very much planned.

Democracy

The written response from the Policy and Governance Manager pointed out that young people engage with democracy in a broad range of ways, including avenues the City Council is not involved with, such as while young people are at school or at home. It was noted that Councillors as community leaders are key to involving all residents, including young people, in the wider democratic process, particularly as they are decision makers in respect of important decisions about Gloucester as a city. The Policy and Governance Manager confirmed that the ability to ask questions and present petitions at Council and Committee meetings is available to all residents, including young people. She confirmed that Council meetings are promoted on social media and noted that there has been more engagement from the public in general with meeting activity during the Covid-19 pandemic and since changes to the Council's procedure rules around question deadlines were put in place. Despite this, take-up of the Committee and Council meetings question facility has been limited amongst young people. It was noted that unitary or county councils may well have more engagement with young people than district councils as a result of the functions they are responsible for, such as education and social services.

The Policy and Governance Manager confirmed that during the annual Electoral Canvass, the Democratic and Electoral Services team specifically target resources at registering students living in the city, including 16- and 17-year-olds, as at this age they can be added to the electoral register as holding electors. Members were advised that some students are reluctant to register to vote in Gloucester as they do not consider it their home. Members were also advised that the Mayor and Sheriff of Gloucester meet with schools and community groups in the city, however this engagement tends to focus on the civic history and roles rather than democratic engagement specifically.

During the Deep Dive session, Members were mindful that resource is an important consideration when deciding whether to increase engagement through more formal mechanisms. It was noted at the time of meeting (June 2022) that the City Council does not have a designated youth services team where other councils do, and there are challenges in that the City Council would not have the direct routes into schools that unitary and district councils have in order to support engagement work. Members also discussed whether online platforms popular with young people might be options to explore to build a stronger Council presence on these channels, however resource would need to be a consideration and there are additional challenges with reaching young people who might not be old enough to use social media.

Culture

In terms of engagement with young people within the Culture service, the written response to the Task and Finish Group confirmed that activities for children and young people are delivered across the service to enable them to experience and partake in the city of Gloucester's culture scene. The Cultural Development Manager explained that education visits frequently take place both at the Museum of Gloucester and in the Victorian school room at Gloucester Folk Museum, and the Museum offers 'loan boxes' which can be loaned to schools and youth groups directly for offsite learning. Members were advised that 426 children have engaged with the Museum of Gloucester's education programme in Quarter 1 of 2022. The written responses also explained that the Museum of Gloucester offers holiday and weekend activities, including history events, crafts, storytelling, and photography walks.

With regards to Gloucester Guildhall, the Cultural Development Manager confirmed that two regular gig nights take place at the venue which are aimed at young people, one of which is managed by a young promoter. There is also a hope to work with an organisation named 'Your Next Move' to support them in holding weekly workshops targeting young people to engage them in the hip hop and dance scene. Members were advised that the Culture team had at the time of meeting (July 2022) applied for National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding which if successful, would inject £250k per year for 3 years beginning in April 2023. This would be a significant resource to enable the Culture team to recruit a Steering Group for the venue to ensure target groups are being catered for, and they would plan to recruit a young person to sit on this group to help influence decision making. During the deep dive session, it was noted that the steering group might be something the Culture team could pursue even if the council was unsuccessful in the NPO bid. A detailed discussion ensued about the importance of training for the young people on the steering group and if at all possible, whether consideration could be given to more than one young person representative.

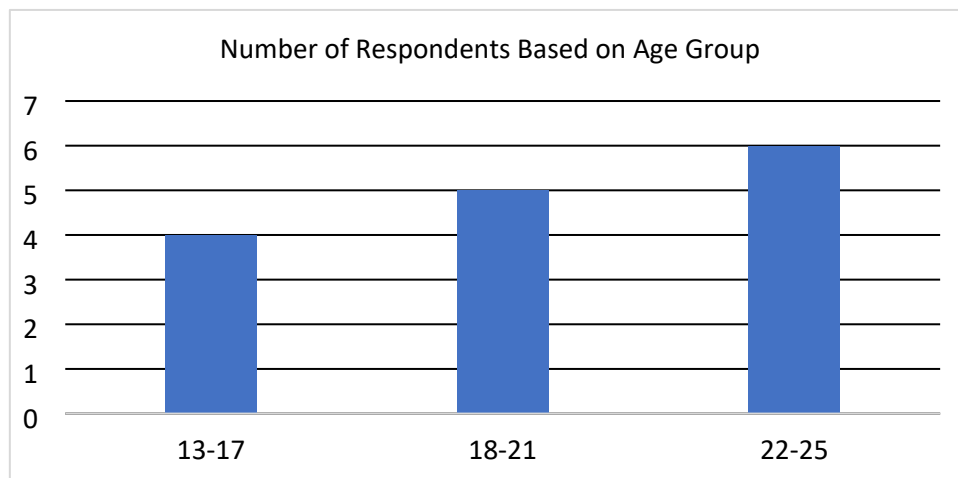
During the deep dive session, much of the discussion focused on the importance of working with partnership organisations to deliver projects to make connections and build trust with young people. It was noted that both Museums are already doing well with engaging with young people through work with local schools and the Guildhall had significant potential in terms of how the City Council could engage with young people. A further point of interest was the prevalence of apprenticeships within the Culture service, with the Cultural Development Manager confirming that the team hosts a number of apprentices across the

service who work with officers to gain experience and expertise in marketing, technical and event management. It was noted that the Culture Team are at the beginning of the journey in terms of engaging with young people, however it was evident that this service clearly has engagement with young people at the forefront across the cultural venues and festivals and events. The launch of Kings Square included activities for children, such as circus workshops, and annual events including Tall Shops and Gloucester Goes Retro are targeted towards families.

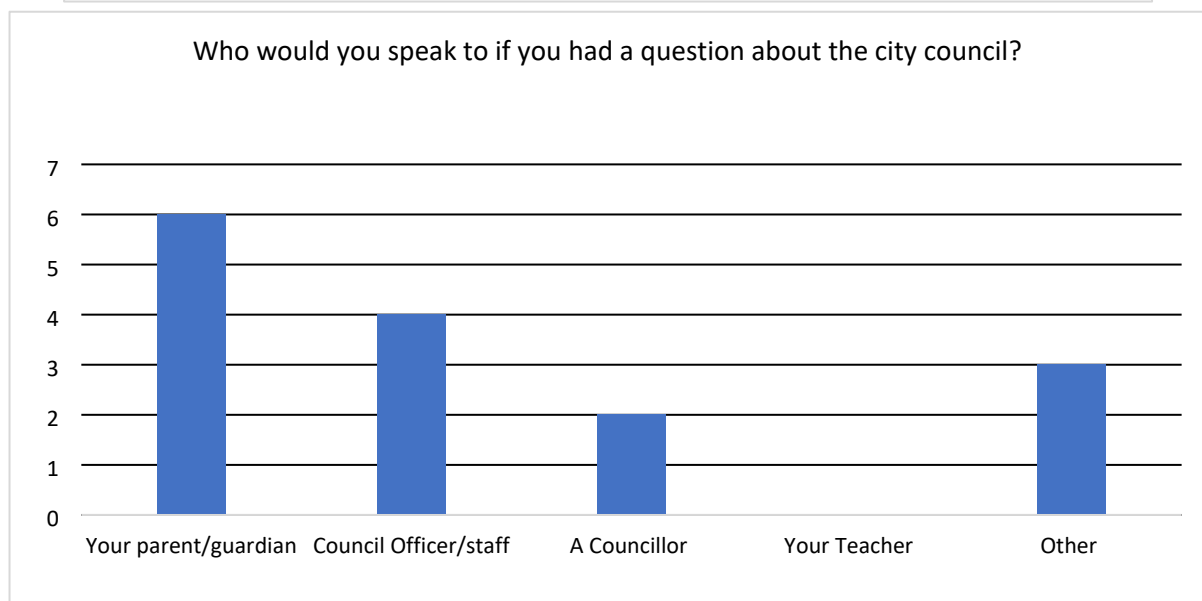
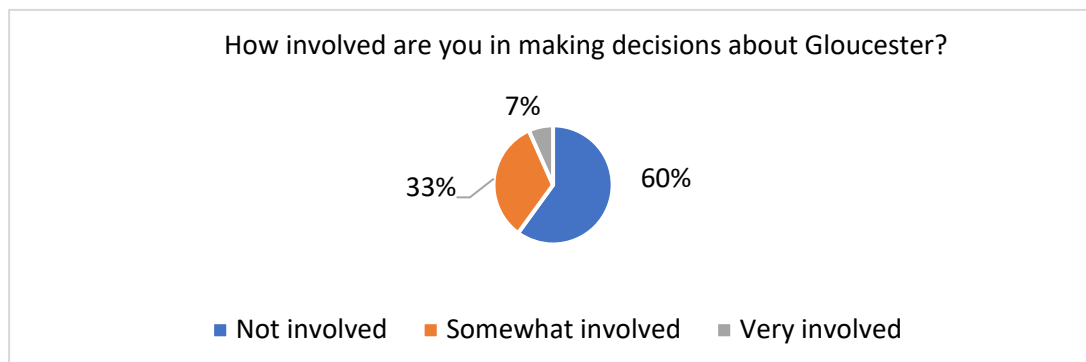
Section 3 – Public Consultation Findings

In order to fulfil all aspects of the motion on engaging with young people, Members undertook a public consultation. The intention of the consultation was to discover more generally, whether young people feel engaged with the Council and what issues were most important to them. Due to data protection constraints, Members agreed that the target audience for the consultation should be individuals aged 13 and above. The public consultation consisted of 7 fundamental questions in addition to generic demographic questions, and was promoted on the City Council’s social media, shared with Councillors through the Members’ Bulletin communication, and circulated to the University of Gloucestershire, Hartpury University, Gloucestershire College, and local youth groups across the city. The results are set out below.

The total number of respondents to the consultation was fifteen, however the majority of respondents were aged 22-25, showing that oldest of those consulted were more likely to engage with the council by virtue of responding to the consultation. It is also important to note that 73.3% were aged 18 and above and this may be due to the fact that those over the age of 18 are eligible to vote and perhaps more engaged with society’s political institutions.



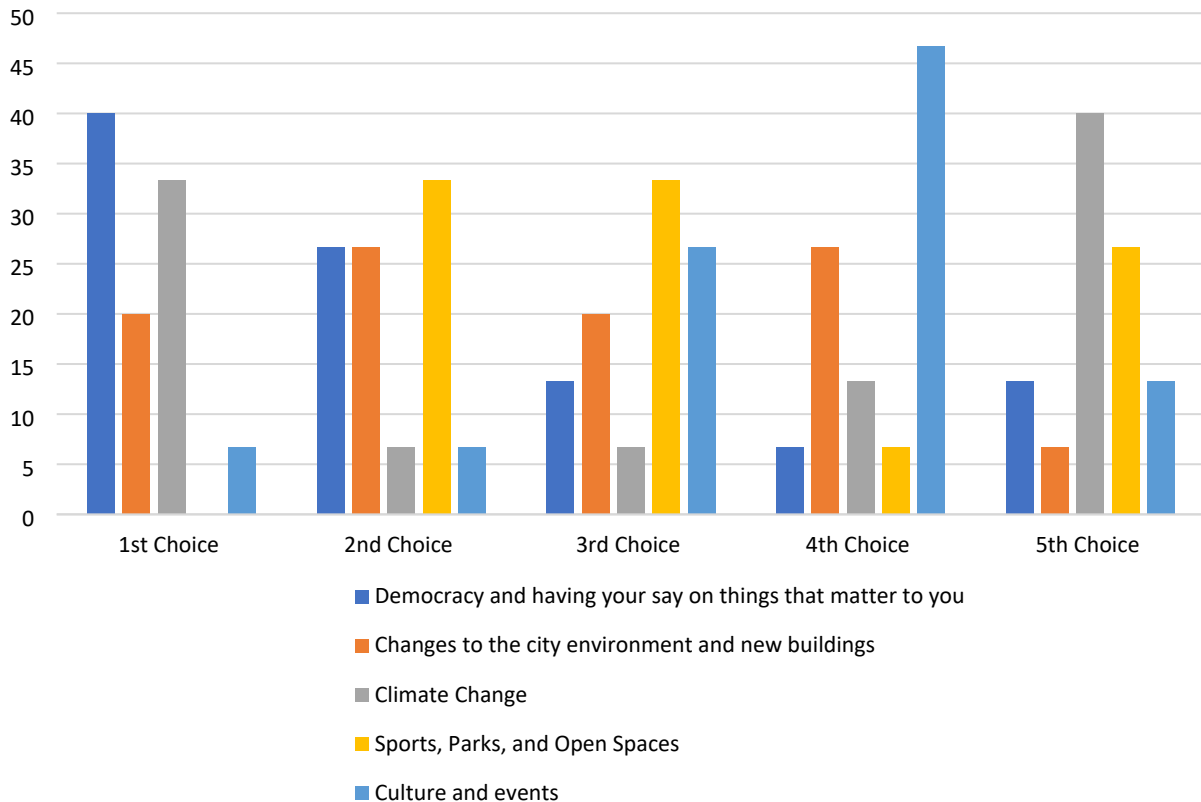
When seeking to gauge the involvement of the respondents, it was clear that an overwhelming 60% of the young people who responded do not feel involved in the decision-making process by Gloucester City Council. However, when breaking these numbers down further by analysing age as shown in Appendix 1, it is interesting to note that out of those aged 13-17, 50% feel somewhat involved in the decision-making process despite not being eligible to vote. Moreover and of particular interest is that 60% of those aged 18-21 do not feel involved in the decision-making process and even higher than that at 83% do not feel involved at the age of 22-25.



When asking respondents who they would contact if they had a question about the Council, 40% of young people opted to ask their parent or guardian, however another 40% said they would contact either a council officer or a Councillor. The remaining 20% selected “other” with one individual taking to social media and another asking their friend. As shown in Appendix 2, it is increasingly clear that the younger respondents were more likely to go to their parents/guardian to ask their questions compared to 50% of those aged 22-25 who would contact a council officer directly.

Respondents overwhelmingly (87%), said they would contact the council via email when asked. However, 13% still opted to phone. When breaking this down by age, 100% of respondents aged 13-17 opted for email, while 80% of those aged 18-21 opted for email and 83% of those aged 22-25 also opted for email. It is important to note that 0% of respondents opted to communicate via letters with the council.

Respondents' Ranking of The Council's Most Important Services

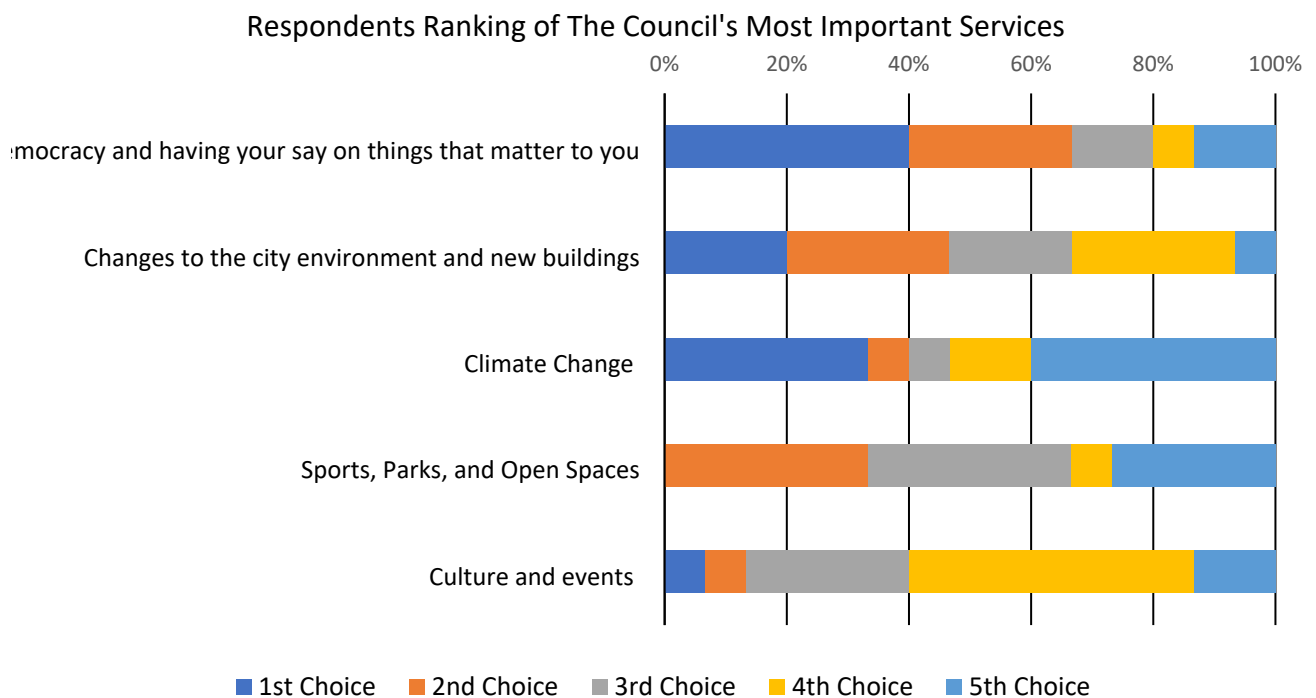


The graphs both above and below show how respondents ranked some of the council’s most important services to their individual preferences. The graph above shows the number of respondents that listed each option as their 1st to 5th choice, while the graph below has aggregated responses to produce a hierarchy (most important to least important) based on the ranking respondents gave each option.

It is interesting to note that nearly half of respondents (40%) chose *Democracy and having your say on things that matter to you* as their first choice, demonstrating the importance of the process and the ability to have an input on decisions being made to young people – this ability to speak up and make their voice heard was more important to our respondents than any other option. This perhaps suggests how important it is for young people to know they are able to engage and voice their opinion on topics that are important to them, to build a feeling of being engaged within the decision-making progress. On the contrary, *Culture and events* was ranked least important by our respondents – not necessarily suggesting a lack of interest in culture and events, but rather this came through as the lowest priority when it comes to the importance of council services specifically. The importance of *Climate Change* is more nuanced than the Task and Finish Group initially thought, perhaps because respondents see it as a broader priority in their lives that doesn’t directly link to the provision of council services.

Ultimately, the young people who engaged with our consultation expressed more interest in the principle and ability to engage with the work of the Council, than the specific issues with which they can engage. However, it is important to note those who responded to our

consultation are by nature more engaged than others in their age group, given they actively chose to submit a response.



What is one thing you would change about Gloucester?

The consultation asked respondents one thing they would like to change about Gloucester and the answers are diverse and mixed. One trend was that young people would like to feel more welcome in the city centre. One respondent said that they would like “more spaces for teens and young people to hang out for free without being accused of loitering or being a nuisance”, while another said the city centre just doesn’t have enough good shops.

Furthermore, other responses reflected a wish to make Gloucester city centre more beautiful and inviting, which speaks to the importance of our ongoing regeneration programme. Another noticeable trend was the request for better transportation connections, specifically around buses and cycling. One respondent said they would like to see “better public transport and designated walking/cycle paths that are segregated from the main roads” while another criticised “the amount of road work” and bus delays as well as overcrowding, specifically on bus number 10. Another respondent spoke to the need to promote Gloucester to a greater extent externally, stating:

“I would change the city’s brand in order to reach more people externally. Gloucester is transforming into a lovely city but when I mention it to other people they always have a negative reaction. I think media campaigns would be a good way to reach out to people, and maybe hosting events is a good way to bring people into Gloucester.”

Furthermore, various respondents spoke to changes they would like made that are not within the remit of the City Council, such as investing more in schools, immigration, concern

about “wokeness” and requesting better shops in the city centre. This report has not covered these responses in detail as they are not considered within the remit of, or relevant to the work of, the city council.

What is your biggest concern about Gloucester?

Respondents expressed a range of concerns affecting all age groups, as well as some issues specific to young people– with 36% of respondents including the word ‘crime’ in their answer. This included references to knife and drug crime, while another respondent simply said: “*Gloucester Park is scary*”, emphasising the concern about safety in the city and the risk of crime, along with references to fly tipping and road conditions.

Other concerns expressed revolved around a sense of economic decline – one respondent said, “*the quays are beautiful but I feel that the high street has a long way to go*”, while another referred to a “*lack of attractive businesses/shops in the city centre*”. Multiple respondents also referred to issues specifically affecting students and young people, such as a “*lack of activities for teens because not everyone wants to do sports*”, “*not enough free spaces to spend time in without feeling in the way*”, and a need for more student jobs in Gloucester. One response suggested this could be resolved “*by encouraging the development of small local businesses e.g., cafes and opening up more accessible youth clubs.*”

What are you most proud of Gloucester for?

Our respondents expressed a range of things they are proud of Gloucester for – including the Gloucester Quays, Gloucester’s numerous parks, the charity shops, our cultural offering, high quality healthcare and even cheese rolling. While three respondents couldn’t think of anything they were proud of, the majority expressed their pride in the City, despite all respondents acknowledging that things can be improved. One respondent called Gloucester their ‘*Goldilocks City*’, expressing that Gloucester strikes a balance between big and small, and rural and urban:

“Gloucester is my Goldilocks City, not too big nor too small. There’s enough going on/to do in the city but there is planet of tranquil countryside less than 10 minutes out of the city.”

Ultimately, the responses show that young people in Gloucester have a diverse range of views and opinions on what makes them proud of Gloucester.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the consultation found that there is a discrepancy between what Task and Finish Group’s perceived areas of interest affecting young people and the interests highlighted by young people who engaged with the consultation. The overarching narrative from young people is threefold. Firstly, respondents made it clear that they felt the city centre is not enticing and for some respondents, a place where they feel unwelcome or

even unsafe. Secondly, out of the council services that are most important to young people, *“Democracy and having your say on things that matter to you”* was overwhelmingly their first choice. The fact that 60% of respondents don’t feel involved in the decision-making process supports this finding, as it suggests that the young people who responded to the consultation feel this is an important issue and would like to feel more involved with decisions about Gloucester. Lastly, 36% of respondents repeatedly stated crime as their biggest concern about Gloucester. It is also important to note that the findings from public consultation are limited and should not be used to describe overall trends, feelings, or views of the entire young people’s cohort in Gloucester.

In conclusion, are children and young people engaging with the council? The short answer is no. This does not come as a reflection of Gloucester City Council not trying to engage with young people, as by virtue of the nine-week public consultation, only 15 individuals responded. Furthermore, due to time and resource limitations, engagement with comprehensive schools in the city was limited which in turn constrained the outreach to individuals over the age of 13. Despite this, it is clear that greater efforts could be taken to include, monitor and analyse the activity and views of individuals between 13-25 years old across council services.

Section 4 - Anecdotal Evidence

At the outset of the Task and Finish Group, Members were keen to engage with children and young people across the city, particularly in their wards. Members agreed to reach out to their local schools before they broke up for the end of the term. There were some challenges with arranging school visits to speak to pupils under the age of 13. Despite this challenge, Councillor O'Donnell, through his own ward work, spoke with several groups of young people between the ages of 8 and 19. Issues raised with him included the desire of young people to have better facilities in local parks, problems with litter, dog waste, a lack of affordable activities, the costs of attending events (such as Tall Ships) and a lack of community initiatives. Young people also mentioned the prevalence of drugs and alcohol and expressed their desire to have an input in new initiatives, particularly in relation to park designs.

During one of the deep-dive sessions, Councillor Andrew Gravells reminded the Task and Finish Group that good ideas don't just come from older people, and shared an example of his ward work. He explained that some young people in his ward had come up with a great idea on how to make the best use of a disused piece of Public Open Space, but were unsure how to go about obtaining the relevant permission. Councillor Gravells had become aware of their ideas after being approached by constituents who objected to them. However, he saw merit in what the young people were trying to achieve, and easily found their parents and met with them to help the young people take the proposal forward. Councillor Gravells' involvement was welcomed by the parents and following his meetings with the young people, parents and City Council staff, a great initiative was created which still currently exists in Abbeydale. What initially appeared to be a negative situation created by young people, very quickly became a positive facility initiated by young people which could be enjoyed by the whole community. From both the anecdotal and data-based evidence, it is clear that listening and engaging with the City's young residents is beneficial both to the individual and the Council as a whole.

Section 5 - Conclusions and Next Steps

Ultimately, the Task and Finish Group enquiry confirmed that young people have strong views and ideas about Gloucester and want to be heard. It was clear from both the findings of the public consultation and Members' own discussions with young people that many issues which are important to them are matters which the City Council has responsibility for, or at least some influence over. There were also issues raised in the public consultation which were not covered by the Task and Finish Group enquiry, such as safety issues in the city, which Members felt might be something to look at in future work considerations.

Following the conclusion of the deep dive sessions, Members found that some City Council service areas do engage with young people well, however they felt that there were certainly ways which the council could improve and that more of a joined-up approach might be beneficial. Members felt that the City Council does not necessarily tailor services towards young people at present. This said, towards the close of the Task and Finish Group enquiry, Members were advised that the Community Wellbeing Team had been successful in obtaining funding for two new posts. One of such posts will be a Youth Engagement Lead who will be looking at a strategic level at how the council can listen to young people and involve them in the council's work and decisions. The other role will work alongside the Youth Engagement Lead but will be focusing more specifically on serious youth violence. The Task and Finish Group were pleased to note that these roles are being created, and the creation of the new Youth Engagement Lead role in particular was at the forefront of their considerations when compiling and finalising their recommendations.

Section 6 – Recommendations of the Task and Finish Group

COUNCIL-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that all council consultations include a question relating to age, in order to establish the age range of residents taking part. • It is recommended that a review of the City Council’s communications strategy takes place, specifically looking at how the Council could better engage with young people through the use of new social media channels. • It is recommended that the Task and Finish Group reconvene in 6 months’ time for a meeting with the new Youth Engagement Lead officer to discuss progress on implementing their recommendations. • It is recommended that all City Council reports pertaining to the Planning and Climate Change service areas include an additional section outlining whether and how the council has engaged with young people in respect of the proposed decision. 	
SERVICE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>Planning (Development)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that the Planning Service consult directly with young people on major planning applications and regeneration schemes within the city through local schools and further education institutions. • It is recommended that the Planning Service implement innovative engagement tools, such as Digital QR codes on statutory planning notices and ‘Dot-Voting’, during formal consultation periods hosted in local communities.
<p>Planning (Policy and Open Spaces)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that when the council’s Playing Pitch Strategy is updated, consideration is given to extending membership of the delivery group to

	<p>include groups promoting physical play and activities as well as sports bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that when the council's Open Space Strategy is updated, consideration is given to extending any public consultations to grassroots community organisations.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that the Council uses the development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as an opportunity to increase engagement with young people on local climate change challenges and solutions.
Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that a document or information leaflet be created on a yearly basis and circulated to local schools. This should be in a format suitable for reading by young people, featuring a range of updates on Council activity, presented in an interactive way such as through the inclusion of wordsearches, competitions and/or other child-friendly activities. This could also support PSHE lessons, with the document being used to encourage children to engage and discuss their thoughts and opinions on what is going on within the Council. However, we are conscious of the resource available within the council and would want to ensure this was as effective as possible to justify the commitment of resource. • It is recommended that City Councillors engage with schools to a greater extent and invite them on a yearly basis for a visit to, and tour of, the Council Chamber and Mayor's parlour. This could include interactive activities such as mock debates, along with a focus on the history of the city, such as by encompassing a visit to Gloucester Museum. • It is recommended that a guide suitable for young people on how Gloucester City Council works is developed and published online as an educational resource – explaining in easy-to-understand terms how the Council operates, its remit within the city, and how young people can get involved. This could be

	used by schools to support with lessons, as well as on an individual basis by young people and their families.
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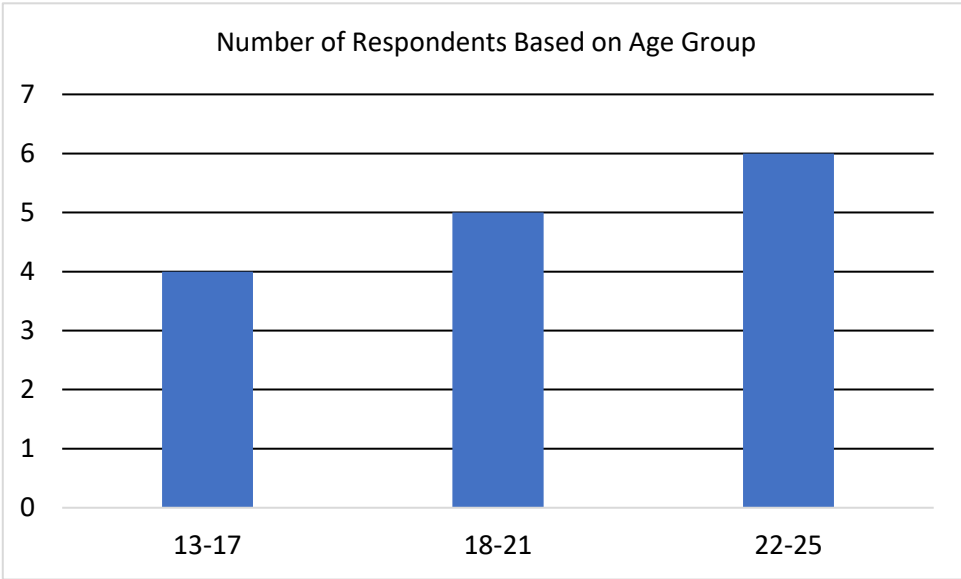
Section 7 - Acknowledgements

The Task and Finish Group would like to thank the supporting officers and all of the lead Officers who attended and gave evidence ahead of the deep dive sessions:

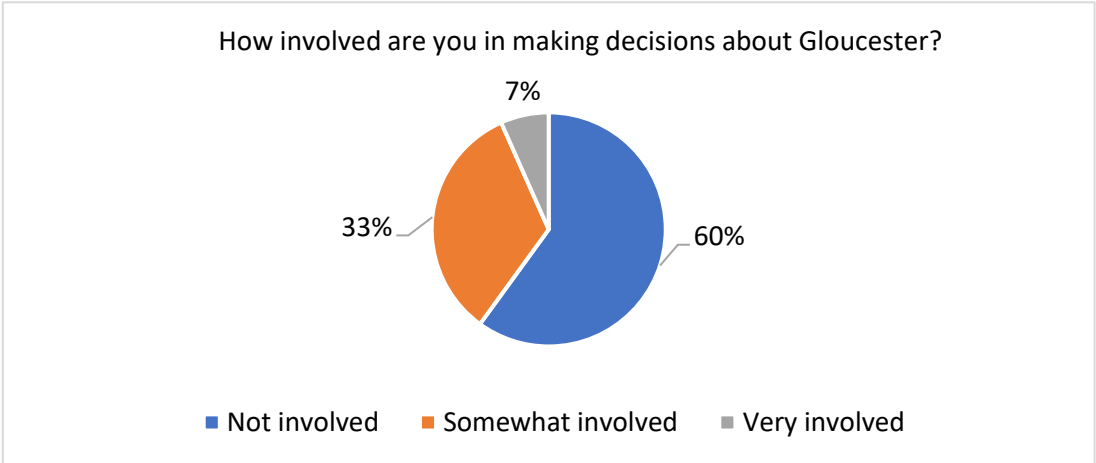
- Development Control Manager
- Planning Policy Manager
- Policy and Governance Manager
- Climate Change and Decarbonisation Lead
- Cultural Development Manager

The Task and Finish Group would also particularly like to thank the young people who took part in the online public consultation, and all those young people who gave up their time to talk to Members about their views and concerns.

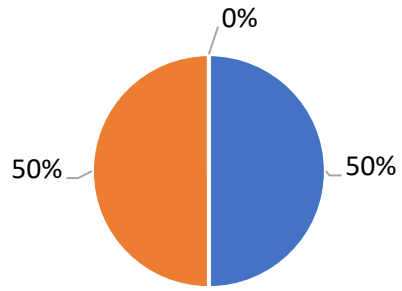
Additional Consultation Data



How involved are you in making decisions about Gloucester?

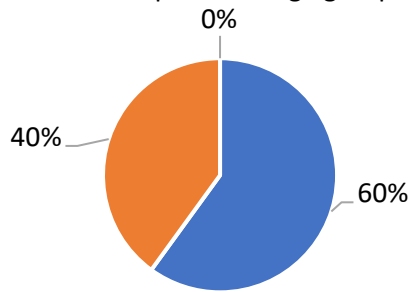


Number of Respondents age group 13-17



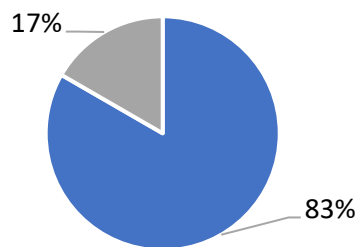
■ Not involved ■ Somewhat involved ■ Very involved

Number of Respondents age group 18-21



■ Not involved ■ Somewhat involved ■ Very involved

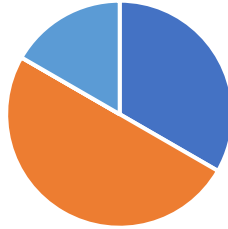
Number of Respondents age group 22-25



■ Not involved ■ Somewhat involved ■ Very involved

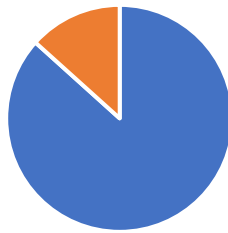


Who would you speak to if you had a question about the city council? Ages 22-25



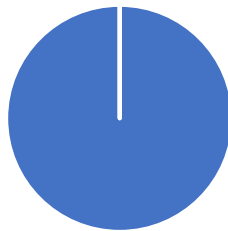
■ Your parent/guardian ■ Council Officer/staff ■ A Councillor ■ Your Teacher ■ Other

How would you get in touch with the city council to ask a question?



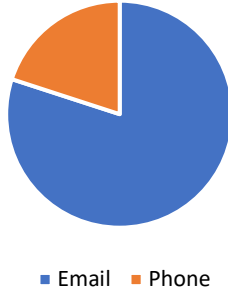
■ Email ■ Phone ■

How would you get in touch with the city council to ask a question? 13-17

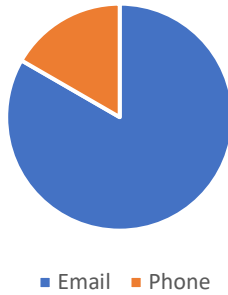


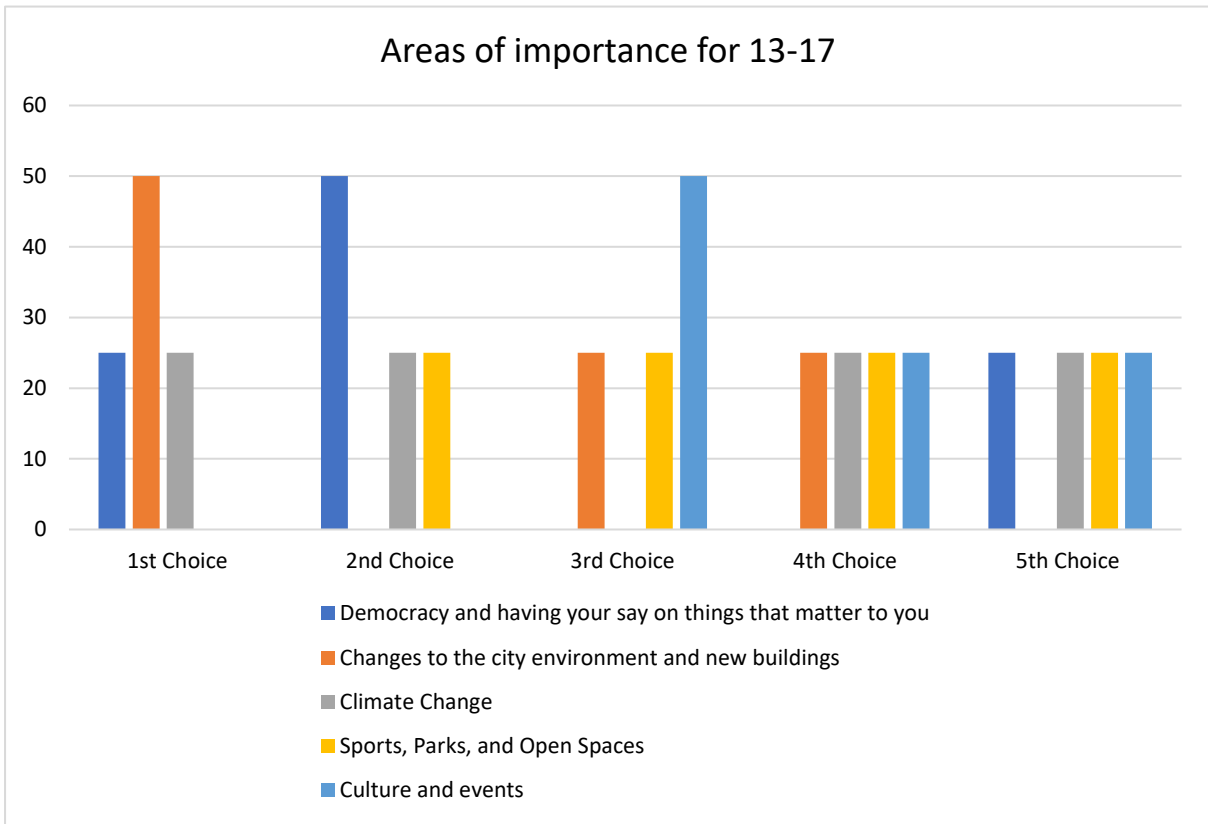
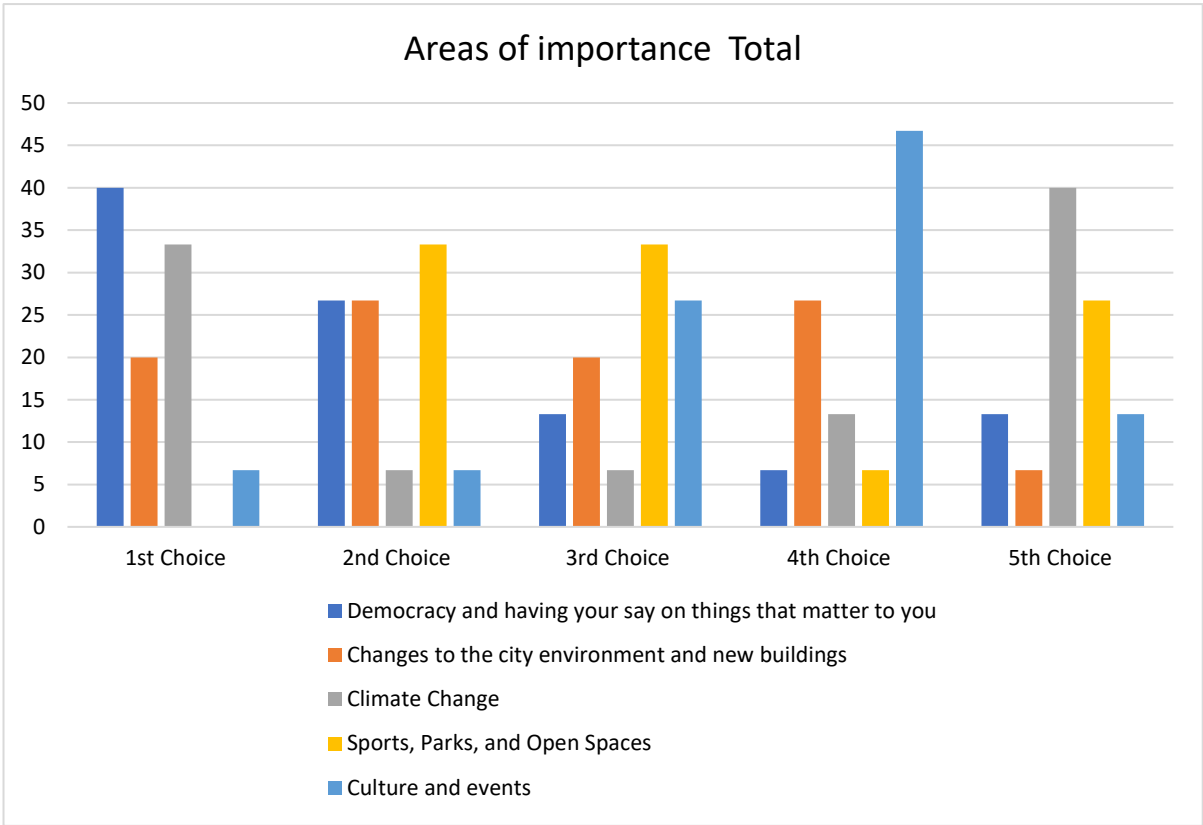
■ Email ■ Phone

How would you get in touch with the city council to ask a question? 18-21

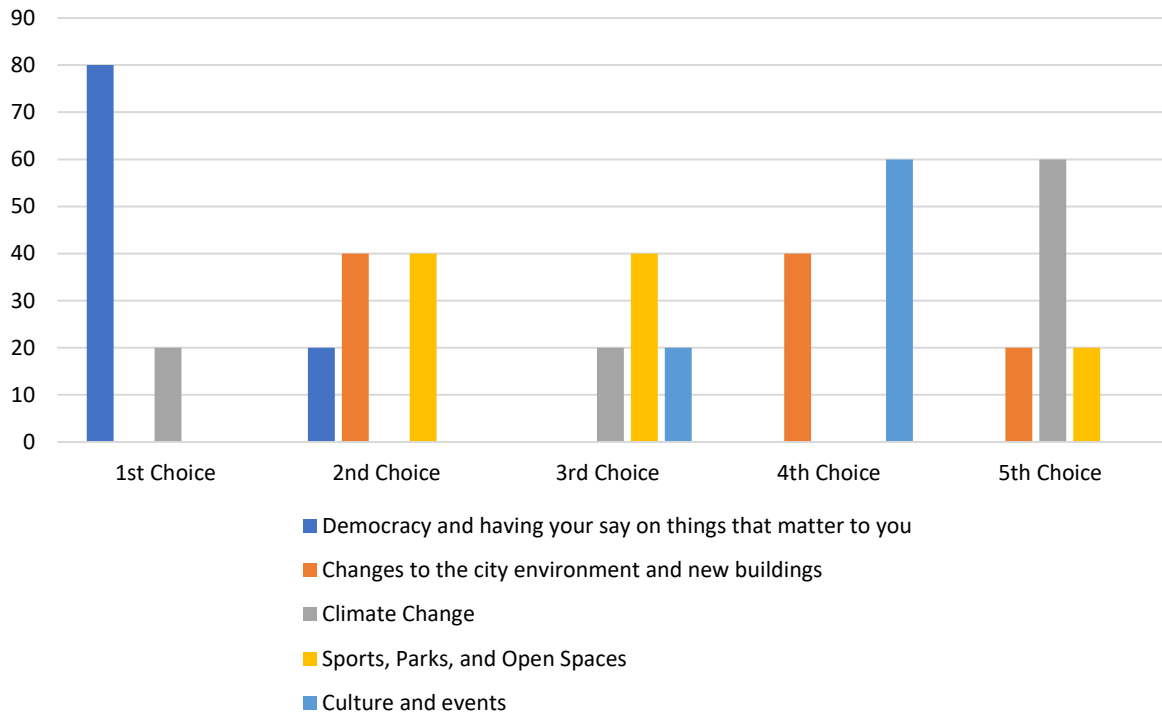


How would you get in touch with the city council to ask a question? 22-25

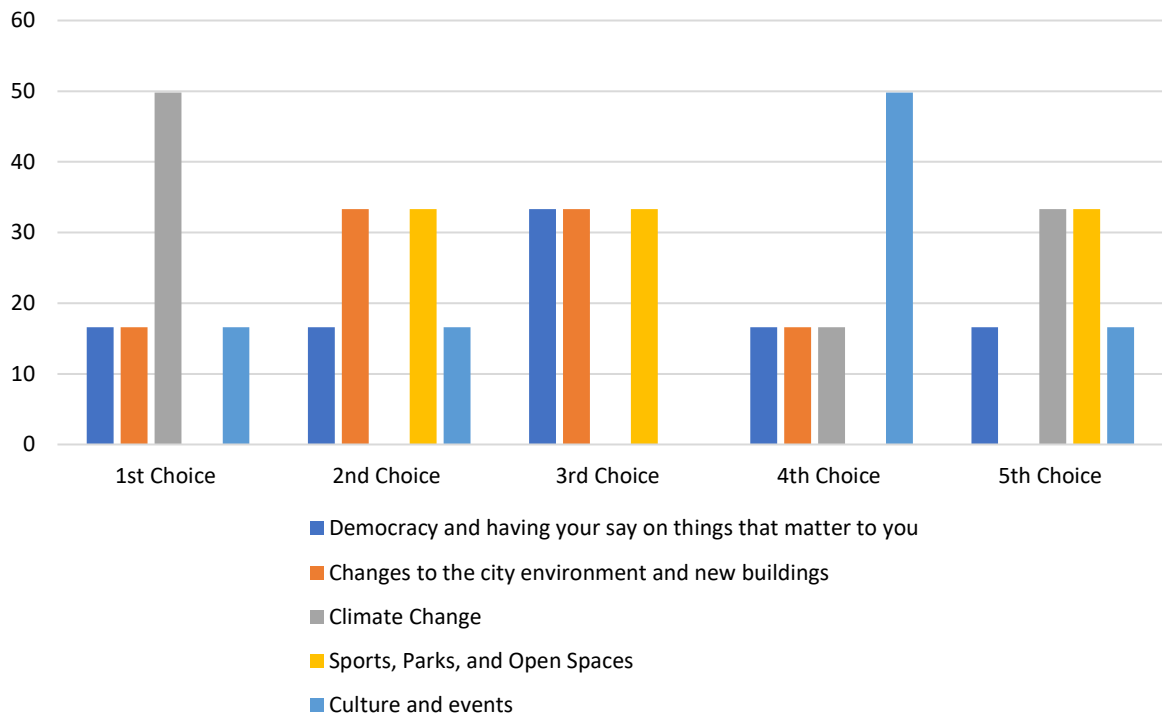




Areas of importance 18-21



Areas of importance 22-25



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Cabinet Response to Recommendations

Recommendation	Accepted/Rejected	Comments and Reasons for Decision
Appendix		
1. It is recommended that all council consultations include a question relating to age, in order to establish the age range of residents taking part.	Accepted	
2. It is recommended that a review of the City Council's communications strategy takes place, specifically looking at how the Council could better engage with young people through the use of new social media channels.	Accepted	
3. It is recommended that the Task and Finish Group reconvene in 6 months' time for a meeting with the new Youth Engagement Lead Officer to discuss progress on implementing their recommendations.	Accepted	
4. It is recommended that City Council reports pertaining to the Planning and Climate Change service areas include an	Accepted	

<p>additional section outlining whether and how the council has engaged with young people in respect of the proposed decision.</p>		
<p>Service Specific Recommendations</p>		
<p>Planning (Development)</p>		
<p>5. It is recommended that the Planning Service consult directly with young people on major planning applications and regeneration schemes within the city through local schools and further education institutions</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>The City Council receives many major planning applications each year; consulting young people on all would be onerous and probably yield little of value. However, a new 'Youth Engagement Lead' Officer is currently being recruited in partnership with Young Gloucestershire. Officers will explore if and how this role could effectively work with young people and engage in more significant proposals.</p> <p>However, it is important to note that planning legislation dictates how local authorities should engage the public in planning applications. Therefore, it would be necessary to exercise caution and equity in publicising planning applications.</p> <p>More widely, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, and</p>

		<p>Officers, have and continue to engage with course leaders and students at the University of Gloucestershire.</p>
<p>6. It is recommended that the Planning Service implement innovative engagement tools, such as Digital QR codes on statutory planning notices and ‘Dot-Voting’, during formal consultation periods hosted in local communities.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>The Council has an adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2015), which sets out different engagement methods that can be used for local plans, and the approach required and encouraged for more significant/major planning applications.</p> <p>For local plan consultations, it provides a menu of options that can be tailored to meet the scope of the consultation. This is currently being updated and a new version will be published in 2023, and includes engagement with schools, colleges and universities.</p> <p>In addition to this, Officers will work with the Communities Team to design consultations that engage as effectively as possible with the community, including young people.</p>

		<p>Officers will explore whether a QR code can be added to statutory planning noticed that take the user to Public Access.</p> <p>The answer provided to Recommendation 5 is also relevant.</p>
Planning (Policy and Open Spaces)		
7. It is recommended that when the council's Playing Pitch Strategy is updated, consideration is given to extending membership of the delivery group to include groups promoting physical play and activities as well as sports bodies.	Accepted	
8. It is recommended that when the council's Open Space Strategy is updated, consideration is given to extending any public consultations to grassroots community organisations.	Accepted	
Climate Change		
9. It is recommended that the Council uses the development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as an opportunity to increase engagement with young people on local climate change challenges and solutions.	Accepted	
Democracy		
10. It is recommended that a document or information leaflet be created on a yearly basis and circulated to local schools. This should be in a format suitable for reading by young people, featuring a range of updates on Council activity,	Accepted	

<p>presented in an interactive way such as through the inclusion of wordsearches, competitions and/or other child-friendly activities. This could also support PSHE lessons, with the document being used to encourage children to engage and discuss their thoughts and opinions on what is going on within the Council. However, we are conscious of the resource available within the council and would want to ensure this was as effective as possible to justify the commitment of resource.</p>		
<p>11. It is recommended that City Councillors engage with schools to a greater extent and invite them on a yearly basis for a visit to, and tour of, the Council Chamber and Mayor's parlour. This could include interactive activities such as mock debates, along with a focus on the history of the city, such as by encompassing a visit to Gloucester Museum.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	
<p>12. It is recommended that a guide suitable for young people on how Gloucester City Council works is developed and published online as an educational resource – explaining in easy-to-understand terms how the Council operates, its remit within the city, and how young people can get involved. This could be used by schools to support with lessons, as well as on an individual basis by young people and their families.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	

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Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 January 2023	
Subject:	Gloucester Guildhall NPO Funding Decision			
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure			
Wards Affected:	All			
Key Decision:	Yes	Budget/Policy Framework:	No	
Contact Officer:	Philip Walker, Head of Culture			
	Email:	philip.walker@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel:	396355
Appendices:	None			

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the outcome of a funding bid submitted by the City Council for Gloucester Guildhall.
- 1.2 To gain approval to formally accept the award and proceed with a plan of implementation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:
 - (1) the successful application and offer of multi-year funding by Arts Council England to the City Council for Gloucester Guildhall be noted
 - (2) the increase in the number of National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) in the city be noted as an indicator of the success of the Cultural Strategy
 - (3) the Head of Culture, in consultation with the Director of Policy and Resources and the Director: One Legal be given delegated authority to accept the award on behalf of the council and to enter the 3-year agreement
 - (4) the Head of Culture be given delegated authority to establish an independent Steering Board for Gloucester Guildhall.

3.0 Arts Council England's National Portfolio

- 3.1 The Arts Council England (ACE) operates a scheme known as the National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) that enter multi-year agreements of funding linked to a set of objectives. This is a competitive process that arts organisations are able to apply for every 3-4 years. The application process for NPO funding period 2023-2026 opened in Jan 2022 with a deadline for submission of April 2022. The award decisions were published by ACE on 10 October.

- 3.2 The council developed and submitted a bid for a total of £250,000 per year for the period 2023-2026 in respect of Gloucester Guildhall. This bid was assessed and the council was informed that it was successful, subject to a number of conditions the council must satisfy before April 2023. The conditions are that the council must submit by 20 January 2023: a completed Activity Plan template, a completed Investment Principles Plan template and a completed financial template for the period April 2023 – March 2024, that meets their satisfaction. Meetings and feedback from ACE Relationship manager have taken place since the announcement and the council has a set of actions to address but expects to be able to meet the requirements.
- 3.3 Gloucester Guildhall joins a cohort of well-established as well as new organisations to the NPO.
- 3.4 It should be noted that other organisations in the city were also successful. These include Strike a Light (previously the only NPO in the city) and Gloucester Culture Trust that, like Gloucester Guildhall, joins the national portfolio for the first time. Both organisations contribute much to the city's cultural life and this funding announcement is an endorsement of their activities.
- 3.5 The city has a cultural strategy that drives this overall direction of cultural development. Gloucester's Cultural Vision and Strategy (2021-2026) has 7 Objectives and identified actions to deliver these objectives. Objective 2 is to 'Build the Cultural and Creative Industries by developing Artists and Arts Organisations'. The actions in relation to the city-council run venues are as follows:
- Develop the Guildhall and Museum's programmes to attract a broader audience and realise the potential of Gloucester City Council-run cultural venues.
 - Develop and implement a business transformation and creative development plan for Gloucester City Council-owned cultural venues, to realise their potential.
- 3.6 A key performance indicator of the Cultural strategy is 'More investment is coming into the city for culture'. This announcement of multi-year funding into 3 organisations based in the city clearly demonstrate progress in relation to this KPI. The combined funding through this scheme will be £1,948,602 over the period.
- 3.7 A key performance indicator of Gloucester's city plan 2022-2024 was to 'Increase the number of National Portfolio Organisations in the city and retain accreditation status for the Museum of Gloucester'. The number has increased from 1 to 3 (or 4 if Gloucestershire County Council's success for Gloucester Libraries is included). This demonstrates that this KPI has been met.
- 3.8 Arts Council Let's Create strategy is their 10-yr strategy and Gloucester Guildhall's application for NPO funding will help deliver this strategy.
- 3.9 One of the conditions of the award is to ensure that NPOs have a robust governance structure in place that can provide independent accountability to hold the organisation to account in delivery of the Arts Council England objectives. The council has strong governance in the form of elected councillors and Cabinet members supported by

Overview and Scrutiny, Audit and Governance committees. Progress in delivery is evidenced and tracked through the council's performance monitoring system - Pentana. However, in addition to this monitoring "the board / oversight group are expected to take an active role in ensuring that the four Investment Principles are embedded in the culture and working practices of your organisation." It is therefore recommended that an independent steering board is established, with clear terms or reference to be able to provide assurance that the Investment Principles are embedded in the work of Gloucester Guildhall.

- 3.10 The Head of Culture will develop and finalise Terms of Reference for this Steering Board in discussion with One Legal. Quarterly reporting to ACE will include agendas, minutes, papers, quarterly reports against targets along with financial statements, risk-register and cash-flow reporting, which will be supported by officers. The Steering Board will hold no formal legal responsibilities, but will act as a critical friend and sounding board to Gloucester Guildhall and provide an additional layer of support, challenge and good governance. A diverse and representative board will be recruited to on a voluntary basis

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 Social value is at the heart of the Arts Council Let's Create strategy as it challenges recipients of its funds to champion diversity both in terms of programming and audiences. Gloucester Guildhall will be held to account by ACE to demonstrate that it is driving change. This will be done by the Gloucester Guildhall providing evidence in the form of data that shows the evolving audience demographics and a greater diversity of artists, acts and performers in our programme.
- 4.2 Gloucester's Cultural Vision and Strategy has objectives that relate to widening participation in the cultural life.
- 4.3 The Gloucester Guildhall business plan will demonstrate an ongoing commitment to social value which will be hand-in-hand with a strong business case for continued commercialisation.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 Over the past 3 years the Gloucester Guildhall has recently invested in solar panels on the roof which has resulted in cost savings and an improvement in our DEC rating through generation of solar power.
- 5.2 Guildhall Galvanised capital investment programme has resulted in the replacement of many of the energy-hungry stage lighting to low-energy LED equivalents. Whilst not every light has been replaced with low-energy ones, there is an active programme of replacement across the venue which will continue, combined with movement-triggered lighting in some areas.
- 5.3 Gloucester Guildhall has signed up to pledges with Music Declares Emergency – which is a network of music venues collectively seeking to address the Climate Emergency - [Declaration | Music Declares Emergency](https://www.musicdeclares.net/gb/declaration) – www.musicdeclares.net/gb/declaration

- 5.4 Strict environmental reporting is a feature of the NPO bid. ACE have worked with an organisation called Julie's bicycle to develop an Environmental Programme. Specifically designed for Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations, this ambitious programme aims to reduce environmental impacts and drive action across the arts and culture sector. The programme, first launched in 2012, builds literacy, confidence and leadership skills to give cultural professionals the agency to act on climate change and champion justice and fairness. The Arts Council England 2020-30 Strategy, Let's Create, is built around four Investment Principles, including 'Environmental Responsibility. Guildhall will be working with this scheme and making use of the advice, resources and taking relevant action to reduce the environmental impact of the venue and our activities.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 The Arts Council offer one-off project grants, which could have been an option. However, these are for smaller amounts and for specific projects and are not offered on a multi-year basis. The NPO offered a greater investment over a sustained multi-year period, which made the effort to apply worthwhile.
- 6.2 The council could have applied for NPO funding for its entire Cultural portfolio, however, the likelihood of success would have been much lower.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 The investment from ACE will enable a step-change in the ability of Gloucester Guildhall to attract high-quality acts and also help to develop local talent and audiences.
- 7.2 A new strand of workshops will be offered to support skills development in the city with a particular emphasis on young people.
- 7.3 The current lack of capacity to market and promote Gloucester Guildhall more widely to audiences across the city and beyond will be addressed through a dedicated Senior Marketing role and marketing budget.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 Develop terms of reference for the Gloucester Guildhall Steering Board and commence recruitment to create a diverse group.
- 8.2 Mechanism for reporting effectively to Arts Council needs to be identified and implemented by April 2023
- 8.3 Creation of new staff positions and recruitment to these to commence.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 Acceptance of funding is dependent on delivering ACE objectives and continued investment into the Guildhall by the council at existing levels for the duration of the agreement (2023-2026).
- 9.2 New roles created will be funded through the ACE budget and contracts offered on a fixed term basis.
- 9.3 Any payments to voluntary members of the Steering Board members will be on the basis of expenses only and is covered by the ACE budget.

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Gloucester Guildhall is owned and managed by the Council, and the Council will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Arts Council England. Advice has been given to officers on the terms of the grant agreement.
- 10.2 The Steering Board to be established will not be a decision-making body; all decisions regarding the Guildhall will need to be made by the Council and in accordance with its constitution.
- 10.3 One Legal is to be instructed in connection with establishing the Steering Board.

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 The risk of not recruiting to new roles will delay the start of the new activity in the agreement with ACE. Recruitment process should be started before April 2023 in order to start new roles in post as soon as possible.
- 11.2 The risk of reducing the current level of subsidy to the Guildhall may result in failing to meet the terms of the agreement with ACE. Should this occur, ACE may claw back some funds and / or terminate the agreement. Annual budget setting should consider this risk in order to mitigate this risk.
- 11.3 There are opportunities afforded by this agreement. Working collaboratively with other NPOs in the city and beyond will bring shared benefits and cross-overs, such as collaborating over talent development pipelines, youth engagement programmes and more. It enables the Guildhall to participate in national conversations, networks, conferences and training opportunities, that is opened up by becoming an NPO.
- 11.4 NPO funded organisations are offered a much broader set of resources from the Arts Council, including advice and guidance on Audience engagement, marketing, business development and in tackling Climate Change. This represents a new opportunity for the Guildhall to tap into these national resources.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact. Therefore, a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 None

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 New roles will be created. This may result in adjustment of line-management lines within the Cultural Development team.
- 14.2 Any changes to line-management will be communicated to individuals effected first before the wider Culture team and HR will be engaged as appropriate.
- 14.3 New job roles will be evaluated and graded prior to advertisement. These will be offered on a 3-year fixed-term basis in line with the period of the funding agreement.
- 14.4 Recruitment to Steering Board will commence on the basis that membership of the group will be on a voluntary basis.
- 14.5 Staff roles will not be recruited before April 2023 or ahead of the funding agreement period.

Background Documents:

Gloucester's Cultural Vision and Strategy –
[gloucester-cultural-vision-and-strategy-gct-gcc-min.pdf](#)

Arts Council 10 yr Strategy - Let's Create - [Strategy 2020 2030 Arts Council England.pdf](#)

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 January 2023
Subject:	Events and Festivals Report on 2022 & Plan for 2023-24		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Philip Walker, Head of Cultural Services		
	Email:	Philip.walker@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396355
Appendices:	1. Review of Festivals and Events Activity 2022 2. Proposed Civic and Cultural Events & Festivals 2023-24		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a Review of Festivals and Events activity 2022 (Appendix 1)
- 1.2 To provide the Proposed Civic and Cultural Events & Festivals budget 2023-24 (Appendix 2)

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:
 - (1) the Review of Festivals and events activity 2022 (appendix 1) is noted
 - (2) the proposed events for 2023 (Appendix 2) be endorsed
 - (3) the budgets for Bright Nights and Kings Square be used as financial match to support future funding bids.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 Overview of 2022 festivals activity

A full programme of outdoor festivals and events took place in 2022 with the return of both the Tall Ships Festival and Gloucester Goes Retro. New or additional events for the year included the launch of Kings Square, the Queen's Baton Relay and the Women's Tour of Britain. The Bright Nights light festival attracted an additional £39,043 of funding from Arts Council and brought activities into several new locations across the city including GL1 swimming pool, Gloucester Cathedral and Robinswood Hill. There were also some notable challenges with the death of the Queen later in 2022 which resulted in the cancellation of the Men's Tour of Britain stage due to take place in the city and Gloucester History Festival which was postponed to April 2023 (as detailed in Appendix 1).

3.2 Civic Events 2022-23

A successful programme of Civic Events took place with the addition of the Beacon lighting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations (see appendix 1) and support of a service of remembrance to commemorate the death of the Queen.

3.3 Support of other activity in 2022-23

The council supported a range of other festivals through funding and financial contributions and other means in 2022 including Kings Jam, Jamaican Independence Day, City Voices, Gloucester Day, Gloucester History Festival, Pride In Gloucestershire, The Music Works and Strike a Light. The New Projects and Commissions fund distributed £30,000 to support new activities that without the support of the city council would not have been delivered.

3.4 Festivals and Events budget for 2023-24

The anticipated revenue budget for the delivery of the 2023-24 city events programme is £210,000. The costs of the programme are higher than this budget, however, with a mixed-model of public investment and private sponsorship, careful business-planning, strategic commissioning, exploiting commercial opportunities and working collaboratively across the city and beyond an ambitious city events programme is still achievable. Specifically, applications for funding will be made to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund and the Arts Council for project grants to support the programme. This budget is managed by the council's Cultural Development team and includes an income target to help off-set costs. It includes funds allocated to the city's flagship events – Tall Ships Festival, Gloucester Goes Retro and Bright Nights. The breakdown of allocation of the funds is shown in Appendix 2.

3.5 Civic Events 2023-24

There is a Civic Events budget of £5,000 allocated to support the annual programme of civic events in 2023. This will include Flag Raising event for Armed Forces Day, Gloucester Day, Remembrance Sunday, Mayor's Christmas Party, Three Choirs Festival reception and the Mayor's Annual service. To celebrate the Coronation of HRH King Charles III a Lamprey Pie or its equivalent will be commissioned and presented to the Lord Lieutenant.

3.6 Proposed calendar of civic events for 2023-24 (where dates are known)

Date	Event
6 th May	The Kings Coronation
20 th May	Armed Forces Day
22 nd – 29 th July	Three Choirs Festival reception – (date tbc)
2 nd September	Gloucester Day
12 th November	Remembrance Sunday
18 th November	Christmas Lights Switch on
December 2023	Mayor’s Christmas Party (date tbc)

3.7 Hi! Street Fest, Emergency Exit Arts

This event has mostly been funded by Emergency Exit Arts (EEA), Arts Council and Historic England. Gloucester is one of six High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) locations to have been selected by EEA to participate in Hi! Street Fest. The event will consist of large puppets which will be dressed to represent a local theme and these puppets will be presented “gifts” by community groups in the city. The puppets will be part of a procession which will start in Kings Square and end in Westgate Street.

3.8 Outdoor Events Fund

The Outdoor Events fund is open for festivals and events organisations to apply for each year for activity taking place the following year. For 2023-24 there is a £55,000 funding pot available for applicants. The applications are scored against funding criteria and are assessed by a panel of staff from the council and Gloucester Culture Trust. £52,000 is allocated with the remaining £3k allocated to support Hi Street Fest.

Six applications were received, and the panel recommends the following applicants for funding in 2023-24:

Gloucester History Festival	£5,000
Voices Gloucester	£10,000
Jamaican Independence Day & Tredworth Street party	£10,000
Pride in Gloucester	£12,000
Three Choirs Festival	£15,000

3.9 New Projects and Commission fund

Following on the success of the New Projects and Commissions Fund in 2022 funding will be available for new commissions again in 2023. The grants will range from £5,000 - £10,000 and applicants must be able to demonstrate that any funding provided by the council will be matched, so the council’s contribution is not more than 50% of the total project cost.

There is £30,000 available for new commissions in 2023-24.

3.10 The Future of the Bright Nights festival

Bright Nights will now take place on a rolling calendar with the next full schedule of events planned to take place in the Winter 2023. A smaller programme will take place in February 2023 with Strike a Light delivering a Light Games event in Matson. This event is part of the Global Streets' national street arts programme – the partnership held by Strike a Light enables Gloucester to programme international works in the city at a subsidised level. The allocated budget of £40,000 from 2023-24 will be used to leverage additional funds.

3.11 Kings Square Programme

A programme of activity for Kings Square is being developed to ensure a balance is kept between commercial and cultural activities. Programming decisions will be made in consultation with the newly-formed Kings Square management company. An allocation of £25,000 in 2023-24 will be used to leverage further funding.

3.12 Fundraising and additional resource

A freelance creative producer was recruited to work on development and delivery of both the Bright Nights festival and the Kings Square programme. A fundraising strategy is being developed to cover activities across the Bright Nights Festival, Kings Square, the Lantern Parade and our Global Streets partnership. This will allow for a longer-term strategic plan for programming and a cohesive approach to fundraising. Funding bids will be submitted during 2023 to a variety of sources using the Festival and Events budget allocation for Kings Square and Bright Nights to demonstrate match from the council to Arts Council and National Lottery and other funding schemes. This will result in a larger, more ambitious programming over more than one year leaving a stronger and more sustainable legacy.

3.13 City-wide co-ordination

The city-wide strategic events group meets quarterly – this group consists of the main events and festival producers and organisations. The aim of the group was to agree the overall direction of programme and explore opportunities to collaborate to maximise the offer and where relevant and beneficial, pool funds and resources to create greater impact from city events. This consists of representatives of Gloucester Quays, the Gloucester Business Improvement District (BID), Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester Culture Trust and Gloucester Rugby and is convened by Gloucester City Council.

City Events Meetings take place every two weeks with representatives from departments across the Gloucester City Council including Environmental Health, Licensing, City Centre Management and Parks to review plans for upcoming events in parks and open spaces.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 Applicants for funding need to demonstrate how their festival or event delivers the Cultural Strategy, including the Social Value considerations. Local businesses are used as contractors and suppliers for events where possible, bringing in external companies if local companies are unavailable or unable to deliver the quality or ambition required.

- 4.2 As part of Hi! Street Fest three young people will be recruited into paid roles as event producers and offered mentoring, funded through the project at no cost to the council.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The environmental impact of festivals and events will become a key consideration of decision-making of which events and festivals to support in the city. There is an aspiration for the city to be net carbon neutral and so the Festivals and Events that take place in the city will need to work towards this common goal. The producer for Bright Nights is particularly interested in creating a sustainable light festival. This will include reusing and recreating assets owned by the city and targeting partners and funding with sustainable objectives.
- 5.2 In order to hold festivals and events accountable to these environmental sustainability targets, organisers will be expected to demonstrate clear policies and procedures and commitment towards sustainability. This will be a condition of funding issued by the City Council to any festival or event organiser and the Evaluation Criteria for funding from the City Council for events currently asks how the event considers the impact on the environment.
- 5.3 Internally steps are being taken to reduce the impact of events on the environment, everything from replacing plastic cable ties for signs with reusable string, assessing catering cartons and cutlery before contracting, to reducing the need for petrol or diesel-powered generators where practicable. Site litter clearance and recycling and the use of low-carbon materials will be encouraged in all third-party events.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 This approach builds on the strengths of the festivals and programme in the city, whilst introducing new opportunities for the city to strengthen partnerships and continue to raise its profile in line with the ambitions of the Cultural Strategy.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 The programme of events will be reviewed on an annual basis (January - March 2024 to review the 2023 programme).

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The main events programme detailed above is financed from the Council's Festivals and Events budget allocation of £215,000 of which £5,000 is allocated for Civic Events supplemented by external fundraising as outlined in Appendix 2.
- 9.2 Any shortfall in the external fundraising would lead to a budget pressure that would need to be managed by the Festivals & Events team.
- 9.3 Budget allocated within 2023-24 will be used to demonstrate match funding for bids to external funding sources.

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 The delivery of this programme by the Council through outside bodies or in collaboration with outside bodies will need to ensure compliance with relevant legislative requirements and the Council's Contract Rules.

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 Risk 1 – financial support of festivals from third parties – e.g. sponsorship is reduced which may put some festivals viability in question. Mitigation: business plans for all festivals and events requiring funds will be scrutinised to ensure that there are adequate contingency plans in place.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 Events and Festivals follow a robust process via the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings and following advice and permitted activity agreed at the point of issuing site permissions. SAG meetings are co-ordinated by the city council and are multi-agency meetings that challenge the organisers to produce effective plans that mitigate risks and ensure safety measures are considered, planned for and implemented.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 None arising directly from this report.

15.0 Background Documents:

Gloucester's Cultural Vision and Strategy 2021-2026
[gloucester-cultural-vision-and-strategy-gct-gcc-min.pdf](#)

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

Author: Mhairi Smith, Senior Officer Events and Festivals, Gloucester City Council

Date: 23 Nov 2022

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 - b. Luma
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3. Kings Square Launch Event
4. Queen's Platinum Jubilee
 - a. Lamprey Pie
 - b. Beacon Lighting
5. Tall Ships Festival
6. Women's Tour of Britain
7. Queen's Baton Relay
8. Guildhall Presents
9. Luminarium
10. Gloucester Goes Retro
11. Gloucester Day
12. Men's Tour of Britain
13. Remembrance Day
14. Christmas Lights Switch On
15. New Projects and Commissions Fund
16. Event Support

1. Context

The Festivals and Events Team have had a busy year organising and delivering 18 events, overseeing permissions for 46 external events, 9 filming and 6 civic events.

2. Bright Nights 2022

Following on from the report for cabinet in 2021, we were successful in our Arts Council application to fund part two of the Bright Nights Festival which took place in February and March 2022. £39,043 was awarded. The total budget was £128,893.

The events that took place were:

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

Windows through time

Bright Nights partnered with the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) in Westgate Street and commissioned local artist Jack Wimperis to create a series of Windows that were hung along the overhead wires. Each window represented a different era and were colour coordinated with the real windows on buildings highlighted in the same colour along the street. The event was initially postponed due to severe storms that hit the county and the display eventually went up from 1st – 16th March. It is difficult to estimate how many people came to see the display throughout this time period, but we do know that 1,500 visited the street between 4th – 6th March. So, 10,000 is a reasonable estimate for the period.



Luma

Luma, presented by Air Giants, is a giant inflatable interactive articulated and illuminated creature, who came to Gloucester for two nights on 5th – 6th March. She visited the Cathedral grounds and 1,500 people came to see her over the two nights. Gloucester Cathedral were delighted to host such an interactive art installation in their grounds, and they stated afterwards that this had opened their eyes to what could be done in the future using the Cathedral site.



Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

Illuminated Swim

This artwork, created by Tine Bech, initially was presented as part of the Olympics cultural programme in 2012. GL1 Leisure Centre swimming pool was transformed into light and smoke picture, that visitors could swim through while listening to a musical soundtrack that was commissioned for the piece and presented by the Music Works. The event took place all day every day from 2nd – 5th March and was visited by 1,424 paying customers. GL1 staff and CEO were delighted with the event and stated that the event brought many new swimmers to the venue. The event was very photogenic and images were used in 2 National Papers over the weekend.



Snow Globes trail

10 Giant Snow Globes were positioned across the city in a trail from 17th February – 7th March. Gloucester Schools were invited to submit artwork, models and poetry from the pupils, describing the most interesting parts of Gloucester history that they had learned about. Artist Maya Wolf then used this work as inspiration to create 10 artworks, one for each globe, which told the stories of people, places and events from Gloucester. The globes displayed a QR code, which when activated by a mobile phone made it 'snow' over the artwork. These received 3,242 interactions over the time period and were found in retail, leisure and cultural locations around the city.

Full marketing evaluation report for Bright Nights can be accessed [here](#).

3. Kings Square Launch Event – 30th April

The official re-opening of Kings Square took place on Saturday April 30th. The event took place in two parts. The daytime programme consisted of have-a-go circus skills delivered by Circomedia staff. The Music Works were commissioned to create a piece of music with lyrics which was choreographed with the new fountains, a dance performance from the nationally renowned Avant Garde Dance company walkabout professional entertainers and Gloucester Swing Dance and a DJ.

The evening programme included a community participation dance routine, programmed by Strike a Lights and Avant Garde, walk about entertainers/comperes and the grand finale was a tightrope walk across the Square created by Cirque Bijou and aerial artist Chris Bullzini. The walk was created to tell the story of the Severn Bore and the interaction between the waves (the Fountains and a dancer) and the Moon (Chris Bullzini).

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

There are currently no footfall counters in Kings Square or walk but an estimated 4000 attended throughout the day

The event was deemed to be a great success with all Kings Square partners delighted with the great turnout and performances. The launch date was almost exactly 50 years to the day that the square was last officially opened in 1972.

Kings Square marketing evaluation report can be accessed [here](#).



4. Queens Platinum Jubilee – 30th May – 5th June

Lamprey Pie

The Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the City started on 30th May with the traditional presentation of a Lamprey Pie. The pie was baked by The Farmers Boy chef (The Longhope pub is famous for its pies). In previous years Lampreys have been flown in from Canada, as they are now an endangered species in the UK). However, with an increasing awareness of the environmental impact of flights, and the fact that the pie has previously not been eaten – it was decided this year to create a pie from a local recipe and the Lampreys were represented in pastry form around the outside of the pie. It was presented to the Lord Lieutenant at Llanthony Priory by the Mayor and was then donated to Feed The Hungry charity who distributed it. HRH Queen Elizabeth sent a letter of thanks for the Mayor and was delighted that the pie was more sustainable this year and was enjoyed by people who really benefitted from it.

Beacon Lighting – 2nd June

The beacon lighting took place on the top of Robinswood Hill as part of an international moment of beacon lighting across the Commonwealth. A new beacon post was installed this year with help from local Councillors and the Robinswood Hill Rangers. The ceremony included a bagpipe performance of a new piece of music written for the Jubilee nationally and was attended by an estimated 1,000 people. The largest number to attend such a jubilee beacon lighting event to date.

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23



5. Tall Ships Festival - 3rd – 5th June

The Gloucester Tall Ships Festival was organised this year for the first time by an external company, Richmond Events Management (REM). The festival ran for 3 days and the Sea Shanty Festival, organized by Gloucester BID ran alongside this in local pubs and venues.

REM decided not to charge an entry fee for the festival but sold tickets for access to the ships and the National Waterways Museum. The festival attracted 109,000 visitors to the area over the weekend. This was an increase of 34% on footfall in the Docks/Quays the weekend before and an increase of 28% from the same weekend the previous year.

REM were initially contracted for one year with an option to extend the contract for an additional 3 events if successful. Negotiations are still ongoing with regards to a continuation with them. The next festival will be taking place in May 2024.



6. Womens Tour of Britain Race– 8th June

This national event – for the Gloucestershire stage was It was organised by Sweet Spot, that national event organisers in conjunction with Gloucestershire County Council as the lead local authority for the County stage, which went through many districts with the Stage Finish being in Gloucester. Gloucester City Council supported the event with funding by and staff resources of the Festivals and Events Team who were involved in the planning and delivery on the day. The race started in Tewkesbury and ended in Southgate Street, Gloucester. Entertainment was organized to take place in The Docks before and after the race final. Around 3,000 spectators watched the race finish. It was the first time the county had hosted this relatively new event, but it has a high profile nationally and internationally within this growing sports community.

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

7. Queens Baton Relay – 5th July

The Festival and Events team worked in partnership with the Queen's Baton Relay organisers and the Canal and River Trust. The relay began in Gloucester with the baton being carried into the City on a boat and ended in Kings Square, having travelled through the City Centre with 8 baton bearers being selected from the community. In total the event attracted around 1,500 spectators. The finale in Kings Square included have-a-go activities and promotions provided by GL1 Leisure Centre and was attended by the Mayor.



8. Guildhall Presents - Seasick Steve – 24th July

The Festival and Events Team worked with the Guildhall programmer to deliver this live concert in Llanthony Priory with internationally acclaimed Blues artist Seasick Steve. The event sold out with a 1,200 capacity audience. This represented a great collaboration between council teams, working with external partners and is a coup for Gloucester to attract acts of this quality and renown and testament to the skills and contacts of the programming team. The event ran smoothly although the bar providers (external contractors) did not have enough capacity on site resulting in long queues for drinks, which will be addressed in future events.

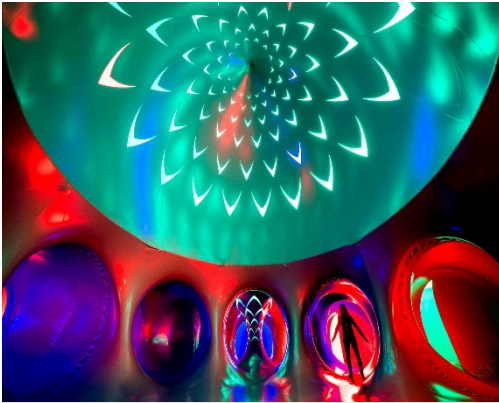
9. Luminarium - 12th – 21st August

The Luminarium, a giant inflatable walk-in artwork presented by Architects of Air, was originally planned to be in Kings Square for Easter. However, building delays led to the artwork being presented in August instead. Luminariums are large inflatable structures that visitors can walk through, that are mazes of colour created by natural daylight and coloured material. Tickets were charged for at £5 per adults and £4 for children.

Unfortunately, the Luminarium was delayed from opening due to an unprecedented heat wave on 12th – 14th August, as the inside of the structure was too hot for visitors. However, the team were able to open in the early evenings over the weekend, and ticket holders were able to use their tickets later in the week. Using the Visit Gloucester website to administer advance sale tickets and walk-up

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

tickets were available on site. Over the 10 days the artwork attracted 5,509 visitors and took £25,521 in ticket sales. The full marketing evaluation report can be accessed [here](#).



10. Gloucester Goes Retro – 27th August

Gloucester Goes Retro (www.gloucestergoesretro.com) was another great success in 2022 with over 35,000 visitors identified in the City Centre and many more in Kings Square and Gloucester Docks. Over 350 classic and vintage vehicles came along to provide the backdrop to the event. A live music stage with swing dancing and fabulous costumes added atmosphere to the Docks where, new for 2023, we had stalls and catering supplied by Channel Events. The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum had a successful event which saw their military village attract a lot of attention and it is likely that we will get additional military content for 2023.

New for this year was the 1970s/80s/90s area in Kings Square. A family focussed area featuring DJs, face painting, a bar, ice cream and street entertainers. 14 ‘high end’ vehicles also featured with mixed reviews from the owners about the location. A great start for Kings Square and an area identified for further development in 2023. We also had street entertainers in the City Streets, everything from dodgy car salesman to over-enthusiastic girl guides, adding to the fun of Gloucester’s feel-good festival.

Another new venture was ‘Retro on the Water’ which saw boat trips and vintage vessels on North Quay for visitors to enjoy. This was a successful volunteer-led activity which will be taken on by the Canal and River Trust in 2023, another partnership adding value to the event.

As a mark of respect to Cllr Colin Organ, we instigated the Colin Organ Photo Competition which attracted hundreds of entries. The family of Cllr Organ chose the winning image (from a shortlist of 6) which will feature as one of main marketing images for the 2023 event.

The event was equally funded by Gloucester City Council and Gloucester Business Improvement District with additional sponsorship from BigDug and delivered within budget.

The Gloucester Goes Retro marketing evaluation report can be accessed [here](#).

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23



11. Gloucester Day - 2nd September

The Gloucester Day event this year, organised by the town crier Alan Myatt was supported by the Festivals and Events team. HRH The Duke of Gloucester attended the Gloucester Day Parade, and during his time in Gloucester he visited the Museum of Gloucester and was shown around Greyfriars and the new development there was discussed. The 2 parades attracted an audience estimated at 2,000 over the day.

12. Tour of Britain – 9th September

The Tour of Britain's (men's) race was anticipated to attract 8,000 – 10,000 spectators. The Festivals and Events team worked with Gloucestershire County Council, Docks Management company and Gloucester Quays to programme a wide range of activities and music, not only in The Docks where the official fan village was based – but also across the City Centre to create a vibrant atmosphere for visitors to the city.

Unfortunately, the announcement of the death of HRH Her Majesty the Queen meant the event had to be cancelled hours before it was due to take place.

13. Remembrance Sunday - 13th November

This annual civic event incorporated the following elements:

- Morning memorial service at Gloucester Cemeteries and Crematorium
- Service at the Park War memorial including the 2-minute silence at 11am
- Military Parade through the City gate streets
- Memorial service for Hussars on Cathedral Green
- Afternoon Cathedral service

All events ran smoothly and around 1,000 people attended the War memorial service.

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23



14. Christmas Lights Switch on – Sat 19th November

The theme for this year's Christmas Lights Switch on was Alice in Wonderland, which was selected by artists to link into the Gloucester Primary Schools literature festival which took place the week before the switch on.

6 schools took part, working in October and November with local artists to create the lanterns.

The event took place for the first time on a Saturday and attracted 8,000 – 10,000 spectators. At the time of writing feedback from local businesses via the BID is being collated.

The Tree of Light switch-on took place shortly after the parade in Kings Square and received a much larger audience than in previous years. The new tree position, quality of tree and improved lighting scheme have been warmly welcomed by the Rotary Club, who organize this event in order to raise funds for local Gloucester charities.

Visitors were also able to visit the Quays Christmas market after the event, which stayed open until 6pm.

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23



15. New Projects and Commissions Fund

- a. This fund of £30,000 is designed to endorse projects and enable applicants to leverage in income from other sources. Grants awarded are conditional on the project securing its expected income from other sources. The aim is to encourage new ambitious work to be created in Gloucester and develop capacity and skills in event production. The criteria include bringing national and international artists to the city, supporting local artists and producers, employment and engagement with local communities and businesses and training opportunities for young people.
- b. Two rounds for applications for this fund were scheduled for 2022. 6 applications were received and 4 were granted funding. A panel of employees from GCC and GCT made the decisions. The 4 successful applicants were:

March – Round One

i. Strike A Light - 75 Years Our Stories

Grant awarded £10,000 (30 % of total project budget)

This ongoing project aims to share stories from the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi Gloucester communities from the last 75 years since Partition.

44 workshops and activities have taken place to date and month-long dual language, multi-artform interactive exhibition will take place in February 2023 including a one-day festival. Strike A Light have been working with The Hindu Association, Indian

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

Christian Community and the Elder female Asian Muslim association. The producer is Halima Malek.

ii. **GASP – Soozy Roberts & Hannah Thomson**

Gloucester Arts Week and platform (Arts Exhibitions and workshops)
Grant awarded £10,000 (8 % of total project budget)

This ongoing ambitious community arts development project has been hampered by so far, unsuccessful funding bids to the Arts Council. The project initially aimed to run 2 years of art exhibitions and workshops including an arts pagoda in Kings Square and multiple workshops and exhibitions, working with Matson, Westgate, Podsmead and Tredworth wards in the city.

The GASP artists are resubmitting a smaller arts council application and have scaled back their project accordingly. They are now planning on running a visual arts week and community arts development programme with weekly youth arts workshops taking place in February 2023. They then intend on running an arts week in 2024 across the city, including Podsmead and Westgate and closing in Kings Square with an arts market and arts car boot market.

They are supported by Strike A Light, GL4, Gloucester City Homes, Create Gloucestershire and Thirty Percy and have secured additional funding from Gloucester City Homes and Create Gloucestershire.

September – Round 2

i. **Strike A Light – Little Big Dance & Alleyne Dance**

Grant Awarded £5,000 (20 % of total budget)

Little Big Dance

We are awaiting for further information before finalising the grant payments, but this event is aimed at 0 – 5 year olds and is part of a national commissioning programme.

ii. **Alleyne Dance**

This event is Strike a Light working in partnership with British Transport Police and the Community Rail Partnership. The dance group specialises in African, Kathak, Hip Hop and contemporary dance forms. Working with young dancers in the city the event will showcase a public performance at Gloucester train station and on a moving train.

iii. **GL4 – Burnt out in Biscuit Land**

Grant awarded £5,000 (25% of total budget)

Working in association with critically acclaimed artist Tourette's Hero and a local disabled artists to develop and perform a new show in Matson. Work on the show starts in Autumn 22 and will finish with the performance in Spring 2023.

Funding has been secured from the Collaborative Touring Network.

Review of Festivals and Events 2022-23

16. The Festival and Events team have also supported, either with time, in kind or advice and support to the following and more:

- Pride in Gloucestershire
- Gloucester Rotary Club
- Gloucester Cathedral
- Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
- Canal and River Trust
- Gloucester Quays
- Folk of Gloucester
- Kings Walk Shopping Centre
- The Music Works
- Strike a Light

Gloucester City Council

Festivals & Events Proposed Budget 2023-24

City Events	113,000
Gloucester Goes Retro	15,000
Gloucester Day	5,000
Tall Ships Festival	25,000
Bright nights (inc Lanterns)	40,000
Kings Square programme	25,000
Hi Street Fest	3,000
Outdoor Events Fund	52,000
Pride in Glos parade	12,000
Voices Gloucester	10,000
GlosJam	10,000
Three Choirs Festival	15,000
Gloucester History Festival	5,000
Civic Events	5,000
New Commissions Fund	30000
Marketing	15000
TOTAL	215,000

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Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 January 2023
Subject:	Tourist Information Provision		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure		
Wards Affected:	All wards		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Lucy Chilton, Visitor Experience Manager		
	Email: lucy.chilton@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel:	396570
Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To detail the current offer of Gloucester’s tourist information provision and what the future of the provision may look like.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the City Council supports the provision of all visitor information points across the city including visitor attractions, accommodation providers, transport hubs and digital information instead of one single Tourist Information Centre.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 The Tourist Information Centre (TIC) was in Southgate Street in a sole use building from 1997 until March 2019 where it was agreed by Cabinet and following the suggestion from Overview and Scrutiny that the TIC service could be delivered from the Museum of Gloucester. The TIC relocated by April 2019 and was based on the ground floor of the Museum.

3.2 The office in Southgate Street was a prime location on the main walking route from the city centre to the Docks. At the height of its success, it won several regional and national awards for its delivery of the visitor experience. At the same time, digital was becoming more prevalent and how visitors access information was beginning to change. An indication of visitor number changes can be seen below:

Period	Footfall
April 13-March 14	128,496
April 14-March 15	110,474
April 15-March 16	104,628
April 16-March 17	92,078
April 17-March 18	85,005

- 3.3 April 2019 through to March 2020 saw an increase in footfall at the Museum from 40,000 to 80,000 – this is likely to be attributed to the drop in entrance charges at the Museum rather than the TIC relocation.
- 3.4 In March 2020, the government mandated the closure of Museums due to Covid-19. The Museum reopened in September 2020, closing in November 2020, reopening in December 2020 before closing again late that month. The Museum shop and TIC finally reopened mid-April 2021 and the full Museum in May 2021.
- 3.5 During the pandemic, the physical TIC provision was inaccessible and nationally, digital engagement increased. Tourists and residents had little choice but to utilise digital technology to gain information. Pre-planning and booking of spaces/tickets became essential and event organisers had to utilise technology to manage social distancing. When the Museum finally reopened, there was less reliance on a face-to-face service with a noticeable reduction in the numbers of people requiring tourist information.
- 3.6 The Visit Gloucester team continued to engage with the public throughout the pandemic and again, digital information became the way forward. The Visit Gloucester website since being redeveloped in March 2020 has seen user figures skyrocket, up 40% on this time last year (318,000 vs 226,000 which was a record-breaking year for website figures). This growth has been realised through Visit Gloucester's engaging content and successful city-wide marketing campaigns.
- 3.7 The Tourist Information service within the Museum of Gloucester has naturally become a visitor information point – a place for visitors and locals to pick up maps and leaflets. All other parts of the original service have reduced in demand and, the Museum is no different to any other visitor attraction within the city who offers information through leaflet racks.
- 3.8 There is a local distribution company who stocks up leaflets on a regular basis on behalf of event organisers and visitor attractions. They manage many leaflet racks including the bus and train station and at all visitor attractions, cultural venues, and hotels in Gloucester. The Museum of Gloucester currently has a leaflet rack of this kind.
- 3.9 The official Tourist Information service as we have always known has naturally faded away and nationally, regionally, and more locally has continued to see Tourist Information Centres closing but with a wider push on ensuring that digital information is available and visitor information points have a leaflet rack and a supply of city maps.
- 3.10 The majority of visitors to the city use the successful Visit Gloucester website to plan their visits and itineraries produced and promoted with partners including hotels and visitor attractions. In many other cities across the country including larger cities such as Bristol and places that have large numbers of tourists such as Bath have closed their TICs owing to changing behaviours and needs of tourists and visitors.
- 3.11 Free city centre BT Wi-Fi is also readily available meaning that visitors can access digital information whilst on the go. There are many areas in the city that offer

free Wi-Fi, and the city is well-served with mobile networks allowing multiple ways to access digital information via a variety of devices.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 The main purpose of a TIC is to provide information in a seamless way to tourists and visitors to the city. This is done most effectively using the Visit Gloucester website, the leaflet racks and by the venue staff at attractions and hotels. In terms of providing best value to Gloucester residents, this combined with the ongoing use of digital channels provides best value to the city.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 Leaflets will be stocked up by a local distribution company rather than having excess supplies behind the scenes, often leading to increased recycling.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Reverting to a sole-use Tourist Information Centre will have overheads more than £100k if based on the previous model and the City Council is not able to fund a service of this kind when there is a focus on making efficiencies. With a successful digital offer, the city does not require a stand-alone service.

6.2 The Museum of Gloucester could continue to promote itself as housing the city's Tourist Information Centre but as highlighted in 3.9, the current service has naturally reduced and is now like all other visitor attractions that has maps and leaflets on offer.

6.3 The Museum of Gloucester could fully withdraw from any Tourist Information provision however this is discounted as all visitor attractions and key locations want to provide visitor information to enhance the visitor experience.

6.4 An independent tourist office was due to open on Westgate but owing to lack of resources this has not ever opened. The city council is unable to subsidise an independent TIC.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 The Museum of Gloucester is already providing visitor information to the same level as other visitor attractions and key locations.

7.2 This report is simply about a change of words – no longer offering a City Council run Tourist Information Centre but supporting the increased use of visitor information points across the city and supporting digital information.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 The Museum of Gloucester will still be a venue to support any face-to-face activity that is managed by the Visit Gloucester team, just like any other visitor attraction in the city.

8.2 The Visit Gloucester team will need to list all visitor information points in the city so it is clear where visitors can access information.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 Digital offering is inclusive of existing service provisions, there are no additional costs to the proposals.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 There are no significant implications identified within this report. However, legal advice will be sought where required in the implementation of the Recommendations.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 There are no risks in relation to this change, the Museum of Gloucester will continue to have a leaflet rack and visitor maps just like all visitor attractions in the city.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact; therefore, a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no community safety implications. As an accessible and free visitor attraction, anyone is invited into the Museum to access leaflets.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 There are no staffing implications to the contents of this report. Staff currently provide a dual Museum and information service, and staff will continue to assist anyone visiting the city should they have any questions – just like any other visitor attraction in the city would.

Background Documents: None



Meeting:	Cabinet Council	Date:	11 January 2023 26 January 2023
Subject:	Car Parking- Tariff Increase		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	Yes	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Abi Marshall Property Commissioning Manager		
	Email: abi.marshall@gloucester.gov.uk		Tel:01452 396212
Appendices:	1. Proposed Car Park Tariffs 2. Tariff Comparisons with “Near Neighbours” 3. Car Park Visitor Numbers		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To review and update the current car park tariffs and car park zoning across the City to ensure that they appropriately reflect changing local demand brought about by the regeneration of the City Centre and the Council’s carbon neutral aims.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RECOMMEND** that:

- (1) the car parking tariffs are increased to reflect inflationary pressures, encourage people to consider other alternative modes of transport and better reflect current parking trends.
- (2) the number of parking zones be reduced from 3 to 2 zones through the combination of the current zones 1 & 2 into a single zone to reflect the changes being brought about by the redevelopment of the City Centre and bring regularity across our City Centre car parks.
- (3) the tariff options be regularised for purchasing tickets for users of the car parks, by removing the 1-hour option, in line with other comparable car parks and to encourage a longer visit to support our City Centre businesses.
- (4) the Director of Policy and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Policy and Resources be authorised to undertake the necessary statutory procedures to implement these changes as outlined in this report and in Appendix 1
- (5) a review of car parking charges be undertaken biennially.

2.2 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) the car parking tariffs are increased to reflect inflationary pressures, encourage people to consider other alternative modes of transport and better reflect current parking trends.
- (2) the number of parking zones be reduced from 3 to 2 zones through the combination of the current zones 1 & 2 into a single zone to reflect the changes being brought about by the redevelopment of the City Centre and bring regularity across our City Centre car parks.
- (3) the tariff options be regularised for purchasing tickets for users of the car parks, by removing the 1-hour option, in line with other comparable car parks and to encourage a longer visit to support our City Centre businesses.
- (4) the Director of Policy and Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Policy and Resources be authorised to undertake the necessary statutory procedures to implement these changes as outlined in this report and in Appendix 1
- (5) a review of car parking charges be undertaken biennially.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council are aware of the importance of car parking sites to the development and prosperity of the city. The Council owns or manages 15 car parks across the City, 13 pay and display and 2 pay on foot. The purpose of the tariff review is to ensure the charges are appropriate to cover the costs of managing the car parks, their development and maintenance, whilst remaining competitive with other providers and comparable with other similar local authority providers.
- 3.2 The last amendment to City Centre car park tariffs was in 2017. Over the last five years the Retail Prices Index has increased by 28.5% and the Consumer Prices Index has increased by 18.5% (*based on Office of National Statistics reported figures for the period from April 2017 to September 2022*) with much of this increase having been seen in the past 18 months. During the review in 2017 the 'all day parking tariff' was not updated, which means it has not been amended since 2012, a period subject to even greater inflationary change.
- 3.3 Current charges remain historically low and do not align with the Council objectives of maintaining and improving a sustainable car parking infrastructure for the future whilst ensuring a balanced budget given the inflationary pressures noted above, and regarding taking the steps necessary to address the climate emergency.
- 3.4 This report is seeking approval for a policy-based increase in car park tariffs, to ensure the Council maintains a reasonable and consistent parking provision that encourages longer stays to help the City Centre economy, and less journeys to make a positive contribution to the Council's carbon neutral aims. This is whilst ensuring that charging is at a level to encourage people to start considering more sustainable modes of transport and ensuring the most effective use of our City Centre car parks.

- 3.5 The review undertaken has considered the following:
- Identification of current parking trends based on information relating to our pay and display machines, MiPermit (pay by phone), and ANPR information.
 - Data from those Councils designated as our 'nearest neighbours' under the CIPFA Code guidance (these are authorities who are considered to be similar in terms of size and economic make up to Gloucester) to compare their car parking tariffs with those of Gloucester.
 - Revision of the current zoning to reflect current parking trends and changes in parking habits arising from the continuing regeneration of the City Centre.
 - Current inflationary costs and the fact that the Council has not carried out a review of the tariffs for several years.
- 3.6 The attached Appendices provide background information from this review including an explanation of the current position, what other City Centre and "nearest neighbour" providers are charging, current and proposed zoning arrangements and alternative tariff rates.
- 3.7 This review has led to proposed amendments to the Car Park Tariffs that will lead to the standardisation of parking charges across the car parks in the current parking Zones 1 & 2, and the removal of the 1 hour tariff to encourage longer stays by visitors to the City Centre. These changes will ensure the service delivers on the approved budget and begins the process of driving the necessary behavioural changes in public travel to the City Centre to allow the achievement of the Council's carbon neutral aims.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 None

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The review is trying to facilitate a longer City Centre stay by removing the 1 hour option, this should make a positive contribution to the Councils carbon neutral aims by encouraging a one stop pedestrian shop, rather than a number of car Journeys.
- 5.2 Also, with completed improvements to the Bus Station and upcoming improvements to the train station, in part the objective of any charging structure is to encourage private vehicle users to think about other potentially more sustainable modes of transport such as cycling, walking, park and ride, bus or train.
- 5.3 The Council has a priority to tackle the climate emergency. The Council will therefore be formulating a plan to install more electric vehicle charging stations in its car parks. This process has commenced with the investment in the regeneration of the Bruton Way car park as part of the Kings Quarter Forum development.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 To maintain tariffs at their current level which will continue to reduce net revenues to the Council creating an unsustainable position in the long term because of the inflationary pressures noted above. This also hinders future investment in the enhancements to the car parking infrastructure required to achieve the Council's carbon neutral aims.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 Parking tariffs have not been reviewed for over 5 years and are not reflective of current trends or habits. The all day tariff has not been reviewed for over 10 years. Our current charging regime does not help change people's mindset in relation to other more sustainable transport methods. Our current regime encourages short stays for an hour or less which does not fit with the Council trying to encourage longer stays and more use of our City Centre businesses and actually encourages hopping into the car to drive to multiple places.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 Development and costing of a programme for an increase in the number of EV charging points in the City Centre car parks.
- 8.2 A biennial review of the car parking charges including a review of the impact of the proposed tariff changes on visitor car parking numbers.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The car parking charging review as detailed in this report will deliver the targets identified in the Money Plan, while ensuring sustainable funding to ensure that the infrastructure of the car parks can be maintained and developed to meet the Council's net carbon zero plans.
- 9.2 Since 2017 there has been a real terms reduction in the value of the car park receipts of circa £315k (based on CPI) due to the maintaining of the same car park tariffs for the five year period. The proposed increases to the tariffs, the removal of the 1 hour tariff and the combining of Zones 1 & 2 into a single Zone A is estimated to increase the car park income by £560k. This addresses the real terms reduction noted above and subject to any reduction in car park visitors (the sensitivity to which is noted below) generates income for reinvestment in the car parks particularly with regard to the environmental measures needed to accommodate the expected increase in EV vehicles in the next five years.
- 9.3 The combining and standardising of Zones 1 & 2 generates an estimated £32k of this increase and the removal of the 1 hour tariff generates an estimated £125k of the noted increase.
- 9.4 The financial impact is based on current customer behaviour, however, the decision to implement the changes may result in changes to customer behaviour, so the financial outcomes may be different. The sensitivity to a 1% reduction in the number of people parking is estimated to be a reduction in income of £25k.
- 9.5 There are additional one-off costs to the Council:
- To change tariff boards.
 - The cost of legal work to consolidate all the parking orders. This action is required whether the tariffs change or not.

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 states that a local authority may provide on and off-street parking places for the purposes of relieving or preventing congestion of traffic. The local authority may also, by order, make provision as to the conditions for the use of such parking places, including applicable charges.
- 10.2 The primary purpose of imposing and setting the level of parking charges must be to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicles and other traffic in the locality concerned, having regard to the need to secure access to premises, the effect on the amenity of the locality, the national air quality strategy and the need to secure the passage of public service vehicles.
- 10.3 Recent cases confirm that whilst the cost of providing parking facilities may be an appropriate secondary consideration in the setting of parking charges, it must not be the primary determining factor. A local authority may not set parking charges for the purposes of generating revenue even though it is an obvious by product of the lawful charging purpose(s) outlined. However providing the charges are for lawful purposes, it is permissible to generate a surplus income.
- 10.4 By virtue of section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council must keep accounts of income and expenditure in respect of parking places and such income should only be used towards the provision and maintenance of each parking place amongst other parking related objectives.
- 10.5 Further legal advice can be provided upon request in relation to the statutory procedures for implementing the proposed tariff increases.

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 The proposed increases pose no direct financial risk other than the potential of reducing the use of the car parks. This will be monitored to ensure if there is an adverse impact, corrective action can be considered.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed against the protected characteristics.
- 12.2 Full consultation will be carried out as part of the Order changes.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 Investment in the security of our car parks will reduce anti-social behaviour and encourage more users to use our car parks safely.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 None

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Appendix 1 - Proposed Car Park Tariffs

Zone 1

Oct 21 - Sept 22 P&D Transactions	Current Tariff	Proposed Increase	New Tariff
1 Hour	£1.30	£1.20	£2.50
2 Hours	£2.20	£0.30	£2.50
3 Hours	£3.50	£0.30	£3.80
4 Hours	£4.50	£0.30	£4.80
All Day	£6.00	£2.00	£8.00
1 hour (Sunday)	£1.20	£1.30	£2.50
All Day(Sunday)	£2.20	£1.80	£4.00
Evenings (Southgate Moorings)	£1.50	£0.50	£2.00

Zone 2 - Proposed to Combine with Zone 1

Accordingly Zone 2 tariffs increased to match those of Zone 1

Oct 21 - Sept 22 P&D Transactions	Current Tariff	Proposed Increase	New Tariff
1 Hour	£1.30	£1.20	£2.50
2 Hour	£2.20	£0.30	£2.50
3 Hours	£3.20	£0.60	£3.80
4 Hours	£4.20	£0.60	£4.80
All Day	£6.00	£2.00	£8.00
After 4pm	£1.00	£1.00	£2.00
Sunday 1 Hour	£1.20	£1.30	£2.50
Sunday All Day	£2.00	£2.00	£4.00

Zone 3

Oct 21 - Sept 22 P&D Transactions	Current Tariff	Proposed Increase	New Tariff
30 Minutes	£0.50	£1.00	£1.50
1 Hour	£1.30	£0.20	£1.50
2 hours	£2.20	£0.20	£2.40
3 Hours	£3.20	£0.30	£3.50
4 Hours	£4.20	£0.40	£4.60
All Day	£6.00	£2.00	£8.00
Sunday 1 hr	£1.10	£0.40	£1.50
Sunday All day	£2.00	£0.20	£2.20

Proposals

Removal of 1 Hour tariff

Simplification of tariffs through the combining of Zones 1 & 2

Current Zones	Proposed Zones
Zone 1	Zone A
Kings Walk	Kings Walk
Eastgate	Eastgate
Longsmiths street	Longsmiths street
Southgate Moorings	Southgate Moorings
Ladybellgate st	Ladybellgate st
	Hampden Way
	Hare Lane South
	Station Rd
	Westgate St
	St Michaels Sq
Zone 2	
Hampden Way	
Hare Lane South	
Station Rd	
Westgate St	
St Michaels Sq	
Zone 3	Zone B
North Warehouse	North Warehouse
Great Western Rd	Great Western Rd
Castlemeads	Castlemeads
Hare Lane North	Hare Lane North
GL1	GL1

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Appendix 2 - Comparison of Car Park Charges with "Near Neighbour" Councils

	1 Hour	2 Hours	3 Hours	4 Hours	5 Hours	6 Hours	All Day	Sunday 1 Hour	Sunday All Day
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Geographic Neighbours

Cheltenham Council	£1.70	£3.10	£4.50	£6.00	£10.00	£10.00	£12.00	£1.70	£12.00
Worcester City Council	£1.20	£2.40	£3.60	£5.00	£7.50	£7.50	£10.00	£1.20	£10.00

CIPFA Near Neighbours

Exeter City Council	£3.40	£3.40	£4.50	£5.60	£6.70	£7.80	£13.00	£13.00	£13.00
Harrogate Council	£1.10	£2.20	£3.30	£4.40	£5.50	£6.60	£11.00	£1.10	£11.00
Ipswich Council	£1.20	£2.40	£3.60	£4.80	£5.50	£6.20	£6.20	£1.20	£6.20
Maidstone Council	£2.00	£2.00	£3.50	£4.50	£4.50	£9.00	£9.00		
Tunbridge Wells Council	£1.60	£2.80	£3.80	£4.80	£5.60	£6.30	£10.40	£1.60	£10.40
Warwick Council	£1.30	£2.50	£3.80	£5.60	£8.00	£8.00	£8.00	£1.30	£8.00
Watford Council	£2.00	£2.00	£3.10	£4.10	£5.10	£6.10	£15.00	£2.00	£15.00
Wyre Forest District Council	£1.10	£2.20	£4.40	£6.60	£6.60	£6.60	£6.60	£1.10	£6.60

Third Party Parking Provision in Gloucester

Blackfriars (NCP)	£2.95	£5.90	£8.85	£11.80	£14.75	£17.70	£17.95	£2.95	£17.95
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital	£2.40	£4.40	£6.20	£7.40	£9.10	£9.10	£12.40	£2.40	£12.40
The Quays (Peel)	£2.50	£2.50	£5.00	£5.00	£7.50	£7.50	£12.00	£2.50	£12.00
Gloucester Rail Station							£9.80		£9.80
Spread Eagle Court/Way							£18.00		£18.00
On Street - Glos County	£1.60	£3.20	£4.90	£6.40				£1.60	
Average	£1.86	£2.93	£4.50	£5.86	£7.41	£8.34	£11.42	£2.59	£11.60
Lowest	£1.10	£2.00	£3.10	£4.10	£5.10	£6.10	£6.20	£1.10	£6.20
Highest	£3.40	£5.90	£8.85	£11.80	£14.75	£17.70	£18.00	£13.00	£18.00

GCC Present Tariff - Zone 1	£1.30	£2.20	£3.50	£4.50	£4.50		£6.00	£1.20	£2.20
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GCC Proposed tariffs		£2.50	£3.80	£4.80			£8.00	£2.50	£4.00
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Change		£0.30	£0.30	£0.30			£2.00	£1.30	£1.80
% Increase									
Variance from average charge		-£0.43	-£0.70	-£1.06			-£3.42	-£0.09	-£7.60
		Lower	Lower	Lower			Lower	Lower	Lower

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Gloucester City Council - Car Parking Visitors 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

Zone 1

Count of Transaction Type	Column Labels				2022 Total	Grand Total
	2021	2022 Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3		
Row Labels						
1 Hour	11,281	10,210	10,242	10,727	31,179	42,460
2 Hours	7,873	6,520	7,128	7,435	21,083	28,956
3 Hours	16,868	14,703	15,353	16,184	46,240	63,108
4 Hours	10,034	7,751	9,350	9,789	26,890	36,924
5 Hours	1,816	1,355	1,686	1,804	4,845	6,661
All Day	7,345	6,399	7,444	7,137	20,980	28,325
1 Hour (Sun)	1,056	1,110	996	962	3,068	4,124
All Day (Sun)	4,633	4,538	4,110	4,579	13,227	17,860
Evening	9,411	7,936	9,379	10,303	27,618	37,029
Grand Total	70,317	60,522	65,688	68,920	195,130	265,447

Zone 2

Count of Transaction Type	Column Labels				2022 Total	Grand Total
	2021	2022 Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3		
Row Labels						
1 Hour	23,098	20,515	21,474	22,042	64,031	87,129
2 Hours	33,921	28,387	32,202	34,422	95,011	128,932
3 Hours	11,080	8,539	10,692	10,949	30,180	41,260
4 Hours	4,645	3,493	4,516	4,636	12,645	17,290
All Day	4,796	4,152	5,227	5,463	14,842	19,638
After 4pm	3,544	3,481	4,178	3,796	11,455	14,999
1 Hour (Sun)	1,621	1,447	1,589	1,620	4,656	6,277
All Day (Sun)	7,166	5,808	6,326	6,822	18,956	26,122
Grand Total	89,871	75,822	86,204	89,750	251,776	341,647

Zone 3

Count of Transaction Type	Column Labels				2022 Total	Grand Total
	2021	2022 Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3		
Row Labels						
30 Minutes	118	148	199	160	507	625
1 Hour	648	536	543	613	1,692	2,340
2 Hours	1,528	1,317	1,744	1,763	4,824	6,352
3 Hours	4,482	4,408	3,946	4,369	12,723	17,205
4 Hours	1,497	1,147	1,285	1,419	3,851	5,348
All Day	6,477	6,062	6,948	7,017	20,027	26,504
1 Hour (Sun)	123	122	139	138	399	522
All Day (Sun)	1,684	1,320	1,421	1,708	4,449	6,133
Grand Total	16,557	15,060	16,225	17,187	48,472	65,029

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Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 January 2023
Subject:	Annual Report for Energy Costs and Energy Reduction Projects		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No		No
	Budget/Policy Framework:		
Contact Officer:	Abi Marshall, Property Commissioning Manager		
	Email: Abi.Marshall@gloucester.gov.uk		Tel: 396212
Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet of the Council's energy costs and projects to reduce energy usage.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) energy usage and consumption in the year April 2021-22 be noted
- (2) future reporting focuses on energy saving initiatives and projects led by the Climate Change Manager and annual benchmarking reporting ceases as the portfolio has evolved and habits significantly changed since 2012.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Gloucester City Council adopted a revised and updated Energy Management Strategy in 2012. One of the key objectives of this strategy was a commitment to yearly monitoring of energy costs however, we are starting to see a significant change to our property portfolio with the completion of Kings Square, the occupation of void units post COVID, increased use of our Cultural and Leisure Facilities, using our spaces for warm and well initiatives and the anticipated additions such as the Forum coming to fruition. Therefore, reporting of energy consumption year on year should not be done on a comparative basis.
- 3.2 The Council can no longer commit to reduce its annual spend on energy by £50,000 pa with the portfolio increasing, our offering to people to come out of the cold and people returning to their City Centres to work. We have made a £50,000 saving when

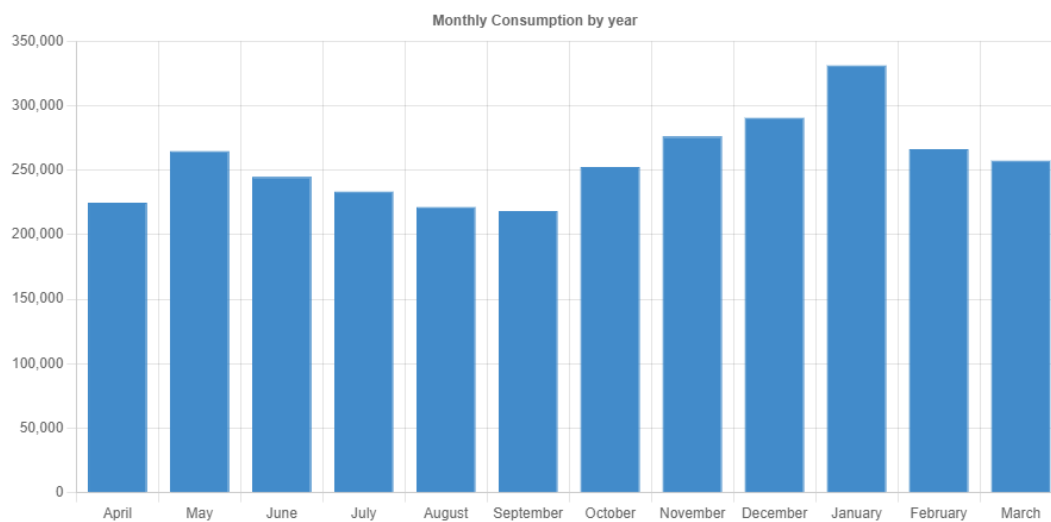
compared to 2019 – 2020. Last year (2020 -2021) we saw a significant reduction in our annual energy spend, however this is not surprising in light of COVID 19.

3.3 The councils’ various operational buildings and sites (including those operated by partners e.g., Aspire) consume significant quantities of gas and electricity. People are returning and using these assets optimally post COVID. The total gas and electricity bills for the year-to-date April 2021- April 2022 for the net operational sites excluding our partners is £527,486pa for electricity and £201,585pa for gas. In total this equates to £ 729,071pa (approx. £2,000 per day).

3.4 Electricity by monthly consumption

Consumption

Year	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
2021	224,889	264,662	244,902	233,468	221,348	218,391	252,522	276,231	290,593	331,117	266,478	257,392

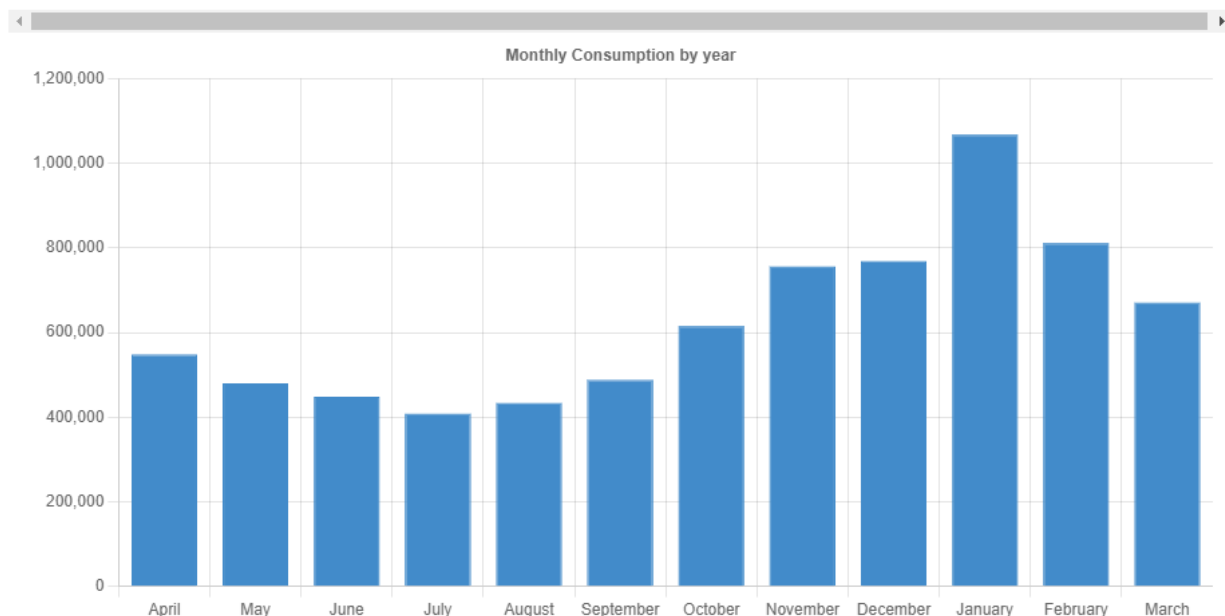


3.5 Monthly consumption for gas

▲ Monthly Gas

Consumption

Year	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
2021	547,592	479,746	448,109	408,072	433,033	487,586	614,978	755,880	768,530	1,067,578	811,148	670,263



3.6 Commodity prices. Gloucester City Council procure its energy via WME. WME has procured its rates at circa 80% below current market rates for 2022 - 23, providing financial protection to Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucester City Council worth approx. £2.5m.

3.7 Procured commodity prices for 2023 – 2024 are 61% below current market rates.

3.8 With uncertainty around government direction and support packages that will help provide relief to the UK the future is unknown, but at least with our current contract we will not be impacted imminently.

3.9 IMPORTANT NOTE

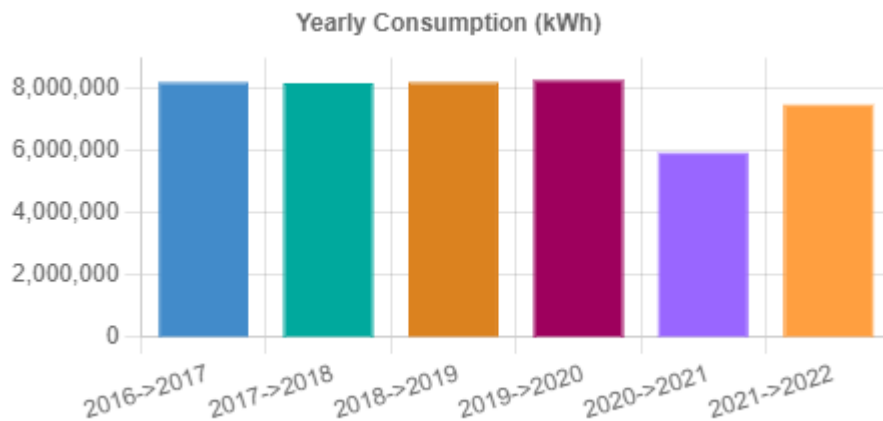
Costs were lower last year (2020 – 2021) on the core operational properties due to COVID.

4.0 Gas Use

We now supply more buildings, arranging the utility supplies to addition sites e.g., the new sports complex at Plock Court and the new Bus Station.

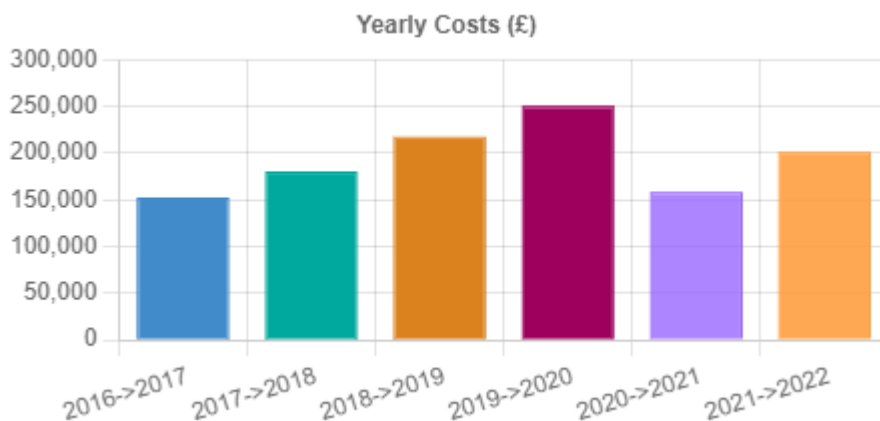
4.1 Work has now completed at Plock Court where a roof is covered with Solar PV's and the adjoining sports field houses a ground source heat pump. This will enable savings of approximately £28,000 per annum and reduce CO2 emissions by 69 tonnes.
<http://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/gloucester-city-council-renewable-energy>.

4.2 We also benefit from an additional £8,000pa for the green energy we export from the surplus we generate. These works have been grant funded by Salix (a non-departmental public body wholly owned by the Government). As you can see from the chart below our gas consumption apart from last year (due to COVID) does not vary greatly. Our gas consumption is down this year on 2019 – 2020 (ignoring 20 - 21, which was an exception due to COVID) which we believe is a direct result of works undertaken at Plock Court highlighted above.



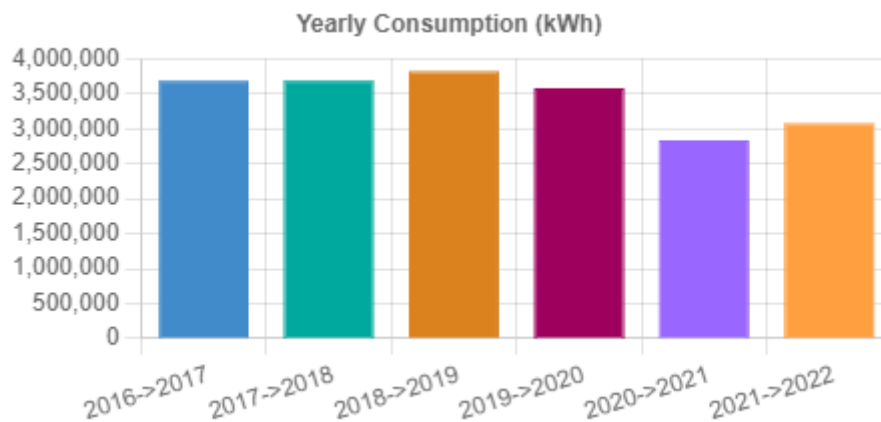
4.3 However, the cost increases year on year, again apart from 20-21 due to COVID. The Plock Court works have impacted on our use which you can see 2021-2022 is less than 2019 – 2020. We are benefiting currently from how we have procured our energy, and this is mitigating some of the cost increases we could have experienced.

5.0 Gas costs

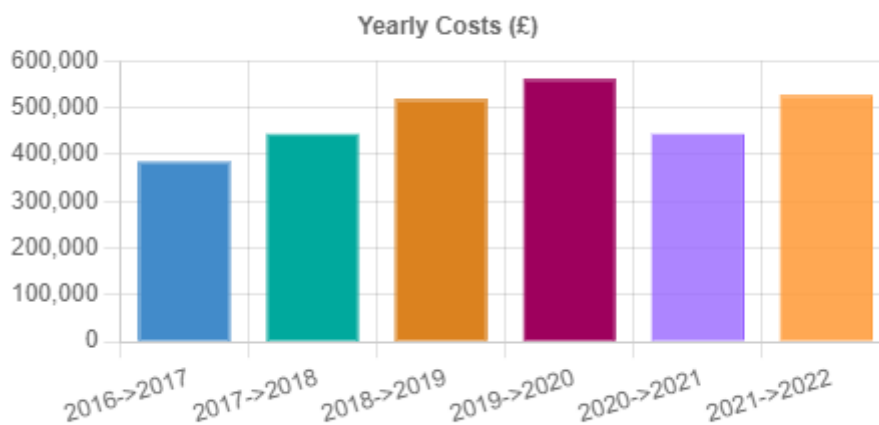


6.0 Electricity Use

6.1 As you can see from the chart below our consumption is down on 2019 – 2020, again we believe this is as a direct result from works at Plock Court.



6.2 Costs however are rising, which this chart demonstrates. Even though our consumption is down the cost of our electricity pa is still above £500,000.



7.0 Water Use

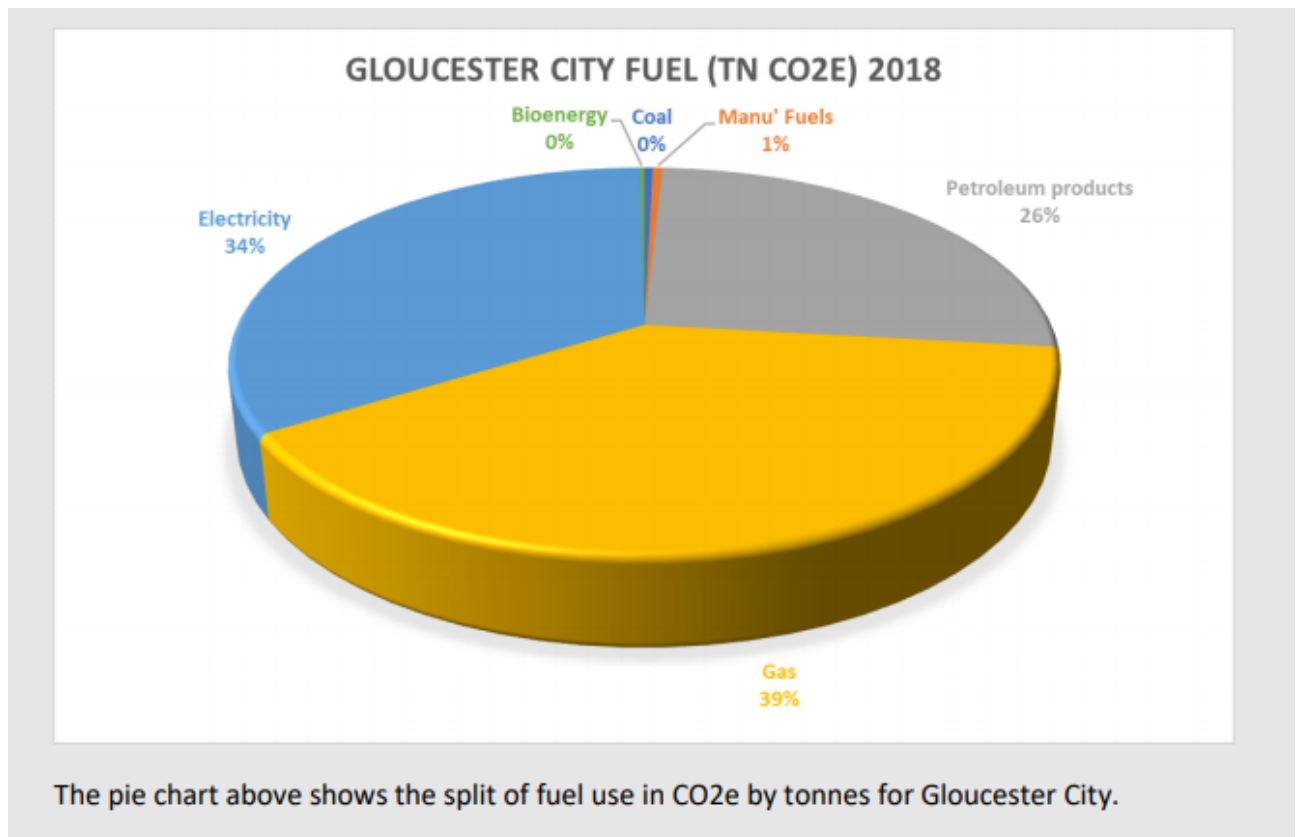
7.1 The other main utility cost for the Council is water, currently supplied by Severn Trent. The monitoring of water resources are carried out under contract by Aquafund who both monitor our usage and at their own cost have installed water saving devices in our building the cost of which are covered by sharing the resulting drop in water costs with them.

8.0 General energy price trends

8.1 It is highly likely and very probable that energy prices will rise sharply 2021-2022. West Mercia Energy (WME) are warning of extreme market rises. We are shielded for the next 12 months due to a cap we have in place, so now is exactly the right time to consider alternatives with significant grants available for implementation of a number of schemes that target carbon neutrality. However, expertise is required to tap into these, this expertise does not lie within the property team, who are best positioned to help with the implementation and advise on Green Leases.

9.0 Carbon Dioxide Emissions

- 9.1 In October 2020 a report was commissioned by the Climate Change Officer in relation to our Carbon Emissions and how the Council could expect to make large savings in energy use and consequent reductions in CO2 emissions. The Council is working towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and a City wide commitment of 2045. The report is extremely comprehensive. [Climate Change Strategy Appendix 1.pdf \(gloucester.gov.uk\)](#) . The pie chart below has been copied in from this report.



The council's CO2 emissions have reduced by year on year when compared with the baseline year 2003-4. The above chart was taken from the Climate Strategy paper.

10.0 Energy Saving Projects

- 10.1 The move to a pool fleet reduced the Council's Carbon output. Reducing the fleet and the implementation of pure electric vehicles will further extend this.

Installing EV charge points across appropriate car parks will further help encourage more EV car ownership amongst its residents and businesses across the city. Investigating and moving to alternative fuels for the Council's heavy RCV fleet is achievable within the Council's 2030 target.

The completed work at Plock Court and the installation of the Ground Source heat pump using grant monies and targeted energy savings of £35,000pa, we are currently realising £28,000k savings plus receiving £8,000 return in energy we sell back to the grid, therefore we are benefiting much improved fuel economy using renewables as well as providing others with the excess we create.

Since 2003 the City Council has brought forward a number of capital projects aimed at reducing energy use in all its main buildings.

In the year 2018-19 the main projects delivered were:

- *Installation of LED Lighting in Longsmith Street Car park*
- *Installation of outdoor LED flood lighting and personnel lighting around the City e.g. 43 external lights at Plock court, Flood Lighting at Bishop Hooper monument. Westgate Street reception project replaced lights with LED on PIRs. Although the individual savings produced are small the aggregation of a large number of marginal gains make significant contribution.*
- *Recommissioning and rebalancing of the City Museum boilers, the museum was running on 4 boilers we have got all 8 boilers working and balanced the system which will not only improve resilience but will make fuel savings.*
- *Photovoltaic panels and other energy efficiency measures were made an integral part of the new Bus Station design.*
- *The roll out of the Enterprise Car scheme this has resulted both in a reduction of car usage/journeys and budget savings on travel.*

10.2 Where ever possible we are replacing lights with LED's this includes the City's Christmas tree this year, as well as our tenanted and operational properties.

11.0 Social Value Considerations

11.1 Although there is limited direct scope for social value in the management of the portfolio the disposal strategy seeks to encourage Community Asset Transfer of suitable property Assets which will produce opportunities for ABCD.

11.2 By adopting an Energy strategy in 2003 and continuing to work to improve the energy efficiency of its main buildings the City council is acting in a leadership role by setting an example of good practice that the community can follow.

12.0 Alternative Options Considered

12.1 The 2012 strategy had been carefully considered and is an amalgam of good estate management and the Council's values for that time period. This is the last report referring to that strategy.

12.2 Carry on with the current reporting regime, which has due to market changes, portfolio changes and habitual changes become a rather meaningless task. A new format has to be taken forward, led by the Climate Manager.

12.3 No further reporting to occur, which is not in keeping with Council objectives.

13.0 Reasons for Recommendations

13.1 The Strategy will enable the Council to continue to make a significant contribution towards carbon reduction while cutting costs.

14.0 Financial Implications

- 14.1 There are no direct financial implications, but the strategy will allow the Council to manage its property portfolio in a way that seeks to protect the returns on the property interests. However, there could be savings by the reduction of our energy usage by investing in energy saving projects. If any savings can be realised then the Councils Money Plan will be updated to account for these.

15.0 Legal Implications

- 15.1 There are no direct legal implications in the content of this report. The Localism Act 2011 provides the council with the General Power of Competence to act in the best interests of its community, to deliver efficiencies and innovation and provide good value for money.
- 15.2 Officers will consult with One Legal to ensure that the council are able to demonstrate best value in the delivery of the proposed projects.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

16.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 16.1 There are no adverse risks associated with the proposed Strategy it does not change the risk profile of the way our portfolio is managed. However, this is best led by an energy specialist in conjunction with the property team to maximise gains.

17.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

- 17.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

18.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

- 18.1 No adverse impacts.

Sustainability

- 18.2 No adverse impacts.

Staffing & Trade Union

- 18.3 No adverse impacts.

Background Documents:

Climate Change Strategy - [Climate Change Strategy Appendix 1.pdf \(gloucester.gov.uk\)](#)