

## COUNCIL – 22 MARCH 2012

No.	Question from/to	Question	Response
1.	Councillor Field to Councillor Llewellyn (Cabinet Member for Performance & Resources)	Last year the two city museums were refurbished and cafes were installed. The Gloucester-based firm Ethical Addictions, which is to my knowledge the only fairtrade supplier in Gloucester, was not invited to tender for the supply of teas and coffees to the cafes, when they are already known to the council as a supplier at the Guildhall. Why were they not invited even to tender? Should the council not be encouraging local and ethical businesses by using them as suppliers whenever possible?	<p>The cafes at the Folk and City Museums are brand new ventures for the Council – a lot of energy and enthusiasm has been put into setting them up and getting them off the ground and they are operating successfully.</p> <p>Regarding the procurement of supplies there was no requirement to go out to competitive tender due to the low value threshold. James Gourmet Coffee was chosen on the basis of price, taste, quality and additional services as well as being a local company and has provided excellent value for money.</p> <p>Peter James, the owner is a member of Coffee Kids, an organisation that works with coffee farming families to improve their lives and livelihoods as well as a member of the Soil Association, which is a UK based charity that works with farmers in both the UK and abroad in keeping soil rich and healthy by using organic means.</p> <p>Procurement of suppliers is regularly reviewed and we will consider Ethical Addictions in the next review. (Joint response from the Cabinet Member for Performance &amp; Resources and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration &amp; Culture)</p>

No.	Question from/to	Question	Response
2.	Councillor Lugg to Councillor James (Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Culture)	Could the cabinet member ensure that the sword given to the City by Richard III is given pride of place in the City Museum? I was surprised that it is no longer kept beside the Civic sword in the Civic Suite but was shocked to find it in the back of a dark cabinet in the Museum, poorly labelled and surrounded by odd bits of medieval armour. Some of us came to the City because of the Richard III connection and the Mayoralty was granted by him to the City.	<p>The Gloucester Mourning Sword was moved to the City Museum to enable this interesting piece of Gloucester's heritage to be seen by a wider audience.</p> <p>The sword is in the 'Kings and Queens' case alongside other items from the city with a royal connection. It is our intention here to convey Gloucester's special status in the middle ages and its personal association not only with Richard III, but several medieval monarchs. The sword itself dates to the century after Richard's death, there is only a small chance that there might be part of the iron core of the original handle in the replacement handle.</p> <p>However the current display is not quite finished. The fit-out contractor has had difficulty in supplying the special mounts that we planned to use to hold the sword proud. This means that at the moment it needs to be at the back of the case to enable it to be taken out for civic ceremonies. It is labelled '<b>The Gloucester Mourning Sword</b>'. Thought to have been made from Richard III's personal sword that he gave to Gloucester in 1483', but there will be an information point with more detailed information both on the sword and the city's links to Richard III.</p> <p>Once the mounts have been supplied we will ensure that the sword is more prominent.</p>