

Paragraph 12.02 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit a written question to any Cabinet Member.

This document informs Members of Council of written questions put to Cabinet Members and written replies thereto.

**Council is recommended to RESOLVE to note the written questions submitted and corresponding responses.**

No.	Question from/to	Question
1.	From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	<p>I understand that a member of the Community Engagement Team is currently on secondment full-time to the Barnwood Trust. Given the recent reductions in staffing at the City Council and the pressure to deliver front-line services would this post not be better utilised within the Council establishment?</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please set out the rationale and terms of the secondment and highlight how this secondment is of benefit to the Council and its taxpayers?</p>
<b>Response</b>		
<p>The secondment of a member of the previous community engagement team has no impact on the current capacity of the community wellbeing team.</p> <p>In June 2016, Barnwood Trust, Gloucester City Council, Gloucester Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner agreed to set up a joint partnership community building team for two years for the wards of Barton &amp; Tredworth and Westgate within Gloucester.</p> <p>Partner contributions ranged from staff secondments (Constabulary); management oversight, training and support (Barnwood Trust) to capacity and capability for evaluation (OPCC). The arrangement is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the four partners with monthly oversight meetings.</p> <p>The City Council committed to provide funding for one fte community builder for a period of two years, to be hosted by Barnwood Trust to ensure effective leadership and management for the purposes of full-time community building.. This is funded from a one off and non-recurring grant. This new post was advertised in the normal way but the partnership was unable to find a suitable candidate. At that point, a member of the community engagement team expressed an interest in the post. Given their experience in community building they were seconded into the Barnwood Trust from 1st December 2016 for a period of two years. They are currently engaged in community building activities in the two wards. The terms and conditions of the secondment is set</p>		

out in a secondment agreement between the Barnwood Trust, the City Council and the Employee.

In the meantime, the council continued with its re-organisation (Together Gloucester) which saw the introduction of a broader community wellbeing team that includes the previous partnerships and community engagement, community safety and environmental health functions of the council and is overseen by the community wellbeing manager. The team have successfully established themselves and are working on a range of projects and programmes.

There is at present one vacancy which is on the environmental health side.