

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 Coole to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy	As the process of compiling a local heritage list begins, will owners be informed by the City Council of its intention to list their land or property, and made aware of the planning implications this could have?
Response:		
If a property or monument is nominated to be part of a Local List it will be subject to a formal Cabinet report setting out the reasons for its nomination and the impact of being listed locally. Consultation will take place with relevant parties including the owner, prior to the report being considered.		
2.	From Councillor Coole to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	Which Bed and Breakfast or Hotel premises are currently being used by the City Council to house homeless people, and what is the current breakdown of the number of homeless people housed in each of these premises?
Response:		
It would be inappropriate to release the addresses used by the City Council to provide temporary homelessness accommodation. The following breakdown is instead provided:		
<p>Accommodation 1# 6 Rooms of possible 10 occupied currently –1 family, 1 double 4 singles</p>		
<p>Accommodation 2# 4 Rooms occupied of Possible 4 – 1 Family 2 Doubles 1 Single</p>		
<p>Accommodation 3# 2 Rooms occupied of possible 5 – Singles</p>		
<p>Accommodation 4# 6 Rooms occupied of possible 21 – Singles / Doubles</p>		
<p>Accommodation 5# 14 Rooms occupied of possible 20 – Singles, Double and Family</p>		
<p>Accommodation 6# 2 Rooms occupied of possible 69</p>		

	<p>Accommodation 7# 12 Rooms occupied of possible 12 – 5 family rooms, 3 doubles, 4 singles</p> <p>Accommodation 8# 10 Rooms occupied of possible 10 – 8 singles 2 doubles</p> <p>Accommodation 9# 5 Rooms occupied of possible 29 – 3 doubles, 2 family</p> <p>Accommodation 10# 13 Rooms occupied of possible 25 – Families doubles and singles</p> <p>Accommodation 11# 20 Rooms occupied of possible 30 – Singles</p> <p>Accommodation 12# 4 Rooms occupied of possible 8 – Singles</p>	
3.	From Councillor Coole to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	Does the City Council record data regarding how many homeless people it engages with are in possession of a protected characteristic?
Response:		
<p>As part of completing a housing application, which those who present as homeless are required to do, they are asked the following questions: - Nationality, Marital Status, Ethnicity, Disability, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Religion and Language spoken.</p> <p>These questions are asked however an applicant can decline to answer these questions, so we will not have an absolutely accurate picture. Our IT system has an ability to run reports which could include a household who declare a particular characteristic should we so choose.</p>		
4.	From Councillor Coole to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Does the Cabinet Member appreciate that deciding to name the new City Council Reception “The Gateway” has potential to cause confusion in Matson, Robinswood and White City where one of the key community hubs is called “The Gateway”?
Response:		
<p>It is incumbent upon the City Council and Councillors to ensure that our communications about the new Customer Contact Centre in Westgate Street are clear, easy to understand and avoid confusion. The name “The Gateway” was chosen for a number of good reasons. The centre provides a gateway to Council and other services, it provides a gateway to online information and services through the self-help desks, it sits on one of the City’s four historic Gate Streets and it’s easy to remember. Whilst there are other gateway organisations in the City, I’m not aware that the Gloucester Gateway Trust is confused with the Gloucester Youth Housing Association’s Gloucester Gateway in Southgate Street and see no reason to believe that the City Council’s Gateway will create a problem.</p>		

5.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Please provide a full list of all outstanding or pending section 106 monies held by this council, to include the original planning reference number, the development it refers to, the sum of money provided and conditions on what it can be spent on, and the proposed allocation if agreed.
Response: See Appendix 1.		
6.	From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Is Councillor Cook aware of the ongoing position with regard to the refurbishment of the Rose Garden at the junction of Tuffley Avenue & Stroud Road? Plans to refurbish this sadly run down & neglected garden have been drawn up & widely consulted on with local residents, the clear implication being that work would begin this year. Ward councillors were informed that the work would be funded via Section 106 payments generated by the development at Newark Road. We are now informed this money is no longer available and there is no money to pay for the scheme. Does he agree that is unacceptable and will he take urgent action to honour promises given to local residents to enable the scheme to proceed?
Response: A scheme was drawn up for the Tuffley Avenue Rose Garden using underspend from another project. The intention was to promote the scheme and hopefully generate interest within the community for a friends group or similar that could then be a platform to seek funding. While there was some interest there is no local appetite for a friends group, however, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust who have their HQ close by have expressed an interest. We intend to harness their desire to be involved with the community along with input from Leyhill and potentially some section 106 money to deliver a scheme along the lines proposed. Work will begin over the winter period.		
7.	From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	In December 2018 Gloucestershire County Council secured over £950,000 as part of the government's rough sleeping strategy with the aim of providing 2 new homeless hubs for the County one in central Gloucester and one in central Cheltenham. Can Councillor Watkins please update me as regards to the current position? The intention was that both hubs would be opened by winter this year. Can she confirm the Gloucester centre is now open and running and if not when it is expected to open? Can she provide details as to the operation of the centre including who it is managed by? Can she provide details as to how the service is advertised and how homelessness people are identified and referred for placement? Finally, how many homeless people have been dealt with at the centre and of these referrals how many have been moved on into permanent accommodation?
Response: The Gloucester hub is open and has been operating for six months. It is		

	<p>delivered by People, Potential, Possibilities (P3) to provide a 24/7 access safe space to stay for those sleeping rough or imminently at risk of sleeping rough in the county. The hub staff and specialist navigators complete rapid housing and support needs assessments in a shared 'sit-up space' and co-produce housing plans to help move the individual away from the streets and to access appropriate support pathways.</p> <p>The service has been advertised to the district councils, stakeholders and the VCS. The majority of referrals come via the outreach team who are made aware of rough sleepers via Streetlink and make referrals to the hubs if appropriate. The districts, stakeholders and the VCS can contact the hubs directly via telephone to arrange assessments and entry to the hub or signposting to more appropriate provisions.</p> <p>The Gloucester and Cheltenham hubs work in tandem as a countywide resource and provide shared figures for entry in to the hubs and outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 133 individuals have entered the hubs • 19 have moved in to long term accommodation, including 2 social housing tenancies • 58 have moved to short-term accommodation such as supported housing • 18 have been reconnected to areas outside the county where they have accommodation and their strongest support network.
8.	<p>From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please advise me as to the following?</p> <p>Housing Statistics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of rough sleepers recorded in the City. 2. The number of applicants registered on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. 3. The number of households accepted as homeless within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. 4. The number of households that are in gold band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. 5. The number of households within silver band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. 6. The number of households currently under active investigation for homelessness within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. 7. The number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

8. The number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation that include families with one or more children within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.
9. The number of households housed in temporary accommodation outside of the Gloucester City Council administrative area that the Council has placed there.
10. The average length of stay for households in temporary accommodation before becoming permanently rehoused.
11. The estimated cost of dealing with homelessness in the current year.
12. The number of units of temporary accommodation for homeless households available at present within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Response:

1. The number of rough sleepers recorded in the City.

14 rough sleepers in Gloucester, breakdown as follows:

- 4: 'No Recourse to Public Funds', no Local Connection, offered reconnection and refusing (so far)
- 5: In assessment for safe spaces
- 2: Waiting for START (Allocation Panel for supported housing)
- 3: currently refusing services

2. The number of applicants registered on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Live applications: 5238
- Pending: 260
- Registered but not validated: 497

3. The number of households accepted as homeless within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Main duty live total: 86

Does not include those who are non-priority/intentional.

4. The number of households that are in gold band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Live applications in Gold: 266

5. The number of households within silver band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Live applications in Silver: 1885

6. The number of households currently under active investigation for homelessness within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Prevention: 126
- Relief: 205
- Total: 331

7. The number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Total: 169

8. The number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation that include families with one or more children within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Total: 88

9. The number of households housed in temporary accommodation outside of the Gloucester City Council administrative area that the Council has placed there.

Numbers on 01/09/2019:

- Total: 2 (families in Bristol)

10. The average length of stay for households in temporary accommodation before becoming permanently rehoused.

6 weeks

11. The estimated cost of dealing with homelessness in the current year.

At Month 5, August, expenditure is £1,134,752.

This is offset by income received to date of £1,095,884.

This gives net expenditure to date of £38,868.

12. The number of units of temporary accommodation for homeless households available at present within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.

119

9.	From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	<p>Can the Cabinet Member please advise me as to the following?</p> <p>Housing Supply</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forecast for numbers of social housing units broken down by type and tenure that will be built/ completed within the current financial year 2019/20. 2. Forecast for the number of social housing units broken down by type and tenure that are forecast to be built in 2020/21.
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Response:

Question 9.1

Forecast for numbers of Affordable Homes broken down by type and tenure that will be built/ completed within the current financial year 2019/20.

Total number of Affordable Homes	Number of homes for Affordable Rent	Number of homes for Social Rent	Number of homes for Shared Ownership
146	94	14	38

Question 9.2

Forecast for numbers of Affordable Homes broken down by type and tenure that are forecast to be built in 2020/21

Total number of Affordable Homes	Number of homes for Affordable Rent	Number of homes for Social Rent	Number of homes for Shared Ownership
142	83	15	44

In addition, during 2020/21, it is forecast that 70 affordable homes will be delivered in the JCS Strategic Allocation sites to meet Gloucester's housing need.

10.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	With respect to the risks to this council from a no deal Brexit, how often is the leader meeting with the Community Resilience Forum and what is being discussed?
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Response:

Gloucestershire's planning for Brexit is done at a county wide level to ensure consistency in approach and communication and to make the planning process as effective and efficient as possible.

The Gloucestershire-wide Local Resilience Forum is leading this process and

	<p>there are three planning groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) – to provide a coordinated multi-agency response to mitigate the potential impacts of the UK’s exit from the EU 2. A Tactical Coordination Group (TCG) – with similar objectives but a tactical remit 3. An EU Exit Group that focuses specifically on a ‘No Deal Brexit’ <p>Quite rightly, the Council is represented on these groups by senior officers. Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director, has been nominated as the Council’s Brexit Lead.</p>	
11.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	<p>Most of the challenges we will face from a no deal Brexit are outside city council competencies. Nonetheless members, as community leaders, will be approached by members of the public worried about food, medicine and petrol shortages and will need to know who to contact. Will the city council be issuing members with contact details for agencies who will be help and advise?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>Councillors are advised to direct any members of the public and/or businesses with questions to the government web-pages. https://www.gov.uk/brexit#business Members of the LRF are working hard (individually and collectively) to mitigate any disruption. At the time of writing there are no plans to commission agencies to provide bespoke support to residents and/or businesses.</p> <p>The role of Members, as community leaders, is recognised and valued as part of the LRF planning arrangements.</p>	
12.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	<p>Have we spoken to Amey? Do they have plans in place to guarantee continuity of service?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>We started a dialogue with Amey about their preparations for Brexit in February 2019. There are currently seven EU Nationals employed by Amey in providing services to the Council. The continued employment of six of these employees may be at risk as they have less than the requisite 5 years residency in the UK that is required to enable them to apply for permanent residency. Amey’s mitigation plan for responding to this initial risk includes the use of agency staff, recruitment, development of the apprenticeship programme, internal training and upskilling of existing staff.</p> <p>Amey are stock-piling 10 days’ worth of fuel supply as is their normal practice.</p>	
13.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	<p>How much of the Government Brexit grant has been committed / spent and what has it been spent on?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>We have received £17,484 in Brexit Funding. This funding is paid under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and is to be used to enhance capacity and capability within local authorities to aid Brexit preparations.</p> <p>At the time of writing the council is able to carry out its Brexit planning within existing resources and we have not spent any of this grant. We are carefully monitoring resources needed to prepare for Brexit and have earmarked some</p>	

	of this grant for additional resource (including overtime) in environmental health and/or emergency planning.	
14.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	How many meetings have we had with Phil Norrey (chief executive of Devon County Council) who has been tasked by the government to engage with councils in the South West on and provide support on Brexit related issues?
	Response:	
	Phil Norrey, the SW Chief Executive Officer Brexit Communication lead, communicates regular Brexit updates to Chief Executives in the SW via email. Chief Executives in the South West meet monthly (South West Councils) and this meeting is used for additional face to face discussion and updates.	
15.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	Have we been in contact with other councils to see what they are doing with regards to Brexit preparations?
	Response:	
	We are in contact with the Gloucestershire County Council and the five District Councils through the LRF (see above).	
	We receive weekly updates through the Local Government Association and through South West Councils and the South West Regional CEO Lead Brexit Communications Hub.	
16.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	What steps have we taken to ensure that EU citizens who are vulnerable / hard to reach have been informed about the EU Settlement scheme? Are we using the Home Office local authority toolkit? Are we leaving information in community buildings such as libraries and churches?
	Response:	
	We are made extensive efforts to ensure that all EU citizens in Gloucester are aware of the EU Settlement scheme. This includes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular reminders to all staff about the scheme, asking them to promote this widely amongst friends, families, neighbours etc - a dedicated 'Brexit' page on the landing page of our website which gives advice to residents and businesses - promoting the EU settlement scheme in City Life - communicating about the EU Settlement scheme to councillors as part of the members bulletin (May 2019) - use of social media to post about the Scheme - We are in regular communication with VCS partners about the EU settlement scheme and how they can prepare themselves and their clients for Brexit. 	
	We are making use of the Home Office local authority toolkit as appropriate.	
17.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	Have there been any attempts to contact key stakeholders / intermediaries such as landlords to ensure they understand the EU Settlement scheme and do not discriminate against EU Citizens due to a false belief they may no longer have residency rights?
	Response:	
	We are using the bi-monthly meetings of our Stronger and Safer Gloucester Partnership to discuss any implications of Brexit, including the EU settlement scheme. This meeting includes GCH as one of the main social landlord as well	

	<p>as a range of VCS partners, the Police, County Council services and Health.</p> <p>We have put information about the EU settlement scheme on the 'private housing' pages of our website encouraging private landlords to support tenants who are EU nationals. We are also promoting the EU settlement scheme through the Private Landlords Forum.</p>	
18.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for the Environment	Is it the policy to litter pick before cutting grass, and to remove clippings afterwards?
	Response:	
	Grounds maintenance staff are asked to pick up obvious litter on their rounds but there is a balance to be struck between them cutting grass in time and picking up litter. As Councillor Field will appreciate, not all litter can be seen by the operatives. There is no policy to remove clippings afterwards apart from certain sites where a 'meadow cut' is taken. This is for habitat reasons and moving forward we want to progress a position where this becomes more widespread.	
19.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for the Environment	The area at the end of Milton Road in Podsmead, past the play area and pond, is very overgrown with brambles etc. It will be cleared in September by a team of volunteers and a team of prisoners from Leyhill, which will be paid for by the council from the Amey budget. Amey will take the clippings away at the end of the clearance day. Once the area is cleared, maintenance will be much easier if a regular clearance programme is established. This area has been allowed to get overgrown since the last clearance which was up to five years ago. Does the cabinet member agree that regular maintenance is both necessary and will save money in the long term?
	Response:	
	The site in question has been subject to a lot of work by local volunteers coordinated by the Wildlife Trust. Habitats such as this will need attention and should not be abandoned and we will ensure that maintenance is carried out. The re-tender of the Streetcare partnership will allow an opportunity for this sort of maintenance to be part of the overall contract.	
20.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for the Environment	There is an area along the back of some of the houses in Betjeman Close in Podsmead, between the back gardens and the site of the former gasworks on Bristol Road. Residents believe the strip of land to be owned by Motorhog, and that it is a 'nature corridor', established several years ago. Council officers have not been able to verify this status so it would be useful to know whether it is correct. If it is a nature corridor then we should make sure it is protected and maintained. Please could you look into this area's status and report back?
	Response:	
	The area has no formal designation and is not in the ownership of the City Council. As such there is little we can do other than persuade the landowner to manage it accordance with nature conservation objectives.	

21.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	How is the council maintaining its government grade 1 indemnity in respect of its most expensive items in the museum collections? There are a number of paintings insured under a government scheme, but this is conditional upon their being kept in secure, environmentally sound conditions.																																																								
Response:																																																										
The Art Store within the Museum of Gloucester that was created as part of the HLF funding in 2010/12 provides the secure and environmentally sound conditions for the artwork. Regular environmental monitoring takes place.																																																										
22.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	What is the increase in visitor numbers since making the museum free, and how do numbers compare with this time last year for example?																																																								
Response:																																																										
The Museum of Gloucester removed its admission charges on the 1 st April 2019. This coincided with the Tourist Information Centre relocation and the Museum service opening 6 days a week instead of 5. The footfall figures below show the footfall through the main entrance to the Museum. A total of 42,756 people entered the Museum in 2018/19, yet 48,636 people have already visited the Museum in the first 5 months of this financial year.																																																										
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23.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Now that people don't have to pay for museum entry, is the museum shop seeing an increased income?																																																								
Response:																																																										
Since the Museum removed it's entrance charges, the Museum has seen an increase in shop sales. Figures below compare the first 5 months of this/last financial year. There has been a 100% increase in income through the tills.																																																										
<p>April 2018 – August 2018 – £4764 income / 717 till transactions April 2019 – August 2019 - £9820 income / 1432 till transactions</p>																																																										
The shop is reliant upon having an appealing programme of events. The Dinosaurs exhibition in 2017 was a blockbuster exhibition with 10,000 people visiting the Museum during the 15 week exhibition. Aethelflaed in 2018 was a more specialist exhibition which saw 6500 people visit the Museum over the 14 week exhibition but the 2019 Moon exhibition has seen over 25,000 people enter the Museum with over 5000 people paying to see the exhibition during its																																																										

	<p>12 week run.</p> <p>The service is currently working on a signage project to increase awareness of the Museum shop and the relocation of the Tourist Information Centre. This project is looking at opportunities across the city centre to promote the service. The signage on the Museum building itself also will be upgraded to reflect the recent changes.</p>	
24.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	What is the opportunity cost, in terms of not being able to use the building as collateral for a loan for future projects, of giving the Folk Museum away to the Civic Trust?
<p>Response:</p>		
<p>The City Council does not use individual properties in its ownership as collateral for borrowing. The transfer of the Gloucester Life Museum site to the Gloucester Historic Buildings Trust and its use as a heritage hub by the Gloucester Civic Trust will not affect the Council's ability to borrow.</p>		