

# Gloucester City Council

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><b>Housing Statistics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The number of rough sleepers recorded in the city.</li> <li>2. The number of applicants registered on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</li> <li>3. The number of households accepted as homeless within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</li> <li>4. The number of households currently under active investigation for homelessness within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</li> <li>5. The number of households that are within gold band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</li> <li>6. The number of households that are within silver band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</li> <li>7. The number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>9. The number of households housed in temporary accommodation outside of the Gloucester City</li> </ol>

		<p>Council administrative area that the Council has placed there.</p> <p>10. The average length of stay for households in temporary accommodation before becoming permanently rehoused.</p> <p>11. The estimated cost of dealing with homeless in the current year (2019 – 2020) and the amount allocated for dealing with homelessness in the draft budget for 2020 -2021</p> <p>12. The number of units of temporary accommodation for homeless households available at present within the Gloucester City Council administrative area</p>
<p><b>Response:</b></p>		
<p><b>Housing Statistics</b></p> <p>1. The number of rough sleepers recorded in the city.</p> <p>Official Rough Sleeping numbers are not yet available, however, P3 Outreach service engaged with 13 in Gloucester (11 male, 2 female) during December.</p> <p>2. The number of applicants registered on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</p> <p>Number of live applications is 5089 as at 09.01.20</p> <p>3. The number of households accepted as homeless within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</p> <p>Number of accepted as homeless is 122 as at 09.01.20</p> <p>4. The number of households currently under active investigation for homelessness within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</p> <p>Number of open prevention cases (households threatened with homelessness which we are actively working to prevent them from becoming homeless) is 98 as at 09.01.20 and the number of open relief cases (households who are actually homeless) is 178 as at 09.01.20</p> <p>5. The number of households that are within gold band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</p> <p>Number of households in gold band is 226 as at 09.01.20</p> <p>6. The number of households that are within silver band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.</p> <p>Number of households in silver band is 1670 as at 09.01.20</p>		

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

Number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation is 189 as at 09.01.20 ( this also includes households who have made their own temporary arrangements however we have accepted a full duty to rehouse them)

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.

Number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation that include families with one or more children is 101 as at 09.01.20 (this does include households who have made their own temporary arrangements however we have accepted a full duty to rehouse them)

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

Number of households in temporary accommodation outside of Gloucester is 1 as at 09.01.20

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

As a snapshot figure the average length of stay for households in temporary accommodation is 35 weeks as at 09.01.20 (the temporary accommodation includes B&B, hostels, self-contained units, dispersed properties) Average length of stay for Bed & Breakfast accommodation only, is 11 weeks as at 09.01.20. We are unable to provide average length of stay before becoming permanently rehoused as households could be rehoused into alternative temporary accommodation e.g. from B&B to hostel, self-contained units or a dispersed property, private rented accommodation, permanent housing or make their own accommodation arrangements.

11. The estimated cost of dealing with homeless in the current year (2019 – 2020) and the amount allocated for dealing with homelessness in the draft budget for 2020-2021

As of December 2019, we spent £645,517 on temporary accommodation, and if spend continues at that level, we are forecasting spend of £860,689 for 2019/20, however we are expecting spend to reduce as YMCA Potters Place is now available. The allocated draft budget for temporary accommodation for 2020-21 is £765,000.

12. The number of units of temporary accommodation for homeless households available at present within the Gloucester City Council administrative area  
Number of units of temporary accommodation for homeless households is 97 units and 33 dispersed properties.

GCC Own stock (Caridas House & Priory Place)- 19 units  
GCH (Nova House)- 9 units

	<p>Riverside- 21 units YMCA- 48 units Total- 97 units</p> <p>GCH Dispersed – 33 properties 10 x 1 bed 15 x 2 bed 8 x 3 bed</p>											
2.	<p>From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member please advise me as to the following?</p> <p><b>Housing Supply</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forecast for numbers of social housing units broken down by type and tenure that will be built completed within the current financial year 2019/2020.</li> <li>Forecast for the number of social housing units broken down by type and tenure that are forecast to be built in 2020/2021.</li> </ol>										
<b>Response:</b>												
<p>1. Forecast for numbers of Affordable Homes broken down by type and tenure that are forecast to be built in 2019/20</p>												
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269	178	15	76									
<p>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.</p>												
3.	<p>From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Environment</p>	<p><b>Rose Garden junction Tuffley Avenue and Stroud Road</b></p> <p>At the Council meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Councillor Cook assured me that arrangements were being put in place for the refurbishment of the Rose Garden in line with plans that had been consulted on. The work would include the reinstatement of the footpaths so that they could be</p>										

		used by people with disabilities and mobility problems including wheelchair users. He further stated that work would take place in the winter. To date no work has been carried out at the site which is frankly an eyesore and in a sorry state of disrepair. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that it is still his intention that work will be carried out over the winter and if so when the work is expected to start? Can he also publish a schedule of works that details exactly what is to be done?
<b>Response:</b>		
The contract for the reinstatement of the paths has been awarded, and work is due to begin 15 <sup>th</sup> January. Once the path work has been completed Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will be recruiting local volunteers to undertake tree planting and other soft landscaping works.		
4.	From Councillor Haigh to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	On how many occasions has the Community Trigger been used in Gloucester in the past 5 years (by year) and how does this compare with other Districts in the Restorative Gloucestershire partnership?
<b>Response:</b>		
Referrals to Restorative Gloucestershire for Community Trigger:		
2015: 3 x Gloucester 1 x Tewkesbury		
2016: No triggers		
2017: 2 x Gloucester 2 x Cheltenham		
2018 3 x Gloucester 2 x Cheltenham 1 x Tewkesbury 1 x FOD		
2019: 2 x Gloucester 2 x Cheltenham 3 x FOD 1 x Stroud		
Out of 23 referrals, only 4 met the threshold for a trigger, only 1 of those being in Gloucester. Please note that Cotswold manage their own data on this and do not share with Restorative Gloucestershire.		
5.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	With the first stage of Brexit due to take place on January 31st 2020, will Britain exiting the European

		Union put the ESIF money allocated to Podsmead at risk?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	No, the money is ring fenced by the MHCLG so leaving the EU will make no difference to this particular funding stream.	
6.	From Councillor Field to the Leader of the Council	Are there any other funds or programmes for Gloucester that are now at risk due to Brexit?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The ranger service receives agri-environment grants from DEFRA which come from the EU as part of the Common Agricultural Policy and total around £25k per year. The Government has indicated it will honour these payments for the next 5 years and after that there will be some sort of support for environmental management. However, there is uncertainty around what will and will not be eligible.	
7.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	On 13th January during the high winds, a tree blew over in Cole Avenue and hit a car. Although the winds were very high, the trees along that road may be diseased which made them more vulnerable to falling over. Are there plans to survey them as a result of this incident?
	<b>Response:</b>	
	The trees were surveyed last year, the tree that fell had no obvious defects at that time. The trees will continue to be surveyed and removed/remedial works undertaken when required. These particular trees will be surveyed later this year.	
8.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Please explain the rationale behind cutting down several healthy trees in Kings Square.
	<b>Response:</b>	
	Several trees in Kings Square were removed this month as part of the continuing regeneration of Kings Quarter. Of the eleven trees in the square, eight of the smaller trees were removed preserving the three very large specimen trees. Nine new trees will be planted in the square as part of the works being undertaken this summer.	
	The timber was used productively as part of new flood management and biodiversity schemes.	
	In October 2019, Gloucester City Council released computer generated images of how King's Square would look and how the space will be used during the day and night once planning permission is granted in March 2020.	
	Displaying a bustling square, they illustrate the council's vision for the transformation of this part of the city centre into a destination and flexible event space with cultural activities, live performances and pop-up markets.	
	The area would have a totally new lease of life, with sweeping raised seating areas, fountains inspired by the Severn Bore and atmospheric coloured lighting after dark – together with wild-planted green areas with the addition of the new trees.	

9.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	What consultation was carried out with the public before changing the recycling system in Gloucester? Whose idea was it to make this change just before Christmas? What changes will now be made as a result of public reaction over Christmas and January?															
<b>Response:</b>																	
<p>Due to the minor nature of the changes being implemented, we chose not to consult with residents in advance. We did however consider the feedback we had received over the past 3 years in respect of the confusion surrounding the recycling of cardboard and paper in general and the different types of card in particular.</p> <p>I believe that allowing all types of cardboard and paper to be presented together is a major improvement and will result in increased recycling rates and the diversion of a significant resource away from landfill or incineration. This can only be beneficial in supporting this Council's climate change ambitions.</p> <p>Christmas is traditionally the time of year when the most waste and recycling is presented at kerbside. As a result, I was keen to maximise the amount of recycling processed and minimise the waste going to landfill or incineration. For this reason, the decision was taken to introduce the new system prior to Christmas. The improved quality of recycling would also result in greater income to the Council than would have been the case.</p> <p>Given that the rate of non-compliance i.e. the incorrect presentation of recycling, has fallen to 1%, I am not proposing any further changes to the service at this stage.</p>																	
10.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	What is the current number of empty homes in Gloucester?															
<b>Response:</b>																	
1,288.																	
11.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	How many full time equivalent members of staff does the council employ and how does that compare to those employed in 2015, 2010 and 2005?															
<b>Response:</b>																	
<table border="1" data-bbox="279 1624 1268 1848"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Apr 10</th> <th>Apr 15</th> <th>Apr 19</th> <th>Q3 19/20-current headcount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>Headcount</th> <td>339</td> <td>299</td> <td>221</td> <td>223</td> </tr> <tr> <th>FTE</th> <td>295.7</td> <td>258.17</td> <td>197.82</td> <td>195.75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Apr 10	Apr 15	Apr 19	Q3 19/20-current headcount	Headcount	339	299	221	223	FTE	295.7	258.17	197.82	195.75
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Headcount	339	299	221	223													
FTE	295.7	258.17	197.82	195.75													
<p><i>N.B. Headcount and Full Time Equivalent (FTE) data for the year is as at 1 April for each year.</i></p> <p><i>The figure for each quarter is taken as at the day immediately following the end of the quarter. The figures exclude casual , temporary, off scale, zero hours contracts as per standard reporting.</i></p>																	

	The SAP reporting system was not in place in 2005 and therefore headcount data from this period is unavailable. With regard to the change in staffing levels, this is as a result of a number of functions previously undertaken in-house being undertaken by partners as outsourced services and as a result of the 2017 organisational wide Together Gloucester restructure.																			
12.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	How many affordable homes did the council secure through section 106 agreements in following years; 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019?																		
	<b>Response:</b>																			
	The total number of affordable homes secured through s106 agreements in the years identified was as follows:																			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>197</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-12</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-14</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014-15</td> <td>79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-18</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </table>		2010-11	197	2011-12	92	2012-13	23	2013-14	92	2014-15	79	2015-16	52	2016-17	51	2017-18	36	2018-19	24
2010-11	197																			
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2015-16	52																			
2016-17	51																			
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13.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Please provide details of the council contribution to the running costs of Marketing Gloucester Ltd in every financial year since the company's founding?																		
	<b>Response:</b>																			
	The Council contributions to Marketing Gloucester in the following financial years was as follows: 2019/20: £269k 2018/19: £315k 2017/18: £366k 2016/17: £457k 2015/16: £486k																			
	The Council does not hold data prior to the financial year 2015/16. The Council approved a revolving credit facility of £240k in October 2019.																			
14.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environment	What has been the council's annual revenue financial contribution to the streetcare contractor, in every financial year since 2007?																		
	<b>Response:</b>																			
	The Council contributions to the Streetcare contractor in the following financial years was as follows:																			

2019/20: Estimated at £6,171k  
 2018/19: £5,864k  
 2017/18: £5,695k  
 2016/17: £5,657k  
 2015/16: £6,175k  
 2014/15: £5,954k

The Council does not hold data prior to the financial year 2013/14 in accordance with statutory data retention requirements. All the above figure include the base service fee plus the commodity top-up charge for recycling.

15. From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy

How many planning appeals against this council were made in 2005, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and how many were dismissed?

**Response:**

*Officer note: The information relates to the calendar year within which the appeal was submitted*

Year	Number of Appeals	Number dismissed
2005	32	22
2010	9	6
2015	10	8
2016	14	9
2017	15	12
2018	23	17
2019	22	15 (decisions awaited for 4 appeals)

16. From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy

What was the cost to this council in defending the planning appeals as listed in previous question?

**Response:**

The majority of the cost to this council in defending the planning appeals as listed in question 16 comprises officer time. The cost of officer time spent on appeals is not recorded and therefore is not available. However, appeal work is generally a small proportion of the overall workload for the Development Management team and therefore is not a significant cost.

However, the costs of defending appeals for major planning appeals subject to a public inquiry can be significant. This is due to the need for external consultancy, e.g. barrister, planning consultant, technical expert witnesses. For the calendar years referred to in question 16 there were 2 appeals by public inquiry, details below.

Ref No	Year Appeal submitted	Address	Proposal	Consultancy costs
14/01063/OUT	2016	South of Winnycroft Lane	Outline application for the erection of up to 420 dwellings	£52,000
17/00729/FUL	2018	Land At Clearwater Drive	Erection of a Primary School	£42,126

17.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	What has been the council's annual revenue contribution to sporting activities provided by Aspire Trust since the trust was established?
<b>Response:</b>		
<p>The Council contributions to the Aspire Trust in the following financial years was as follows:  2019/20: £nil  2018/19: £nil  2017/18: £246k  2016/17: £428k  2015/16: £657k  2014/15: £812k</p> <p>The Council does not hold data prior to the financial year 2013/14 in accordance with statutory requirements.  The figures above do not take into account the fact that the Aspire Trust have occupation and utilise the various sports and leisure venues on a rent free basis, with all major repairs, maintenance and asset renewal costs being paid for by the City Council.</p>		
18.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	What has been the council's annual revenue contribution to the running costs of the Guildhall Arts Centre in following years 2005, 2010, 2015, 2019?
<b>Response:</b>		
<p>The Council contributions to the Guildhall in the following financial years was as follows:  2018/19: Net spend of £200k  2014/15: Net spend of £185k</p> <p>The Council does not hold data prior to the financial year 2013/14 in accordance with statutory requirements.</p>		
19.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	How many historic artefacts does the council museums service hold in storage and how many items are fully catalogued and how many remain uncatalogued or partially catalogued?
<b>Response:</b>		
<p>The situation at the Museum of Gloucester mirrors that at many regional and local museums. Our collections are not fully catalogued, those that are either held on paper records or, increasingly, on digital records. Best estimates are that there are approximately 500,000 items in our collection and 20% of the collection is fully documented and catalogued. Priority is currently being given to ensuring that the collections located at the former Museum of Gloucester Life are properly catalogued as part of the loans and exhibitions agreements with the Gloucester Civic Trust and the managed decant from those premises. The team are constantly looking to improve the cataloguing position within the Museums service.</p> <p>Councillors will be aware that the Museum of Gloucester and the Museum of Gloucester Life were both accredited by the Museums Accreditation Scheme in 2018/19 for a further five-year period.</p>		

20.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Please list the storage place/s for these historic artefacts and confirm whether these are controlled environments or not?  <b>Response:</b> The City Museums Service has a number of storage locations across the city and it would be unwise to state publicly the location and addresses of those locations. I am happy to share that information with the Councillor on a confidential basis and if he wishes to visit those locations, he is welcome to. Where it is necessary and appropriate for the preservation of our artefacts, storage is environmentally monitored.
21.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environment	How many trees in Gloucester are protected by a tree preservation order and what percentage of the total tree population would that be?  <b>Response:</b> Several thousand trees will be protected by TPO's There are 300 separate Orders some dating back to 1950's. Some of these TPO's protect a single tree at one address, some protect hundreds of trees covering a wider area and were made before new estates were built for example at Abbeydale and Kingsway. Some TPO's protect single identified trees, some protect large groups of trees where it is impossible to ascertain how many trees are protected without extensive detailed survey work. Also, all mature trees in Conservation Areas are protected as if covered by order. Taking account of the above it is impossible to say what percentage of the total tree population is protected.
22.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Was the city council's tree officer consulted over the felling of two mature highway trees on Heathville Road? They were either side of Hamlet Lodge?  <b>Response:</b> Yes, the City Council tree officer was consulted over the removal of these 2 highway trees. While their loss is unfortunate, they were diseased and needed to come down.
23.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environment	How many fines were issued in Gloucester during 2019 for flytipping and littering?  <b>Response:</b> 1,882.