

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 Hyman to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Please will you advise on the progress of the environmental enforcement officers. How many incidents have they dealt with and how many resulted in fines or prosecutions? Do they patrol across the whole city and have they visited Elmbridge ward recently where there are considerable incidents of dog fouling?
Response:		
In the second quarter (Jul to Sep), 359 FPN were issued, 166 of which were paid within the given period. 96 prosecution files were referred to One Legal for prosecution (those choosing not to pay the FPN). 3 Enforcement Officers are based in the City Centre, but as and when requested by City Council Officers or the Contact Centre staff, they would attend any sites within the City to investigate any reported fly-tip or Dog fouling offences.		
2.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	With regards to the e-scooter trial currently continuing in Gloucester City. When were you first aware of the trial? What consultation did you and the representatives from the county council carry out with local disability groups? What is being done to ensure safe use of these scooters in the area of the city council during this trial?
Response:		
With regards to the e-scooter trial currently continuing in Gloucester City. When were you first aware of the trial?		
County Council officers first raised the trial with city officers in August and the Gloucester scheme launched in early October. This reflects the very tight timescale set by the government over the summer for councils to apply for and launch local e-scooter trials in time to support the Covid recovery and assist people returning to work.		
What consultation did you and the representatives from the county council carry out with local disability groups?		
One of the reasons that the government is trialling e-scooters over the next 12 months is to understand how this new form of low carbon transport can be safely used at scale. Therefore, engagement with disability groups is a key requirement		

of operators and councils taking part in the trial. Since Zwings were appointed by the County Council they have been proactive in meeting groups representing people with disabilities, especially those with impaired vision. A constructive meeting was held with Insight Gloucestershire in October and a further meeting is planned for mid-November when Zwings will seek to engage the Sight Loss Council and other organisations working with people with a visual impairment in the county - Insight Gloucestershire, Guide Dogs, Macula society, Forrest Sensory Services and the RNIB.

What is being done to ensure safe use of these scooters in the area of the city council during this trial?

Safety has been and continues to be our priority at all stages of the trial, starting with the selection of a responsible operator by the County Council and their compliance with the terms of the Department for Transport's license. Zwings has been engaging local council officers, elected members, the police, disability groups, university and other stakeholders to understand the local issues and will continue to hold regular stakeholder group meetings to monitor use and learn from the trial. County Council officers first raised the trial with city officers in August and the Gloucester scheme launched in early October. This reflects the very tight timescale set by the government over the summer for councils to apply for and launch local e-scooter trials in time to support the Covid recovery and assist people returning to work.

3. From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Again with regards to e-scooters:

Have you considered the matter of their visibility at night and the legality of their rear lights?

As far as I am aware, the minimum height of a rear red light is 350mm above the ground. These don't comply and the government doesn't appear to have changed the law to exempt e scooters from this.

[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1989/1796/schedule/10/made in \(2\)\(c\)\(iii\)\(A\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1989/1796/schedule/10/made%20in%20(2)(c)(iii)(A))

Response:

The E-scooter is a County Council scheme and the operator have provided the following response:

Referring to the guidance from the Department for Transport for vehicle specification requirements, there is no indication that there needs to be a certain height above the ground by law. Given the special circumstances from which e-scooter rental schemes were legalised during COVID and most importantly because the purpose of the trial is test how e-scooters operate on British streets, measures have been implemented to ensure that there does not need to be formal changes in the wording of the law (yet). This trial is allowing the government to identify more accurately what rules need to be implemented to help councils and operators to deliver responsible e-scooter rental schemes.

All e-scooters rear fenders are generally around the same height with a 10-inch wheel. The government requested all scooters have the following:

a) Obligatory lamps

- i) The vehicle shall be fitted with a front position lamp meeting the following requirements:

	<p>Colour: white; Visibility: easily visible for other road users from a reasonable distance, but not to dazzle the oncoming road users.</p> <p>ii) The vehicle shall be fitted with a rear position lamp meeting the following requirements: Colour: red; Alignment: at or near the rear; Visibility: easily visible for other road users from a reasonable distance, but not to dazzle the oncoming road users.</p> <p>iii) Flashing lamps are permitted with a flashing frequency of 1-4 Hz (60-240 times per minute)</p> <p>(b) Optional lamps</p> <p>i) The vehicle may be fitted with direction indicators. If fitted, the colour of the direction indicators shall be amber. ii. The vehicle may be fitted with a stop lamp. If fitted, the stop lamp shall meet the following requirements: Colour: red; Alignment: to the rear</p> <p>The local operator have added additional reflectors to provide a second tier of visibility.</p>	
4.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Is there any delay to the Blackbridge project as a result of Coronavirus?
	Response:	
	No. The project is still on track for a planning application to be ready for submission early in the new year.	
5.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	In response to requests from residents I have asked for street signs to be installed at Neven Place and Manu Marble Way, Podsmead. I understand this is the responsibility of the developer. Despite repeated assurances that these will be installed they have still not appeared. Can this be looked into and rectified, please?
	Response:	
	The Council's Enforcement Officer has raised this with the developer, Matthew Homes, who advise that the street signs will be installed as the scheme nears completion. Although this is a matter that is not actually covered by Planning legislation I have asked the Enforcement Officer to remind the developer again.	
6.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth	The continental market returned recently to Gloucester but didn't seem to be publicised very well. If and when this returns will this be improved? Secondly, is there any footfall data to show that the market brings extra people in to the city, or not?
	Response:	
	The Cultural Services Team are currently preparing a post-event report to reassess the value of the market - this will cover marketing and footfall. They are hoping to have this finalised next week, as they are still awaiting on some more responses from business feedback.	
7.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment and or Economic Recovery and Growth	It is a stated aim of this council to encourage wildlife to recover and flourish. Fireworks are a concern to not only pets and pet owners but also to wildlife who are startled and disoriented. What balance can be achieved by the city council as licensing authority,

		in terms of discouraging inappropriate use of fireworks whilst trying to help shops make a living?
	Response:	
	<p>Any events that require licensing by the City Council or take place on Council owned land are now required to be advertised by the organiser in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people. The council took the decision not to hold a fireworks display this summer and has no plans for any official fireworks display, nor has permission for any displays been granted for 2020.</p> <p>Furthermore, the City Council have worked with the Dogs Trust, who have developed a poster in addition to its existing Fireworks Dog Code campaign for use in the City. It is Gloucestershire County Council (Trading Standard) who is the licensing authority for the sale of Fireworks across the County and they have agreed to promote these campaigns to all retailers selling fireworks within the City.</p>	
8.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Have there been savings due to meetings being held online, officers and members working from home etc?
	Response:	
	<p>Holding council meetings remotely has not resulted in any significant financial savings for the Council. There may have been minimal savings from not having to provide refreshments for meetings and from the closure of North Warehouse to the public, however, we have continued to pay staff who carry out duties in the building and additional officer resource is required to support the remote meetings solution.</p>	
9.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	<p>What is the estimated financial impact of lockdown 2 on the city council, and the local economy?</p> <p>What financial support has the government pledged for the council for lockdown 2?</p>
	Response:	
	<p>At this point we do not know the impact on the city council and the local economy. We will monitor any additional expenditure or lost income for the Council and will continue to lobby Government for support for these pressures. We will also continue to submit monthly returns on the COVID impact.</p> <p>No specific additional support has been pledged, however we will, as stated above, continue to lobby for the Council to be compensated for all pressures as a result of the lockdown.</p>	
10.	From Councillor Stephens to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	<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.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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:		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of rough sleepers recorded in the City. Official Rough Sleeper figures are not yet available, however, end of October operation figures suggest 11 rough sleepers in the City. 2. The number of applicants registered on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. As of end October 2020 there are 4943 live applications on the housing register across all bands, including emergency. 3. The number of households accepted as homeless within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. As of end of October 2020 there were 149 accepted homeless applications. 4. The number of households that are in gold band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. Total in Gold Band is 289 as of 31.10.20 5. The number of households within silver band on the housing register within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. Total in Silver band is 1614 as of 31.10.20 6. The number of households currently under active investigation for homelessness within the Gloucester City Council administrative area. Number of open prevention cases (households threatened with homelessness which we are actively working to prevent them from becoming homeless) is 147 as at 31.10.20 and the number of open relief cases (households who are actually roofless) is 205 as at 31.10.20 	

7. The number of households that are housed in temporary accommodation within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.
191 as of 31.10.20
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 50 as of 31.10.20 (this does not include households who have made their own temporary arrangements)
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 3 as of 31.10.20
10. The average length of stay for households in temporary accommodation before becoming permanently rehoused.
Due to upgraded reporting mechanisms we are unable to access this at this time.
11. The estimated cost of dealing with homelessness in the current year.
As of the end of Q2 the spend on Temporary accommodation was £455,337.48 with the forecasted spend for 2020/21 being £765,000.
12. The number of units of temporary accommodation for homeless households available at present within the Gloucester City Council administrative area.
Unable to provide quickly- there have been some changes due to COVID 19 emergency procurement and recommissioning so this will take some time to collate.