

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 how many prosecutions there have been in regards to dog fouling in Gloucester and what actions the Environmental Protection Officers have taken to try and catch those dog walkers who do not clear up after their dogs?
	Response:	
	Dog-fouling is not an easy offence to issue a FPN for or prosecute. An Enforcement Officer has to witness an offence being committed before issuing an FPN, which is very difficult to achieve. In the last 2 years, no FPN has been issued for an offence of Dog Fouling in Gloucester. Nevertheless, whenever a report of repeated dog-fouling is received, the matter is reported to an Enforcement Officer, for him/her to show a presence in the area, which can act as a visual deterrent to potential offenders. The enviro-crime team has started to schedule unannounced/unpublicised visits to dog fouling hotspots (based on reports received via the Contact Centre). These scheduled visits will continue for the next 2 months.	
2.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	How is the housing stock survey progressing and when will the results be reported back to council?
	Response:	
	The private sector housing stock condition survey is being delivered on a countywide basis and the survey work was expected to have begun during the summer. Unfortunately, there have been unexpected extended delays arising from legal queries from other councils within the countywide partnership. We are advised that the tender documentation will be published by the end of September, and the timetable for the survey and the resultant report will be agreed following the appointment of the company delivering the survey.	
3.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Please list outstanding sums of section 106 money that the council has on deposit?
	Response:	

	<p>At 31 August 2021, the Council held £1,323,444.75 of s106 for spend on play areas (£355,774.96), open space (£206,470.38), sports (£622,510.54) and affordable homes (£138,688.87).</p> <p>Please note that S106 contributions are made for specific purposes detailed in the relevant legal agreements.</p>	
4.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Please list any CIL sums of money that the council has on deposit?
	Response:	
	<p>At the 31st August 2021, the Council held £627,083.02 of Community Infrastructure Levy collected in accordance with the approved CIL Charging Schedule.</p> <p>Of this amount, 5% (£31,354.15) is for the administration of the CIL programme, 15% (£94,062) is for locally determined community projects considered and approved in accordance with the Cabinet decision taken in November 2020. Finally, (£501,666.87) for JCS wide strategic infrastructure identified in the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement approved in December 2020.</p>	
5.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	What progress has been made to webcast future council meetings and committee meetings?
	Response:	
	<p>A preferred solution has been identified based on the existing Civica Modern Gov platform. This solution can be delivered within the budget set by full Council at Budget Council in February. The release of this solution has now been delayed until the end of the year.</p> <p>Alternative solutions have been researched and explored, however the costs were significantly higher and prohibitive. These solutions were likely to require the Civic Suite to be set up with studio quality sound and video equipment.</p>	
6.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	Two senior directors resigned from the council earlier this year. Could the leader confirm what progress has been made to replace them?
	Response:	
	<p>The Leader and Head of Paid Service have commissioned some (free) consultancy support from the LGA to advise the Council on senior management structure options. This advice will be considered and discussed with Group Leaders in due course.</p>	
7.	From Councillor Wilson to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	<p>(a) What is the policy of Gloucester City Council with regards to rejected postal ballot papers in elections?</p> <p>(b) In 2021 were there any rejected postal ballot papers?</p> <p>(c) In what circumstances were they rejected?</p> <p>(d) What criteria is used to justify a referral to the police?</p> <p>(e) How many referrals were made to the police in relation to either postal vote applications</p>

		or postal vote ballot papers in the 2021 elections?
	Response:	
	<p>(a) The circumstances in which a postal ballot pack must be rejected are laid out in legislation and are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the signature provided on the postal voting statement does not match the example held by the Returning Officer; and, or • the date of birth provided alongside the postal voting statement does not match the one held by the Returning Officer; and, or • no signature was provided on the postal voting statement; and, or • no date of birth was provided on the postal voting statement; and, or • no ballot paper was returned in the pack; and, or • no postal voting statement was returned in the pack. <p>The Returning Officer for Gloucester City Council follows these statutory requirements.</p> <p>(b) Yes</p> <p>(c) Postal ballot packs were rejected for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the signature provided on the postal voting statement did not match the example held by the Returning Officer; • the date of birth provided alongside the postal voting statement did not match the one held by the Returning Officer; • no ballot paper was returned in the pack; • no postal voting statement was returned in the pack. <p>(d) A referral to the police would be made where the Returning Officer or a member of his/her election staff identify potential evidence of electoral fraud.</p> <p>(e) One referral was made in relation to a postal vote application</p>	
8.	From Councillor J. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Please advise the criteria used for deciding which services and businesses may advertise on recycling vehicles.
	Response:	
	We have a contract arrangement with Roadvert who handle all advertising on our behalf and pay us 50% of the profit. They have parameters set down in the contract to ensure there is no unacceptable advertising such as alcohol, tobacco etc.	
9.	From Councillor Conder to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	What green energy measures are demanded of volume house builders at present? For example, solar thermal and photovoltaic panels, heat pumps, rainwater recovery.

		<p>Response:</p> <p>The current Local Plan for Gloucester is the adopted Joint Core Strategy (2017) and emerging Gloucester City Plan (currently at examination).</p> <p>The adopted Joint Core Strategy includes policy SD3 ‘Sustainable Design and Construction’. This includes a requirement for developers to demonstrate how proposals contribute to the aims of sustainable development by increasing energy efficiency, minimising waste and avoid unnecessary pollution. It further requires development to be adaptable to climate change in terms of layout, siting, orientation and function of both buildings and external spaces. It does not specifically require the implementation of certain measures such as solar thermal and photovoltaic panels, heat pumps and rainwater recovery, but encourages them. Policy SD4 requires passive design to control the overheating of buildings.</p> <p>The Gloucester City Plan (currently at examination) includes a requirement for all new dwellings to include an electric car charging point and the implementation of water efficiency measures.</p>
10.	From Councillor Conder to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Are there any plans to impose these options (above) ahead of the Government's ban on gas boilers in new-build properties in 2025?
		<p>Response:</p> <p>The Joint Core Strategy review is in the early stages of preparation and will include a review of planning policy required to adapt and mitigate climate change. This will seek to deliver against the climate change emergencies declares by Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council, and their respective climate change strategies. This will likely includes measures for on-site and offsite renewable energy generation and a range of other measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The next stage will be consultation on a draft plan next year.</p>
11.	From Councillor Castle to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	<p><i>Questions 11-15</i></p> <p>Can an update be provided regarding the planning application related to the Playing Field at the Rear of 3-29 Paygrove Lane, Gloucester. Ref 16/01558/OUT. Outline planning permission (with means of access offered for consideration) for residential redevelopment of up to 10 dwellings and public open space including associated landscaping, car parking and access was granted on the 24th of August 2018 for 5 years, which means it will run out in in August 2023.</p> <p>Has the county council or its agent filed a reserved matters application?</p>
		<p>Response:</p> <p>No application has been submitted</p>
12.	From Councillor Castle to the Cabinet Member for	Has the county council sold the land to a potential developer?

	Planning and Housing Strategy	
	Response:	
	The County Council have confirmed the sale of the land has not completed.	
13.	From Councillor Castle to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Is the city council's development control team in pre-application discussions with a developer or the county council about a reserved matters planning application?
	Response:	
	No	
14.	From Councillor Castle to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	The outline planning permission granted in 2018 had 24 conditions. Which conditions have been resolved and which have not been resolved?
	Response:	
	Nothing has been discharged as yet	
15.	From Councillor Castle to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	Has the county council and city council ever had discussions about transferring the land to the city council for it to be dedicated as public open space?
	Response:	
	No discussions have taken place between County Council and Asset Management or with the City Council's Open Space Strategy Team Lead	
16.	From Councillor Field to the Leader of the Council	Will this council be signing up to the Good Business Charter?
	Response:	
	<p>The Good Business Charter is an initiative of the Good Business Foundation, a charity registered in England and Wales. The CBI (Confederation of British Industry) and the TUC (Trades Union Congress) both have trustee representation on the board of the Good Business Foundation to ensure that the voices of business and employees are heard. The Good Business Charter is a simple accreditation which organisations in the UK can sign up to in recognition of responsible business practices. It measures behaviour over 10 components: real living wage, fairer hours and contracts, employee well-being, employee representation, diversity and inclusion, environmental responsibility, paying fair tax, commitment to customers, ethical sourcing, and prompt payment.</p> <p>I will ask officers to examine the Charter in more detail and, if appropriate, will discuss signing up with the Federation of Small Businesses, the Gloucestershire Chamber of Commerce, the Gloucester BID and UNISON.</p>	
17.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods	How can councillors and residents help with the Afghan refugees being housed in Gloucester?
	Response:	
	There are a few different ways that councillors and residents can support:	

Volunteering and household items: Gloucester City Council are working closely with our local partners GARAS to welcome and support new families arriving in the County. You can find out more about GARAS and different ways to support them at www.garas.org.uk. If your offer relates to providing items or your own time to support new arrivals, please contact GARAS directly on admin@garas.org.uk. As the organisation working directly with families, GARAS have the best understanding of what is most needed and what they already have at any given time. However, please be aware that due to health and hygiene reasons they are unable to accept any form of clothing.

Properties: We remain in need of housing to provide sustainable accommodation for families through the scheme: if you are a landlord or know a landlord who is interested in letting a property to a family through this scheme please contact Gorib Hossain on gorib.hossain@gloucester.gov.uk in the first instance.

Community Support: If you are aware that a family have been resettled in your community please support them as appropriate as you would with any new resident. Other residents are usually best placed to welcome new residents to a community and help them settle as quickly as possible.

Sharing social media: the one thing everyone can do is share/ retweet the posts on social media which are asking for help, particularly targeting landlords. The wider we can get the message the more chance we have of securing suitable accommodation for the scheme.

18.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	When can members see the map of litter bins in the city and their relative usage?
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Response:
 An installation programme of new litter bins and dual use recycling bins is now underway and must be completed by December in line with the grant funding application. Once installation is complete the bins need to be added to the new Council GIS mapping layer as resource allows within the team. I have nominated the member of my team for training, who will be responsible for keeping the mapping layers up to date.

19.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	Please would you provide an update on the latest with regards to the Blackbridge project?
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Response:
 Directors of Blackbridge Community Benefit Society and their consultant team are continuing to progress the project and have spent recent weeks focussing on two major issues.

The first is future access to the site. The scheme had been progressing with the proposed access being created by Crypt School offering a portion of their land to help form an access road. However, in the spring the school wrote stating they would not agree to support the scheme (and therefore release the land) unless a number of conditions were met, many of which went against

	<p>previous statements/intentions from the school and would, if followed, potentially undermine the trading viability of the project.</p> <p>In reaction to this the CBS directors asked that alternative access to the site be revisited, and to this end CTP transport consultants undertook a study into access from Laburnum Road to the east of the site. The report – which indicates that in principle access from this location is viable - is now with Gloucester City Council for a pre-app review.</p> <p>The second major issue is securing funding to cover the anticipated capital cost of £5m. With approximately £1.6m of Section 106 funding ringfenced and a potential investment from the Football Foundation of around £700k, CBS directors are keen to explore ways of addressing the shortfall. The subject was raised with Jon McGinty of the City Council when he visited the site in July, and he undertook to discuss funding options with City and County Council colleagues.</p> <p>Finally, a fair amount of work has been going on in the background to develop the business plan for the scheme, for example the commissioning of renewable energy experts ShareEnergy to look at income generating opportunities, together with discussions with Podsmead Big Local around the feasibility of using Blackbridge CBS as the future ‘legacy vehicle’ to continue the valuable community development work delivered by the Big Local when the project formally ends.</p>	
20.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Strategy	Please would you provide an update on the Podsmead and Matson Regeneration plans, particularly with regards to recent delays and the reasons for these, and detailing the arrangements for consultation in October?
Response:		
<p>Cllr Field will be aware from our monthly update meetings with Gloucester City Homes that progress is being made on the regeneration of both the Podsmead and Matson estates. He will also be mindful that some of the detail is commercially sensitive (such as land values), so I would offer the following by way of update of information that is in the public domain.</p> <p>Podsmead: GCH has been in discussion with our planning officers and planning consultees for some months to design a scheme that balances good design with financial viability. Podsmead offers an opportunity for us jointly to come up with a high standard of design that meets the needs of current and future residents and creates an attractive place in which people want to live. This is entirely in line with the changes to the planning system recently introduced by the Government in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and it is appropriate that we consult effectively and purposefully on a workable scheme for residents. At the same time our officers and GCH are engaged with the Gloucester United Schools Trust who have an interest in some of the land proposed to be included in the scheme. Once we have a robust and acceptable design in hand, and once we have secured the willingness of the GUS trust and the Council as landowner to permit GCH to develop the land, then GCH will start consultation with local residents. I would anticipate this being towards the end of the year.</p>		

Matson: it has proved more difficult to identify sites that are suitable for redevelopment and which will enable the first phase of regeneration to commence. GCH is currently considering the options that are available and which enable the housing development to proceed without compromising amenities held by the community. Our officers and GCH are liaising with our planners and planning consultees over one particular site on a pre-app basis to ascertain the appropriateness of its development. Once that steer has been provided GCH will be in a better position to identify a way forward and to commence consultation with the community.

It is important in both communities that the regeneration is seen holistically, and that whilst it is led by housing development the outcome is to drive up standards of housing as well as education, health, incomes and wellbeing amongst other factors. This administration remains fully committed to delivering the regeneration of both estates but it is essential that we propose schemes that achieve comprehensive regeneration and drive up standards of living in the widest sense across both communities.