

Paragraph 12.01 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit questions to Chairs of Meetings.

This document informs Members of Council of written questions put to the Chairs of Meeting and written replies thereto.

**Council is recommended to**

- (a) Note the written questions submitted and corresponding responses.**
- (b) Note the supplementary questions and corresponding responses delivered verbally within the 15 minutes available for Questions by Members.**

No.	Question from/to	Question
1.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Chair of General Purposes Committee	The General purposes minutes advise that City Council managing director proposed that members questions would be limited to 5 questions, sadly this was voted for members of the general purposes committee, what further silencing do you think you will vote though?
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The proposals considered by the General Purposes Committee in September 2022 came forward as a result of a planned review of the changes introduced in November 2021. The further changes, based on best practice from other councils following advice from the Monitoring Officer, were endorsed by the Administration prior to their presentation to General Purposes Committee and sought to prevent individuals from monopolising question time, expending significant officer time in preparing written responses, and ensure that questions were appropriate and did not contravene relevant council Codes and Protocols.</p> <p>The evidence compiled demonstrated that the five question limit would not affect the vast majority of Councillors as they had never asked more than five questions at a single meeting. While Opposition Councillors remained opposed to the notice requirement, the minutes of the meeting demonstrate that the Committee debated the proposals robustly, agreed amendments and voted unanimously to recommend the amended proposals to Council for approval.</p> <p>Changes to the Constitution will continue to come forward as and when required, or when Members ask for a particular section to be reviewed.</p>		
2.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Chair of General Purposes Committee	The General purposes minutes advise that City Council managing director proposed that members questions would be edited, thankfully this was voted against by members of the general purposes committee, do you think that this is an undemocratic proposal to edit and alter questions to the council?
<p><b>Response:</b></p>		

	<p>No. The proposals considered by the General Purposes Committee in September 2022 came forward as a result of a planned review of the changes introduced in November 2021. This proposal was based on best practice from other councils following advice from the Monitoring Officer and is designed to enable officers to support Members (or members of the public) to reword questions that might otherwise be rejected. The Committee agreed that the provision was not necessary for Members in Gloucester and it was removed from the proposal. This facility remains in place for members of the public asking questions to the Council, as they might be less familiar with the practice.</p>	
3.	<p>From Councillor A. Chambers to the Chair of General Purposes Committee</p>	<p>The General purposes minutes advise that City Council managing director proposed that members questions would not be minute-d, thankfully this was voted against by members of the general purposes committee, do you think that this is an undemocratic proposal to erase members questions to the council and keep them from public archive and written knowledge?</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>No. The proposals considered by the General Purposes Committee in September 2022 came forward as a result of a planned review of the changes introduced in November 2021. This proposal was based on best practice from other councils following advice from the Monitoring Officer. The true purpose of minutes is to record decisions. Any additions to that are purely as a result of local convention and many councils only minute decisions. The Committee decided to retain the local convention and the proposal was removed.</p>	
4.	<p>From Councillor A. Chambers to the Chair of General Purposes Committee</p>	<p>The General purposes minutes advise that City Council managing director proposed that council responses to members questions would not be minute-d, thankfully this was voted against by members of the general purposes committee, do you think that this is an undemocratic proposal to erase city council responses to member questions to the council and keep them from public archive and written knowledge?</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>No. The proposals considered by the General Purposes Committee in September 2022 came forward as a result of a planned review of the changes introduced in November 2021. This proposal was based on best practice from other councils following advice from the Monitoring Officer. The true purpose of minutes is to record decisions. Any additions to that are purely as a result of local convention and many councils only minute decisions. The Committee decided to retain the local convention and the proposal was removed.</p>	
5.	<p>From Councillor A. Chambers to the Chair of General Purposes Committee</p>	<p>The General purposes minutes advise that City Council managing director proposed that council does not allow members questions that have been asked previously within the last 6 months to cabinet or council, thankfully this was voted against by members of the general purposes committee, do you think that this is an undemocratic proposal to prevent testing questions of the city council by restricting testing questions of the council and providing a 6 month breathing space.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p>	

No. The proposals considered by the General Purposes Committee in September 2022 came forward as a result of a planned review of the changes introduced in November 2021. This proposal was based on best practice from other councils following advice from the Monitoring Officer and recognises that expectations of pace of progress or change should be reasonable. The Committee agreed that it should be up to Members to decide whether to use one of their five questions to ask a repeated question and open to the Member responding to refer them back to the previous answer provided if appropriate, therefore the proposal was removed. This restriction remains in place for questions asked by members of the public.
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