

Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a Member of the Council may submit up to five written questions to the Leader of Council or any Cabinet Member.

This document informs Members of Council of written questions put to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members and written replies thereto.

Cabinet 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 Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure	The report on the Council Plan says the Council will "work with partners to use and embed the new city branding by the end of 2022". Which other partners are using the new branding and how?
	Response:	There are a number of instances where the city branding has appeared in the city, notably the wayfinding posts throughout the city centre streets. Tote-bags were produced and distributed in the trade mission to the US and at the UK Inbound convention and are currently on sale in the Museum of Gloucester. Gloucester BID have used the brand for flag-poles throughout the city and will be used on the digital totems in future. Assets are available to be used on the Visit Gloucester website, so that all partners can use the branding according to their needs. An objective with the 2023 Marketing plan will be to further embed the branding and continue to roll out the use of the brand.
2.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	I understand that some years ago the 1 hour car parking tariff was removed and it was later brought back. Can the Cabinet Member tell me why that was?
	Response:	We have no record of the 1 hour tariff being removed and then reinstated. In the recent tariff reports (2012 & 2017) the 1 hour tariff was included.
3.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	How many council 'members of staff/employees' have used the new Eastgate offices since they were opened (off fire register please as legal document/ signing in/ door entry system)

	<p>Response:</p> <p>The City Council offers agile and hybrid working policies and recognises the health and wellbeing benefits this brings to staff as well as the recruitment and retention benefits and decarbonisation benefits this brings to the City Council. The City Council's policies allow staff to work each day from a location where they are most productive (which could be at home or in the office) with the proviso that staff attend the office and/ or other City Council location when required. Given this agile and flexible approach we do not record where staff have worked from on any given day and there is no legal requirement for staff to sign in and out of the office; we do, however, have Fire Marshalls who will ensure the office is cleared in case of an emergency.</p>	
4.	<p>From Councillor A. Chambers to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment</p>	<p>How are plans for Gloucester's net zero coming along seeing as the vast majority of trees have died a miserable death.</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>As Members may be aware, on 5 January 2023 the Met Office confirmed that 2022 was the UK's hottest year on record and the first time the average annual temperature of the U.K has exceeded 10°C. This observed warming led to a lengthy period of drought and record temperatures in every country of the U.K, including England's first ever 40C+ day.</p> <p>One of the consequences of record temperatures and drought across the country in 2022 was that efforts to support urban tree planting and the establishment of new woodlands were severely undermined, including in Gloucester.</p> <p>Despite the challenges of establishing new trees in a rapidly changing climate, the City Council remains committed to achieving its goals in this area. In recognition of this desire to show leadership, additional trees have been provided by the County Council to replace all of those that died as a result of last summer's drought, with planting due to take place in the week commencing 9 January 2023. Sites where high numbers of trees were lost because of vandalism will not, however, be replanted. In addition to these replacement trees, a further 6,000 specimens were planted at Hempsted Meadows in December 2022.</p> <p>Given the increased potential for another long period of drought in 2023, all replacement trees and the new trees planted at Hempsted Meadows will be watered by a contractor to be appointed by the County Council.</p> <p>Traditionally, the watering of tree saplings has not been undertaken in the UK, as it can be a costly practice and our climate has been generally amenable to trees self-establishing. However, we now expect watering will be an increasingly common practice as our summers become longer and drier.</p> <p>As regards the wider question of our work to achieve net zero emissions from City Council operations, we have recently been out to tender for support in the delivery of a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The City Council received a number of strong bids from a range of consultancies, including a number of those with an international reputation for work in this field. The successful bid will be announced shortly.</p>	

5.	From Councillor A. Chambers to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Many officers are leaving the council, (tree officer/ Enforcement officer/ tourist officer) why do you think this is and what did their exit interview say?
Response:		
Our voluntary turnover rate in the 12 months prior to 1/10/22 is 18.1% (versus 12.8% in the same period last year). We would expect lifestyle changes after COVID and cost of living challenges to be an ongoing contributing factor to this increase. Retirement is a consistent reason for leaving in exit interview data; aside from this there are no clear trends however leaving for career development, and improved remuneration are the most frequent reasons referred to. In this period 80% of those who completed an exit interview stated they were satisfied, or very satisfied with Gloucester City Council as a place to work.		