

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 Trimnell to the Cabinet Member for Environment	What environmental regulations are in place at the Permali factory site on Bristol Road that this council is responsible for monitoring and enforcing?
Response:		
<p>During operations the Regulatory Controls are as Follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution Prevention & Control Act 1999 • Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) Regulation 13 & Schedule 5 Paragraph 6 <p>The City Council will investigate any complaints; however, the burden of monitoring is placed on the operator, all monitoring equipment must be externally calibrated, and it is a criminal offence to falsify records.</p> <p>The frequency of inspections for this type of installation would be twice per year.</p>		
2.	From Councillor Trimnell to the Cabinet Member for Environment	What data has this council got to confirm that the Permali factory on Bristol Road has not exceeded it's 200 tonnes per year in the use of industrial solvents for manufacturing purposes?
Response:		
<p>This is a new permit application for a new manufacturing process requiring the use of solvents, therefore no data is available currently. The 200 tonnes relate to the threshold of solvent usage per annum to warrant the A2 permit, not the emissions.</p>		

3.	From Councillor Trimnell to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Over the last five years how many complaints have been received by this council with regards to noise and odours coming from the Permali factory on Bristol Road?																		
Response:																				
<table border="1" data-bbox="280 336 1158 645"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="280 336 496 421">Year</th> <th data-bbox="496 336 826 421">Odour Complaints about Permali</th> <th data-bbox="826 336 1158 421">Noise Complaints</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 421 496 465">2019</td> <td data-bbox="496 421 826 465">0</td> <td data-bbox="826 421 1158 465">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 465 496 510">2020</td> <td data-bbox="496 465 826 510">4</td> <td data-bbox="826 465 1158 510">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 510 496 555">2021</td> <td data-bbox="496 510 826 555">4</td> <td data-bbox="826 510 1158 555">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 555 496 600">2022</td> <td data-bbox="496 555 826 600">4</td> <td data-bbox="826 555 1158 600">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 600 496 645">2023</td> <td data-bbox="496 600 826 645">1</td> <td data-bbox="826 600 1158 645">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Year	Odour Complaints about Permali	Noise Complaints	2019	0	0	2020	4	0	2021	4	0	2022	4	0	2023	1	1
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4.	From Councillor Trimnell to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Please can you tell me what monitoring over the last five years has this council undertaken with regards to levels of air pollutants and noise coming from the Permali factory site on Bristol Road?																		
Response:																				
<p data-bbox="280 945 1414 1057">Over the past five years officers have investigated matters related to Noise and Odour from the local area, not specifically relating to the Permali Site. Investigations would have been made through observations in person.</p> <p data-bbox="280 1093 1414 1164">As there was no solvent used in manufacturing on site, there was no air pollutant monitoring requirement.</p>																				
5.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	On the 7 th of June 2023, the City Council announced that the personal data of many people in Gloucester was compromised by the Dec 2021 cyber-attack. Why has it taken 18 months for this council to tell the public that their personal data might have been stolen by the hackers?																		
Response:																				
<p data-bbox="280 1536 1414 1899">In the first phase of the response, we worked with a cyber incident expert to investigate the extent of the incident. As part of that investigation we discovered that some personal information may have been taken. Since then, and keeping the Information Commissioner's Office updated at all times, we have been investigating numerous technical ways of trying to identify in detail what data was taken and from which individuals. Despite our best efforts it has not been possible to identify exactly what data refers to which individual data subject and so we have agreed with the Information Commissioner that, in the light of the reduced risk to all individuals, the best thing to do is to issue a general notification on our website now.</p>																				

6.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	What is the likelihood that this Council will be fined by the information commissioner's office (ICO) for the data breach, which has compromised residents' personal data?
Response:		
To date, no fine has been issued. Fines are a matter for the ICO and we are focused on working with our partner agencies to continue delivering for the residents of Gloucester.		
7.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	The Council has now said that the hackers were Russian. Why did you refuse to confirm the origin of the hackers up until now?
Response:		
Earlier on in the response to the incident, law enforcement agencies advised us not to publicly mention the identity of the criminal group believed to be responsible for the incident as they were still actively operating. However, following on from the Government announcement in February of this year to sanction seven individuals connect with this criminal group, and following information provided to us from law enforcement agencies that this criminal group is no longer actively operating, we believe that the risk to residents from disclosing the name of the gang is significantly reduced.		
8.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	With the departure from Gloucester City Homes (GCH) of the Director overseeing the regeneration of Podsmead, and the regeneration advisor for Podsmead, has GCH given up on the plan to regenerate parts of Podsmead?
Response:		
It is my understanding that Gloucester City Homes remains committed to delivering the regeneration of the Podsmead estate. Since Cabinet agreed earlier this year to draft a heads of terms with GCH over the transfer of three sites to facilitate the development our officers have been liaising with their representatives. It is important to get details of the transaction right rather than simply rushing to a conclusion. Officers and I remain in close contact with the Chief Executive and his senior team to ensure that the regeneration delivers quality new homes for our residents as well as improved community facilities and infrastructure.		
9.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	From your meetings with Gloucester City Homes, what concerns have they raised with you over the regeneration plans, for example the increased cost of construction which is also affecting other council projects?
Response:		
Regeneration of existing housing areas is normally challenging for a range of reasons including the generation of new income without significantly increasing the number of income generating homes (i.e. homes are often demolished and rebuilt rather than creating new homes which generate new income), the cost of development and the need to relocate residents in any impacted existing homes.		

	Recent inflationary pressures in construction inevitably add a challenge, but this is not unique or Gloucester City Homes or the Council.	
10.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Is this Council considering any use of Artificial intelligence (AI) to save money or improve Council services?
	Response:	
	The Council will always keep under review the potential for any technologies, including AI, to improve the services we deliver to customers.	
11.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Environment	What are the resource implications to the council of trying to get Green Flag status for Gloucester Park?
	Response:	
	The Green Flag award is based on achieving an average score of 7 out of 10 against a list of criteria which includes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Involvement • Sustainability • Safety • Maintenance • Suitability of Facilities • Biodiversity and Heritage 	
	It is also necessary to have a comprehensive management plan in place for the site.	
	An assessment of the current, estimated, score in respect of the Green Flag criteria is being undertaken. It is likely that Gloucester Park already scores well against some of these criteria, but that improvements will need to be made in other areas. At present the only resource implications are in respect of officer time. The work required is shared across a number of different departments and officers and over a period of several months, so any impact on Officer workload is negligible.	
12.	From Councillor Field to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	With the Blackbridge project gaining approval from the Planning Committee, what measures will the City Council be taking to ensure that all planning conditions are monitored and adhered to during the development phase, and all management regulations are also adhered to once the scheme is open, to ensure minimal impact on residents?
	Response:	
	The planning permission has a number of conditions attached to the consent which require the submission of further information for consideration/ approval. The applicant is required to submit the required information to the Council for approval and such applications to discharge the conditions will be dealt with in the normal way.	
	Monitoring planning permissions is done both proactively (through regular communication, site visits and formal applications to discharge planning	

	conditions) and reactively, responding to complaints if and when they arise. In respect of ensuring ongoing compliance with planning conditions, should any breaches be reported, our planning enforcement officer will investigate accordingly.	
13.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	With regards to the cyber incident of 2021. Irrespective of any reason why residents were not informed that their personal data had been compromised by Russian hackers, how long has this Council known this to be the case?
	Response:	
	In the first phase of the response, we worked with a cyber incident expert to investigate the extent of the incident. As part of that investigation, which took a couple of months, we discovered that some personal information may have been taken. We have subsequently worked with the Information Commissioner's Officer to explore ways to quantify the potential risk from that data breach in order to inform the notification to residents.	
14.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	How much did the Westgate By-Election cost local taxpayers?
	Response:	
	The costs associated with the Westgate by-election totalled approximately £9,600.	
15.	From Councillor Wilson to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	According to the briefing sent to members on June 7 th the hackers responsible for the cyber attack, <i>"accessed the information kept on staff and members' personal mapped drives, known as the H Drive or Smartplace. This may include Names, addresses and bank account and sort codes for those who pay council tax or business rates in Gloucester."</i> Why was this information held on staff and member's personal mapped drives?
	Response:	
	Prior to the move to Cloud services, mapped personal drives were known as H drives or Smartplace, however, they still exist today, for example as Microsoft OneDrive. Certain key business systems will not function without a user mapped drive and, while practices relating to the storage of personal data have changed over time, neither staff nor Members had any reason to believe that their mapped drives weren't secure.	
16.	From Councillor Wilson to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	According to the briefing sent to members on June 7 th , the technical investigation into the incident is now complete. Will this investigation be shared with Members?
	Response:	
	A report will be prepared and will be shared with Members.	

17.	From Councillor Wilson to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	According to the briefing sent to Members on June 7 th , a full review into the incident and ensure that we seek out lessons that can be learnt and communicate these to you in due course, including bringing this to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What form will this review take? • Will it have any independent oversight? • What is the anticipated timeline?
Response:		
The report will encompass a summary of the technical investigation into the incident, a review of the Council's response, and lessons learnt. Some details may be kept confidential for protective security reasons (e.g. details of new security measures in place), but every effort will be made to provide as much information as possible in the public report. The report will be produced by Council officers at the earliest practicable opportunity.		
18.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy	When is the Council going to publish the results of its housing stock survey and any recommendations that the Cabinet may want to pursue?
Response:		
We expect to have the final report of the Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey by the end of the summer, and a report will be prepared summarising the findings and including recommendations for appropriate actions to reflect the findings. Once the final report has been received the timeline for the report will be established.		
19.	From Councillor Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environment	What plans does the Cabinet Member have to support additional investment to improve Hillfield Gardens off London Road?
Response:		
The friends group have requested that consideration is given to the provision of outdoor gym/exercise equipment for Hillfield Gardens. Options for the provision of this equipment, utilising 106 funding, is currently being considered by officers.		
20.	From Councillor Trimnell to the Cabinet Member for Environment	How many objections have so far been received from the consultation on Permali Gloucester's application for an A2 environmental permit?
Response:		
To date (12 th June 2023) we have received 10 submissions from residents. At the end of the Consultation Period 26 th June 2023, all submissions will be published.		