

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 Performance and Resources	What work needs to be done in order for Longsmith Car Park to be reopened and when does the Cabinet Member hope for it be reopened?
		<p>Response: We are awaiting the final report from the structural engineer. Until we receive the report we are unable to comment further.</p>
2.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	Why did you fail to inform members of the special airport scrutiny committee, which met on the 25 th of September that you were in discussion with the leadership of Cheltenham Borough Council about the sale of Gloucestershire Airport Ltd?
		<p>Response: Delegation had already been provided by Full Council (Dec 2020) to review an exit strategy for the airport. There was no update as at 25th Sept.</p>
3.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	Do you plan to sell the freehold of the Gloucestershire Airport Ltd site?
		<p>Response: No decision has been made at this stage. We are simply investigating opportunities of a sale as part of the exit strategy.</p>
4.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	You were quoted on GloucestershireLive that only informal talks have taken place about the potential sale of the airport. Have these talks involved a commercial buyer and who might that be?

	Response:	
	A company approached the airport some months ago and asked about the possibility of buying the airport. That company would need to consider its due diligence and would need further information. To my knowledge that has not yet been supplied. No offer has been made and discussions are subject to a Non Disclosure Agreement.	
5.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	<p>You have been quoted in the media saying that you were committed to preserving the airport as a centre for aviation for the benefit of Gloucestershire, especially given its extensive heritage.</p> <p>What conditions on the proposed sale of the airport do you plan to impose to guarantee the promise you have made, is kept?</p>
	Response:	
	The shareholders are clear that they would like the airport to continue as such and that is how the airport will be marketed.	
6.	From Councillor Hilton to the Leader of the Council	When did you tell members of your political group that you had made a decision to sell Gloucestershire Airport Limited?
	Response:	
	<p>All members were informed of the decision to progress an exit strategy from the airport at the special Council meeting 15th Dec 2020.</p> <p>I planned to update my group and group leaders prior to an agreed press release by the airport. Giving the airport the opportunity to tell its own staff before the press release was issued.</p>	
7.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Those residents taking part in the City Council Garden Waste Collections pay an annual fee, however, the administration decided to stop collections during December and January with minimal consultation. Not only did this reduced service affect everyone wanting to dispose of their garden waste in a proper manner, but it has also disadvantaged some residents more than others. Hucclecote gardeners had a collection on 21 st November and must now wait until 13 th February for the next. What does the Leader have to say to Hucclecote residents who have this halt in service of very nearly 3 months?
	Response:	
	<p>Residents receive on average 22 collections for their green waste subscription, costing less than £2.20 a collection. This is excellent value for money and still cheaper than our nearest local authority neighbours. This is the second year of a 10 month service, and the annual invoice clearly states this information.</p> <p>Having additional trucks and staff at our disposal over the busiest period of the year for waste and when traditionally winter flu leaves us short of drivers and</p>	

	<p>loaders, gives us greater resilience for essential waste and recycling collections. We should also consider our climate commitments. Running RCV's, which on average do 8 miles to the gallon, around our city to collect one or two bins in each street, is not conducive to carbon savings.</p> <p>Most residents are not gardening during December and January, so this is far better use of our resources and also beneficial to the environment. For those residents who only had 21 collections this year, that will change next year with the calendar, a cut off point is essential to forward plan the services.</p> <p>Consultation was carried out before the decision to go to a 10 month service as part of the budget consultation.</p>	
8.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	The Kings Theatre in Kings Barton Street is owned by the City Council and run by volunteers. Have there been any discussions with an organisation based in Cheltenham (or anywhere else) about taking over the lease?
	Response:	
	In the past year an approach has been made to the Council by an interested third party - the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to take on the future management lease of Kings Theatre. However, Kings Theatre is managed by a lease held with the trustees of the Kings Theatre that runs to 2027 and the Council is unable to enter a new arrangement with another party whilst the current lease is running.	
9.	From Councillor D. Brown to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	May I have a list of the twenty most recent Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made to the City Council, detailing the nature of the enquiry, date and, whether made by a member of the public, or media organisation?
	Response:	
	A list of the last 20 FOI requests as at 1 st December 2023 is attached (Appendix 1). It is not possible to accurately provide the status of individuals making FOI requests because there is no requirement to collect this information. In fact, it is necessary to handle FOI requests 'applicant blind', therefore it would not be consistent with the relevant legislation if we sought to collect this information or make any such assumptions on the basis of the information provided by the requester.	
10.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	How advanced are the discussions to sell Gloucestershire Airport?
	Response:	
	Very early, the Shareholders have met with the Board and notified them of the potential sale. No information has been passed to potential buyers and no offers have been received to date.	
11.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	Why were elected members not informed of the plans to sell Gloucestershire Airport?
	Response:	

	<p>All elected members were informed of the potential for a sale as part of an exit strategy during the special Council meeting on 15th Dec 2020. Members agreed to give delegated authority to the Leader, s151 Officer and Council Solicitor to take such actions and make such arrangements as are necessary.</p> <p>I also planned to inform group leaders prior to the issuing of the press release but this had to be brought forward.</p>	
12.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	At the recent Overview and Scrutiny meeting the Deputy Leader said that the sale of Gloucestershire Airport had not been discussed at Cabinet. At this point in time had all Members of Cabinet been informed of a potential sale?
	Response:	
	No Members of Cabinet had been updated on the progress of the exit strategy, as at that time there was nothing to update on.	
13.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	What was the plan to fully brief all members of a potential sale? At what stage of the process was this going to happen?
	Response:	
	Members delegated authority for the Leader to progress an exit strategy from the airport in agreement for additional funding in Dec 2020. Until we are in a position to actually move forward with an exit plan, there is nothing further to brief at this stage.	
14.	From Councillor Wilson to the Leader of the Council	Is this potential sale being driven by the sudden deterioration in the Council's finances?
	Response:	
	No – the decision to look into exiting the ownership of the airport was agreed in Dec 2020.	
15.	From Councillor Conder to the Leader of the Council	Was the airport advertised on the open market?
	Response:	
	No formal advertising of the sale has been completed. To date only a joint press release between the Airport and the Shareholders has been issued.	
16.	From Councillor Conder to the Leader of the Council	If not advertised on the open market, was the initial approach made by Cheltenham Borough Council or did the unnamed company approach the Borough Council?
	Response:	
	A company approached the airport management who advised both shareholders.	
17.	From Councillor Conder to the Leader of the Council	Has Cheltenham Borough Council held discussions with any other potential buyer?
	Response:	

	This question should be addressed to Cheltenham Borough Council.	
18.	From Councillor J. Brown to the Leader of the Council	What assets is Gloucester City Council considering selling?
	Response:	
	The Council is working on an Asset Management strategy to identify such a list. In the meantime we take applications for Community Asset Transfers in accordance with the policy and judge each property on a case by case basis.	