

Paragraph 10 of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure contained within the City Council's Constitution provides that a member of the public may submit up to three 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 Public Questions.

No.	Question to	Question
1.	From Mr Davis to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration	My question to the Cabinet is why aren't local councillors and MPs, DBS checked? They are at the front line of our community and a majority of them work with children and vulnerable adults.
	Response:	
	Candidates standing for election in local government elections or parliamentary elections are not required to be DBS checked to validate their candidacy or to take up office if successful. Questions about the law should be directed to the city MP.	
2.	From Mr Mahoney to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources	Fix my street app is unfit for purpose. I thought the idea of this app was that people can report a problem and it gets directed to the relevant department, so why is it when reporting a problem is it ok to receive an email back saying this is GCH property rather than pass this report to GCH?
	Response:	
	As Gloucester City Homes (GCH) are a separate organisation to Gloucester City Council, to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) we are unable to share personal data (such as contact details) with them without the resident's explicit consent. Prior to submitting a request on FixMyStreet there is a notification advising that to enable the report to be progressed, your personal details need to be shared within Gloucester City Council, however, this does not permit us to share the information any further.	
	This means that while we can notify a customer if an issue pertains to GCH land or property, we are unable to automatically redirect their report to them and can only provide the relevant contact details for them to contact them directly.	
3.	From Mr Mahoney to the Cabinet Member for Environment	As a member of the public I would get fined for dropping litter, so why is it ok for the bin men to

		drop litter when collecting and not picking it up? It makes our streets untidy and messy.
Response:		
<p>The difference between these two scenarios would be that a member of the public would be likely to be fined for dropping litter deliberately, whereas our waste and refuse operatives would likely have dropped litter accidentally.</p> <p>We do ask our crews to be as careful as possible, while carrying out a physically demanding job at speed. We monitor standards regularly and I will soon be accompanying the Waste, Recycling and Street Scene manager on a KPI audit.</p>		
4.	From Mr Mahoney to the Cabinet Member for Environment	Green bin and recycling - as council tax has gone up and we are in a cost of living crisis wouldn't it be right to stop charges for the green bin and also, now DEFRA has said all recycling can be mixed, to provide all residents with a brown wheelie bin for recycling rather than the green boxes that get blown around in the wind and litter being blown out if the boxes again creating the rubbish to be blown out of the boxes and making a mess?
Response:		
<p>To drop the green waste bin charge altogether would lose the council a significant amount of money, and would need service reductions to be made to other services, or income to be generated, to pay for what is essentially a discretionary service. I do not believe it would be the best use of taxpayer money to do this.</p> <p>With regards to recycling, councils already have the ability to deliver recycling how we want to, but in our case what we lack is the equipment and resources to do this. Changing to a single bin with all recycling mixed in would require a significant capital outlay in new bins, lorries and changes at the depot, and would also need to comply with any overarching government directives. This is something we will be looking at as resources allow.</p> <p>Our current recycling is very high quality due to kerbside sorting, and we do perform well on recycling rates when compared to our nearest statistical neighbours.</p>		
5.	From Mr Redgewell to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources	<p>With ongoing work at Gloucester Transport hub, which we welcome, and Deep cleaning and plans to repair the bus departure doors information screens, there is a need to make clear walking routes between the Transport hub and the Railway station at Gloucester central Railway station, but real issues we are concerned about is the marketing plan for the café, which show it is being marked by an estate agent. But we still have no notices that the buffet cafe is to let. Some any investment in the cafe is only open to those who contact the estate agents.</p> <p>Can we not have a press release and/or a sign to market the cafe is to let?</p>

		<p>Similar to other Railway stations and bus and coach station in south west England, Gloucestershire County Council, the Transport Authority, is marketing the buffet cafe to all Transport catering company's; will Gloucester City Council look at a similar marketing campaign, as passengers require refreshments facilities at the Transport hub and interchange with the Railway station walkway is reopened?</p>
<p>Response:</p>		
<p>We have marketed this as a property transaction for a lease. We have not tendered it as a contract like other service providers. It is on the market currently and we have received a number of proposals, with the closing date on Friday 19th July. We will make a decision on a suitable provision after that date.</p>		
<p>6.</p>	<p>From Mr Redgewell to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration</p>	<p>With a new government in London and the need for more city Region government, what discussions are Gloucester City Council having with Tewkesbury Borough Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Western Gateway Partnership and Transport Board about inward investment in Regeneration of the city Region in Housing land, Regeneration of the city of Gloucester urban area, planning and Transport and Highways, and a Devolution deal for Gloucester and the wider Region?</p>
<p>Response:</p>		
<p>Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and the City Council undertake joint planning through the development of the emerging Local Plan for all three councils – through the Joint Strategic and Local Plan. This is a formal arrangement, and includes the County Council as a key stakeholder. Once completed, this plan will set out the future locations of growth together with the required supporting infrastructure, from 2023 to 2043. The first stage of consultation on this Plan was held earlier this year.</p>		
<p>We engage with a range of stakeholders, for example Homes England, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (was Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities), and the County Council to attract grant funding for regeneration projects. Recent examples include the University of Gloucestershire City Campus, The Forum and Greyfriars Regeneration (all successful Levelling Up Bids), the Transport Hub (GFirst LEP grant funding) and the ongoing works at the Gloucester Train Station (GFirst LEP grant funding).</p>		
<p>With regards devolution, the then leader of the City Council submitted a letter of support to Gloucestershire County Council’s bid for a devolution deal prior to the May 2024 local elections.</p>		
<p>We are waiting for the King’s Speech, which should give us a clearer understanding of the future direction of the new government, and the opportunity and threats this may pose for Gloucester City Council.</p>		