

COUNTY COUNCIL – March 2024
Members' Questions

1. Questioner's name: Cllr David Drew	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
Following the demise of the SchoolStreet initiative what plans he has to provide solutions to the accident issue that continues to arise outside Stroud Valleys School in Castle St following the intervention by the ThinkTravel Team.	It is Gloucestershire County Council's aim to encourage more journeys to schools by walking and bike. This includes working to provide a safe environment to do so. As explained by Thinktravel team officers at a site meeting on 29th February, Stroud Valley School is not a suitable site for a school street. This is due to the highways infrastructure and one way system and not about funding. The School Street initiative was a trial at two schools. For reasons previously explained it has been replaced by a Safer Routes for School programme, which will support more schools and benefit more pupils more cost effectively. It will focus on solutions needed outside of the school gate to encourage more trips made by foot, scooter and bike. The Thinktravel service have offered to support Stroud Valley with an Active Travel Grant in the coming year to encourage behaviour change towards a safer green commute, promote the park and stride, provide resources for events, campaigns, skills and training. This reflects our commitment to work collaboratively with the school to update their school travel plan.
2. Questioner's name: Cllr David Drew	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
For each of the last five years figures are available how many children have been subject to child protection orders for those years and how many new cases have occurred each year?'	The average monthly number of children subject to child protection plans over the last five years: 2019/20: 697 2020/21: 722 2021/22: 767 2022/23: 736 2023/24: 611

	New child protection plans starts per year: 2019/20: 938 2020/21: 863 2021/22: 986 2022/23: 684 2023/24: 657 (figures up until end of January 2024)
3. Questioner's name: Cllr David Drew	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
Why is the child protection rate in Gloucestershire much higher than that for other authorities which make up the statistically neighbour average?	The rate of children subject to CP plans is influenced by a number of factors, both internal to the county council and external, in the wider children's partnership. At the time of the inadequate Ofsted inspection in 2017, Gloucestershire's rate of CP plans was slightly below our statistical neighbours. It rose in following 5 years, partly in response to inception findings, but has reduced again has started to reduce during 2023, being broadly in line with statistical neighbours in March 2023. Work is underway with managers and practitioners to develop the narrative of proportionate intervention – supporting families at the lowest safe level, recognising the stigma that involvement with a social worker and a CP plan can create for families.
4. Questioner's name: Cllr David Drew	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
For each of the last five years figures are available how many staff are principally employed in dealing with child protection issues?	It is not possible to provide exact figures due to the nature of social workers allocated workloads. Child protection work must be held by qualified social workers who will also be working with children in need of help and children in and leaving care. Not all child protection worries will result in a child protection plan and will arise for children in need, children in care and those who have left care. It may also be helpful to note that: • We have 12 full time equivalent child protection chairs, whose time is fully devoted to child protection issues.

	Each social worker receives management oversight and supervision in relation to the children they work with, with this being greater for children where the risk level is highest, i.e. children with a child protection plan. Social workers, managers and child protection chairs are assisted by business support colleagues who will devote a proportion of their time to working on child protection matters.
5. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
In answer to my question to cabinet on the 31st January about the Energy from Waste Plant generating green energy the cabinet member responded, saying: <i>Approximately 50% of the energy recovered at the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility can be called renewable because of the organic/biogenic composition of waste feedstock.</i> Does that mean that the other 50% of the energy recovered is fossil fueled?	DEFRA analysis shows that Energy From Waste plants produce less than 5% of the CO₂ of the equivalent landfill facility. It means approximately 50% is non biogenic. A county wide waste composition analysis study undertaken in 2019 showed a significant amount of recyclable material still being disposed of by residents as residual waste. This could have easily been recycled as services for these materials are readily available at the kerbside for householders to use. GCC and its district partners have put the services in place to make it as simple as possible to recycle, including for plastics, and also run campaigns throughout the year to educate and encourage residents to do the right thing.
6. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
If the general assumption for inclusion of EfW in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is that around 50% of the waste feedstock will be of fossil origin, does the Council know what the exact composition of the waste feedstock is now?	DEFRA analysis shows that Energy From Waste plants produce less than 5% of the CO₂ of the equivalent landfill facility. Approximately 50% of the energy recovered at the Gloucestershire Energy from Waste Facility can be called renewable because of the organic/biogenic composition of waste feedstock. This contributes to renewable energy targets. Urbaser, the Council's contractor, who operates the plant, sends waste composition data to Ofgem, in the format and using the methodology approved by them. Ofgem then confirms the proportion of biogenic content of waste entering the facility.

7. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
Whilst I appreciate that further Government guidance is still pending, what provisional estimates have been made by the Council regarding future financial liabilities, in preparation for the inclusion of Energy from Waste in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) from 2028?	This is currently being looked at by the Waste Team. As the Emissions Trading Scheme is a trading market, prices fluctuate on a daily, if not hourly basis. GCC, like all other local authorities and EfW operators, are waiting for Government guidance to determine how the scheme will work, like the trading market itself, this will also affect prices.
8. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
Has the Council begun to reduce the fossil content of the feedstock to mitigate or minimise these financial liabilities and if so has the Council made provision for a decrease in calorific value?	A county wide waste composition analysis study undertaken in 2019 showed a significant amount of recyclable material still being disposed of by residents as residual waste. This could have easily been recycled as services for these materials are readily available at the kerbside for householders to use. GCC and its district partners have put the services in place to make it as simple as possible to recycle, including for plastics, and also run campaigns throughout the year to educate and encourage residents to do the right thing. GCC welcomes the proposed new initiatives from Government, which will potentially impact the composition of the current waste stream, but these along with the new national Waste Strategy are still delayed. Until more detail is known about these schemes, it is difficult to determine the impact they will have on residual waste and its calorific value.
9. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
By modeling the future content and cost of feeding the EfW plant whilst taking into consideration the following: Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging, Emissions Trading Scheme, Simpler Recycling and separate collection of food waste, the Council can inform itself of the future composition of waste feedstock and its tonnage.	GCC welcomes the proposed new initiatives from Government, but these along with the new national Waste Strategy are still delayed. Until more detail is known about these schemes, it is difficult to determine the impact they will have on residual waste.

Will the Council use this information to renegotiate current contracts with Urbaser and/or instigate new ones?	
10. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
How much per tonne is the Council paying Urbaser to incinerate its waste?	The charges incurred under the contract for the service of incinerating waste include both revenue and capital elements, the later in respect of the amortisation of the lease such that the facility returns over time to full ownership of the Council. Consequently, any calculated figures for cost per tonne are not indicative of the underlying direct costs of incineration. For 2022/23 the following payments and revenues were received: • Payments to Urbaser – c.£30,372,000 • Income from electricity – c.£ 8,545,167 • Annual tonnage sent to Javelin Park - 127,898 tonnes Therefore, the average cost per tonne of waste is calculated as: • £30,372,000 - £8,545,167 = £21,826,833/127,898 tonnes = £170.66 per tonne This calculation does not separately account for the value of the amortisation of the purchase of the EFW the ownership of which will transfer to GCC at the end of the contract. The final figures are not yet available for 2023/24. Given what we know about the current year we should expect the calculation to look approximately as follows: • £30,000,000 - £15,000,000 = £15,000,000/130,000 tonnes = £115.38 per tonne Again, this does not separately account for the value of the amortisation of the facility.

11. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
Could the Council please make available the latest Annual Performance Report for Javelin Park?	This will be publicly available from the Environment Agency as the organisation responsible for monitoring the facility. Such information is checked and published by the Environment Agency once verified.
12. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
Could the Council confirm what the average contract price to incinerate commercial and industrial waste is please?	This information is part of a commercial agreement between Urbaser, our contractor, and the private companies and as such the gate fees are not available.
13. Questioner's name: Cllr Chris McFarling	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
Do you have the latest figures for stack emissions of carbon dioxide and other green house gases as asked for by the Environment Agency please?	DEFRA analysis shows that Energy From Waste plants produce less than 5% of the CO2 of the equivalent landfill facility. The stack emissions figures required to be reported in accordance with the environmental permit are publicly available from the Environment Agency.
14. Questioner's name: Cllr David Drew	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
How will the new Children's Centres be integrated into Family Hubs?	Since 2021, stakeholder engagement activities have helped to shape Gloucestershire's vision for Family Hubs to include: • Offer information and support to help all families to thrive. • Be welcoming, friendly and inclusive – without stigma – and for families with children of all ages. • Have a significant focus on linking families to support available in their community. The Children's Coalition for Gloucestershire agreed the following Vision: We will develop an innovative 'Gloucestershire Family Hub' model which puts the well-being of all families, children, and young people at the heart of its work and leads to systemic and transformative change for individuals and the community. In Gloucestershire the Family Hubs approach will be achieved through

	integrated family help services delivered directly through the commissioned Children and Family Centres and coordinated through locality partnership networks, with the Children and Family Centres acting as an important co-ordinating point. They will offer: • Signposting families to universal family support. • Playing an important role in the co-ordination and facilitation of family support activity in their locality. • Offering co-location opportunities with health, the voluntary sector and other family support services. C&FC sites will become an integral part of the wider network of physical and virtual family support points in each locality as part of the family hub model. C&FC leaders will join an integrated leadership team for children and families in their local area and will contribute to the co-production and extension of support to meet the needs of local families with all ages of children.
15. Questioner's name: Cllr David Drew	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
'What is the timeline for the introduction of Children Centres and what organisations have been commissioned to provide services?	Earlier this year, the Council appointed Family Action to run its children and family centres in the Stroud and Cotswold districts; and Aspire Foundation Trust to do the same in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. These two new contracts begin on 1 April 2024. We were unable to award the contract in Gloucester and the Forest of Dean and returned to the market with a new invitation to tender on the 12th March 2024. The contract award is due at the end of June 2024 and the current contract with Barnardo's has been extended to accommodate the transition to the new contract.
16. Questioner's name: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
All groups agree that improved cycle infrastructure is a good thing; however, the implementation of building the cycle lane –	The delivery of major cycle and walking infrastructure projects is vital to the Councils aims to support sustainable travel and health

particularly through my Division of Churchdown – has been a catalogue of errors from beginning to end. This has caused frustration, delays and disruption for many, but for some businesses it is more serious than that – Gloucestershire County Council's shoddy planning and delivery is threatening their very existence. Whilst I understand that there is no statutory right to claim compensation, would Cllr Morris please look at whether anything can be done to assist businesses that rely on passing trade, and have been adversely impacted by the mal-implementation of this scheme?	benefits. By nature these works are inevitably disruptive and we thank stakeholders for their continued patience. Considerable effort has been made to carefully plan this scheme and engage with all stakeholders to minimise disruption and ensure access is provided. This particular phase of works is due to be completed in late Spring /early Summer as originally planned.
17. Questioner's name: Cllr Ben Evans	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
One business in Churchdown, which relies on passing trade, benefitted from support during Covid which helped it survive the pandemic. That business survived Covid, it is danger of not surviving GCC's haphazard building of the cycle path. Can Cllr Morris assure me that lessons will be learned from the chaos that this project has caused, and inform me what the major lessons are before GCC move their gaze towards Bishops Cleeve?	The Gloucestershire cycle spine scheme represents a step change in the type and quality of cycle infrastructure being delivered in the County. As such, the team are sharing knowledge and lessons learnt from the earlier stages and applying that learning to the A435 Cheltenham to Bishops Cleeve Scheme. Whilst we recognise the nature of the cycle spine works is disruptive, the B4063 in Churchdown has remained open during all daylight hours during the cycling and walking improvements. Traffic management has been designed to minimise the impact on the travelling public such as the temporary mini roundabouts, which have received widespread support from stakeholders.
18. Questioner's name: Cllr David Brown	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephan Fifield
The Relay UK service (Typetalk) enables deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired people to communicate with services such as Gloucestershire Constabulary and also maintain an important sense of independence. Which services at the County Council can be accessed via Relay UK?	We have a contract with Gloucestershire Deaf Association which GCC staff can access when they are working with someone who is deaf or have a hearing impairment. The D/deaf interpretation that can be accessed includes British Sign Language (BSL), Relay, lip speaking, etc. GCC staff request the interpretation service they need directly with GDA.
19. Questioner's name: Cllr Rebecca Halifax	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
Highways budgets are extremely stretched and getting work signed off and approved is very difficult so everyone expects work to be	Works are supervised and inspections are made by the highways team before any payments are agreed for planned works. We also

carried out to a high standard when it is approved. Across several sites in Cirencester however, contractors have either left without completing work, have dug up the wrong area, or have performed work poorly, all of which leads to further work orders being required and new work teams having to return to the original site. Why does the council operate such little oversight to its own contractors such that numerous site visits have to be made to ensure that work is completed correctly?	undertake audit of Safety Defect works on a weekly basis and action is taken dependant on the outcome. The local Highways Team would be very happy to discuss individual site concerns and a meeting can be arranged.
20. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
The Furrows estate in Bourton was built over 7 years ago and occupied since then. Residents are still waiting for the Council to adopt the estate. Despite numerous and repeated requests by residents and I for timescales for adoption and for the Council to take firm action to get the developer and other agencies to do what is necessary to adopt, no adoption is on the horizon. NASA put a man on the moon in seven years so why can't this Council even commit to a firm date to formally adopt the Furrows this year?	Generally, highway authorities do not adopt developer's roads until the sewers are adopted by the drainage authority. This is to avoid our newly adopted roads being dug-up to fix problems with the sewers prior to their adoption. Adoption of The Furrows has been most recently delayed due to a problem with Thames Water's adoption of their drainage infrastructure. However, the developer has now applied to the Council to proceed with the road adoption using a legal mechanism to allow the temporarily private sewers to remain under the adopted roads.
21. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Baker	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
The Chancellor's budget provided no good news for local authorities who have already seen core spending power in 2024/25 cut by 23.3% in real terms compared to 2010/2011. Once again we have witnessed the 6 th one year settlement in a row. Surely, irrespective of political persuasion we can all agree that is not a good way to run the business which is local government? Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that once again local authorities have been let down and short changed by this Conservative government?	Additional funding for Local Government was announced as part of the Finance Settlement in February in advance of the Chancellors Budget to fit in with Councils' budget setting timescales. The Finance Settlement in February represented a 13% increase in Government funding compared to the previous year. We would continue to lobby for multi-year settlements in line with asks made by organisations like the Local Government Association and County Councils Network and welcomed that 2024/25's Local Government Finance Settlement was the second year of a two year planning window laid out at the end of 2022.
22. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Baker	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe

Does the Cabinet Member share my extreme disappointment that the recent budget provides no new investment for adult social care or temporary accommodation according to the LGA? Given expected further cuts to local government of around 3%, does he share my real concerns that this council's ability, however good our intentions and however excellent our staff, to fully address the issues of adult social care and temporary accommodation are going to be impossible to achieve?	Although no additional funding was announced for Local Government in the recent Chancellor's Budget it needs to be remembered that on 24th January the Secretary of State announced an additional £600m for local government - £500m of which was ringfenced for social care. GCC benefited by an additional £5.3 million for Social Care. The Final Settlement also allocated an additional £243k for Public Health. These announcements were made in advance of the Chancellor's budget because a March announcement would have been too late for Councils to include these increases in their approved budgets. The Council will continue to work with organisations like the Local Government Association and County Councils Network to ensure that the pressures facing local government and specifically those critical to Gloucestershire are articulated and reflected to Central Government.
23. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Baker	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
In answer to my questions at the last County Council meeting, the Cabinet Member confirmed there are no red light cameras in our County and that between 2021 and 2023 there were 334 casualties at signalised junctions, including 2 fatalities and 68 serious casualties. Surely if we are serious about road safety this matter demands our urgent attention and action. What action has the Cabinet Member taken to date? please including any engagement with the PCC?	Road safety investment is targeted at a hot spot list of sites and routes with the highest number of casualties. The causation factors for each collision are assessed to establish whether measures are required to prevent future collisions. We take road safety casualty reduction very seriously. That is why we have invested £1.9m in this next year's capital programme, which will focus on the highest risk roads. We are working closely with the PCC and Roads Policing Unit on potential camera sites. The Traffic Signals Team is meeting with a number of providers of red light camera technology to explore the capabilities of their systems so that we are in a position to replace or install new cameras should a junction be on the collision hotspot list.
24. Questioner's name: Cllr Paul Baker	Respondent's name: Cllr Philip Robinson
In the recent Ofsted report it stated 'Parents and school leaders rightly describe a system that is not working well for children and	The current levels of funding received through the Dedicated Schools Grant are insufficient to meet the rising level of EHCP requests that we are seeing both locally and nationally.

young people with SEND and their families in Gloucestershire. A significant number of parents describe feeling desperate, and many practitioners say they are battling to be heard by local area leaders. Inspectors found systems that are too reactive, 68% of children and young people state explicitly that they do not get the help they need and that their needs are not understood.’ I realise that this is a national issue caused essentially by years of underfunding by government and that the situation is getting worse with for example EHC requests increasing from 900 in 2021 to 1400 in 2023 – a staggering 64% increase. With current levels of funding is the Cabinet Member confident that the issues and challenges highlighted in the Ofsted report can be addressed and resolved?	We are making the case for additional funding by playing an active role as a member of the F40 group; a cross party group, which advocates for increased and fairer funding. However, the national pressures in the SEND system are not purely a funding issue. As such we are working closely with the DfE to test national reforms through their SEND and Alternative Provision Change Programme and the finance focused DfE programme, Delivering Better Value in SEND or DBV. We are confident that this work, alongside our existing Local Area Improvement Plan will enable us to drive improvement in the local area SEND system.
25. Questioner’s name: Cllr Bernie Fisher	Respondent’s name: Cllr Dave Norman
I understand we are to spend £30K to purchase three number plate recognition cameras to be located in three bus lanes in the county. Also, there is a £6K per camera service charge per annum. Will these cameras when installed generate revenue for the county council? If not, who will benefit.	The authority has commenced enforcement at three new bus lane locations, however, no additional funds have been spent purchasing cameras. One new ANPR camera has been purchased and deployed at Barley Road, Cheltenham. This camera was paid for by the developer that has built Barley Road. One ANPR camera has been relocated from Cheltenham Road, Gloucester (due to the construction of the Cheltenham-Gloucester Cycle Spine) to the B4063 in Cheltenham and the third camera is an existing camera that has been reinstalled at Benhall following completion of the West of Cheltenham Highway improvement works. The aim of enforcing bus lanes is to ensure that bus services can be sped up and are able to operate to time, making public transport more attractive to users supporting a modal shift from private vehicles to public transport.

	All income from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) is used to fund the parking service with any excess being ringfenced for use on highways, public transport or environmental schemes.
26. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernie Fisher	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
Will they also monitor and record people who are authorised to use the bus lane, ie buses, taxis, motor cyclists, mopeds, cyclists, to ensure that the motoring laws are observed (taxed, insured, speed, etc)?	ANPR cameras record all vehicles that pass through a bus lane/gate. The footage is then reviewed by a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) to identify vehicles that have passed through a bus lane/gate and are in contravention. A Penalty Charge Notice is then issued by the CEO to vehicles that have been identified as committing a contravention by the enforcement officer. The ANPR cameras are not used in conjunction with speeding offences or to identify untaxed or uninsured vehicles as local authorities do not have the powers to enforce these traffic offences. Enforcement of these offences is undertaken by the Police, DVLA and Traffic Enforcement Officers.
27. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernie Fisher	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
Have we any evidence to justify the spending of this amount of money to monitor bus lanes only, ie have lots of offences been committed (numbers please) and will they make our roads safer?	Despite ANPR cameras having been in place for several years the council still sees contraventions, where unauthorised vehicles are driving through a bus lane/gate, causing road safety risks and potentially causing delays to local bus services within the county. The use of ANPR cameras is proven nationally to reduce the numbers of contraventions taking place at a location, while improving bus services and making Gloucestershire's roads safer for all users.
28. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernie Fisher	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
With fatalities and serious injuries within the county's highways increasing annually and there being no working NPR cameras in	We are not only improving public transport in Gloucestershire, using devices such as bus lane ANPR, but we are also investing £1.9m this year in reducing KSI casualties on our highways network. This

the county, would the money be better spent attempting to reduce our appalling accident rate?	increases the funding available for our prioritised data-led approach to accident investigation and the introduction of remedial measures. Such measures will include things such as average speed cameras, single-site speed cameras and red-light running cameras where these are appropriate and approved by the Police. However, accident remedial measures will not just be restricted to camera enforcement, but include many other types of initiatives, such as infrastructure improvements and working with higher risk groups.
29. Questioner's name: Cllr Bernie Fisher	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
Have the Police or the Police and Crime Commissioner been consulted and what were their view?	Yes, we have discussed this at the RSP Strategic Board and all parties agreed on the importance of investing in measures to manage speeds and improve road safety in the county.
30. Questioner's name: Cllr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
In light of the funding made available in the next municipal year for safety schemes around schools, could I please formally put on record my desire for some of this money to be spent on improvements around Gloucester Road Primary School, Christ Church Primary School, and Rowanfield Infants and Junior Schools, as they all are in need of road safety improvements due to issues during drop-off and pick-up, and could the cabinet member please advise how either I or the schools themselves will be able to bid into the funding for road safety improvements and what the assessment criteria will be?	This year we will be improving road safety at schools using our Safer Routes to Schools funding and the School Gate TRO package that was agreed as an amendment to the budget in February. Detailed criteria to be used to allocate funding to schools with the most severe issues are under development.
31. Questioner's name: Cllr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
Could the cabinet member please advise how many of the current on-street EV chargers are not wheelchair accessible and how many are accessible? e.g. can be used by wheelchair users, meaning that they have protected space to open the driver's door, no barriers at ground level preventing wheelchair access, dropped kerbs where necessary, and a charger that can be operated from a wheelchair.	All EV chargers are mounted at a height suitable for a wheelchair user to operate them. 30 of the 33 locations have bays that are parallel to the footway. At these locations access to the EV via the footway is possible. Two of the locations have angled bays. The bay width is wide enough to allow access to the doors for typical sized vehicles. One

	location has perpendicular bays. The end bay can be accessed via the footway at the side of the bay. There are no new dropped kerbs. These are installed where they are necessary.
32. Questioner's name: Cllr David Willingham	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
What plans does the cabinet member have to ensure that as many on-street EV charging points as possible are accessible?	See above. Each site has to be assessed on its own merits.
33. Questioner's name: Cllr Linda Cohen	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
Is Gloucestershire ready for the start of 15 hours of free childcare for those aged between 9 months and 3 years of age. Will every person who needs the free childcare be able to get it?	From April 2024 all 2-year-olds of working parents will be eligible for up to 15 hours of funded childcare. The Early Years Service are currently completing an analysis of supply and demand to identify areas of the county where additional early years childcare places might be needed. It is very difficult at this time to predict what parental demand will be. Where the service are aware that a setting is unable to meet parental demand, officers work with providers to expand provision and also work with the parents to identify alternative child care options for them. From the data available at present, most parents of 2-year-olds that will take up the new offer are already privately funding their childcare provision. These children will remain in the place they are currently accessing, but the 15 hours will be funded in future.
34. Questioner's name: Cllr Suzanne Williams	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephan Fifield
When contracts are agreed with Adult services for home spaces, could County Council explore putting in more safeguards to avoid the situation we currently have at Shaftesbury Place? Could we ask that contracts signed with care homes, include a clause to force these homes to notify the County Council in good time, if they are struggling and at risk of closure. Thereby giving our	Providers have their financial viability and quality checked when they join any of our provider frameworks. Our current residential care contract contains a provision requiring care home providers to use all reasonable endeavours to give 2 months' notice of a home closure.

hard working officers more time to get to work on finding suitable replacement homes. These are some of our most vulnerable residents and ensuring that teams have plans to deal with their lives being turned upside is essential.	We are developing a new bed-based contract for 2025 and plan to have a robust provision requiring care home providers to give the Council as much notice as possible if they intend to close a home. Once a provider is part of the ongoing framework/provider base; they are subject to annual reviews, and contract management meetings. Outside of the contract review cycle we review via a company information alert service, alongside soft intelligence and a more formal review if necessary.
35. Questioner's name: Cllr Alex Hegenbarth	Respondent's name: Cllr David Gray
Could the cabinet member give an update on the replacement of the trees cut and hedges removed to build the cycleway between cheltenham and Cleeve? Many residents although supportive of the cycleway are devastated to see wildlife destroyed and want the council to make ammends as soon as possible?	Comprehensive planting and hedge relocation works are due to start imminently. This work will include planting of native species which will significantly increase biodiversity over the former hedge. Tree planting is a joint approach between Gloucestershire County Council and tree officers from Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils. The work will deliver a clear biodiversity net gain.
36. Questioner's name: Cllr Roger Whyborn	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
Some of the painted lines on streets in Cheltenham, including but not limited to very heavily trafficked streets, is almost invisible due to vehicle wear. Elsewhere there are signs partially obscured by vegetation. I'm sure the cabinet member will agree that this brings their usage into disrepute. Does GCC have any systematic process for inspection, maintenance and repaint of lines around the County, at appropriate intervals – and will he make it available to members?	Lining and signing is included within the Safety Inspection Manual and as such our Safety Inspectors will pick up areas of concern and works will be planned. Our teams are preparing the annual plan of maintenance for next financial year and if there are areas of concern, please raise them with your Local Highways Manager and appropriate action can be taken.
37. Questioner's name: Cllr Roger Whyborn	Respondent's name: Cllr Dave Norman
GCC is starting to embrace powers to enforce against moving traffic offices at junctions such as 'no right turn' junctions, using CCTV, and this trend is to be welcomed. It is noted that only four junctions are being equipped with CCTV. What is happening about the rest of the network, both in the very short term, and in the future. And will the costs be self-financing through fines?	The council is scheduled to go live at the phase one moving traffic locations in May 2024. We have started to draft up a list of locations for phase 2 of the project and members are invited to send any potential locations to movingtraffic@gloucestershire.gov.uk where locations can be assessed for suitability to use ANPR to enforce contraventions.

	Prior to ANPR enforcement at a location the council must make a number of assessments to comply with DfT requirements. These include the following: • An ANPR survey to understand the levels of contraventions. • An engineering survey, to see if there is an engineering solution to stop contraventions. • A road safety audit, to ensure that the restriction is safe. • A review of the Traffic Regulation Order, to ensure that there are no exemptions to make enforcement difficult, or impossible. And • A full audit of signs and lines to ensure full legal compliance. • A period of 6 week public consultation is also required prior to any new ANPR enforcement of moving traffic contraventions. It should be noted that ANPR enforcement should only be considered by an authority once all engineering and education efforts to avoid contraventions have been exhausted. The council shall be analysing the results of phase one to understand the levels of contraventions and thus funding requirements for phase 2 of the project. Match funding from Town or Parish Councils' for ongoing camera maintenance costs is encouraged if communities feel that ANPR enforcement suits their local community outcomes.
38. Questioner's name: Cllr Roger Whyborn The DfT launched a survey of public views on pavement parking and its possible solutions – dating back to start of the pandemic, which it has never published. Cynics might think that the results don't say what they had hoped, as has happened with some other surveys. Would the cabinet member agree that the failure to	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris Gloucestershire County Council contributed to the DfT consultation and is awaiting the results of this exercise.

publish the results represents a significant failure by this Conservative government?	
39. Questioner's name: Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
How much of the 2024/25 financial year's highways revenue and capital budget (excluding Highways Local) is being allocated to the refurbishment of the city of Gloucester's crumbling footway and footpath network?	Programmes for next financial year are being prepared, we currently have a capital budget of £800k for resurfacing of footways in the county, unfortunately currently no larger schemes are planned in the Gloucester area but this is not the only money spent on footways as we regularly undertake local patching and repairs and there is good co-ordination with members regarding their Highway Local spend that could be focussed on footways if they felt that this was a priority. Local Highways Managers are busy preparing jobs for next Financial Year so please speak to your LHM to discuss your concerns and what we can do to improve the footways.
40. Questioner's name: Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
How many county council staff work directly on the management of the maintenance of the county's highway trees?	Our local area teams commission our maintenance activities which includes environmental maintenance and tree works. Our specialist Arboriculturists are employed by our contractor Ringway. They currently have 3 full time officers and 1 part-time undertaking the inspections of our Highway Trees including the Ash Die Back project. However, our inspection process is also supported by a range of partners and sub-contractor delivering over £1m of tree works each year, removing dangerous tress and infected ash die back trees and replacing replacements.
41. Questioner's name: Jeremy Hilton	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
When are the trees that were felled in Lansdown Road last year going to be replaced and with what species?	We have identified 7 Acer Griseums to be replanted in this area. Works are programmed for this spring and will depend on weather and road space.
42. Questioner's name: Linda Cohen	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
What steps have been taken to recruit new child minders and reengage with those that have left the sector to create sufficient early years provision for the demand that will be stimulated by the new Government offer?	The Early Years Service are very proactive in promoting and looking to develop child minding as a career choice. These activities include

	• Exit interviews • Direct engagement with the sector, offering Business support • Involvement in recruitment campaigns • Work with FE and Careers officers at Schools and colleges • Working linked to delivering the Expanded Entitlements is has targeted work to promote childminding
43. Questioner's name: Linda Cohen	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
What process has been put in place to meet and welcome families who are new to the UK and have arrived with the right to work, when they bring their children to school for their first induction? What are we doing to signpost them to all the community groups and local support e.g. public transport, library, community centre, churches, sports clubs and amenities, toddler groups - which would allow them to find their feet and become independent and self sufficient and which would value the huge contribution that they are bringing to Gloucestershire.	Support is available through a number of sources: • The Glos Families Directory: Glosfamilies Directory Support for Families with SEND - Gloucestershire's Local Offer for Parent & Carers which provides lots of information about what supports are in place, activities available for children etc and which can be translated into other languages using the Google translate button at the top of each webpage. • The Family Information Service sits in our front door and is contactable on 01452 427362. It will help families navigate the Directory and will explore any additional needs the family may have. • The Community Support Directory is produced by Children's Commissioning and shared with schools, children's centres and other providers for use. • For Ukrainian families, the following sets out supports for Ukrainian families and includes information that's helpful to all families: In an emergency Gloucestershire County Council Any eligible families with children of school age who arrive in the UK apply for a school place in accordance with the normal main round (Reception and Year 7 Secondary) or in-year applications process. Information is available on the council's website under school admissions School admissions Gloucestershire County Council.

	Entitled children will be offered a place at their preferred school or if full, at the nearest school with a place available. Additionally dependent on family circumstances, they can apply for Free School Meals (FSM) through the government's assessment portal and if entitled will be offered transport to school. Families with pre-school age children are able to seek a place at an early-years provider in their local community and they will be eligible to the same access and entitlements as UK residents. Those over the age of 16 have English language courses available through the colleges and adult education service to assist with their settlement. Information and advice is available to new families in guidance issued by the HFU Team at Ukrainian support Gloucestershire County Council who work closely with GARAS to support families and refugees arriving into the UK.
44. Questioner's name: Linda Cohen	Respondent's name: Cllr Stephen Davies
The recent Family Hubs tender (since abandoned for The Forest of Dean and Gloucester) saw bids from a consortium of the community groups that form the backbone of support in those areas. What have we done to reengage with those groups as was promised in the letter to them that informed that the process had been abandoned? What does the council consider the effect has been in terms of the motivation of those groups due to lack of communication? What will be the point of World Cafe events when no one is clear about the way forward?	Following the finalisation of bids for the Children and Families Centres, constructive feedback was provided by the Council to the respective bidders. Consequent to the bid outcomes, the Council has also worked with the VCS Alliance which is available to offer support to its members around this process and the provision of services. Alongside the tender bundles and service specification, these points of feedback can support these bidders in any future bid should they choose to make one. The Council is legally constrained under procurement law in how much, and to what level of detail, it is able to engage with bidders. Within these constraints around communication, we are therefore not able to comment on the impact on, nor motivations of, any providers but we hope that bidders will consider the feedback provided and use it constructively to develop future bids.

	The proposed locality engagement events that are being publicised are opportunities for stakeholders to meet with the incoming Children and Family Centre providers in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, and Stroud and the Cotswolds respectively and to discuss how the developing family hub and integrated locality governance arrangements will work. The locality arrangements in Gloucester and the Forest of Dean will take place in June 2024 when the new provider has been appointed.
45. Questioner's name: Cate Cody	Respondent's name: Cllr Dom Morris
In terms of priorities, where is the replacement of the Tewkesbury Swilgate Legion Footbridge now please? It's been said that the reopened listed bridge nearby serves as an alternative, but the issue for locals is that when it floods, the listed bridge is impassable, whereas the Legion bridge could be used (sometimes needing wellies). The walking detour is right through Oldfield, onto Barton Road and Barton Street and there are many people who used the Legion bridge connection between Tewkesbury Town and Prior's Park, not just those who live near it. Many are elderly, many have children going to school, many have shopping to carry. We have had five floods recently and climate change means that we will see them more often. Please can the reinstatement of this footbridge be seen on a work plan with some dates?	Unfortunately, the situation with Legion footbridge remains unchanged - the structure had to be closed for public safety because of its deteriorating condition. Since its closure pedestrians have been diverted over the Link Road bridge and onto Howells Road. Sadly because of the nature of its defects, the Legion footbridge could not be repaired, so the structure has been removed. The County are assessing the overall cost to the community, but no funding has yet been identified to replace this bridge to date. It is likely that, given the number of strategically important structures which require prioritisation for maintenance funding, the funding for this structure would need to be sought from a joint bid with the likes of DfT/lottery/match funding from the community/parish when the next opportunity arises. We anticipate the funds required are likely to be in the region of £100-£120k at this time.
46. Questioner's name: Beki Hoyland	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
There were 11 recommendations from the Rural estates Task group that were noted by cabinet on the 22nd November 2023. We have heard no other response to these recommendations. When can we expect one?	Cabinet is currently collating a response to the recommendations.

47. Questioner's name: Beki Hoyland	Respondent's name: Cllr Lynden Stowe
Do you agree that the rural estate delivers a multitude of diverse aims of Gloucestershire County Council and is therefore a strategic part of the council's plans to meet environmental sustainability goals including biodiversity net gain.	Yes the rural estate does deliver a multitude of diverse aims and does form part of the councils plans to meet its sustainability goals.