

# Council

Meeting date: 15 December 2025

## Public Questions

### 1. Question from Tim Harman to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

Cheltenham Borough Council is proposing a consultation on the establishment of a Town Council. Can the Cabinet Member confirm if the Town Council would fund itself by setting an additional precept above and beyond that which Households would pay to a new unitary Council. If so, can the cabinet member give an estimate of likely amount that each household would pay on an annual basis?

### 2. Question from Tim Harman to the Cabinet Member Waste and Recycling and Parks, Gardens and Green Open Space, Councillor Paul Baker

Residents and users of Hatherley Park have raised with me concerns about the condition of the lake where the water level seems lower than normal. My understanding is that Friends of Hatherley Park have been involved with a restoration plan but there is no progress at this time. Can the Cabinet Member clarify the situation and assure residents and users that the Council will commit to restoring the lake in this popular and well used Park.

### 3. Question from Elliot Craddock to the Cabinet Member Climate Emergency, Councillor Richard Pineger

A month or two ago now I had a leaflet from the Liberal Democrats through my letter box and on it, it talked about the state of Balancing Pond just outside Coxs meadow. I'm sure the Charlton Park councillors are fully aware of the state the pond is in and has been in for a very long time now. In the leaflet it said: "Paul is pleased to report that there should be some positive news very soon." Could you please inform me of this good news now?

### 4. Question from Elliot Craddock to the Cabinet Member Climate Emergency, Councillor Richard Pineger

What are the council's current plans for the building and expansion of energy infrastructure, including renewables, which I know is a policy that the Liberal Democrats take extremely seriously? And how can we ensure these changes are kept when moving to the new local government model?

**5. Question from Gill Hewlett to the Cabinet Member Finance and Assets, Councillor Peter Jeffries**

I notice that there are companies that are not UK owned in line to buy the municipal buildings and I want to know whether priority is being given to UK owned companies and, if not, why not? And also, how much due diligence has been done on the prospective buyers and can they be sure that any contenders do not have links to either Russian or Chinese states?

**6. Question from Rich Newman to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

Regarding planning proposals, under which circumstances are planning proposals called into committee instead of being decided upon by a planning officer?

**7. Question from Rich Newman to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

Does CBC have any precedent for overturning a planning proposal decision made by a planning officer? Can this even be done, is it possible?

**8. Question from Emma Nelson to the Cabinet Member Major Developments & Housing Delivery, Councillor Alisha Lewis**

The Strategic and Local Plan, currently out for consultation, includes reference (p15) that "Cheltenham will become the new cyber capital for the UK". What impact will the winding up of the NCSC for Startups Program (formerly known as the GCHQ Cyber Accelerator Scheme), have on the future of the Cyber Park?

**9. Question from Emma Nelson to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Rowena Hay**

The Echo recently reported (October 23rd) that CBC had paid a total £782,468 over just three years on 25 Non Disclosure Agreements (NDA's). Whilst I appreciate the need to protect potentially commercially sensitive information around recent disposal of high value assets, why is this figure so large?

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## Member Questions

**1. Question from Councillor Martin Horwood to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

How many Section 106 agreements have been concluded in the Leckhampton ward since May 2023 and for which developments?

**2. Question from Councillor Martin Horwood to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

How many Section 106 agreements are currently being negotiated in the Leckhampton ward and for which developments?

**3. Question from Councillor Martin Horwood to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

How are councillors currently consulted on section 106 agreements as per policy agreed by cabinet on 5 April 2022 and by council on 20 June 2022 (Cabinet & council paper recommendation 6 and para 6.4) which obliged officers to:

- Notify ward members of any application of interest and identify any known demands for local infrastructure
- Notify ward members when an application is likely to result in section 106 negotiation
- Update planning report templates to include details of section 106 agreements agreed
- Provide section 106 training for members

**4. Question from Councillor Martin Horwood to the Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control, Councillor Mike Collins**

Will the cabinet member refer the policy in Q [3] above to the constitution working group to ensure that planning procedure unambiguously mandates this policy in practice?

**5. Question from Councillor David Willingham to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor Flo Clucas**

Following the recent publication of the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, several areas of Cheltenham are shown as being in the statistically most deprived quintile when assessed using the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Could the Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services please confirm whether the council will be looking in more detail at the underlying data, and advise how the council will invest in those communities identified as statistically deprived to help improve people's well-being?

**6. Question from Councillor David Willingham to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Wellbeing, Culture and Public Realm, Councillor Izaak Tailford**

Does the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Culture, Wellbeing and Public Realm agree with me that the Lansdown Art Studios (<https://lansdownartstudios.com/>) are an important cultural asset to our town, and could he please reaffirm this council's desire to ensure they are able to retain suitable premises in town?

**7. Question from Councillor David Willingham to the Cabinet Member Finance and Assets, Councillor Peter Jeffries**

Could the cabinet member please confirm this council will pursue full costs recovery against the drivers and insurers of all and any overheight vehicles that collide with and damage overbridges on the Honeybourne Line?