

Cabinet

Meeting date: 16 December 2025

Public Questions

1. Question from Richard Lawler to Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services, Councillor Flo Clucas

Cobham Road Flats Parking

At the Cobham Road flats, residents face ongoing parking stress due to a lack of dedicated spaces, leading to informal verge parking and damage to footpaths and grassed areas.

Would the Cabinet consider commissioning a **small-scale feasibility study** to explore creating additional residents' parking bays — for example by re-purposing a limited section of unused green space — as part of a broader estate-improvement approach?

If the Cabinet agrees this should be pursued, would it also consider appointing a **named senior officer** to lead the design and consultation process with residents, so the scheme can be progressed without adding excessive workload to existing operational teams?

Cabinet Member response

Thank you for the question.

Council Officers are undertaking a high-level review of properties that have been identified as having redevelopment potential and this is one of the sites on the list. They are just at the start of the process, and any development would likely be some time into the future. The block is already on the neighbourhood works list for next year to lay a concrete pad for bins and is also due for fencing renewal along the right-hand side of the block which will improve the general amenity of the area. However, any additional parking configuration would be best left until the high-level analysis is completed early in the New Year. A further update can be provided at this time.

2. Question from Emma Nelson to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

The Government have just announced that the elections scheduled for May 2026, for four regional mayors in England, have been postponed to 2028. Can the Cabinet please advise whether the Cheltenham Borough Council Elections for 20 of the 40 current Councillors, due to take place in May 2026, will definitely be going ahead. Please also provide details of circumstances that might impact and influence their decision, given the cost of running the Election, the amount of work already

underway on the whole LGR model etc. and the fact that elected Councillors will have a very short term prior to the Unitary Elections in 2027.

Cabinet Member response

Thank you for the question. It is the government's decision as to whether elections in 2026 will go ahead. CBC is working on the assumption that elections will take place as scheduled.

As you know, Cheltenham Council is in an unusual position in that we held all-out elections following a boundary review in 2024 with those members topping the poll serving for four years. Therefore, members retain a strong electoral mandate until 2028, which on the current timescales will coincide with the vesting day of the new unitary authority.

We are currently engaging with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to remind them of our boundary review and our all-out elections in 2024 and to ask for clarity on whether they wish for us to proceed with elections in 2026 which may not represent a good use of taxpayer money when we face the prospect of further elections in 2027 to the new shadow authority.

As you were a member of the previous Conservative Group in opposition on the council, I am sure you will recall that a budget amendment was proposed every year by your group to move to four-yearly elections. I assume on this basis that if MHCLG decided to postpone elections for Cheltenham in 2026, this would be something that would be entirely supported by the Cheltenham Conservatives.