

# Council

27 February 2026

## Public Questions (3 total)

### 1. Question from Trevor Witton-Bourke to Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services, Councillor Flo Clucas

Cheltenham Borough Council has confirmed that it has expressed an interest in participating in the Home Office Asylum Dispersal Pilots scheme. Under what governance route was this expression of interest authorised (for example Cabinet decision, individual Cabinet Member decision, or delegated officer authority), and were elected members formally informed prior to submission?

### 2. Question from Trevor Witton-Bourke to Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services, Councillor Flo Clucas

If Cheltenham is accepted into the pilot, will participation be brought to Cabinet or Full Council for formal consideration before implementation, and what arrangements will be put in place to ensure transparency and public reporting as further information becomes available?

### 3. Question from Emma Nelson to Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets, Councillor Peter Jeffries

The recent Audit report from Bishop Fleming raises many concerns including, but not limited to:

- Reference to disclaimed audit opinion by previous auditors over the 2022/23 statement of accounts
- Unable to complete work due to delay in finalising financial statements and quality of said statements
- Anticipate issuing disclaimed audit opinion due to lack of assurances over opening balances
- Unable to complete work on valuation of land and buildings (and Council dwellings), investment properties, and heritage assets

Given these concerns, particularly with regards to valuations of assets and of both opening and current balances, how confident is the council of the asset values in the 2026/2027 budget, and how much has been allowed within the budget should any

re-statement of asset values or opening balances be required once the audit is completed? This is considered particularly key given the importance of secure financial status as we head into any unitary arrangements.

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### Member Question

1. **Question from Councillor Suzanne Williams to the Cabinet Member Major Developments and Housing Delivery, Councillor Alisha Lewis**

A recent Green party leaflet delivered in my area referred to the Cyber Park as a vanity project.

Given that the Golden Valley project will build on our town's strength as a centre for cyber and technology, bring thousands of new jobs to the town, and include over a thousand new homes, including affordable homes, does the cabinet member agree with me that the description of this as a vanity project is a long way off the mark and that it will bring a much-needed economic boost to the west of the town and to Cheltenham as a whole?

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