

Cabinet

Meeting date: 26 May 2026

Public Questions (3 total)

1. Question from Peter Frings to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

Due diligence regarding Horizon Aero Group and the attempted sale of the airport. The auditors of the most recent accounts of Gloucestershire Airport, in their notes to the accounts, highlighted that no formal letter of financial support was ever received from Horizon Aero Group. Neither of the two Horizon Aero Group Directors – who made the vague representations which the Airport directors relied on – have any other directorships in the UK. There is one other director of Horizon Aero Group who is a director of two micro companies valued at £8k and £5k (one of which is Vayu Aviation Services.). Horizon Aero Group is a shell created only in Jan 2025. It has no filing history. Its confirmation statement is overdue. No Identity verification of the 3 directors has been filed at Companies House. It has share capital of £100. The backing company was obviously Vensa Infrastructure in India, which seems a more substantial company... but it is a construction company in India. So my question is: as owners of the Airport, did Cheltenham Borough Council discover all these facts for itself, yet still go ahead and attempt a sale to a hastily established shell consortium with no substantive business experience, no experience of running an airport, and which was unable to demonstrate that it had the funding to complete the sale? Or did the council simply not do any due diligence at all?

2. Question from Peter Frings to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

The most recent accounts for Gloucestershire Airport have an impairment charge of £6.7m, which contributed to a loss for the year of £7.6m, which is on top of a loss of £1.6m the previous year. Can the Leader of the Council explain how this impairment charge appeared out of nowhere? Could it be that with a sale coming up, there would obviously be independent valuations of assets which would expose all the over-valuations in previous years which had been used to mask losses, hence the need to reverse the previous over-valuations? Could the Leader of the Council also offer an explanation to residents of how a public asset which was stated as having a balance sheet value of £26.6m in March 2021 is now only worth £11.9m in March 2025?

3. Question from Miriam Frings to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

If leaded aviation fuel is used in aircraft flying into and out of Gloucestershire Airport, will the Council commit to organising sampling of children living in the west of Cheltenham underneath the flight path, to assess whether they have level of lead in their blood higher than the national average? If the Council believes that this does not fall within its own public health remit, will the Council identify the relevant body that does have responsibility for assessing this health risk, and formally request that they carry out an assessment?