

Cabinet

5th November 2019

Member Questions (7)

1.	Question from Councillor Tim Harman to Cabinet Member Development and Safety, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
	<p>The impact on air quality, both at Boots Corner and elsewhere in the town arising from the trial closure, is of concern to many residents. The figures in the report paint a rosy picture.</p> <p>However, at a seminar held in the Council Chamber prior to the trial commencing, concern was expressed by Members cross party that there was limited data available at that stage to form a starting point.</p> <p>Is the Cabinet Member confident that there is an adequate pre-trial basis of data from key sites to enable a valid statistical comparison with the current situation, and does he have any concerns about any specific locations?</p>
	Response from Cabinet Member
	<p>The environmental health team have produced a comprehensive report based not only on recent but long term changes and patterns, with some data as far back as 1993. On this basis I am confident of the data produced by CBC staff and believe that the extensive monitoring programme can be relied upon.</p> <p>This report essentially shows that the current trial has been benign in terms of air quality; no major spikes up or down. Rather what they have evidenced is a gradual long term improvement across the town reflecting lower emissions from vehicles, falling traffic volumes (as highlighted by GCC), modal shift and changing work patterns.</p> <p>They clearly cite the long term challenge on the A4019 at Poole Way and we are hopeful that the planned GCC interventions in new, smarter, signals in 2020 will assist with that problem.</p>
2.	Question from Councillor Tim Harman to Cabinet Member Finance, Councillor Rowena Hay
	<p>The Public Convenience Provision report includes a proposal to close the Bath Terrace Public Toilets in my Ward. Can the Cabinet Member specify what consultation has taken place with the Bath Road Traders and their response?</p> <p>Can he also confirm whether likely alternative community provision would be available to members of the public who might not be customers of the premises involved?</p>
	Response from Cabinet Member
	<p>The council has been consulting on proposals to improve access to wcs by exploring a community partnership initiative with commercial businesses which aims to access more and better maintained wcs with longer opening hours. The initial feedback from the consultation and dialogue with Gloucester City Council has given the council confidence that a community partnership scheme can be developed in Cheltenham. As a result the Cabinet is due to consider a report</p>

	<p>which proposes the closure of 3 council run wcs subject to an alternate community partnership scheme being delivered which would deliver savings to offset the cost of a new wc facility at Sandford Park and the cost of the new changing places facility in Pittville Park.</p> <p>The Bath Road Traders were consulted but did not respond, however, following a Cabinet decision further targeted consultation will take place in the Bath Road to develop a community partnership scheme ahead of any final decision.</p> <p>The purpose of a community partnership scheme is to sign up businesses to allow people to use their wcs even if they are not making a purchase.</p>
3.	Question from Councillor Matt Babbage to Cabinet Member Development & Safety, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
	To provide information around road safety statistics pre- and post-Boots Corner closure on affected roads.
	Response from Cabinet Member
	The county council receives information from the police on injury collisions which it publishes on its web site. Data are analysed over a three year period as the number of such collisions is low and some fluctuation can be expected within statistical tolerances. Information on injury collisions in the town centre is currently being collated for publication within the papers to be considered by the Traffic Regulation Committee in December.
4.	Question from Councillor Matt Babbage to Cabinet Member Development & Safety, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
	To provide an assessment of the impact of the Clarence Parade / Clarence Street two-way changes.
	Response from Cabinet Member
	<p>The GCC component of the report makes a very specific claim in its opening paragraph which I repeat here.</p> <p>The traffic data collected during March 2019 suggests the closure of Clarence Street as part of the Cheltenham Transport Plan Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is having only a limited effect on the wider traffic network.</p>
5.	Question from Councillor Matt Babbage to Cabinet Member Development & Safety, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
	To ask what plans have been considered to address the increase in traffic now driving along the High Street, between Rodney Rd and Winchcombe St.
	Response from Cabinet Member
	We understand that GCC have considered options for traffic calming on Rodney Road which is the feeder route for the Winchcombe Street South traffic counter. Such traffic calming is also likely to have a deterrent effect on the number of users. Our understanding is that the GCC preference is to undertake works once a decision is known on CTP phase 4 as this creates scope for more appropriate 'permanent' rather than 'temporary' works.
6.	Question from Councillor Matt Babbage to Cabinet Member Development & Safety, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
	To provide an update on plans for a bus station in Cheltenham.
	Response from Cabinet Member

	<p>CBC has just completed the Connecting Cheltenham commission by Systra. This itself will feed into the GCC Local Transport Plan review which we understand will have a fundamental shift in emphasis towards sustainable transport with a particular emphasis on public transport. All of which accords with the Connecting Cheltenham key messages.</p> <p>We believe that GCC will be recommending, subject to public consultation a number of interchange points around the town to encourage modal shift. In the light of this I am not sure that a single bus station for Cheltenham is necessarily the right solution. We do however understand that as part of both the Systra work and LTP review, Stagecoach are keen to explore options for re-routing certain town centre services but this depends upon the outcome of the CTP phase 4 trial.</p>
7.	Question from Councillor Matt Babbage to the Leader, Councillor Steve Jordan
	To provide an update on any discussions with Gloucestershire LEP regarding a bus station in Cheltenham.
	Response from Cabinet Member
	Given the response to Qu 6 above, it would be premature to be engaging in any discussions until an agreed solution had been established.