

1.	Question from Councillor Paul Baker
	Can Diane share with us the response she may have received from Kelly Tolhurst MP to her letter of 13 th January 2021?
	Response
	<p>Unfortunately, the Rt Hon. Kelly Tolhurst resigned from her ministerial role shortly after the letter was sent. This letter has now been redirected and we are awaiting a response. Positive engagement has taken place with Alex Chalk MP to direct communication within the government department.</p> <p>Letter sent can be viewed here https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/20210113-letter-to-High-Streets-Minister.pdf</p>
2.	Question from Councillor Paul Baker
	In terms of re-inventing our town centre, indeed all town centres, it seems to me that young people have a real stake in shaping the future, can I ask how young people will be engaged in the process?
	Response
	<p>Absolutely, engagement is currently underway with key stakeholders and this will be an item for discussion both through the Town Centre Vision sub group and the Skills sub group established by the Task Force.</p> <p>The Borough Council is at an advanced stage of investigating an engagement platform and this will be a key tool in engaging via social media. We will be using this tool together with our links through University, Gloucestershire College, Cheltenham Festivals etc. to reach out to young people.</p> <p>We are progressing an intervention project – Counter Culture https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-11-04-Counter-Culture.pdf, a key driver of this project is engagement with Cheltenham communities including young people. Minster Innovation Exchange is another good example of how active interventions will be engaging with younger people.</p> <p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force we purposefully identified a representative who works with and is in a position to represent young people. Madeline Howard takes responsibility for that role on the Task Force in light of her her work as an NCSC i100 for the CyberFirst Schools initiative focusing on inspiring young people to consider careers within the industry.</p>
3.	Question from Councillor Paul Baker
	Our farmers markets are very popular, bring vibrancy and attract people. Could we look at extending the scope of these to include local artistic and creative talent?
	Response
	<p>The Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force is a strategic group, which seeks to drive the town’s economic recovery and growth, taking swift, bold and brave interventions to support the short term challenges, yet with a vision and ambition to secure the future vitality of the town.</p> <p>Issues such as the delivery of markets is an operational issue which is addressed by Cheltenham BID and Cheltenham Borough Council, the Task Force does not seek to duplicate. However, projects such as Counter Culture look to make an intervention that recognises and promotes artistic and creative talent.</p>

	<p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force we purposefully identified a representative to champion culture and creative as this is a key sector within the economy of Cheltenham. Ian George, Director of Cheltenham Festivals is the representative and provides a direct link into Culture Board.</p>
4.	Question from Councillor Paul Baker
	<p>Could we consider introducing a 'Volunteer Hub' where people can pop in to see how their talents can be put to good use with different volunteer groups represented and a convivial space for people to work on site?</p>
	Response
	<p>The Counter Culture project is looking at how community is a key deliverable. A recent discussion on shared work spaces at the Task Force meeting on 28/1/21 included discussion on affordability of workspaces https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-01-28-CERTF-Notes-WMTC.doc</p> <p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force we purposefully identified a representative that champions community and voluntary sector. David Entwistle CEO of Vision 21 provides this representation.</p>
5.	Question from Councillor Paul Baker
	<p>Could we consider some central studio space for up and coming artists, designers etc?</p>
	Response
	<p>The role of culture and creative industries is a key part of the DNA of Cheltenham and an important sector within our economy. The Minster Innovation Exchange will provide opportunities, as does The Wilson. The Task Force cannot physically provide space, but we can enable where appropriate conversations in the context of our business plan. Again, the Counter Culture project has potential to add value to this.</p> <p>From a Task Force perspective, through the Town Centre Vision sub group we are looking at how we reimagine the High Street. Culture and creative has already been identified as an area of opportunity within this work and is identified within our business plan..</p>
6.	Question from Councillor Chris Mason
	<p>I'd like to know more about community start-ups, where change could be driven from the bottom up.</p>
	Response
	<p>The Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force has been established to give positive challenge and constructive advice, it is not in a position to deliver operationally https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CERTF-ToR-FINAL.docx. However, the Cheltenham Growth Hub will soon be operational in a virtual context in advance of its physical space being available via the Minister Innovation Exchange. This will be an important intervention for the town and will be able to gather the knowledge and intelligence that will better understand community start-ups.</p> <p>As noted above, David Entwistle and Madeline Howard are key members of the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force representing this group.</p>
7.	Question from Councillor Chris Mason

	I'd like to understand more about CERTF's role in making Cheltenham carbon neutral by 2030?
	Response
	<p>In establishing the Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force identifying representatives that could respond to the green growth agenda, climate change and wider sustainability agenda was important. The Task Force is a strategic activity and in this regard, we are looking at these issues across all our priorities as opposed to a single item. Eoin McQuone and Andrew Mckenzie are the Task Force members representing this agenda.</p> <p>Through links into wider government, we are engaged in national engagement, for example through Retail Sector Council/BEIS who are piloting green streets we are gathering more intelligence and will bring back that knowledge to understand applicability to Cheltenham. Specific actions since Septembers have included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation on BEIS workshop on retail circular economy • Representation on Cheltenham Climate Change Conference • Task Force engagement with Cllr Max Wilkinson to understand the key issues and priorities arising from Climate Change Conference – agenda item at meeting on 28/1/21.

Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force Business Plan can be viewed here

<https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CERTF-ToR-FINAL.docx>

Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force Business Plan membership can be viewed here

<https://movingtocheltenham.com/about-us>

Cheltenham Economic Recovery Task Force Business Plan can be viewed here

https://movingtocheltenham.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CERTF-Business-Plan_FINAL.pdf