

## Cabinet

07 November 2023

## Public Questions (2 total)

### 1. Question from Mr Steven Thomas to Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Councillor Alisha Lewis

As a Cheltenham resident I am very concerned about the effects of geo-engineering on the wildlife, soils, water and air pollution levels in Cheltenham.

It seems that this has not been considered in any of your documents about mitigating climate change.

It is my opinion that geo-engineering is the single biggest cause of man-made climate change and far exceeds any other contributory factors.

I have provided scientific evidence of this, alongside hundreds of weather modification patents.

<https://climateviewer.com/2014/03/24/geoengineering-weather-modification-patents/>

<https://www.geoengineeringwatch.org/>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/883115/geoengineering-position-statement.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/883115/geoengineering-position-statement.pdf)

Can you please advise if any steps are being taken by the council to mitigate the effects of geo-engineering in Cheltenham and whether it will be properly taken into account in your climate policies?

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#### **Cabinet Member response:**

Cheltenham Borough Council has a stated aspiration to mitigate the effects of climate change, regardless of cause, to reach net zero emissions by 2030 at a local level, supported by the climate Emergency Action Plan. Wider causal global macro environmental factors fall beyond our realistic scope.

Geo-engineering describes a set of technologies which encompass both Greenhouse Gas Removal and Solar Radiation Management which are designed to remove rather than increase greenhouse gas emissions, as per the government document you provided as an attachment above.

Our pathway does not specifically refer to either greenhouse gas removal technologies or solar radiation management. Our priority is to address greenhouse gas emissions at a local level, with particular focus on the council's carbon emissions. Solar radiation management would not be considered, given these technologies require very large-scale intervention. The only greenhouse gas removal technologies we would likely implement, at our level, would be tree planting or other localised nature-based solutions.

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## **2. Question from Mr Steven Thomas to Cabinet Member for Cyber, Regeneration and Commercial Income, Councillor Mike Collins**

I am very concerned about the transparency and openness of the Golden Valley development. Of particular note is the lack of consultation with the public. Supposedly a consultation was carried out at the Gloscol Campus and a visit to the centre on a wet winter's day. Assuming that you are not a resident at the Gloscol Campus or were not in the town centre in January, then you would not have known about the Golden Valley Development or had an opportunity to give your opinion.

I only know about the development because I have started taking an interest in the council's business but I would say that the large majority of Cheltenham residents have absolutely no idea about what is going on there.

Alongside Net Zero and 5G, this is yet another example of where the general public are being given no say in areas of huge significance, and is simply not acceptable.

Can you please advise why all Cheltenham Residents were not advised and consulted for their feedback on the Golden Valley development before the decision was taken.

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### **Cabinet Member response:**

I would like to thank Mr Thomas for his question,

Since submission of your question, we have now responded to your Freedom of Information request that highlights the extensive consultation exercise the Council has undertaken on our development proposals for Golden Valley. Ahead of our public consultation days, we targeted 7,500 local homes with a leaflet drop and made all of the information available on our website. Additionally, a number of stakeholder engagement sessions were undertaken with key organisations and over 350 people were reached through the town centre 'pod'.

There will be multiple opportunities for residents of the town to stay involved in the project and comment on the proposals as the project develops, not least through the formal Planning process.

It is not clear from your questions which 'decision' you are concerned about, but you may wish to consult the Council's website for information on decisions that have been made.